



JOINT UNIVERSITIES PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS BOARD
AUGUST 2025 EXAMINATIONS

OPTION – A011

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

SECTION A: MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Answer all questions in this section.

Write the OPTION NUMBER that appears on your question paper on all your answer sheets and booklets

Write your answers legibly in the Answer Sheet provided for Multiple-Choice Questions

SECTION B: ESSAY QUESTIONS

Answer FOUR Questions in all; ONE from each Course.

Write the OPTION NUMBER that appears on your question paper on all your answer sheets and booklets

Ensure you read and follow all the Instructions on the cover page of the Answer Booklet.

Turn Over

SECTION A: MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS.

Answer ALL Questions in this section.

Read the following excerpt from Othello and answer the Questions 1—3.

My mother had a maid call'd Barbara:
She was in love; and he she lov'd prov'd mad
And did forsake her. She had a song of—willow
And old thing twas, but it express'd her fortune
And she died singing it. That song tonight,
Will not go from my mind; I have much to do
But to go hang my head all at one side
And sing it like poor Babary, pr'ythee dispatch.
(Act 4; Scene 3)

1. The whole excerpt exemplifies the use of
 - A. anecdote.
 - B. short story.
 - C. allegory.
 - D. proverb.
2. The speaker in this excerpt is
 - A. Othello.
 - B. Emilia.
 - C. Desdemona.
 - D. Iago.
3. The speaker is discussing with
 - A. Iago.
 - B. Roderigo.
 - C. Emilia.
 - D. Othello.

4. The poem that celebrates historical events, the heroic achievements, the mores and the civilizations of a race is known as
- A. ballad.
 - B. epic.
 - C. metaphysical poetry.
 - D. sonnets.
5. The inner working of a character's mind is portrayed through
- A. transferred epithet.
 - B. poetic justice.
 - C. pathetic fallacy.
 - D. stream of consciousness.
6. Temporal setting situates a work of art within a
- A. location.
 - B. time.
 - C. locale.
 - D. space.
7. A short story that teaches moral lesson is
- A. proverb.
 - B. epigram.
 - C. parable.
 - D. anecdote.
8. An elaborate classical form in which one shepherd-singer laments the death of another is called
- A. pastoral elegy.
 - B. pastoral romance.
 - C. ballad.
 - D. epic.

9. All these are kinds of prose except
- A. essay.
 - B. memoir.
 - C. biography.
 - D. scansion.
10. Identify the major playwright from the following options.
- A. Chinua Achebe.
 - B. Wole Soyinka.
 - C. Ngozi Adichie.
 - D. Helon Habila.
11. The reversal of fortune or peripetia in Greek tragedy often depends on
- A. hubris.
 - B. catharsis.
 - C. hamartia.
 - D. anagnorisis.
12. What differentiates bathos from pathos?
- A. Bathos is climax, pathos is anticlimax.
 - B. Pathos is sympathy, bathos is pity.
 - C. Pathos is pity, bathos is sympathy.
 - D. Bathos is anticlimax, pathos is pity.

Read the following excerpt from Othello and answer the Questions
13 - 14

*Othello: Why did I marry?—this honest creature doubtless
Sees and knows more, much more, than he unfolds.*

13. Othello's portrayal of Iago as "honest creature" exemplifies the use of
- A. dramatic irony.
 - B. verbal irony.
 - C. situational irony.
 - D. Socratic irony.
14. "Why did I marry?" exemplifies the use of
- A. metaphor.
 - B. irony.
 - C. paradox.
 - D. rhetorical question.
15. Conceit is an extension of
- A. simile.
 - B. paradox.
 - C. personification.
 - D. metaphor.
16. A fictional character that is drawn from some easily recognizable stereotype is the
- A. stock.
 - B. fictional.
 - C. round.
 - D. antagonist.
17. 'Falsely true' is an example of
- A. paradox.
 - B. metaphor.
 - C. oxymoron.
 - D. personification.

18. The following are figures of sound except

- A. pun.
- B. parallelism.
- C. consonance.
- D. assonance.

19. The literary device that creates a discrepancy between what is said and what is actually meant is

- A. situational irony.
- B. verbal irony.
- C. dramatic irony.
- D. cosmic irony.

20. An inscription on the tomb of a dead person is called?

- A. Eulogy.
- B. Epitaph.
- C. Salutation.
- D. Reference.

21. 'She went into the freezing fire' indicates the use of

- A. irony.
- B. oxymoron.
- C. paradox.
- D. simile.

