

CBSE TEST PAPER-02
Class - 10 English Communicative
(Julius Caesar)

General Instruction: Question No. 1 to 3 carry Eight marks.

1. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:

“This was the unkindest cut of all”

- (a) Who is speaking?
- (b) What is the occasion?
- (c) Whom is he speaking to?
- (d) What does he want to show to the Roman Mob?

OR

O, Pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth
That I am meek and gentle with these butchers!

- (a) Who is the speaker?
- (b) Who is being addressed as ‘bleeding piece of earth’?
- (c) Who are these butchers?
- (d) How was he with butchers?

2. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each:

- a. In the moments following Caesar’s death, what do the conspirators proclaim to justify Caesar’s murder?
- b. Who says “Et tu Brute”? When are these words spoken? Why?
- c. How do the heavens ‘blaze forth’ the death of Julius Caesar?
- d. What does Calpurnia try to convince Caesar of?

3. Answer any one of the following questions in 80-100 words:

Why did Calpurnia try to prevent Caesar from going to the senate house? Did she succeed in her attempts? Why/Why not?

OR

How did Antony pay his last tribute to Caesar?

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[Answers]

1. (i) Answers

- a. Antony is speaking here.
- b. It is the funeral speech after Julius Caesar's death.
- c. Antony is speaking to the crowd of the Roman citizens from the pulpit at market center.
- d. He wants to tell them that they loved Caesar without reason. Now what reason is holding them back from mourning his death.

1. (ii) Answers

- a. Antony is the speaker of these lines.
- b. Julius Caesar's dead body lying in a pool of blood is being addressed as bleeding piece of earth.
- c. These butchers are Cassius, Brutus and the gang.
- d. Antony was meek and gentle with the butchers.

2. Answers

- a. The conspirators proclaimed that Caesar was so ambitious that he would have enslaved all the Roman Citizens. Thus they killed Caesar to protect Rome and her people from him. Also that he would have become a tyrant.
- b. These words were the last words of Julius Caesar when he was being stabbed by his own friends. These were spoken as his closest friend Brutus also stabbed him. Caesar could not believe that such a close friend could also backstab him.
- c. It is said that when princes or kings die a star gets pulled from the sky. This star shoots and falls. This leaves behind a shining light. This happened on the day Caesar died.
- d. Calpurnia tries to convince Caesar not to go to senate house as nature is showing unusual signs. She fears that some untoward incident might happen with her husband.

- 3. Calpurnia was Caesar's wife. She could not sleep throughout the night as she had nightmares. She shouted thrice in her sleep that someone had murdered Caesar. She

wanted Caesar not to step out of the house. She had dreamt that statue of Caesar was bleeding from a hundred wounds and people were washing their handkerchiefs with the blood. Calpurnia implores Caesar not to venture out that day. Calpurnia tells him, she never paid any attention to omens and predictions. But this time, she very strongly felt something sinister was about to happen. She accounts some most horrid sights seen- a lioness had given birth to her cub in the street, graves had opened up and the dead were let loose. Calpurnia tells him, when common people go nothing happens, but the heavens themselves announce when a man of might and power is about to go. Calpurnia says Caesar's wisdom is consumed in confidence. In the meantime Decius Brutus enters. He had come to take Caesar to the senate. Caesar tells him about Calpurnia's dream then Decius reinterprets the dream as a good one. He appeals to Caesar's ego and ambition. Caesar is a born leader and a brave general. Somewhere deep within, he wants to be the ruler of Rome; it is this ambition that Brutus manages to kindle.

OR

Brutus tells Antony that he could take the body of Caesar for the funeral. He also tells him that he will speak about the good aspects of Caesar. Brutus is very clear that he will be the one to speak first and Antony will follow him. Before taking the body of Caesar Antony asks for forgiveness from Caesar because he was soft and gentle with the merciless killers. He praises the brave Caesar and swears to avenge Caesar's murder. After Brutus speech Antony stands and repeatedly referring to Brutus as an honorable man, Antony's speech became scathing and sarcastic' questioning the claims that Brutus made in his speech that Caesar acted only out of ambition. Antony pointed out that Caesar brought much wealthy and glory to Rome, and three times turned down offers to the crown. Antony then produced Caesar's will but announced that he would not read because it would hurt their sentiments. The crowd nevertheless begged him to read the will, so he descended from the pulpit to stand next to Caesar's body. He described Caesar's horrible death and showed Caesar's wounded body to the crowd. He showed how Brutus and others had stabbed him mercilessly. He then read Caesar's will, which bequeathed a sum of money to every citizen and ordered that his private gardens be made public. This was enough to drive the mob crazy, it got enraged calling Brutus and Cassius traitors, the masses set off to drive them from the city.