

SECTION A: SHORT STORY (25 MARKS)

Direction: You must attempt Question 1 COMPULSORILY. Under Question 2, you can CHOOSE a OR b.

Question 1 Answer ALL the questions with reference to the story *The Bet* by Anton Chekhov. [5]

a) **Direction:** For each question, there are FOUR responses, A, B, C and D. Choose the corresponding letter of your response and CIRCLE it neatly. NO score will be awarded if you circle more than ONE letter.

- i. The Lawyer spends his time during his confinement by:
 - A studying and reading extensively.
 - B exercising and practicing meditation.
 - C writing poetry and composing music.
 - D reflecting on his past actions and regretting.
- ii. The story begins with an/a
 - A allusion.
 - B suspense.
 - C flashback.
 - D foreshadowing.
- iii. *The banker, spoilt and frivolous, with millions beyond his reckoning, was delighted at the bet.* The underlined word means
 - A figuring
 - B rejecting
 - C doubting
 - D challenging
- iv. The story explores the theme of
 - A unpredictability of fate and chance.
 - B corrupting influence of power and wealth.
 - C pursuit of knowledge and intellectual growth.
 - D importance of human connection and relationships.
- v. Which of the following statement best describes the banker's attitude towards the end of fifteen years?
 - A He feels indifferent and detached from the bet's outcome.
 - B He becomes increasingly confident in winning the bet.
 - C He becomes intrigued by the lawyer's transformation.
 - D He regrets making the bet and tries to get out of it.

b) Answer the following questions in about 60 words.

- i. People, in general, are after money. Then what made the lawyer renounce his bet of two millions at the end? Explain with TWO reasons. [5]

[illegible]

ii. Who do you think is the eventual winner in *The Bet*? Justify with TWO reasons. [5]

Question 2 Choose any ONE question and answer it within 150 words.

- a) Contrast the banker in *The Bet* and the White Knight in *The White Knight* by Eric Nicol [10]
by outlining the events in their respective lives that change them.

OR

- b)** The lawyer in *The Bet* undergoes a transformation during his stay in confinement by reading different books. With reference to this, name a book you have read and explain how it changed your thoughts and actions.

[illegible]

SECTION B: ESSAY (25 MARKS)

Direction: You must attempt Question 1 COMPULSORILY. Under Question 2, you can CHOOSE a OR b.

The Titanic - History of a Disaster

On April 14, 1912 a great ship called the Titanic, a British luxury passenger liner carrying 2240 passengers and crew tragically sank on its maiden voyage. That night there were many warnings of icebergs from other ships. There seems to be a conflict on whether or not the warnings reached the control room. We may never know the answer to this question. The greatest tragedy of all may be that there were not enough lifeboats for everyone on board.

According to Walter Lord, author of *The Night Lives On*, “The Titanic could have been saved in the very beginning of the crisis when the iceberg was first reported to the control centre. If First Officer Murdoch had steamed right at the iceberg instead of trying to avoid it, he might have saved the ship”. The iceberg tore a series of large holes in the ship’s hull, causing water to flood into several compartments. Despite the efforts of the crew to save the ship, the Titanic began to sink rapidly. The limited number of lifeboats on board proved insufficient to accommodate all the passengers and crew, exacerbating the disaster.

The Titanic was designed to accommodate around 3500 passengers and crew but it carried only enough lifeboats for about 1200 people. The Captain, Edward John Smith had to make a choice as to who would be the first allowed on the lifeboats. Around 12:30 a.m. the officer from the control room informed the crew that only women and children would be loaded on the lifeboats. By 1:30 a.m., there was panic among some of the passengers. One example was on the port side of the boat. A group of passengers threatened to jump into a boat full of passengers as the first lifeboat which actually had the capacity of 65 people left with only 28 on board. To scare them, one of the officers fired three shots on the ship's side. The warning proved to be successful. Nobody was injured and the passengers calmed down. At the last moment with only forty-seven available spaces on the last lifeboat, the crew instructed everyone to form a circle around the boat. Women and children were the only people permitted to pass through the circle. A little while after the last lifeboat left, the stern lifted clear out of the water with more than 1500 people still on board.

