

Section A (Attempt all questions from this section)

Question 1.

(16)

Choose the correct answer to the questions from the given options.
(Do not copy the question, write the correct answers only.)

- (i) Where was Caesar put to death? [Recall]
(a) On a street in Rome (b) On the battleground of Philippi
(c) At the foot of Pompey's statue (d) In Brutus' orchard
- (ii) Who asks permission to speak at Caesar's funeral? [Recall]
(a) Brutus (b) Antony
(c) Cassius (d) Octavius
- (iii) "Woe to the hand that shed this costly blood! Over thy wounds now do I prophesy..." These lines tell us that Antony is..... [Analysis]
(a) enraged (b) sorrowful
(c) anxious (d) frustrated
- (iv) When Antony says, 'This is a slight unmeritable man, / Meet to be sent on errands', he refers to [Recall]
(a) Lepidus (b) Octavius
(c) Pindarus (d) Lucilius
- (v) What strategy does Cassius suggest that the conspirators follow? [Understanding]
(a) March towards Philippi (b) Remain where they are
(c) Raise an army of foot soldiers (d) Set fire to the surrounding villages
- (vi) When Cassius says, 'My life is run his compass', he means that..... [Understanding]
(a) it is the day on which Brutus was born (b) his life had come full circle
(c) his life could be measured with a compass (d) his life could be compared to a race
- (vii) Which of the given options contains the figure of speech that appears in the following line from Leigh Hunt's poem 'The Glove and the Lions': 'Ramped and roared the lions'? [Application]
(a) 'Your eyes are like the diamond bright',
(b) 'Suddenly the black night showed its teeth in a flash of lightning'.
(c) 'Rich gifts of raiment or grain or gold'?
(d) 'Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun'.
- (viii) Which of the following is not an effect of Bhishma Lochan Sharma's powerful singing in Sukumar Ray's poem 'The Power of Music'? [Understanding]
(a) The sky weeps tears (b) The trees shake and crash
(c) The people retire amazed (d) The turtles whine and stare
- (ix) Which of the following words does H. W. Longfellow use to describe the movement of the phantoms in his poem 'Haunted Houses'? [Recall]
(a) Slide (b) Glide
(c) Noiseless (d) Invisible
- (x) The theme of Maya Angelou's poem 'When Great Trees fall' is [Analysis]
(a) the impact of the death of a loved one on those left behind
(b) the effect of felling trees on the environment
(c) how the death of trees affects humanity
(d) the impact of natural calamities on a forest

- (xi) The poem 'A Considerable Speck', captures [Understanding]
- (a) the journey of a mite across a sheet of paper (b) the poet's determination to kill the mite
(c) the poet's encounter with a gigantic fly (d) the mite's attempt to escape from the fly
- (xii) In Stephen Leacock's 'With the Photographer', while waiting for the photographer, the narrator spent time [Recall]
- (a) examining the studio (b) talking on his phone
(c) writing in his diary (d) reading magazines
- (xiii) In Ama Ata Aidoo's short story 'The Girl Who Can', Nana expressed her disapproval of Adjoa's le because [Understanding]
- (a) they were slender (b) they were muscular
(c) they were bent (d) they were short
- (xiv) Choose the option that lists the sequence of events from Alphonse Daudet's short story 'The Last Lesson' in the correct order. [Understanding]
- I. But, when he arrived at school, Franz was dismayed to find his classmates already seated quietly and solemnly in their places and shocked when M. Hamel simply urged him to take his place.
II. Franz hurried to school that morning he was very late and dreaded being scolded by M. Hamel, the teacher.
III. After he had settled at his desk, he noticed something really odd: the back benches of the classroom were occupied by adults from the village!
IV. He hoped to slip into the classroom unnoticed, under cover of the bustle and noise of a typical school day morning.
- (a) I, III, II and IV (b) II, IV, I and III
(c) III, I, IV and II (d) IV, II, III and I
- (xv) Select the option that shows the correct relationship between Statements (I) and (II) from William Sleator's short story 'The Elevator'. [Analysis]
- Statement I** Terrified of the fat lady in the elevator, Martin ran down the dark stairs, fell and broke his leg.
Statement II Angry and disappointed that his son had behaved like a fool and a coward, Martin's father did not talk to him on the way to the hospital.
- (a) (I) is true and (II) is false. (b) (II) is true and (I) is false.
(c) (I) is the cause for (II). (d) (I) and (II) are independent of each other.
- (xvi) Ray Bradbury's short story 'The Pedestrian', can be best described as [Evaluative]
- (a) utopian (b) dystopian
(c) humorous (d) a fairy tale

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

DRAMA

Julius Caesar

By William Shakespeare

Questions 2.

