ISC · CLASS 12 · ENGLISH LITERATURE

ISC Class 12 English Literature Guess Paper 2027

Time: 3 hours · Maximum marks: 80 · 29 questions

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Section A - Q1 (i)-(iv) Macbeth MCQs

Section A, Question 1 (i)-(iv): four 1-mark multiple-choice questions on Macbeth (Acts III-V). Write only one option.

Q1. How does Lady Macbeth attempt to divert the attention of the guests from Macbeth's strange behaviour at the banquet? 1 mark
(a) She uses her social grace and charm to distract the guests.
(b) She engages the guests in conversation and entertainment.
(c) She pretends that Macbeth has an illness that is momentary.
(d) She speaks of Macbeth's courage in troubled times.

Q2. What is Macbeth's reaction when he sees Banquo's ghost at the banquet? 1 mark
(a) He pretends to remain calm and collected.
(b) He is terrified and loses control over himself.
(c) He blames Ross and Lennox for playing tricks on him.
(d) He is proud and boastful.

Q3. What does Banquo's soliloquy in Act III Scene i of the play Macbeth, reveal about him? 1 mark
(a) He is afraid of Macbeth.
(b) He is puzzled and confused.
(c) He is jealous of Macbeth and wishes to seize the throne.
(d) He is suspicious of Macbeth's actions.

Q4. In Act V of the play Macbeth, which one of the following do you think reflects the tragic arc of the play? 1 mark
(P) Macbeth's soliloquy; "Out, out brief candle, Life's but a walking shadow."
(Q) Lady Macbeth's breakdown: "What's done cannot be undone."
(R) Macduff's greeting: "Hail, King of Scotland."
(S) Malcolm's final words: "So, thanks to all at once and to each one, whom we invite to see us crowned at Scone."
(a) (P) and (R)
(b) (P) and (Q)
(c) (R) and (S)
(d) (P) and (S)

Section A - Q1 (v)-(vii) Prism MCQs

Section A, Question 1 (v)-(vii): three 1-mark multiple-choice questions on the Prism short stories.

Q5. Read the two statements from the short story, There Will Come Soft Rains, and choose the correct option from the ones given below. 1 mark
Statement I: '...the solvent spread on the linoleum, licking, eating, under the kitchen door, while the voices took it up in chorus: "Fire! fire! fire!"'
Statement II: 'While scurrying water rats squeaked from the walls, pistolled their water, and ran for more. And the wall sprays let down showers of mechanical rain.'
(a) Statements I and II are similar.
(b) Statements I and II are not related to each other.
(c) Statement I is the reason for Statement II.
(d) Statement II is the reason for Statement I.

Q6. Read the two statements from the short story, The Cookie Lady and choose the correct option from the ones given below. 1 mark
Statement I: "Why don't you read to me from your books? You know I don't see too well anymore and it's comfort to me to be read to."
Statement II: "You don't mind if I touch your arm, do you?"
(a) Statement I and II are similar.
(b) Statement I and II are not related to each other.
(c) Statement II is the reason for Statement I.
(d) Statement I is the reason for Statement II.

Q7. Which of the following BEST captures the central idea of the short story, The Medicine Bag? 1 mark
(a) Embracing one's cultural roots.
(b) Disrespect for the older generation.
(c) The fruits of modernisation.
(d) Peer pressure in adolescents.

Section A - Q1 (viii)-(x) Rhapsody MCQs

Section A, Question 1 (viii)-(x): three 1-mark multiple-choice questions on the Rhapsody poems.

Q8. In the poem Telephone Conversation, the potent metaphor "stench of rancid breath" is used to: 1 mark
(a) evoke a strong sense of repulsion and disgust.
(b) describe bad odour in the telephone booth.
(c) create a toxic atmosphere.
(d) create a mental image of the lady with bad breath.

Q9. Why does Shane Koyczan begin the poem, Beethoven, with the word "Listen"? 1 mark
(a) To highlight the fact that Beethoven was abused.
(b) To make the poem appealing and lend rhythm.
(c) To add novelty to the beginning.
(d) To align it with the theme of music.

Q10. How is Death personified in the opening lines of the poem, Death be Not Proud? 1 mark
(a) As a desperate man
(b) As a gentle agent of Fate
(c) As a mighty conqueror
(d) As a reaper of souls

Section A - Q2 (i)-(iv) Macbeth

Section A, Question 2 (i)-(iv): complete the sentence by giving a reason in brief (1 mark each) - Macbeth.

