

ST. THOMAS' SCHOOL, AGRA
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATIONS
SAMPLE PAPER 2024-25
CLASS IX

Time: 2 hrs.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

MM: 80 Marks

Name: **Section:** **Roll No.:**

Instructions: Attempt **ALL** the questions in Section A. Attempt **ONE** question each from Section B, C and D. Then, attempt **ONE** additional question from anywhere out of Sections B, C and D. The final number of questions to be attempted from the entire paper should be **FIVE** (including Question I in Section A).

Section - A

Question I. Pick the most appropriate option and write it in your answer script. Make sure to copy down both the option number and the option text for the sake of clarity. [16]

- i. Where is Artemidorus standing when the readers/watchers are first introduced to him?
 - a. Capitol
 - b. Senate-house
 - c. Random street in Rome
 - d. Outside Caesar's residence
- ii. Which of the following is the best modern interpretation of "The Fates with traitors do contrive"?
 - a. Destiny of the traitors is rotten
 - b. Destiny after traitorous actions is still good
 - c. Destiny of all lies within the traitors' hands
 - d. Destiny is favouring the traitors
- iii. Caesar says that he is ashamed of yielding to the worries of _____.
 - a. Portia
 - b. Calpurnia
 - c. Soothsayer
 - d. Fortuneteller
- iv. At what time do the conspirators reach Caesar's residence and greet him?
 - a. Eight O'Clock in the morning
 - b. Nine O'Clock at night
 - c. Eleven O'Clock in the morning
 - d. Twelve O'Clock at night
- v. Who says that the dream was interpreted incorrectly?
 - a. Decius Brutus
 - b. Soothsayer
 - c. Artemidorus
 - d. Brutus
- vi. What was peculiar about the animal that was offered up as a sacrifice?
 - a. Its blood was black

- b.** Its bones turned to dust
 - c.** Its feathers fell off
 - d.** Its heart was missing
- vii.** Analyse and understand the statements given below, then pick the most appropriate option:
Assertion (A): Brutus decides to join the conspiracy against Julius Caesar.
Reason (R): Brutus is convinced by Cassius that Caesar's ambition will lead to the downfall of Rome.
- a.** Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
 - b.** Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
 - c.** A is true, but R is false.
 - d.** A is false, but R is true.
- viii.** What were the survivors most fearful of doing as per the doctor's observation?
- a.** Coming out of their hiding spot
 - b.** Moving the rubble around them
 - c.** Chafing flesh against flesh
 - d.** Talking to those around them
- ix.** What is the central idea of the poem "Night Mail" by W.H. Auden?
- a.** The poem highlights the punctuality and efficiency of the postal service.
 - b.** The poem depicts the journey of the night mail train as a symbol of communication and connection across the country.
 - c.** The poem emphasises the challenges faced by the mail train during its journey.
 - d.** The poem glorifies the technological advancements in the railway system.
- x.** Identify the literary device used in the following lines from "A Doctor's Journal Entry for August 6, 1945" by Vikram Seth:
"The day was clear, the sun was bright, / A cloudless sky, the morning calm."
- a.** Personification
 - b.** Alliteration
 - c.** Simile
 - d.** Hyperbole
- xi.** Which of the following appropriately justifies why the people living near the Night Mail's route don't get woken up by her passing through?
- a.** They've gotten used to it gradually
 - b.** They've learned to ignore the sound
 - c.** The Night Mail doesn't make too much sound
 - d.** All of the above
- xii.** Pick the correct order of events to arrange the following plot points from Rabindranath Tagore's "Homecoming" in the correct sequence:
1. Phatik is sent to Calcutta to live with his uncle.
 2. Phatik decides to run away from his uncle's house.
 3. Phatik returns home ill and is cared for by his mother.
 4. Phatik's aunt resents his presence in their home.
 5. Phatik struggles to adjust to life in Calcutta.
- a.** 1 - 5 - 4 - 2 - 3
 - b.** 1 - 4 - 5 - 3 - 2
 - c.** 1 - 3 - 2 - 5 - 4

- d. 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5
- xiii. Where did Mrs Srivastava find Mrs Bhushan?
- Sitting under a tamarind tree
 - Buying groceries from a street vendor
 - Quarrelling with a strange lady
 - Stepping out of an autorickshaw
- xiv. Where was Phatik going when he was brought to his uncle's place?
- On the way to the park
 - On the way to the market
 - On the way to his uncle's home
 - On the way to his village
- xv. Why does Phatik decide to run away from his uncle's house in "Homecoming"?
- A) He misses his mother and home.
 - B) He is unhappy with the strict discipline at his uncle's house.
 - C) He is bullied by his cousins and feels unwanted.
 - D) He wants to explore the city on his own.
- xvi. What lesson can be learned from the story "The Boy Who Broke the Bank" by Ruskin Bond?
- The importance of saving money and being financially responsible.
 - How quickly rumours can spread and cause unnecessary panic.
 - The value of honesty and integrity in a small community.
 - The impact of hard work and dedication in overcoming challenges.

