

CLASS 9 | LITERATURE IN ENGLISH (ENGLISH PAPER 2)

JULIUS CAESAR - WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE | ACTS I AND II

Maximum Marks: 80 Writing Time: 2 hours Reading Time: 15 minutes

Name: _____ Batch: _____ Date: _____

Instructions: Answer on separate sheets. Do not write during the first 15 minutes. Section A is compulsory. Attempt any FOUR complete extract questions from Section B. Support analytical answers with details from Acts I and II only. Marks are in []. This drama-only practice paper adapts the ICSE Literature format to the specified portion.

SECTION A - 16 MARKS (Attempt all questions.)

Question 1. Choose the correct answer. Write the option and answer. [16 x 1 = 16]

- (1) At the opening of Act I, the commoners are celebrating:
(a) Pompey's birthday (b) Caesar's triumph (c) Brutus's election (d) Antony's wedding
- (2) The cobbler's phrase "a mender of bad soles" primarily uses:
(a) a pun (b) a simile (c) an epic comparison (d) an oxymoron
- (3) Caesar asks Antony to touch Calpurnia during the race because he believes it may:
(a) protect Antony (b) cure her barrenness (c) win him a crown (d) end the storm
- (4) The "ides of March" refers to:
(a) 1 March (b) 10 March (c) 15 March (d) 31 March
- (5) Who reports Caesar's refusal of the crown to Brutus and Cassius?
(a) Cicero (b) Casca (c) Lucius (d) Decius Brutus
- (6) Cassius's account of rescuing Caesar from the Tiber aims chiefly to:
(a) praise Caesar's strength (b) expose Caesar's human weakness
(c) defend Pompey's sons (d) teach Brutus to swim
- (7) Why does Cassius want Brutus to join the conspiracy?
(a) Brutus commands the army (b) Brutus's reputation will lend it respectability
(c) Brutus controls Caesar's household (d) Brutus has already killed a king
- (8) Cicero's view of the strange events in Act I, Scene III suggests that:
(a) all omens have one certain meaning (b) people interpret events in their own ways
(c) the events prove Brutus is king (d) Rome has no political troubles
- (9) The letters arranged by Cassius are designed to appear as:
(a) Caesar's invitations (b) appeals from Roman citizens
(c) Portia's advice (d) warnings from Calpurnia
- (10) Brutus compares Caesar to a "serpent's egg" because he fears:
(a) Caesar is already a proven tyrant (b) power may make Caesar dangerous
(c) Caesar will leave Rome (d) Cassius will become king
- (11) Brutus rejects an oath chiefly because he believes:
(a) the conspirators have no reason to act (b) honour and their cause should bind them
(c) Caesar has forbidden all oaths (d) Portia has already sworn for them
- (12) Brutus opposes killing Antony because he wants the conspirators to seem:
(a) sacrificial rather than murderous (b) loyal to Antony
(c) afraid of the crowd (d) obedient to Calpurnia
- (13) Portia's self-inflicted wound is intended to demonstrate her:
(a) wish to leave Rome (b) endurance and fitness to share Brutus's secrets
(c) loyalty to Caesar (d) fear of Lucius
- (14) Decius reinterprets Calpurnia's dream as a sign that Caesar will:
(a) nourish and revive Rome (b) die before dawn
(c) abandon the Senate (d) surrender to Pompey
- (15) Artemidorus's letter primarily serves as:
(a) a request for money (b) a warning naming the conspirators
(c) an invitation to the feast (d) an order to arrest Portia
- (16) Portia's behaviour in Act II, Scene IV reveals a conflict between:
(a) joy and amusement (b) anxiety and the need to keep a secret
(c) envy and greed (d) loyalty to Pompey and hatred of Brutus

SECTION B - 64 MARKS (Attempt any FOUR questions from Questions 2-7.)

Question 2. Act I, Scene I [16]

"These growing feathers pluck'd from Caesar's wing

Will make him fly an ordinary pitch,

Who else would soar above the view of men

And keep us all in servile fearfulness."