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

Caesar: Are we ready? What is now amiss,

That Caesar and his Senate must redress?

Metellus: Most high, most mighty, and most puissant Caesar,

Metellus Cimber throws before thy seat

A humble heart,[He kneels]

(i) Where are the speakers?

What does 'puissant' mean?

Explain: 'Metellus Cimber throws before thy seat a humble heart'.

[Recall and Understanding] (3)

(ii) At the beginning of the scene, Caesar says, 'The Ides of March are come.'

Why do you think Caesar said this?

What does the Soothsayer say in response?

[Recall and Understanding] (3)

(iii) What specific duties do the conspirators allot to Trebonius and Casca?

Why does Cassius become nervous when Popilius Lena speaks to him as they enter?

[Recall and Understanding] (3)

(iv) What does Artemidorus want of Caesar?

How does Caesar respond to his plea?

[Recall] (3)

(v) Shortly after this exchange, Caesar is stabbed to death by the conspirators. Whom do you sympathise with Julius Caesar or the conspirators? Give reasons for your choice.

[Evaluative and Analysis] (4)

Question 3.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow

Brutus : I did send to you

For certain sums of gold, which you denied me;

For I can raise no money by vile means:

By heaven, I had rather coin my heart,

And drop my blood for drachmas, than to wring

From the hard hands of peasants their vile trash

By any indirection.

(i) To whom are these words addressed?

Why is Brutus angry with this person?

[Recall and Understanding] (3)

(ii) How does this person feel when he hears these words?

What does he say to defend himself?

[Analysis and Recall] (3)

(iii) Why did Brutus need 'certain sums of gold'?

Why was he unable to raise these sums of money?

[Understanding] (3)

(iv) Earlier in this scene, Brutus refers to Lucius Pella.

What had he been accused of?

Who had supported him and how?

[Recall] (3)

(v) Mention any two aspects of Brutus' character that are revealed in the above extract.

What do you understand about the relationship between Brutus and the person he addresses?

[Analysis] (4)

Question 4.

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

"The photographer beckoned me in. I thought he seemed quieter and graver than before. I think, too, there was a certain pride in his manner.

He unfolded the proof of a large photograph, and we both looked at it in silence.

'Is it me?' I asked.

'Yes', he said quietly, 'it is you', and we went on looking at it.

- (i) Where was the narrator?

Why had he gone there?

Why do you think that there was a certain pride in the photographer's manner?

[Recall and Understanding] (3)

- (ii) What does the word 'proof' mean in this context?

Why did the narrator ask, 'Is it me'?

[Understanding] (3)

- (iii) Which of the narrator's facial features had the photographer altered?

[Recall] (3)

- (iv) What was the only part of the narrator's face that seemed original in the photograph?

How did the photographer plan to 'fix' this?

[Recall] (3)

- (v) At the end of the story, the narrator flies into a rage.

What makes him angry?

How would you justify the narrator's angry outburst?

[Understanding and Analysis] (4)

Question 5

Read the following extract from Ray Bradbury's short story 'The Pedestrian' and answer the questions that follow.

"He would stand upon the corner of an intersection and peer down long moonlit avenues of sidewalk in four directions, deciding which way to go, but it really made no difference;"

- (i) What was Leonard Mead's occupation?

What did he love to do?

When is the story set?

[Recall, Understanding and Recall] (3)

- (ii) To what does Mead compare his walk through the empty streets?

Mention two reasons he gives for making this comparison.

[Recall and Understanding] (3)

- (iii) Why had Mead decided to change his footwear from hard-heeled shoes to sneakers?

[Understanding] (3)

- (iv) What happened quite suddenly as he was making his way home?

What was Mead's immediate reaction?

[Recall] (3)

- (v) Why was Mead taken away by the police car?

Would you call this a horror story or a piece of science fiction?

[Understanding and Analysis] (4)

Give reasons for your answer.

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 H.W. Longfellow's poem 'Haunted Houses' and answer the questions that follow.