Section - B (Julius Caesar)

(Attempt one or more question(s) from this section)

Question II: Go through the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow: [16]

Here I will stand till Caesar pass along,

And as a suitor will I give him this.

My heart laments that virtue cannot live

Out of the teeth of emulation.

- Identify the speaker of these words. Also, give the meaning of the word 'suitor' in the sense it is used in the above extract to describe said person.
- What does the speaker say right after the quoted text about Caesar not reading his message?
- What does the speaker mean by the last two lines "*My heart laments...teeth of emulation*"?
- Briefly describe the contents of the message carried by the person quoted above. Also, mention the plot the people mentioned within are construing.
- Critically analyse and describe the importance of mentioning the details of this person's message in a separate, independent scene. What sort of impact does the playwright expect it to have on the readers/watchers and the characters of the play?

Question III: Go through the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow: [16]

I prithee, boy, run to the senate-house;

Stay not to answer me, but get thee gone:

Why dost thou stay?

- i. Identify the speaker of the text quoted above. Also, describe her current emotions in one word.
- ii. Did the boy leave right after hearing her command? Why/hy not?
- iii. Why did the speaker want the boy to run to the senate-house?
- iv. Whom else does the speaker have a conversation with in this scene apart from the 'boy'? Summarise and write about their conversation.
- v. What makes the speaker feel sad in this scene? Briefly describe the gap between her capability and what she can actually do that causes her such misery in the concept of mediaeval Rome.

Section C (Prose)

(Attempt one or more question(s) from this section)

Question IV: Go through the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow: [16]

'Don't raise such a dust,' he called out to Nathu. 'Are you annoyed because they are still refusing to pay you an extra two rupees a month?'

- i. Identify the following: the speaker, the prose and the author.
- ii. Why does the speaker not want Nathu to 'raise such a dust'? What harm would it cause?
- iii. What is the reason that Nathu is so angry as to cause so much dust to rise up while sweeping?
- iv. Write a brief summary of the story quoted in the above extract.
- v. Critically analyse the central ideal of this story. Comment upon what mistakes were made by everyone and how they should have handled the situation instead.

Question V: Go through the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow: [16]

It was an immense relief to the mother to get rid of Phatik. She had a prejudice against the boy, and no love was lost between the two brothers.

- i. Identify the prose and its author. Also, give the meaning of the word 'prejudice' as used in the above extract.
- ii. What was Phatik's mother in daily fear of? Mention at least two examples of what made her worry.
- iii. What caused immense relief for the mother? How did Phatik respond to the sudden proposal?
- iv. Briefly mention the relationship between Phatik and his little brother. Also give a detailed example from the text highlighting it.
- v. Critically analyse the prose this extract has been taken from and justify the title chosen by the author for it. You may use the showcasing of various themes within the story to elaborate your answer, such as estrangement of family, homesickness, etc.

Section-D (Poetry)

(Attempt one or more question(s) from this section)

Question VI: Go through the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow: [16]

*Letters of thanks, letters from banks,
Letters of joy from the girl and boy,
Receipted bills and invitations
To inspect new stock or to visit relations,*

- i. Identify the poem and the poet. Also, describe the central theme of this poem in only one word or phrase.

- ii. Identify and explain the literary device used in "Letters of joy from the girl and boy."
- iii. How does the variety of letters mentioned in the extract contribute to the poem's portrayal of human connections?
- iv. Write a short note on how the poet uses the imagery of letters to depict the importance of communication.
- v. In the lines, "Letters of thanks, letters from banks, / Letters of joy from the girl and boy," the poet lists different types of letters. How does this enumeration reflect the poem's broader theme of connection and routine? Discuss how this variety of communication highlights the importance of the Night Mail in maintaining societal bonds.

Question VII: Go through the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:

[16]

A strong flash, then another, startled me.

I saw the old stone lantern brightly lit.

Magnesium flares? While I debated it...

- i. Identify the poem and the poet. Also, mention which historical event this poem refers to.
- ii. What was the morning like before the dreadful event occurred?
- iii. What happened to the poet while he debated upon "Magnesium flares"?
- iv. Analyse the language, imagery, and tone in Vikram Seth's poem. Explore how these literary elements contribute to the portrayal of themes such as human suffering and empathy.
- v. How does Vikram Seth use the doctor's experiences in "A Doctor's Journal Entry for August 6, 1945" to depict the emotional and moral challenges of medical professionals during wartime?

X—X—X