

**Section A (Attempt all questions from this Section)**

**Question 1**

Chose the correct answer to the questions from the given options.

- (i) What does Lucilius feel about Cassius welcoms?  
(a) Cassius was hurt by Brutus's actions.  
(b) Cassius was not as friendly as before  
(c) Cassius was full of regret for his actions.  
(d) Cassius was eager to meet Lucilius.
- (ii) Why does the crowd want to tear Cinna, the Poet apart even after knowing he is not conspirator?  
(a) For having the same nae as the conspiracy  
(b) For not believing his claims.  
(c) For being outside during riots  
(d) For being a bad poet
- (iii) What is the meaning of the following lines  
"Shall ever take alive the noble Brutus;  
The gods defend him from so great a shame"!  
(a) Brutus should never suffer the indignity of being a captive.  
(b) Brutus should never be called a coward  
(c) Brutus should never get to know how his friends died.  
(d) Brutus should never know the shame of being a traitor.
- (iv) Which of the following lines is an example of irony?  
(a) And men are flesh and blood, and apprehensive  
(b) I do know but one that unassailable holds on his rank,  
(c) Ambition's debt is paid  
(d) I could be well mov'd, if I were as you;
- (v) "In such a time as this it is not you;  
That every nice offence should bear his commet"  
Characteristic of Cassius was showcased in the above lines is -----  
(a) His pragmatism (b) his egoism  
(b) His militarism (d) his patriotism
- (vi) Who does Brutus think he has offended?  
(a) Those who love Rome (b) Those who are friends of Caesar  
(b) Those who wish to be slaves (d) Those who are ambitious in life.
- (vii) In H.W Longfellow's 'Haunted Houses', what were the ghosts at the table compared to?  
(a) Photographs on the wall (b) Strangers  
(b) Furniture (d) Earthly mists
- (viii) What does the poem 'When Great Trees fall' illustrate?  
(a) Beauty of Nature (b) Importance of forests  
(c) Dangers animals face in the forests (d) Impact of Death and Grief
- (ix) What is the fate of the mite that the poet decides in 'A Consideratble Speck'?  
(a) Let it lie and sleep (b) Crush it under his pen  
(b) Chase it away from the paper (d) Trap it and throw it out
- (x) In the poem 'The Glove and the Lions', why did the lady drop her glove in the areana?  
(a) She wanted to prove that her lover was braver than the King.  
(b) She wanted to feed her lover to the lions and marry the King.  
(c) She wanted to test her love and gain everyone's attention.  
(d) She wanted to see what the lions would do with her glove.

- (xi) In 'The Power of Music' the poetic device used in the line 'the feathered fly turn turtle' is  
(a) Metaphor (b) Simile  
(b) Hyperbola (d) Alliteration
- (xii) In Ama Ata Aidoo's short story "The Girl Who Can", how did Maami react to Adjoa's victory?  
(a) She picked up her daughter and kissed her  
(b) She scolded her daughter for participating  
(c) She distributed sweets to her neighbours  
(d) None of these
- (xiii) Why was Mr. Mead's profession a threat to the society in Ray Bradbury's short story "The Pedestrian"?  
(a) He was a writer so he was creative and had individuality.  
(b) He was a writer so he would always live in a fantasy world  
(c) He was a writer so he was poor and homeless  
(d) He was an actor so he was creative and had individuality.
- (xiv) In 'With the Photographer', the narrator did not read -----  
(a) Girls Magazine (b) Politics Today  
(b) Ladies Companion (d) Infants Journal
- (xv) Select the option that show the correct relationship between Statements (I) and (ii) from Alphonse Daudet's short story 'The Last Lesson'.  
Statement I The bulletin board said that only German would be taught in schools of Alsace.  
Statement II M.Hamel was planning to leave France the next day.  
(a) I is true and II is false (b) II is true and I is false  
(b) I is the cause for II (d) I and II are independent of each other.
- (xvi) Choose the option that lists the sequence of events from William Sleator's short story "The Elevator" in the correct order  
I. Martin climbs the elevator coming back from school  
II. Martin falls down the stairs.  
III. Martin tells his father about the lady  
IV. Fat lady climbs the elevator to the Third floor  
(a) III, II, I and IV (b) I, IV, III and II (c) I, IV, II and III (d) I, III, IV and II