22. Medieval English poetry was predominantly a/an

- A. product of Christian religion and doctrine.
- B. period of rebirth of culture.
- C. era of intellectual explorations.
- D. product pagan society.

Read the following excerpt and answer Questions 23 and 24.

Many years on wheels

In faithful service to his fatherland

Today retires he home

And a celebration he holds

Many years has he pummeled his boozy throat

In obedience to duty rules and regulations

Today, he'll go home a Freeman Eligible for his country's services.

23. The poem suggests that service to the fatherland is equivalent to
- A. patriotism.
 - B. servitude.
 - C. altruism.
 - D. law abiding.
24. The persona "pummeled his boozy throat in obedience to duty rules and regulations" suggests
- A. denial and discipline.
 - B. obedience and dutifulness.
 - C. law abiding.
 - D. drunkenness.
25. In appreciating poetry and prose, identify the group that represents direct analysis of texts.
- A. Content and imagery.
 - B. Symbols and imageries.
 - C. Content and structure.
 - D. Imagery and techniques.

26. The first step in analyzing an unseen passage is
- A. analysing it based on your residual knowledge.
 - B. reading it at least two times.
 - C. concentrating on the imagery.
 - D. using a known analogy to analyse the question.

Use the extract below to answer the following questions 27—29.

*It's the intent and business of the stage,
To copy out the follies of the age,
To hold to everyman a faithful glass,
And show him of what species he's, an ass.*
(John Vanburgh, "The Provoked Wife")

27. What poetic structure is the above excerpt?
- A. Sonnet.
 - B. Couplet.
 - C. Quatrain.
 - D. Stanza.
28. The rhyming scheme is
- A. abab.
 - B. aacc.
 - C. abcb.
 - D. aabb.
29. The rhyming scheme in the excerpt above follows the structure of
- A. quatrain.
 - B. sonnet.
 - C. couplet.
 - D. onomatopoeia.

30. Characterization in a novel means the
- A. expression of conflict between characters.
 - B. mode of presentation of the fictional individuals.
 - C. minor and major characters in the work.
 - D. peculiar mannerisms of the narrator.
31. The distinguishing feature of the short story is its
- A. compact plot.
 - B. narrative form.
 - C. prosaic conception.
 - D. climatic stage.
32. A literary composition in three parts is a
- A. trilogy.
 - B. trio.
 - C. trialogue.
 - D. colloquy.

Read the excerpt from Housman's "To an Athlete Dying Young" and answer Questions 33 and 34.

*The time you won your town the race
We chaired you through the market-place;
Man and boy stood cheering by,
And home we brought you shoulder-high.
Today, the road all runners come,
Shoulder-high we bring you home,
And set you at your threshold down,
Townsmen of a stiller town.*

33. The imagery in stanza 1 above indicates
- A. elation.
 - B. emotion.
 - C. acclamation.
 - D. probation.
34. The second stanza above suggests
- A. house launching.
 - B. burial.
 - C. celebration.
 - D. award.
35. Form and content criticism is
- A. pragmatic.
 - B. textual.
 - C. expressive.
 - D. reader-response.
36. The villain usually causes
- A. laughter to the antagonist.
 - B. conflict to the protagonist.
 - C. crisis to the antagonist.
 - D. relief to the protagonist.
37. Chorus, in the Greek tragedies, performed the singular role of a
- A. translator.
 - B. commentator.
 - C. director.
 - D. coordinator.

38. The art by which a lone character utters his or her thoughts out loud is a/an
- A. aside.
 - B. soliloquy.
 - C. monologue.
 - D. dialogue.
39. Blank verse is
- A. unrhymed.
 - B. unrhythmic.
 - C. unmetrical.
 - D. unstressed.
40. A literary description that appeals to the five human senses is
- A. symbolism.
 - B. imagery.
 - C. motif.
 - D. epigram.
41. The type of poetry composed and transmitted by means of recitation is said to be
- A. aural.
 - B. rural.
 - C. oral.
 - D. pastoral.
42. An interruption of a chronological narrative to relate an event that has already occurred is the function of
- A. foreshadowing.
 - B. in media res.
 - C. flashback.
 - D. surprise.

Read the following excerpt from Othello and answer the Questions

43—44.

Zounds, sir! You are robb'd; for shame, put on your gown
Your heart is burst, you have lost half your soul;
Even now, now, very now, an old black ram
Is tupping your white ewe. Arise, arise!
Awake the snorting citizens with the bell.