- (i) Name the speaker and the listener. What action concerning Caesar's images has the speaker just proposed? [3]
- (ii) Why are the commoners in the streets? Explain why Marullus condemns their celebration, referring to their earlier loyalty. [3]
- (iii) Explain "growing feathers" and "ordinary pitch" in context. What kind of power does the speaker fear? [3]
- (iv) Identify the central image in the extract. Explain how it presents Caesar's rise and the proposed attempt to restrain him. [3]
- (v) How does the opening scene establish political tension in Rome? Discuss the contrasting attitudes of the tribunes and commoners, using one detail for each. [4]

SECTION B - CONTINUED | Each extract question carries 16 marks.

Question 3. Act I, Scene II [16]

"The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars,
But in ourselves, that we are underlings."

- Identify the speaker and listener. What political concern expressed by Brutus is the speaker exploiting? [3]
- Explain "not in our stars" and "underlings". What responsibility does the speaker place on Romans? [3]
- Describe the incident in the Tiber used earlier to belittle Caesar. What is its intended effect on Brutus? [3]
- What does Brutus say about honour and death? How does this help the speaker choose his appeal? [3]
- Assess the speaker's persuasive methods. Discuss his appeal to equality and his use of flattery, with a textual detail for each. [4]

Question 4. Act I, Scene III [16]

"But men may construe things after their fashion,
Clean from the purpose of the things themselves."

- Who speaks these words, and to whom? Describe the weather and the setting of this conversation. [3]
- Explain "construe" and "clean from the purpose". What caution about interpreting signs is expressed? [3]
- Describe three unusual sights reported by Casca in this scene. [3]
- How does Cassius interpret the disturbances? Explain how he connects them with Caesar and Roman submission. [3]
- Contrast Cicero's and Cassius's responses to the omens. How do their interpretations reveal judgement and political purpose? Support both sides with details. [4]

Question 5. Act II, Scene I [16]

"And therefore think him as a serpent's egg,
Which, hatch'd, would, as his kind, grow mischievous,
And kill him in the shell."

- Identify the speaker and his location. Why does he believe Caesar must die, despite having no personal grievance? [3]
- Explain the serpent's-egg comparison. Distinguish Caesar's present conduct from the future danger imagined here. [3]
- How do the forged letters influence Brutus? Explain why their apparent source is important to him. [3]
- Why does Brutus reject killing Antony? What contrary warning does Cassius give? [3]
- What does Portia ask of Brutus later in this scene? Explain how her appeal to marriage and proof of endurance present her as a determined partner. [4]

Question 6. Act II, Scene II [16]

"Cowards die many times before their deaths;
The valiant never taste of death but once."

- Name the speaker and listener. What does the listener want him to do, and why? [3]
- Explain the contrast between "many times" and "but once". What attitude towards fear does the speaker express? [3]
- Describe Calpurnia's dream of Caesar's statue and the behaviour of the Romans in it. [3]
- How does Decius reinterpret that dream? State the additional Senate-related argument he uses to persuade Caesar. [3]
- Is Caesar entirely free from fear and influence in this scene? Discuss the tension between his public claims and his decisions, using two details. [4]

Question 7. Act II, Scene III [16]

"If thou read this, O Caesar, thou mayst live;
If not, the Fates with traitors do contrive."

- Identify the speaker. What is he reading, and where does he intend to wait for Caesar? [3]
- Name two conspirators mentioned in the letter. What does it warn Caesar against in general? [3]
- Explain "the Fates with traitors do contrive". How do the two conditional lines create suspense? [3]
- In Act II, Scene IV, what does Portia instruct Lucius to observe at the Capitol? Explain her anxiety. [3]
- How do Artemidorus's warning and Portia's anxious waiting prepare the audience for danger? Explain dramatic irony using what the audience knows by the end of Act II. [4]