## Section B (Answer one or more questions from this Section)

### DRAMA

#### Julius Caesar

By William Shakespeare

#### Question 2.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

**Artemidorus :** O Caesar, read mine first; for mine's a suit  
That touches Caesar nearer: read it, great Caesar.

**Caesar :** What touches us ourself shall be last served.

(i) How is Artemidorus feeling in the above line?

Give reason for Artemidorus' feelings.

Does his worry get resolved?

[Recall and Understanding] (3)

(ii) How does Artemidorus plead with Caesar?

What is the significance of the word 'suit' here?

[Recall and Understanding] (3)

(iii) How does Caesar respond to Artemidorus' appeal?

What does his reaction tell us about Caesar?

[Recall and Understanding] (3)

(iv) Do you agree that Caesar was being stubborn in the above extract? Give reasons justifying your answer.

[Evaluative and Analysis] (3)

(v) Explain the line : "What touches us ourself shall be last served."

Can you say that this line depicts a split between his public and private self?

[Evaluative and Analysis] (4)

#### Question 3.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

**Cassius :** I an itching palm?  
You know that you are Brutus that speak this,  
Or, by the gods, this speech were else your last.

**Brutus :** The name of Cassius honours this corruption,  
And chastisement doth therefore hide his head.

**Cassius :** Chastisement!

**Brutus :** Remember March, the ides of March remember:  
Did not great Julius bleed for justice' sake?  
What villain touch'd his body, that did stab,  
And not for justice? What, shall one of us  
That struck the foremost man of all this world  
But for supporting robbers, shall we now  
Contaminate our fingers with base bribes,  
And sell the mighty space of our large honours  
For so much trash as may be grasped thus?  
I had rather be a dog and bay the moon,  
Than such a Roman.

(i) What does an 'itching palm' mean here?

Why does Brutus use the phrase?

(ii) What happened on the ides of March?

Why does Brutus remind Cassius of it?

- (iii) How does Cassius feel when he hears Brutus' words?  
How does he defend himself?
- (iv) Did Brutus feel that Cassius was acting like Caesar? Why?  
What does Brutus say he would rather be than being a dishonest Roman?
- (v) What was Brutus's main argument against Cassius that led to the above dialogue?  
Why had Brutus not taken any action against Cassius yet?

## **Section C** (Answer one or more questions from this Section)

### **PROSE-SHORT STORIES**

(Treasure Chest - A Collection of ICSE Short Stories and Poems)

#### **Question 4.**

Read the following extract from Stephen Leacock's short story 'With the Photographer' and answer the questions that follow.

"This is my face. It is not yours, it is mine. I've lived with it for forty years and I know its faults. I know it's out of drawing. I know it wasn't made for me, but it's my face, the only one I have-" I was conscious of a break in my voice but I went on- "such as it is, I've learned to love it. And this is my mouth, not yours. These ears are mine, and if your machine is too narrow-" Here I started to rise from the seat.

Snick!

- (i) Who is saying the lines in the above extract and to whom?  
What is he/she feeling?  
How old is the speaker of these lines? [Recall and Understanding] (3)
- (ii) Why was the narrator angry?  
Was he justified in his feelings? [Recall and Understanding] (3)
- (iii) How was the photograph taken in the end? [Recall and Understanding] (3)
- (iv) What did the narrator explain to the photographer?  
Do you think the photographer understood what he said? [Recall and Understanding] (3)
- (v) Did the narrator seek the photographer's approval?  
Why? [Evaluative and Analysis] (4)

#### **Question 5.**

Read the following extract from William Sleator's short story 'The Elevator' and answer the questions that follow.