(Act 1, Scene 1)

43. "old black ram" and "white ewe" refer to
- A. Iago and Emilia.
 - B. Othello and Desdemona.
 - C. Cassio and Bianca.
 - D. Brabantio and Desdemona.

44. Who is the speaker here?
- A. Cassio.
 - B. Roderigo.
 - C. Brabantio
 - D. Iago.

Read the following excerpt from Othello and answer the Questions

45—47.

Speaker A: A good wrench; give it me.

*Speaker B: what will you do with't, that you have been so earnest
To have me filch it?*

Speaker A: Why, what's that to you?

*Speaker B: If it be not for some purpose of import
Give't me again.*

(Act 3; Scene 3)

45. Speaker A is

A. Bianca.

B. Iago.

C. Emilia.

D. Cassio.

46. Speaker B is

A. Cassio.

B. Desdemona.

C. Othello.

D. Emilia.

47. What is the thing being discussed?

A. Sword.

B. Handkerchief.

C. Money.

D. Gun.

48. The imitation of the style of another author in a funny and exaggerated manner is a/an

A. innuendo.

B. epic.

C. irony.

D. parody.

49. Acts are often subdivided into
- A. actions.
 - B. plots.
 - C. scenes.
 - D. paragraphs.
50. Two major Elizabethan dramatists are:
- A. John Lilly and John Dryden.
 - B. Oliver Goldsmith and Oliver Cromwell.
 - C. Christopher Marlowe and William Shakespeare.
 - D. Arthur Miller and John O'Casey.

SECTION B: ESSAY QUESTIONS

Answer **FOUR** Questions: **ONE** Question from each Course

LIT 001: INTRODUCTION TO DRAMA

1. Discuss Aristophanes' *Lysistrata* as a satire. **[15 Marks]**

2. Discuss the failure of the democratic system as a course of social problems in Afolayan's *Once Upon an Elephant*. **[15 Marks]**

LIT 002: INTRODUCTION TO PROSE FICTION

3. State and explain any **THREE** themes in *Warri Nor Dey Carry Last*. **[15 Marks]**

4. Discuss Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* as a gothic novel. **[15 Marks]**

LIT 003: INTRODUCTION TO POETRY

5. Discuss **FIVE** ways Oswald Mtshali portrays horror in "Nightfall in Soweto." **[15 Marks]**

6. Examine the inevitability of death as portrayed in Thomas Gray's "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard." **[15 Marks]**

LIT 004: LITERARY APPRECIATION AND PRACTICAL CRITICISM

7. Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

I resisted all the way: a new thing for me, and a circumstance which greatly strengthened the bad opinion Bessie and Miss Abbot were disposed to entertain of me. The fact is, I was a trifle beside myself; or rather OUT of myself, as the French would say: I was conscious that a moment's mutiny had already rendered me liable to strange penalties, and, like any other rebel slave, I felt resolved, in my desperation, to go all lengths. 'Hold her arms, Miss Abbot: she's like a mad cat.' 'For shame! for shame!' cried the lady's-maid. 'What shocking conduct, Miss Eyre, to strike a young gentleman, your benefactress's son! Your young master.' 'Master! How is he my master? Am I a servant?' 'No; you are less than a servant, for you do nothing for your keep. There, sit down, and think over your wickedness.' They had got me by this time into the apartment indicated by Mrs. Reed, and had thrust me upon a stool: my impulse was to rise from it like a spring; their two pair of hands arrested me instantly. 'If you don't sit still, you must be tied down,' said Bessie. 'Miss Abbot, lend me your garters; she would break mine directly.'

(From Charlottes Bronte's *Jane Eyre*)

- i. Describe the point of view employed in the narration
- ii. Discuss the cause of conflict in the excerpt
- iii. Apply objective criticism in discussing the portrayal of events and emotions in the excerpt.

[15 Marks]

8. *Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow.*

Come away, my love from streets
Where unkind eyes divide;
And shop windows reflect our difference.
In the shelter of my faithful room, rest

There, safe from opinions, being behind
Myself, I can see only you;
And in my dark eyes your grey
Will dissolve.

The candlelight throws
Two shadows on the wall
Which merge into one as I close beside you

When at last the lights are out,
And I feel your hand in mine,
Two human breaths join in one
And piano weaves
Its unchallenged harmony
("Come Away, My Love." by Joseph Kuriuki)

- i. What kind of love relationship is described in the poem?
- ii. How does the imagery in the third stanza enhance the meaning of the poem?
- iii. Comment on the mood and tone of the poem.

[15 Marks]