The stranger at my fireside cannot see
The forms I see, nor hear the sounds I hear;
He but perceives what is; while unto me
All that has been is visible and clear.

- (i) What makes the poet-narrator different from the stranger at his fireside? [Understanding] (3)
- (ii) According to the poet, what turns a house into a haunted house? [Understanding] (3)
- (iii) Where is one likely to meet the 'phantoms' in a haunted house? [Recall] (3)
- (iv) What are the poet-narrator's views on owning property? [Recall and Understanding] (3)
- (v) How do the poet's views of ghosts differ from the traditional perception of ghosts? How would you describe the mood that the poem evokes? Give one reason for your answer. [Understanding and Analysis] (4)

Question 7.

Read the following extract from Maya Angelou's poem 'When Great Trees Fall' and answer the questions that follow.

When great trees fall in forests, small things recoil into silence, their senses eroded beyond fear.

- (i) What effect does the falling of a 'great tree' have on the creatures of the forest? [Recall and Understanding] (3)
 - (ii) How does the death of a great soul affect the lives of those left behind in the immediate aftermath of the passing? [Understanding] (3)
 - (iii) What long-term effect does the death of a 'great soul' have? [Understanding] (3)
 - (iv) What feeling is being expressed by the following lines/phrases? [Analysis] (3)
 - (a) Small things recoil into silence
 - (b) Kind words/ unsaid,
 - (c) be and be/ better. For they existed
 - (v) What is a 'Great tree' a metaphor for? [Application and Analysis] (3)
- What is the central message of Angelou's poem, 'When Great Trees Fall'?

1. (i) (c) At the foot of Pompey's statue
(ii) (b) Antony
(iii) (a) enraged
(iv) (a) Lepidus
(v) (b) Remain where they are
(vi) (b) his life had come full circle
(vii) (c) 'Rich gifts of raiment or grain or gold?'
(viii) (d) The turtles whine and stare
(ix) (b) Glide
(x) (a) the impact of the death of a loved one on those left behind
(xi) (a) the journey of a mite across a sheet of paper
(xii) (d) reading magazines
(xiii) (a) they were slender
(xiv) (b) II, IV, I and III
(xv) (c) I is the cause for II.
(xvi) (b) dystopian

2. (i) The speakers are at the Capitol in Rome, sitting at the Senate.

The word 'puissant' means having great power or influence.

Caesar refuses to open Artemidorus' letter. He decides to address any personal matters last as he wanted to address the matters of his people and subjects first. He establishes that the welfare of his people comes before his own.

- (v) Based on the above short exchange, I sympathise with Caesar. He was not a perfect leader but he was a good and strong ruler.

He refused to read Artemidorus' letter as it addressed a personal issue. Instead, he insisted on reading matters of his people first. This shows his dedication and concern for his subjects over his own. He valued the welfare of his people over his own.

He was a just and stern ruler who upheld law and order above everything else. Even after several pleas from Metellus Cimber and other conspirators to allow Metellus's brother, Publius to return to Rome, Caesar refuses as Publius was banished by lawful means. This shows Caesar's honour and fair-mindedness.

The line 'Metellus Cimber throws before thy seat a humble heart' means that Metellus Cimber requests Caesar to listen to his plea with a humble heart.

- (ii) Previous to the given conversation, the Soothsayer had warned Caesar about the ides of march as he predicted a threat around Caesar on that day. Caesar had dismissed his concerns.

Caesar had said the above line to remind the Soothsayer that it was already ides of march and he was unharmed.

The Soothsayer in response reminds him that the day is not over yet.

- (iii) Trebonius was given the task to lure Antony out of the Senate room so that Caesar is left alone with the conspirators. Casca was asked to be the first to attack and stab Caesar.

Before entering the Senate room, Popilius Lena wishes Cassius good luck for his enterprise that day. Hearing his commendation, Cassius becomes nervous as he thinks Lena has discovered the conspirators' plans to assassinate Caesar.

- (iv) Artemidorus requests Caesar to address his letter as a matter of priority. He tries to entice Caesar into opening his letter first by informing Caesar that the contents of his letter pertain to Caesar directly.

- (v) The above extract showcases Brutus's high morals. He holds honesty and loyalty on the highest pedestal and expects others to do the same. In the extract, Brutus condemns Cassius for accepting bribes. He expresses his disappointment in Cassius for committing such a shameful act.