"The stairs were no better. Martin tried them one day after school. There were no windows, and the lights were not working. Martin's footsteps echoed behind him on the cement, as though there was another person climbing, getting closer. By the time he reached his home on the seventeenth floor, he was gasping for breath.

Martin's father worked at home. He wanted to know why Martin was out of breath. "Why didn't you take the elevator?" he asked, frowning at Martin. You're not only skinny and weak and bad at sports, his face seemed to say, but you are also a coward. After that, Martin always took the elevator. He would have to get used to it, he told himself, just like he got used to being bullied at school".

- (i) Why was Martin's father at home?  
What did he ask Martin?  
Pick out the word in the above extract that expresses his feelings about Martin's response. [Recall and Understanding] (3)

(ii) Why did Martin not like climbing the stairs?

How many floors did Martin climb to reach home?

[Recall and Understanding] (3)

(iii) What did Martin perceive from the looks his father gave him?

[Recall and Understanding] (3)

(iv) Did Martin take the elevator the next time?

Why did he decide to do so?

[Evaluative and Analysis] (3)

(v) Martin was not able to tell his father about his problems. Why?

What does this say about his father?

[Analysis and Understanding] (4)

## **Section D** (Answer one or more questions from this Section)

### **POETRY**

(Treasure Chest - A Collection of ICSE Short Stories and Poems)

#### **Question 6.**

Read the following extract from Leigh Hunt's poem 'The Glove and the Lions' and answer the questions that follow.

She dropped her glove, to prove his love, then looked at him and smiled;

He bowed, and in a moment leaped among the lions wild:

The leap was quick, return was quick, he has regained his place,

Then threw the glove, but not with love, right in the lady's face.

"By God!" said Francis, "rightly done!" and he rose from where he sat:

"No love," quoth he, "but vanity, sets love a task like that".

(i) Why did the lady smile at the Count?

[Evaluative] (3)

(ii) Was her lover able to complete the task she set?

[Recall] (3)

(iii) What happened at the end of the poem?

[Understanding] (3)

(iv) Describe the Lady's character based on this incident.

[Analysis] (3)

(v) Why did King Francis agree with the Count's actions?

[Evaluative] (4)

#### **Question 7.**

Read the following extract from H.W. Longfellow's poem 'Haunted Houses' and answer the questions that follow.

We have no title-deeds to house or lands;

Owners and occupants of earlier dates

From graves forgotten stretch their dusty hands,

And hold in mortmain still their old estates.

The spirit-world around this world of sense

Floats like an atmosphere, and everywhere

Wafts through these earthly mists and vapours dense

A vital breath of more ethereal air

- (i) In the above stanza, who does 'we' refer to? [Recall] (3)
- (ii) Explain the line 'from graves forgotten stretch their dusty hands'. [Understanding] (3)
- (iii) What is the role of 'mists and vapours' for the 'spiritual world'? [Understanding] (3)
- (iv) The poet mentions two worlds in the poem. [Recall and Understanding] (3)  
What are these two worlds?  
How are they connected?
- (v) What is a 'mortmain'? [Understanding] (4)  
What does it mean in the context of this poem?

