

ICSE Class 10 English Literature Unofficial Answer Keys 2026

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Questions asked in the exam:

Q.1

SECTION A

(Attempt all questions from this Section.)

Question 1

[16]

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

(Do not copy the questions, write ONLY the correct answers.)

(i) What were Julius Caesar's dying words?

- (a) 'Caesar, now be still...'
- (b) 'Et tu brute? Then fall Caesar!'
- (c) 'This is the most unkindest cut of all;'
- (d) 'By your leave, gods; this is a Roman's part.'

(ii) Which of the following phrases best describes Antony's **mood** when he says:

*'O mighty Caesar! dost thou lie so low?
Are all thy conquests, glories, triumphs, spoils,
Shrunk to this little measure?'*



Answer (i): 'Et tu Brutus? Then fall Caesar!'

Answer (ii): Deep sorrow and grief

(iii) Which of the following does Antony **NOT** say about Caesar in his funeral speech?

- (a) Caesar was ambitious and wanted to be crowned king.
- (b) Caesar had compassion for the poor and cried when they cried.
- (c) Caesar was valiant in battle and had brought riches to the Roman treasury.
- (d) Caesar had left seventy-five drachmas to every Roman citizen.



Answer (iii): Option A

(iv) Antony says, '*These many then shall die; their names are prick'd.*' These words reveal that he is _____.

- (a) ruthless
- (b) anxious
- (c) frustrated
- (d) angry

Answer (iv): Option A (Ruthless)

(v) During their quarrel, Brutus says to Cassius, '*Away, slight man!*' Brutus's **tone** in the above line can be best described as _____.

- (a) disappointed
- (b) argumentative
- (c) vengeful
- (d) dismissive

Answer (v): Option D (Dismissive)

(vi) Towards the end of the play, Pindarus reports that Titinius had been captured by enemy troops. What does Cassius do on hearing this news?

- (a) He orders an immediate attack to rescue Titinius.
- (b) Fearing defeat, he decides to flee the battlefield.
- (c) He persuades Pindarus to help him take his life.
- (d) He surrenders to Antony's forces to save his men.

Answer (vi): Option C

(vii) What did Martin dislike about the elevator in his apartment building?

- (a) The unpleasant smell
- (b) Its dirty floor
- (c) Its small size
- (d) The poor ventilation

Answer (vii): Option C

(viii) Choose the option that lists the sequence of events from Stephen Leacock's short story, 'With the Photographer' in the correct order:

1. Even as he was protesting, the photographer managed to take a candid photograph with which he was very pleased.
2. At the studio, the photographer's criticism of his face, made the author feel worthless and unattractive.
3. Disturbed and upset by the photographer's criticisms and instructions, the author voiced his protest.
4. The author wanted to have his photograph taken.

(a) 3, 2, 1, 4
(b) 4, 2, 3, 1
(c) 2, 3, 4, 1
(d) 1, 4, 3, 2

Answer (viii): Option b (4,2,3,1)

(ix) 'Nana has many voices. There is a special one she uses to shut everyone up.'

What do these lines from Ama Ata Aidoo's short story, 'The Girl Who Can', tell us about Nana?

(a) She is a loud, rude woman.
(b) She has a strong, powerful voice.
(c) She can speak many languages.
(d) She dominates the household.

Answer (ix): Option d

(x) What were the people in Mead's neighbourhood doing when he was out walking at night?

(a) Watching television
(b) Reading magazines
(c) Driving to the gas station
(d) Staring out of their windows

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Answer (x): Option a

(xi) In Alphonse Daudet's short story, '*The Last Lesson*', Franz says that '*all our bad news had come from there.*' What does '*there*' refer to?

(a) The school building
(b) The bulletin board
(c) The clock tower
(d) The town hall

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Answer (xi): Option b

(xii) Which of the given options contains the figure of speech that appears in the following lines from Longfellow's poem, '*Haunted Houses*'?
*'The spirit-world around this world of sense
Floats like an atmosphere, ...'*

(a) '*Strange, it is a huge nothing that we fear.*'
(b) '*When Frost was spectre-gray*'
(c) '*An hundred years should go to praise / Thine eyes*'
(d) '*She sways like a flower in the wind of our song;*'

Answer (xii): Option a

(xiii) The **mood** in the poem, 'When Great Trees Fall', moves from _____.

- (a) hurt to wonder
- (b) calm to distress
- (c) hope to despair
- (d) fear to hope

Answer (xiii): Option d

(xiv) In the poem, 'The Glove and the Lions', King Francis exclaims, 'rightly done!'. What action of Count de Lorge does he applaud when he says this?

- (a) Leaping into the pit full of angry lions.
- (b) Retrieving the lady's glove from the pit.
- (c) Flinging the glove angrily in the lady's face.
- (d) Sighing for the 'beauteous lively dame'.

Answer (xiv): Option c

(xv) Select the option that shows the correct relationship between Statement 1 and Statement 2 based on the poem, 'A Considerable Speck'.

Statement 1: The mite on the paper ran, crept, faltered, hesitated and cowered.

Statement 2: The poet-narrator realised that it was an intelligent living creature.

- (a) Statement 1 is true and Statement 2 is false.
- (b) Statement 1 is false and Statement 2 is true.
- (c) Statement 1 is the reason for Statement 2.
- (d) Statement 2 is a contradiction of Statement 1.

Answer (xv): Option c

(xvi) Sukumar Ray's poem, 'The Power of Music' can be classified as _____.

- (a) nonsense verse
- (b) a sonnet
- (c) a lyrical poem
- (d) an ode

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Answer (xvi): Option a