However, this scene also showcases the double standards. As he criticises Cassius's act of accepting bribes, he also argues with Cassius for not aiding him financially to pay his battalion using the bribe money. By doing this, he establishes that he can never extort money from the poor but doesn't mind using Cassius's 'loot' to pay his soldiers.

The relationship between Cassius and Brutus is shown to be strained in the above dialogue. They quarrel and find faults in each other without accepting their own mistakes. It showcases evident differences in their personalities and value system that leads to clashes between them.

Caesar was also known to share wealth with the poor. He redistributed land to the poor and soldiers. His will stated to share some part of his wealth among the poor after his death.

Being such a fair and powerful leader for Rome, he didn't deserve to be murdered by the hands of the conspirators, some that he considered friends.

- (i) Brutus is addressing the above words to Cassius.

Brutus is expressing his anger and disappointment after learning that Cassius was accepting bribes in exchange of power. He also expresses his frustration when Cassius refused to send him money when he needed it.

- (ii) Cassius felt angry and hurt after hearing Brutus's accusations.

He defends himself by clarifying that he didn't intend to refuse help. Instead, the messengers had made a mistake and caused a miscommunication between them.

- (iii) Brutus needed the money to help pay the soldiers of his battalion.

He was unable to gather such a sum as he didn't have any funds of his own and refused to raise money using vile means. He argues that he would rather turn his own heart into gold and his blood drops into silver coins than rob poor and innocent villagers of their hard-earned money.

- (iv) Lucius Pella was accused of siphoning off money from the Sardians. Brutus humiliated Pella by condemning his actions and disgraced him.

Cassius had written to Brutus defending Pella and requesting him to absolve Pella of these accusations. He says so because he knew the man well.

humiliated and body shamed by the photographer. Initially, the narrator was extremely amiable and patient to the photographer's criticism. He tried to amend himself as much as possible. However, the photographer's constant degrading remarks about his features had a negative impact on his self-worth and image, and eventually pushed him to fury.

5. (i) Leonard Mead was a writer by profession.

He loved to go out for long evening walks every day to get some fresh air after all his neighbours had retired inside their homes to watch television.

The story is set in 2053 A.D.

- (ii) Mr. Mead compares his walk in the vacant streets to the shadow of a hawk in the Arizona desert.

He makes the comparison as the roads were empty and deserted in his neighbourhood in the evening. He only saw some dogs and had his own thoughts for company. The emptiness of the streets reminded him of his home.

4. (i) The narrator was at the Photographer's studio.

The narrator went to the studio to get a picture of him clicked. He wanted to get a good picture of him to serve as a memory for his friends and loved ones when he dies.

As the narrator's looks were not ideal or 'good' according to the photographer, he struggled with taking a good picture of the narrator. So, the photographer was proud of his work as, according to him, he was able to produce a 'good' picture of the narrator despite the narrator's bad features.

- (ii) The 'proof' in the above extract means the sample or draft of a picture before it is finally printed.

The narrator enquired if the person in the picture was him as he could not recognise himself. The photographer had edited and distorted the image a lot and the narrator struggled to find any resemblance between him and the person in the picture.

- (iii) The photographer had altered the narrator's eyes, eyebrows, forehead, facial hair, and mouth.

- (iv) The only part of the narrator that seemed original in the photograph was his ears.

The photographer planned to use a new technique called Sulphide to remove the ears entirely in the final edit to 'fix' them.

- (v) The narrator was furious as the picture didn't look like him at all. The photographer had altered his appearance to match his own superficial standards.

The narrator is justified in his angry outburst. The photographer was unprofessional and insensitive to the narrator's feelings. The narrator simply wanted an image of his own. Instead, he got

minimal. The crime rates have gone down so only one AI controlled cop car is used to patrol the whole city at night.

Mr. Mead, the protagonist, is the symbol of soul and humanity by not conforming to this new norm. Through his story, Bradbury tries to display an admonishing tale which warns the world of the disadvantages of becoming technologically driven. He predicts that such a society would mean a loss of individuality, creativity and autonomy. He prompts the need to strike the right balance between technology and human experiences for a better life.

6. (i) The poet is different from the stranger at his fireside as the stranger can only feel the presence of people they could see around them. Whereas, the poet can see and hear the ghosts as well. He also suggests that the stranger can only see the present while the poet has the ability to also perceive the past.

