



ST. NICHOLAS COLLEGE  
NAXXAR BOYS' SECONDARY SCHOOL  
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATIONS 2015

TRACK  
3

FORM 4 ENGLISH LITERATURE TIME: 2 HOURS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Index No: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Marks				
Drama	Prose	Poetry	Unseen Text	Total

**SECTION A: DRAMA**

(25 marks)

Choose ONE question from this section

**MACBETH:**

1. Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:

**MACBETH:** [*Aside*] Two truths are told,  
As happy prologues to the swelling act  
Of the imperial theme – I thank you, gentlemen.-  
This supernatural soliciting  
Cannot be ill, cannot be good. If ill, 5  
Why hath it given me earnest of success,  
Commencing in a truth? I am Thane of Cawdor.  
If good, why do I yield to that suggestion,  
Whose horrid image doth unfix my hair,  
And make my seated heart knock at my ribs 10  
Against the use of nature? Present fears  
Are less than horrible imaginings.  
My thought, whose murder yet is but fantastical,  
Shakes so my single state of man that function  
Is smothered in surmise, and nothing is, 15  
But what is not.

- a. This is Macbeth's first soliloquy. What is a soliloquy and what is the purpose for having soliloquys in drama? Explain in your own words. (4 marks)
- b. What has just happened before this extract? (4 marks)
- c. What do the 'two truths' mentioned in the first line refer to? (3 marks)
- d. What do you understand by 'this supernatural soliciting cannot be ill, cannot be good' in lines 4-5? Explain in detail. (6 marks)
- e. Explain in detail how the phrase 'Nothing is, but what is not' in lines 15-16 encapsulates the theme of appearance versus reality which is prevalent throughout the play. (8 marks)

**OR**

2. Most critics agree that the main theme of Macbeth is that of *ambition*. Lady Macbeth describes her husband as an ambitious man and yet with a conscience. To what extent is this true according to your understanding of the play so far? Discuss in detail.

**OR**

3. Compare and contrast *Macbeth* and *Banquo*. How are they alike? How are they different? Is it possible to argue that Macbeth is the play's villain and Banquo its hero, or is the matter more complicated than that?

**SECTION B: POETRY**

**(25 marks)**

**Choose ONE question from this section**

1. The poems you have studied so far both share the common theme of *childhood*, but it is presented differently by the poets. Compare and contrast the poems *The Echoing Green* and *Hide and Seek* by showing how childhood is presented in different ways. Support your writing with suitable quotations from the poems.
2. Poetry often appeals to our *senses* in order to make us experience and understand life more intensely. Show how this is true by referring to a poem you have covered, which clearly brings out this meaning.
3. With close reference to the poem *Hide and Seek*, name and describe the common themes that appear here. Support your writing with suitable quotations from this poem.

## **SECTION C: PROSE**

**(25 marks)**

**Choose ONE question from this section.**

1. In *Private Peaceful*, bravery is observed on different levels, from the Peaceful brothers' childhood days up to their experiences in war-torn conditions. Comment on how the theme of *bravery* is exploited on different levels.
2. The novel *Private Peaceful* is packed with things which are rich in symbolism. With close reference to quotations from the novel, comment on the *symbols*, *images* and the *language* used throughout the book.
3. At one point, *Grandma Wolf* comes to live with Tommo's family. Write about this character including what her presence means to Tommo and his two brothers.

## **SECTION D: UNPREPARED TEXT**

**(25 marks)**

**Read the text and answer all the questions below.**

The Concord bed-chamber being always assigned to a passenger by the mail, and passengers by the mail being always heavily wrapped up from head to foot, the room had the odd interest for the establishment of the Royal George, that although but one kind of man was seen to go into it, all kinds and varieties of men came out of it. Consequently, another drawer, and two porters, and several maids and the landlady, were all loitering by accident at various points of the road between the Concord and the coffee-room, when a gentleman of sixty, formally dressed in a brown suit of clothes, pretty well worn, but very well kept, with large square cuffs and large flaps to the pockets, passed along on his way to his breakfast. 5

The coffee-room had no other occupant, that forenoon, than the gentleman in brown. His breakfast-table was drawn before the fire, and as he sat, with its light shining on him, waiting for the meal, he sat so still, that he might have been sitting for his portrait. 10

Very orderly and methodical he looked, with a hand on each knee, and a loud watch ticking a sonorous sermon under his flapped waist-coat. He had a good leg, and was a little vain of it, for his brown stockings fitted sleek and close, and were of a fine texture; his shoes and buckles, too, though plain, were trim. He wore an odd little sleek crisp flaxen wig, setting very close to his head: which wig, it is to be presumed, was made of hair, but which looked far more as though it were spun from filaments of silk or glass. His linen, though not of a fineness in accordance with his stockings, was as white as the tops of the waves that broke upon the neighbouring beach, or the specks of sail that glinted in the sunlight far at sea. A face habitually suppressed and quieted, was still lighted up under the quaint wig by a pair of moist bright eyes that it must have cost their owner, in years gone by, some pains to drill to the composed and reserved expression of Tellson's Bank. He had a healthy colour in his cheeks, and his face, though lined, bore few traces of anxiety. But, perhaps the confidential bachelor clerks in Tellson's Bank were principally occupied with the cares of other people; and perhaps second-hand cares, like second-hand clothes, come easily off and on. 15 20 25

Completing his resemblance to a man who was sitting for his portrait, Mr. Lorry dropped off to sleep.

30

*(Adapted from 'A Tale of Two Cities' by Charles Dickens)*

Underline the most appropriate answer.

(2 marks)

1. The passage describes a
  - a. bed chamber.
  - b. sixty-year-old man.
  - c. person sitting for a portrait.
  - d. coffee room.
  
2. What is the meaning of the word 'forenoon' in line 10? (1 mark)
  
3. What does 'He had a good leg, and was a little vain of it' (l.15) mean? (2 marks)
  
4. Find **one** example of an **alliteration** and an **onomatopoeia** from the text. (2 marks)
  - a. alliteration - \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. onomatopoeia - \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. Find a word from the passage which indicates that Mr. Lorry was a single, unmarried man. (1 mark)  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
6. Find two words from the third paragraph which describe Mr. Lorry as a systematic man. (2 marks)
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  
7. For each of the following, identify the figure of speech used and explain the effect created through the image. (4 marks)
  - a. 'His linen... ..was as white as the tops of the waves that broke upon the neighbouring beach.' (l.18-19)

Figure of speech: \_\_\_\_\_

Effect: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. 'a loud watch ticking a sonorous sermon'. (l.12-13)

Figure of speech: \_\_\_\_\_

Effect: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Find a phrase from the first paragraph which means *completely covered*. (1 mark)

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Explain the phrase "a face habitually suppressed and quieted" (l.19) in your own words. (2 marks)

\_\_\_\_\_

10. In about 60 words explain the comparison between the responsibilities of the employees at Tellson's Bank and second hand clothes. (6 marks)

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11. Explain the joke that the author does in the last line of the passage. (2 marks)

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\_\_\_\_\_