The climactic moment came at 2:20 a.m. The Titanic stood perpendicular to the water. As people in the lifeboats looked on, they noticed the ship stayed perpendicular for a minute and then disappeared to the bottom of the ocean. Hundreds of human dramas unfolded between the order to load the lifeboats and the ship’s final plunge. Men saw off wives and children, families were separated in the confusion and selfless individuals gave up their spots to remain with loved ones or allow a more vulnerable passenger to escape.

The RMS Carpathia, a nearby passenger ship responded to distress signals from the Titanic and arrived about two hours after the sinking. It rescued more than 700 survivors.

The sinking of the Titanic had a profound impact on maritime safety regulations. The disaster exposed flaws in the design and safety practices of passenger ships at the time. It prompted significant changes in maritime laws, including requirements for sufficient lifeboats, improved safety procedures, and the establishment of an international ice patrol to monitor iceberg activity. The tragedy has become a symbol of human hubris and the potential consequences of disregarding safety measures.

(Adapted

from <https://www.noaa.gov/gc-international-section/rms-titanic-history-and-significance>)

Question 1 Answer ALL the questions.

a) Direction: For each question, there are FOUR responses, A, B, C and D. Choose the corresponding letter of your response and CIRCLE it neatly. NO score will be awarded if you circle more than ONE letter. [5]

- i. The word, '**climactic**' (Paragraph 4) means
 - A scary.
 - B final.
 - C quick.
 - D tragic.
- ii. The reason for firing three shots during the situation of extreme panic was to
 - A calm the people.
 - B signal to the lifeboats.
 - C make the people move fast.
 - D threaten the panicking people.
- iii. Which phrase would best be a part of the thesis statement of the essay?
 - A carelessness of the crew
 - B survivors were 700 in total
 - C limited numbers of lifeboats on board
 - D unnecessary chaos from the passengers
- iv. Complete the given statement:
Titanic's disaster was
 - A a result of human error.
 - B a flaw in maritime laws.
 - C a deliberate act of destruction.
 - D an unavoidable natural disaster.
- v. The crew instructed everyone to form a circle around the boat because they wanted to
 - A select who should go first.
 - B adjust all the children in one boat.
 - C count the number of survivors on board.
 - D adjust all the remaining passengers together.

b) Answer the following questions in about 60 words each.

- i. The story of the Titanic is often seen as a cautionary tale about human arrogance and the consequences of disregarding safety measure. Explain briefly. [5]

[illegible]

Question 2 Choose ANY ONE question and answer it within 150 words.

- a)** The text uses chronological narration. Rewrite the essay in a paragraph using cause and effect narration. **[10]**

OR

- b)** You are Wilson, a reporter from BBC, who is among the survivors of the Titanic tragedy. Write a report on the sinking of Titanic.

[illegible]

SECTION C: POETRY (25 MARKS)

Direction: You must attempt Question 1 COMPULSORILY. Under Question 2, you can CHOOSE a OR b.

Good Timber (Douglas Malloch)

The tree that never had to fight
For sun and sky and air and light,
But stood out in the open plain
And always got its share of rain,
Never became a forest king
But lived and died a scrubby thing.

The man who never had to toil
To gain and farm his patch of soil,
Who never had to win his share
Of sun and sky and light and air,
Never became a manly man
But lived and died as he began.

Good timber does not grow with ease,
The stronger wind, the stronger trees,
The further sky, the greater length,
The more the storm, the more the strength.
By sun and cold, by rain and snow,
In trees and men good timbers grow.

Where thickest lies the forest growth
We find the patriarchs of both.
And they hold counsel with the stars
Whose broken branches show the scars
Of many winds and much of strife.
This is the common law of life.

Question 1 Answer ALL the questions.

