

Preparation Test 2019

English Literature Grade 13

2 hours

The Bean Eaters

They eat beans mostly, this old yellow pair.
Dinner is a casual affair.
Plain chipware on a plain and creaking wood,
Tin flatware.

5 Two who are Mostly Good.
Two who have lived their day,
But keep on putting on their clothes
And putting things away.

And remembering ...

10 Remembering, with twinklings and twinges,
As they lean over the beans in their rented back room
that is full of beads and receipts and dolls and cloths,
tobacco crumbs, vases and fringes.

Gwendolyn Brooks.



A. Underline the best answer.

1. What does the poet mean by "a plain and creaking wood" (line 3)?

- (1) an old pine floor
- (2) a used board
- (3) a bare old table
- (4) an old squeaky door
- (5) a refinished antique

2. According to the description in this poem, the couple will probably

- (1) go on welfare.
- (2) die poor and miserable
- (3) get tired of beans
- (4) long for better days
- (5) die poor but happy

3. Which of the following would best explain why the poet wrote an extra line in the last stanza?

- (1) to break the monotony of the rhyme scheme
- (2) as evidence of departing from convention
- (3) to show the wealth of the couple's memories
- (4) as evidence of the poverty of the couple's home
- (5) to explain what things have been put away

4. Why are the words "Mostly Good" (line 5) capitalized?

- (1) to follow the rules of grammar
- (2) as evidence of the couple's way of life
- (3) to suggest that the people were not really good
- (4) to suggest that the two are saintlike
- (5) to emphasize how tidy the couple was

(4 x 4 = 16 marks)

(01) Answer all the questions support your answer with extracts from the text.

01) Is the old couple rich or poor? (5marks)

02) Other than " old yellow pair " which other words suggest they are old? (4marks)

B. Underline the best answer.

Items 1–5 refer to the following passage from "Her Sweet Jerome," a short story by Alice Walker.

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT JEROME?

She looked in the pockets of the black leather jacket he had reluctantly worn the night before. Three of his suits, a pair of blue twill work pants, an old gray sweater with a hood and pockets lay thrown across the bed. The jacket leather was sleazy and damply clinging to her hands. She had bought it for him, as well as the three suits: one light blue with side vents, one gold with green specks, and one reddish that had a silver imitation-silk vest. The pockets of the jacket came softly outward from the lining like skinny milktoast rats. Empty. Slowly she sank down on the bed and began to knead, with blunt anxious fingers, all the pockets in all the clothes piled around her. First the blue suit, then the gold with green, then the reddish one that he said he didn't like most of all, but which he would sometimes wear if she agreed to stay home, or if she promised not to touch him anywhere at all while he was getting dressed.

She was a big awkward woman, with big bones and hard rubbery flesh. Her short arms ended in ham hands, and her neck was a squat roll of fat that protruded behind her head as a big bump. Her skin was rough and puffy, with plump molelike freckles down her cheeks. Her eyes glowered from under the mountain of her brow and were circled with expensive mauve shadow. They were nervous and quick when she was flustered and darted about at nothing in particular while she was dressing hair or talking to people.

Her troubles started noticeably when she fell in love with a studiously quiet schoolteacher, Mr. Jerome Franklin Washington III, who was ten years younger than her. She told herself that she shouldn't want him, he was so little and cute and young, but when she took into account that he was a schoolteacher, well, she just couldn't seem to get any rest until, as she put it, "I were Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Franklin Washington the third, and *that's the truth!*"

1. Which of the following pairs of fairy tale characters would most resemble Jerome Washington and his wife?

- (1) Hansel and Gretel
- (2) Beauty and the Beast
- (3) Prince Charming and Snow White
- (4) The Wolf and Little Red Riding Hood
- (5) Prince Charming and the Evil Queen

2. Given the information in this excerpt, which of the following is the most likely outcome for this couple?

- (1) They will live happily ever after.
- (2) Jerome will fall in love with the woman.
- (3) The relationship will end unhappily.
- (4) The couple will adopt children.
- (5) The woman will become a schoolteacher.