Q11. In Act IV Scene iii of the play, Macbeth, Malcolm tells Macduff that he has none of the "king becoming graces" because _____. 1 mark

Q12. Macbeth returns to the witches in Act IV Scene i because _____. 1 mark

Q13. In Act V Scene viii of the play Macbeth, Macbeth initially refuses to fight Macduff because _____. 1 mark

Q14. In Act III Scene iv of the play Macbeth, Lady Macbeth dismissed the guests at the banquet without standing on any ceremony because _____. 1 mark

Section A - Q2 (v)-(vii) Prism

Section A, Question 2 (v)-(vii): complete the sentence by giving a reason in brief (1 mark each) - short stories.

Q15. In the short story, The Cookie Lady, Bubber felt exhausted on his way back home after his meetings with Mrs. Drew because _____. 1 mark

Q16. In the short story, Atithi, Motilal Babu is initially reluctant to marry his daughter to Tarapada because _____. 1 mark

Q17. In the short story, Indigo, Aniruddha asked Sukhanram if there were ghosts in the bungalow because _____. 1 mark

Section A - Q2 (viii)-(x) Rhapsody

Section A, Question 2 (viii)-(x): complete the sentence by giving a reason in brief (1 mark each) - poems.

Q18. In the poem, Small Towns and the River, the poet says that 'The dead are placed pointing west' because _____. 1 mark

Q19. In the poem, Telephone Conversation, the speaker resented the landlady asking him about the colour of his skin because _____. 1 mark

Q20. Beethoven amputated the legs of his piano because _____. 1 mark

Section B - Q3 Macbeth

Section B, Question 3 (Macbeth): (i) and (ii) 5 marks each, 100-150 words using the two given prompts; (iii) 10 marks, 200-250 words, internal choice (a) OR (b).

Q21. How does Malcolm's character grow and change over the course of the play? Incorporate the following details and write your answer in a short paragraph of about 100-150 words. 5 marks

(a) Malcolm's testing of Macduff in Act IV

(b) His generalship and the restoration of order through Macduff

Q22. In what ways does power corrupt in the play Macbeth? Discuss any one character who is corrupted by power in the play.
Incorporate the following details and answer in 100-150 words.
(a) The character's traits before coming to power
(b) The character's degeneration after coming into power
5 marks

Q23. Do you agree with the view that Macbeth is fighting a lost battle against forces beyond his control? Justify your point of view in about 200-250 words by referring to the Acts studied.
10 marks

Section B - Q4 Prism

Section B, Question 4 (Prism short stories): (i) and (ii) 5 marks each, 100-150 words; (iii) 10 marks, 200-250 words, internal choice (a) OR (b).

Q24. The Medicine Bag traces the narrator's attitude to his Sioux Grandfather, from mild embarrassment to appreciation. Summarise the reasons for this embarrassment and the change.
Write your answer in 100-150 words incorporating the following details.
(a) Reasons for embarrassment
(b) Specific reasons for the change in attitude
5 marks

Q25. Referring closely to the short story, The Cookie Lady, explore Mrs. Drew's fascination with Bubber.
Answer in 100-150 words incorporating the following details.
(a) Mrs. Drew's repeated interactions with Bubber
(b) Role of the cookies in the short story
5 marks

Q26. Tarapada, the central character in the short story, Atithi, is a free soul who cannot be restrained by the bonds of society. Examine this statement in 200-250 words.
10 marks

Section B - Q5 Rhapsody

Section B, Question 5 (Rhapsody poems): (i) and (ii) 5 marks each, 100-150 words; (iii) 10 marks, 200-250 words, internal choice (a) OR (b).

Q27. How does a boon become a curse for Tithonus in the poem, Tithonus?
Answer in 100-150 words incorporating the following details.
- Boon of immortality
- Implications of the boon on his life

5 marks

Q28. In what ways does the speaker's cultural background clash with the landlady's expectations in the poem Telephone Conversation?
Write your answer in 100-150 words incorporating the following details.
(a) The speaker's conversation with the landlady
(b) The undertones of racial and colour bias in the conversation
5 marks

Q29. The poem, Beethoven, illustrates Beethoven's determination and his ability to adapt himself to circumstances to create divine music.
Justify the statement with close references to the poem, in about 200-250 words.
10 marks

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