- a) **Direction:** For each question, there are FOUR responses, A, B, C and D. Choose the corresponding letter of your response and CIRCLE it neatly. NO score will be awarded if you circle more than ONE letter. [5]
- i. The stanza that contains a metaphor on *growth and strength* is
- A stanza 1.
 - B stanza 2.
 - C stanza 3.
 - D stanza 4.

ii. What does the poem suggest about the growth of a good timber?

- A Its growth decreases after facing stronger winds.
- B It grows stronger by facing challenges.
- C It grows effortlessly in open plains.
- D It grows to become forest kings.

iii. The rhyming scheme of the poem is

- A ABBACC.
- B AABCBC.
- C ABABCC.
- D AABACC.

iv. The tone of the poem is

- A sarcastic.
- B reflective.
- C optimistic.
- D melancholic.

v. The natural elements, *wind* and *storm* symbolize

- A dangers in life.
- B mistakes in life.
- C difficulties in life.
- D competitions for life.

b) Answer the following questions in about 60 words each.

i. According to the poem, how can a person achieve his/her true potential in life?
Explain it with examples from the text.

[5]

ii. If you were a tree, how would you project yourself to be a strong and good one? **[5]**
Mention any **TWO** ways. Ensure that your points are linked to the characteristics of a tree.

Question 2 Choose ANY ONE question and answer it within 150 words.

- a) What do you think is the poet’s purpose of writing this poem? Justify with **TWO [10]** evidences from the poem to support your answer.
- OR
- b) How is a person’s life similar to or different from the tree mentioned in the first stanza? Justify your stand with reference to the poem.

SECTION D: NOVEL (25 MARKS)

Direction: You must attempt Question 1 COMPULSORILY. Under Question 2, you can CHOOSE a OR b.

Question 1 Answer ALL the questions with reference to *The Giver* by Lois Lowry.

a) **Direction:** For each question, there are FOUR responses, A, B, C and D. Choose the corresponding letter of your response and CIRCLE it neatly. NO score will be awarded if you circle more than ONE letter. [5]

- i. After the seventh-year, children get to wear front buttoned jacket to signify that they are
- A receiving new responsibilities.
 - B starting their voluntary hours.
 - C becoming independent.
 - D entering adulthood.
- ii. After giving them their respective job assignments, the Chief Elder says, ‘Thank you for your childhood.’ What is the meaning of this statement?
- A They had been very good children.
 - B They will now enter the world of adults.
 - C They will no longer have to do volunteer work.
 - D They will have to leave their family dwelling units.
- iii. “I won’t go home! You can’t make me!” Jonas sobbed and shouted and pounded the bed with his fist. What made Jonas react in this way?
- A suggestion by the Giver to escape
 - B receiving the painful war memory
 - C hearing about Rosemary’s Release
 - D watching a Release ceremony video
- iv. Which ONE of the given options serve as examples of foreshadowing used in the novel?
- I. Jonas said that he was apprehensive about the December ceremony.
 - II. In a memory, Jonas saw an elephant being shot and killed for tusk.
 - III. While playing catch with an apple, he noticed something about the apple.
 - IV. In a memory, Jonas saw the house with all the Christmas lights.
- A I, II, & III.
 - B I, III, & IV.
 - C II, III, & IV.
 - D I, II, III, & IV.

v. The river in the novel symbolizes

- A escape and freedom to Elsewhere.
- B the community's ability to manipulate nature.
- C control and predictability within the community.
- D dangers and unpredictability of the outside world.

b) Answer the following questions in about 60 words each.

i. What would be the advantages of living in an ordered society without family and loving relationship? Suggest and explain any **TWO**.

[5]

Question 2 Choose ANY ONE question and answer it within 150 words.

a) The concept of individual choice in *The Giver* is different from the one we understand and practice in our society. Explain **THREE** benefits if the concept practiced in the novel is applied in our society. **[10]**

OR

b) The novel, “*The Giver*” can be classified as a science fiction. Identify any **THREE** elements of science fiction and elaborate each with examples from the novel.

