

Section A (Attempt all questions from this Section)

Question 1.

Choose the correct answer to the question from the given options.

(16)

[Analysis]

(i) What does Lucilius feel about Cassius welcome?

- (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 a conspirator?

[Recall]

- (a) For having the same name as the conspirator.
- (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

[Understanding]

"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?

[Application]

- (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 meet
That every nice offence should bear his comment".

Characteristic of Cassius was showcased in the above lines is

[Understanding]

- (a) his pragmatism
- (b) his egoism
- (c) his militarism
- (d) his patriotism

(vi) Who does Brutus think he has offended?

[Recall]

- (a) Those who love Rome.
- (b) Those who are friends of Caesar.
- (c) 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?

[Understanding]

- (a) Photographs on the wall
- (b) Strangers
- (c) Furniture
- (d) Earthly mists

- (viii) What does the poem 'When Great Trees fall' illustrate? [Understanding]
- (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 Considerable Speck'? [Understanding]
- (a) Let it lie and sleep (b) Crush it under his pen
(c) 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 arena? [Recall]
- (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 [Understanding]
- (a) Metaphor (b) Simile
(c) Hyperbole (d) Alliteration
- (xii) In Ama Ata Aidoo's short story 'The Girl Who Can', how did Maami react to Adjoa's victory? [Understanding]
- (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'? [Recall]
- (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 (c) Ladies Companion (d) Infants Journal

(xv) Select the option that shows the correct relationship between Statements (I) and (II) from Alphonse Dandet's short story 'The Last Lesson'.

Statement I : The bulletin board said that only German would be taught in school of Alsace.

Statement II: M. Hamel was planning to leave France next day.

- (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) Choose the option that lists the sequence of events from William Sleator's short '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 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? [Recall and Understanding] (3)
- (ii) What happened on ides of March?
Why does Brutus remind Cassius of it? [Recall and Understanding] (3)
- (iii) How does Cassius feel when he hears Brutus' words?
How does he defend himself? [Recall and Understanding] (3)
- (iv) Did Brutus feel that Cassius was acting like Caesar? Why?
What does Brutus say he would rather be than being a dishonest Roman? [Evaluative and Analysis] (3)
- (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? [Evaluative and Analysis] (4)

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?
- (ii) Why was the narrator angry?
Was he justified in his feelings.?
- (iii) How was the photograph taken in the end?
- (iv) What did the narrator explain to the photographer?
Do you think the photographer understood what he said?
- (v) Did the narrator seek the photographer's approval?
Why?

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 Lion's 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:

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?
- (ii) Was her lover able to complete the task she set?
- (iii) What happened at the end of the poem?
- (iv) Describe the Lady's character based on this incident.
- (v) Why did King Francis agree with the Count's actions?

[Evaluative] (3)

[Recall] (3)

[Understanding] (3)

[Analysis] (3)

[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?
- (ii) Explain the line 'from graves forgotten stretch their dusty hands'.
- (iii) What is the role of 'mists and vapours' for the 'spiritual world'?
- (iv) The poet mentions two worlds in the poem.

[Recall] (3)

[Understanding] (3)

[Understanding] (3)

[Recall and Understanding] (3)

What are these two worlds?

How are they connected?

- (v) What is a 'mortmain'?

What does it mean in the context of this poem?

[Understanding] (4)

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.

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.

- (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.

- (v) Yes, the narrator initially sought the photographer's approval as he is insecure about his looks. He was patient and co-operative with the photographer and tolerated all his criticism. The photographer continuously commented on his appearance but he listened patiently and complied with his instructions. However, when he couldn't bear anymore of the photographer's indifference and insults, he snaps. He demonstrates confidence and love for his appearance. He asserts that his face may have flaws but he doesn't care and loves it as it is.

5. (i) Martin's father worked from home.

He asked Martin why he was breathless after he came home. When Martin told him he climbed the stairs, he asked him the reason for not using the elevator.

The word 'frowned' describes his confusion and frustration about Martin's response.

- (ii) Martin didn't like climbing the stairs as he felt scared and uneasy. The stairwell was dark as the lights were broken and there were no windows in it. His footsteps echoed in the empty stairwell making him feel as if he was being followed. Martin climbed sixteen floors as his home was on the seventeenth floor.
- (iii) Martin perceived that his father thought him to be silly and a coward. He knew his father disapproved of him being skinny, weak and unathletic. He was upset that his own father had such a low opinion of him.

- (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.

inside the arena, picked the glove and climbed back to his place.

- (iii) After the Count climbed back, he threw the glove right at his lady love's face. He does so to show his anger for her foolishness for giving him such a risky task to fulfill. He had realised that the lady threw her glove deliberately to please her vanity which for him was not an indication of love.
- (iv) The lady comes across as proud, self-centered and foolish. In her hopes of gaining glory and attention from the crowd, she puts her lover in a dangerous situation without thinking about the risk and consequences of her actions.

- (v) The King agreed with the Count's action because he believed that no one would put the life of their loved ones in jeopardy intentionally. If we truly love someone, we would never hurt them on purpose. Instead we would keep them away from harm as much as we can. The Lady threw her glove to gain attention and didn't think about the risk she was putting her lover in. Her actions were unjustified and self-serving.

7. (i) 'We' refers to the people who live in the house.

- (ii) The given line talks about the ghosts who lived in the houses. The words 'from graves forgotten' mean that people who currently live in these houses have probably forgotten the people who lived there in the past. The memories of these ghosts have gotten lost and replaced. 'Dusty hands' is used to emphasise that these ghosts are old and go unnoticed in their 'dusty' graves.

(iv) Yes, Martin decided to use the elevator the next time.

He inferred he would get accustomed to it eventually just like he became accustomed to getting bullied at school. He knew of his father's disapproval and didn't want to disappoint him more.

(v) Martin and his father didn't have a close relationship. His father didn't show affection or empathy towards Martin which made him feel lacking. His father is unsympathetic towards him and always scrutinises him for his shortcomings, like thinking he is feeble and a coward. He is harsh and unsupportive which makes Martin feel uncomfortable in sharing his fears with him.

This shows that Martin's father is a neglecting and apathetic parent. He neither takes his child's fears seriously nor does he help Martin in overcoming them.

6. (i) The lady drops her glove in the arena filled with ferocious lions to test her lover, the Count's reaction. She smiled at him to indicate the challenge she had set to him.

(ii) Yes, her lover, the Count was able to fulfill the task his lady love set for him. He bravely jumped

(iii) The mists and vapours build the passage between the spiritual and the human world. They cover the Earth and act as a bridge through which spirits slip into the human dimension.

(iv) The two worlds the poet is talking about is the physical world in which we live and the spiritual world where the phantoms exist. The poet believes that both the worlds are connected by a light and 'ethereal' layer of air acting like the passage between them. He believes that these two worlds co-exist and the spirits float around the Earth like the atmosphere.

(v) The word 'mortmain' is a legal term. It is the ownership of land or buildings by a religious organisation. It is protection that makes such places 'unbuyable' even after the death of the leader of the organisation.

In the poem, the word 'mortmain' is used as a metaphor for the bond between the ghosts who owned the houses in the past and people who possess them in the present. Even though people from our past aren't with us, they continue to impact our choices and perceptions.