



# KARNATAKA ICSE SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

## ICSE STD. X Preparatory Examination 2026

**Subject: LITERATURE IN ENGLISH (ENGLISH PAPER -2)**

**Duration: 2 Hours**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**Date: 07.01.2026**

*Answer to this paper must be written on the paper provided separately.*

*You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.*

*This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.*

*The time given at the head of this paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.*

*The paper has four sections.*

*Section A is compulsory - All questions in Section A must be answered.*

*You must attempt one question from each of the Section B, C and D and one other question from any Section of your choice.*

*The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [ ].*

### Question 1

Choose the correct answers to the questions from the given options.

[16]

(Do not copy the question, write the correct answers only.)

(i) **Who faithfully kills himself beside Cassius?**

- (a) Pindarus                      (b) Lucilius                      (c) Titinius                      (d) Marullus

(ii) **'O, pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth' this statement of Antony serves as a proof of his -----**

- (a) Fickleness  
(b) Servility  
(c) Lack of understanding  
(d) loyalty

(iii) **When Cassius talks about his birthday and the ill omens to Messala, what does it show?**

- (a) Superstitions                      (c) Prick of conscience  
(b) His strong feeling of defeat                      (d) His talkative nature

(iv) **What did Cassius say Messala should be witness to?**

- (a) His bravery  
(b) His unwillingness to be like Pompey  
(c) His fight for avenging Caesar's death  
(d) His love for Brutus

- (v) **According to Antony, what would the people of Rome do after reading Caesar's will?**  
(a) They will kiss Caesar's wounds reverently (c) They will avenge his murder  
(b) They will start destruction in Rome (d) They will crown his best friend as king
- (vi) **What is the 'touching loss' Cassius mentions in Act IV?**  
(a) Loss of Pompey (c) Loss of Cato  
(b) Loss of Portia (d) Loss of Caesar
- (vii) **Which figure of speech is used in the title of the poem by H. W. Longfellow?**  
(a) Personification (b) Metaphor  
(c) Simile (d) Alliteration
- (viii) **Which of the following is NOT true about the 'haunted houses'?**  
(a) They are visited by spirits  
(b) They are visited by guests  
(c) They are deserted  
(d) Strangers are entertained
- (ix) **In the poem 'The Glove and the Lions', why did de Lorge throw the glove "right in the lady's face"?**  
(a) To show his love for her  
(b) To prove his bravery  
(c) To prove how significant she is  
(d) To show his annoyance at her vanity
- (x) **Why did King Francis say that "We are better here than there"?**  
(a) They were at a safe distance from the ferocious fight in the pit  
(b) They were enjoying the game rather than fighting out  
(c) He did not have to enter the arena to pick up the lady's glove  
(d) None of the above.
- (xi) **In the poem "A Considerable Speck" according to the poet, the modern world is swept by which of the following?**  
(a) Individualism (b) Collectivism  
(c) Selflessness (d) All of the above
- (xii) **Why did Martin feel secure in the elevator after he returned from the hospital?**  
(a) The old lady was not in the elevator  
(b) His father was with him in the elevator  
(c) He could hit the lady with his crutches  
(d) None of the above

- (xiii) **Why did the photographer twist and turn the narrator's head and face?**  
 (a) To get the right angle for clicking the photo  
 (b) To adjust them according to the narrator's choice  
 (c) To insult and annoy the narrator  
 (d) All of the above
- (xiv) **Choose the option that lists the sequence of events from the short story 'The Last Lesson' in the correct order.**  
 1. Mr. Hamel's announcement came as a thunder clap to Franz.  
 2. Franz saw old people of the village sitting on a backbencher.  
 3. Mr. Hamel took a chalk and scribbled on the black board.  
 4. Franz thought it was better to stay out in the bright sunny day than going to the class.  
 (a) 3,1,2,4                      (b) 1,3,4,2                      (c) 4,2,1,3                      (d) 2,4,3,1
- (xv) **Which of the following statements is NOT correct?**  
 (a) Adjoa could not express her thoughts freely  
 (b) Adjoa had to take bath in the bathhouse  
 (c) Adjoa complained about the long distance from her home to her school  
 (d) Adjoa had thin long legs
- (xvi) **Why did Adjoa want to see the legs of other women who had children?**  
 (a) To compare them with her own thin legs  
 (b) To compare them with her grandmother's legs  
 (c) To compare them with her classmates' legs  
 (d) To compare them with her mother's legs