1. (i) (b) Cassius was not as friendly as before.  
(ii) (d) For being a bad poet.  
(iii) (a) Brutus should never suffer the indignity of being a captive.  
(iv) (b) I do know but one that unassailable holds on his rank,  
(v) (a) His pragmatism  
(vi) (c) Those who wish to be slaves.  
(vii) (a) Photographs on the wall  
(viii) (d) Impact of Death and Grief  
(ix) (a) Let it lie and sleep  
(x) (c) She wanted to test her love and gain everyone's attention.  
(xi) (d) Alliteration  
(xii) (d) None of these  
(xiii) (a) He was a writer so he was creative and had individuality.  
(xiv) (b) Politics Today  
(xv) (c) I is the cause for II.  
(xvi) (b) I, IV, III and II
2. (i) Artemidorus is feeling anxious in the above lines. This is so because he gets a letter warning him about the conspiracy against Julius Caesar. As a result, he pleads with Caesar to read the letter but to no avail.  
No, his worry doesn't get resolved as he fails in warning Caesar who does not read the letter. Consequently, Caesar is later assassinated.
- (ii) Artemidorus pleads with Caesar to read his letter before anything else and treat it with utmost importance.  
*The word 'suit' means 'meets the need of'.*  
Artemidorus uses the word to indicate that the contents of the letter were about Caesar.

- (iii) Caesar ignores Artemidorus' appeal and addresses other letters first. He declares that anything concerning him will be resolved last as the welfare of his people is of greater importance to him than his own.
- Caesar's invulnerable response indicates his sense of duty and selfless nature. He took his role and responsibility earnestly. However, it also shows that he considered his private self as infallible and invulnerable to the actions of moral men.
- (iv) Yes, I agree that Caesar was being stubborn. He refused to listen and understand the desperation and urgency in Artemidorus's plea. If he had paid heed to his warning, he may have not been assassinated.
- (v) The given line means one's personal concerns should be one's last priority. In the context of Julius Caesar, it shows his dedication towards his country. Caesar tells Artemidorus that anything that concerns only him would be addressed at the end after the concerns of his people are sorted out. This is because he considered his people as his priority. Yes, we can say that Caesar's decision to address the matter's concerning his people first shows a split between his public and private self. His decision demonstrates a split between his public and private self, wherein he is endangering himself by believing that his public self is so strong that his private self cannot be harmed.
- 3.** (i) The phrase 'an itching palm' refers to accepting bribes.
- Brutus uses the phrase when he learns that Cassius has been abusing his power and siphoning off money from corrupt, incompetent men. He uses the phrase for Cassius while confronting him.
- (ii) Ides of March is the day of the month when Julius Caesar was murdered for his 'corrupt ways'.
- Brutus reminds Cassius of the day to warn him against following Caesar's footsteps. He indicates that anyone who follows Caesar's footsteps would meet the same fate.
- (iii) Cassius is offended by Brutus's allegation.
- As a result, he attempts to defend himself by hiding his guilt. He threatens Brutus to watch his words and that, if he was not his friend, he would have killed Brutus on the spot.



(iv) Yes, Brutus felt that Cassius was acting like Caesar. He condemns Cassius for his dishonesty and corruption, the same things that made Brutus conspire against Caesar. He calls Cassius actions unethical and grounds for treason.

To emphasise his point, Brutus argues that he would rather be a dog than be a Roman that lacks integrity.

(v) Brutus' main argument against Cassius was the hypocrisy that Cassius displayed by siphoning money. He argues that he conspired against Caesar as he feared corruption would have plagued Rome in under Caesar's rule. However, after seeing Cassius indulge in similar practices, he calls him a hypocrite.

He doesn't take a strict action against Cassius, as he valued their brotherhood and friendship. He chooses to criticise his actions instead.

4. (i) The above line was said by the narrator to the photographer. He is feeling angry while addressing the photographer. The narrator is 40 years old.

(ii) The narrator was angry as the photographer was not pleased with the narrator's appearance. The photographer pointed out features of the narrator that he disliked and wanted to change.

Yes, he was justified in his feelings. Anyone in such a situation would have felt insulted.

(iii) The photograph was taken suddenly. The narrator was in the middle of his outburst. The photographer didn't give him any warning or wait for him to finish. He snapped the picture abruptly during the narrator's speech.

(iv) The narrator explained that he liked the way he looked. He expressed that he was aware of his imperfections but he loved himself regardless. The photographer didn't seem to understand the narrator's view. He shows his indifference by ignoring the narrator and clicking a picture of him while he was speaking.