3. Jerome's taste in clothing is probably

- (1) worse than the woman's
- (2) in agreement with the woman's
- (3) very loud and flashy
- (4) different than the woman's
- (5) dependent on his profession

4. Apparently Jerome will occasionally do what the woman wants him to if

- (1) she is very good to him
- (2) she buys him more clothes
- (3) she will leave him alone
- (4) she gets a better education
- (5) promises to marry him

5. According to this excerpt, which of the following is not true about the woman?

- (1) She is a hairdresser.
- (2) Her eyes move around a lot.
- (3) She is in love with a schoolteacher.
- (4) She is ten years older than Jerome.
- (5) She has found what she is looking for.

(4 x 5 = 20 marks)

a) Read the text and answer the questions

(Support your answer taking extracts form the text)

01) Do you think the woman trusted Jerome ?

(5marks)

02) "Which he would wear only if she agreed to stay at home" Explain this statement (5marks)

b)

03) Write a presis of this text (Not more than 51 words)

(20marks)

One of the most deadly and destructive of all the diseases that prey upon mankind is malaria. Over one million people die of it every year in India alone. It is the cruel enemy both of the white and the coloured races in most tropical countries. Some scholars declared that the break up of the ancient Greek civilization was

caused by great epidemics of malaria. In Middle Ages people realised that the infection was most prevalent in places where water was stagnant, places such as marshes and swamps. Thinking that the air was to blame, they gave the disease the name malaria, 'bad air'. Not until nearly the end of the nineteenth century was the great discovery made that it was not the stagnant water, nor was it the marshy air, which spread malaria. The guilty factor was actually the mosquito breeding in such water and conveying the malarial parasite to healthy human beings.

4) Write an essay on one of the topics. (25 marks)

a- Literature can bring racial Harmony in Sri Lanka

b- Let's Build a Human wall around forests in Sri Lanka

c- Apartment Living is Stressful / Not stressfull

d- introduction of death penaity in Sri Lanka

e- Write an article about 'Drug abuse among school students' for a newspaper.



A. Answer only 01 question. (Drama)

- (1) Discuss the significance of the role of Caliban in 'The Tempest'. Consider how Caliban is presented, Caliban's contribution to the themes and the dramatic effects of the play.
- (2) Referring to 'Sizwe Banzi is Dead', explain how as an audience, we know from the opening scene, that the play involves the concepts of racial discrimination against the Blacks.

B. Answer only 01 question. (Short stories)

- (1) What is 'the thing' in 'The Thing around your Neck'?
- (2) In 'Eveline', how does Joyce bring out the life and nature of Dubliners?
- (3) How does the cultural clash in Mrs. Sen affects the other characters in 'The Interpreter of Maladies'?
- (4) Why does Maggie has a 'real smile' at the end of the story 'Everyday Use'?
- (5) What is the role of the cat in 'The Cat in the Hat'?

C. Answer only 01 question. (Novel)

- (1) "Over the colour bar, gender of humans too is discussed in the novel". Support this view referring to 'Jury's People'.
- (2) "Life of Pi" insists it is a story". Discuss this statement.

D. Answer only 01 question. (Poetry).

- (1) Compare and Contrast the poems 'Explosion' and 'Animal Crackers' in the light of context, content and presentation.

2) Compare and contrast the identity of a woman as interpreted in the Indian society in the poems of 'Introduction' and 'Unknown Girl'. (17x4 = 68 marks)

E. Refer contextually to 2 of the following extracts. You should include the author, the work, place of occurrence usage of the language, techniques and significance. Do not choose the extracts of the works you have answered in A, B, C or D.

- (1) That she might think me untutored youth
unlearned of world's subtleties.
Thus, vainly thinking that she thinks me young...
- (2) she came floating on an island of bananas in a
hull of a night, as lovely as virgin Mary. The rising sun
was behind her...
- (3) We might be able to work out something then, You
talk to the white man and see, and ask him to write
a letter saying he's got a job for you.
- (4) and then I loved thee,
And showed all the qualities of the isle ...
- (5) "You don't have to be afraid. He won't steal it
from you."

F. Refer contextually to both the following extracts as in (E).

- (1) There seemed truth in it - a truth reflected in
that heavy sullen woman standing in the doorway
and the other, feebly waving loose skinned hand.
- (2) Slept soundly through the lonesome dark.
And whistled early with the lark

(8x4 = 32 marks)