Being the only person out on the streets, he feels lonely and singled out. He feels like a hawk in the Arizona desert looking for civilisation.

- (iii) Mr. Mead decided to change his footwear from heels to sneakers to avoid confrontations with the street dogs. His boots had hard heels which would make sound when he walked on concrete or pavement. This would gather the attention of the stray dogs who would chase after him. So, to avoid making loud noises to alert the attention of the stray dogs, he shifted to sneakers which would make a softer noise.

- (iv) Mr. Mead saw a lone car turning around the corner. The car turned out to be the only police car out for patrolling.

Mr. Mead was surprised to see the car as he was not expecting anyone to be on the streets at that hour of the day. He knew that most people in the society were glued on their couch watching television shows at that time of the day.

- (v) Mr. Mead was taken away by the police car for walking aimlessly around the town late in the evening.

I would call the story a piece of science fiction. The story sheds a light on the dangers of overdependence on technology in today's world. With new advancements, most manual jobs have been replaced by machines. Technology has made work simpler, faster and more efficient. However, it also led to people becoming lazy and addicted.

In the world that Bradbury describes, the society is technologically-ruled. People are addicted to television and human interactions have become

- (ii) The presence of the phantoms of people who used to live or died in the houses made the house 'haunted', according to the poet.

- (iii) One can meet the 'phantoms' anywhere in the house. They can be found gliding around the house through the doors. We can meet them at the doorways, on the stairs or along the passages and halls of the house.

- (iv) The poet believes that the living people in the houses don't own the houses or lands they inhabit. He states that the spirits who lived in these houses and lands are the original owners of those lands. They hold deeds to the houses in their hands, reaching their hands out of their graves.

- (v) Traditionally, the presence of ghosts in a house or land is considered to be a frightful ordeal. Most people believe that ghosts are vengeful spirits that haunt the earth because of unfinished business or spite. However, the poet paints a harmless image of the ghosts in the poem. He believes that the ghosts are gentle and keep to themselves. They have no intention of disturbing the living and want to coexist with them in harmony.

The poem tries to invoke the mood of security and comfort. Throughout the poem, the poet ensures the presence of phantoms in the house or around us is not malevolent. He constantly paints the image of the ghosts going about their day completing their own errands. For instance, at dinner parties, they crowd around the dinner table and hall, enjoying the festivities without any interference. Their involvement in the event is as much as of the pictures that hang around the walls, silent and observing.

7. (i) When 'great trees' fall, the effect is felt in the whole forest. The loud noise frightens mighty animals like lions and elephants. Lions lunge or down into tall grasses and elephants lumber to seek safety. Small animals also recoil into their places of safety till the vibrations die down.
- (ii) After the loss of a great soul, the lives of the people they leave behind changes tremendously. In the initial days of grief, the air around them feels thin and rare. They find difficulty in breathing. They are overwhelmed by the hurtful reality of the absence of their loved one. They are flooded by their memories and guidance that helped them progress in life. They are consumed with remorse for kind words that were left unsaid or promises that were never fulfilled.
- (iii) In the long term, our reality is forever plagued by the memory of the 'great soul'. Our souls that once flourished under the guidance of the 'great soul' start to shrink and shrivel from their absence. We struggle to cope with the emotional void we feel after they leave. The impact is so immense that sometimes we start to question our existence without them. We feel lonely and isolate ourselves from others to cope up with our grief.

- (iv) The feeling being expressed in the given.

- (a) Feelings of shock and panic
(b) Feeling of regret
(c) Feeling of optimism and bittersweet hope

- (v) The 'great tree' is a metaphor for a great soul or significantly wise personality in our life. An old tree provides food and shelter to many small or big animals in a forest. When it falls, the entire forest is shocked and stunned by its loss. The animals who depended on it for food and shelter, don't have its protection now. It leaves a visibly large void where it stood, and the animals dependent on it have to eventually look for another way of survival.

Similarly, the poet uses the metaphor 'great tree' to emphasise on the loss of a loved one in our life and how their sudden absence impacts us. Our loved ones provide an environment of love and support. They guide us and help us learn the ways of life. But, their sudden demise is traumatic for us. The loss of their protection leaves us feeling clueless and helpless. Their absence leaves a void in our life which cannot be filled very easily. But eventually we heal and move on. Their memory and influence linger behind and help us shape our lives positively.