### **SECTION B**

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)

#### **DRAMA**

**(Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare)**

#### **Question 2**

*Antony: Therefore let our alliance be combin'd,  
 Our best friends made, our means stretch'd;  
 And let us presently go sit in council,  
 How convert matters may be best disclos'd,  
 And open perils surest answered,*

*Octavius: Let us do so: for we are at the stake,  
 And bay'd about with many enemies;  
 And some that smile have in their hearts,  
 I fear, Millions of mischiefs.*

- (i) Who are referred to as 'we'? Where are 'we' present? What was the event of high importance to the state of Rome that had occurred earlier in the play?

[3]

- (ii) Before this extract, who does Antony call ‘unmeritable’? What does he say more about him? [3]
- (iii) Why does the speaker feel that they are at stake? What is that they decide to do? [3]
- (iv) What did the citizens decide to do to Caesar’s body? What changed the thought of the Citizens of Rome? [3]
- (v) Do you think Mark Antony was truly loyal to Caesar? Give at least 3 reasons to support your answer. [4]

### Question 3

*Cassius: Messala,*

*This is my birthday; as this very day  
Was Cassius born. Give me thy hand,  
Messala: Be thou my witness that,  
against my will,  
As Pompey was, am I compell’d to set  
Upon one battle all our liberties.  
You know that I held Epicurus strong,  
And his opinion: now I change my  
mind;  
And partly credit things that do  
presage.*

- (i) Who is referred to as ‘thou’? Whose birthday is mentioned in the above extract? What does Cassius fear? [3]
- (ii) Who all are present along with Cassius? Watching what does Cassius recall? What does it show about the belief of the people of the Elizabethan period? [3]
- (iii) Who was Epicurus and what is said about his philosophy? [3]
- (iv) There is a verbal combat before this extract between Antony and Cassius. What does Cassius compare Antony’s words to? Explain. [3]
- (v) What is the current state of Brutus and Cassius? [4]

### SECTION C

(Answer one or more questions from this Section)

#### **PROSE – SHORT STORIES**

(Treasure Chest – A Collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories)

### Question 4

**Read the following extract from Stephen Leacock’s short story, “With the Photographer” and answer the questions that follow:**

“The photographer rolled a machine into the middle of the room and crawled into it from behind.

He was only in it a second, - just time enough for one look at me, - and then he was out again, tearing at the cotton sheet and the window panes with a hooked stick, apparently

frantic for light and air.

Then he crawled back into the machine again and drew a little black cloth over himself. This time he was very quiet in there. I knew that he was praying and I kept still.

When the photographer came out at last, he looked very grave and shook his head.”

- (i) What does the photographer want to do with the machine and who has asked him to do that and why? [3]
- (ii) Why does the photographer remain inside the machine just for a second and what does it suggest about the photographer? [3]
- (iii) When the photographer entered the machine for the second time, why does he remain there for long time than before? [3]
- (iv) Why does the photographer look very grave? [3]
- (v) What do you think about the photographer from his activities in this extract? Give reasons to support your answer. [4]

### Question 5

**Read the following extract from William Sleator’s short story, “The Elevator” and answer the questions that follow:**

“Martin, a thin twelve-year-old, felt nervous in it from the first day he and his father moved into the apartment. Of course he was always uncomfortable in elevators, afraid that they would fall, but this one was especially unpleasant. Perhaps this was because of the poor lighting and the dirty walls. Perhaps it was because of the door, which never stayed open long enough, and slammed shut with a loud clanging noise.”

- (i) Where does Martin feel nervous and why? [3]
- (ii) Why was the elevator in his building unpleasant to use? [3]
- (iii) How did the size of the elevator affect the narrator later in the story? [3]
- (iv) Explain how does this extract act as a ‘foreshadow’ in the story. [3]
- (v) What was the other option besides the elevator? Was it better than the elevator? Give reasons to support your answer. [4]

