

CLASS 9 ENGLISH LITERATURE QUESTION BANK

Julius Caesar – Act 1Scene 1 MCQs

1. Why does Marullus compare the commoners to "blocks, stones, and worse than senseless things"?

- A. They are physically weak.
- B. They are incapable of understanding politics.
- C. They have forgotten their loyalty to Pompey.
- D. They refuse to obey the tribunes.

2. The Cobbler's witty replies mainly serve to:

- A. Reveal his hostility towards Caesar.
- B. Provide comic relief and display his intelligence.
- C. Mock the tribunes openly.
- D. Show the ignorance of the working class.

3. What irony is present in the behaviour of the commoners?

- A. They celebrate Caesar while claiming to support Pompey.
- B. They once supported Pompey but now celebrate his conqueror.
- C. They praise the tribunes and Caesar equally.
- D. They support neither Caesar nor Pompey.

4. Which quality of Marullus is most evident in this scene?

- A. Compassion
- B. Ambition
- C. Loyalty to the Roman Republic
- D. Humour

5. What does Flavius mean by "These growing feathers plucked from Caesar's wing"?

- A. Caesar is becoming a better ruler.
- B. Caesar's popularity must be reduced to limit his power.

C. Caesar's army is weakening.

D. Caesar's enemies are increasing.

6. Why do the tribunes order the decorations to be removed from Caesar's statues?

A. The decorations are illegal.

B. Caesar requested their removal.

C. They fear Caesar's increasing popularity may lead to tyranny.

D. They want to honour Pompey instead.

7. Which theme is best reflected through the actions of the commoners?

A. Betrayal and jealousy

B. The fickleness of public opinion

C. Fate versus free will

D. Honour and sacrifice

8. The tribunes' reaction to Caesar's popularity foreshadows:

A. Caesar's military victory.

B. Caesar's assassination.

C. Antony's exile.

D. Brutus' coronation.

9. Which statement best describes the conflict in this scene?

A. Individual vs Nature

B. Individual vs Self

C. Political leaders vs the common people

D. Romans vs foreigners

10. Shakespeare introduces the commoners first mainly to:

A. Show their importance in Roman politics.

B. Establish the political atmosphere and public mood of Rome.

C. Introduce the comic subplot.

D. Delay Caesar's entrance.

Julius Caesar – Act 1, Scene 1 (Higher-Order MCQs)

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Extract 1

Marullus:

"Wherefore rejoice? What conquest brings he home?

What tributaries follow him to Rome?"

1. Why are these questions rhetorical in nature?
2. How do these questions expose the political divide in Rome?
3. What contrast does Marullus draw between Caesar and Pompey?
4. What tone is adopted by Marullus? Give reasons.
5. How do these lines contribute to the central conflict of the play?

Extract 2

Marullus:

"Run to your houses, fall upon your knees,

Pray to the gods to intermit the plague."

1. Why does Marullus compare Caesar's rise to a plague?
2. What does this reveal about his political ideology?
3. Explain the symbolic significance of "fall upon your knees."
4. Why does Marullus invoke the gods at this point?
5. How does this passage develop the theme of tyranny versus liberty?

Extract 3

Flavius:

"These growing feathers plucked from Caesar's wing

Will make him fly an ordinary pitch."

- 1.Explain the metaphor of Caesar's wing and feathers.
- 2.What do the "growing feathers" symbolize?
- 3.Why is Flavius determined to remove them?
- 4.What does this reveal about Flavius's fears concerning Caesar?
- 5.How does Shakespeare use imagery here to foreshadow future events?

MCQs Answers

- C. They have forgotten their loyalty to Pompey.
- B. Provide comic relief and display his intelligence.
- B. They once supported Pompey but now celebrate his conqueror.
- C. Loyalty to the Roman Republic
- B. Caesar's popularity must be reduced to limit his power.
- C. They fear Caesar's increasing popularity may lead to tyranny.
- B. The fickleness of public opinion
- B. Caesar's assassination
- C. Political leaders vs the common people
- B. Establish the political atmosphere and public mood of Rome.

Extract 1

- 1.These questions are rhetorical because Marullus does not expect an answer; he uses them to criticize the citizens.
- 2.They reveal the division between Caesar's supporters and Pompey's loyalists.
- 3.Marullus contrasts Caesar, the victor, with Pompey, the former Roman hero whom the people have forgotten.
- 4.The tone is sarcastic, angry, and reproachful.
- 5.These lines introduce the conflict between Caesar's growing power and the fear of tyranny.

Extract 2

1. Marullus sees Caesar's growing power as a danger to Roman freedom.
2. It reveals his strong belief in republican government.
3. "Fall upon your knees" symbolizes repentance and humility.
4. He invokes the gods because he believes divine help is needed to save Rome.
5. The extract develops the theme of liberty versus dictatorship.

Extract 3

1. Flavius compares Caesar to a bird. The "wing" represents Caesar's power and influence, while the "feathers" represent the honors, popularity, and support that help him rise higher in authority.
2. The "growing feathers" symbolize Caesar's increasing popularity, political power, public support, and growing ambition in Rome.
3. Flavius wants to remove the decorations and honors given to Caesar because he fears that too much praise will make Caesar excessively powerful and encourage him to seek absolute rule.
4. It reveals that Flavius fears Caesar may become a tyrant. He is worried that Caesar's growing influence could threaten the freedom of Rome and upset the balance of power in the republic.
5. Shakespeare uses the image of a bird rising higher on its wings to foreshadow Caesar's continued rise in power. At the same time, Flavius's attempt to "pluck" the feathers hints at the resistance Caesar will face from his opponents, ultimately leading to the conspiracy and his assassination.

The Night Mail MCQs

1. What is the main subject of the poem?
 - A. A passenger train journey
 - B. A mail train delivering letters across Britain
 - C. A war journey
 - D. A sea voyage
2. The Night Mail travels from _____.
 - A. London to Paris
 - B. Scotland to England
 - C. England to Scotland

D. Wales to Ireland

3. What does the phrase "snorting noisily" suggest?

A. The train is sleeping.

B. The train is moving powerfully.

C. The train is damaged.

D. The train is stopping.

4. Which literary device is used in "snorting noisily"?

A. Metaphor

B. Personification

C. Simile

D. Hyperbole

5. What obstacle does the Night Mail face on its journey?

A. A storm at sea

B. A steep gradient at Beattock

C. A desert crossing

D. Heavy traffic

6. Why does the rhythm of the poem seem special?

A. It imitates the movement of the train

B. It imitates birds singing

C. It imitates ocean waves

D. It imitates people talking

7. What is the central theme of the poem?

A. War and conflict

B. Nature's beauty

C. Communication and service

D. Wealth and success

Extract 1

"This is the Night Mail crossing the Border, Bringing the cheque and the postal order."

1. What is meant by "crossing the Border"?
2. Why does Auden specifically mention cheques and postal orders?
3. How do these lines establish the importance of the Night Mail?
4. What theme is introduced in this extract?
5. What impression of the train is created here?

Extract 2

"Letters of thanks, letters from banks,
Letters of joy from girl and boy,"

1. Why does Auden place "letters of thanks" before "letters from banks"?
2. What contrast is implied between the two kinds of letters?
3. How does the repetition of the word "letters" contribute to the rhythm of the poem?
4. What does this extract suggest about the range of human experiences carried by the Night Mail?
5. How do these lines reinforce the train's role as a unifying force?

Extract 3

"Birds turn their heads as she approaches,
Stare from bushes at her blank-faced coaches."

1. How does the poet contrast nature and technology?
2. Why are the coaches described as "blank-faced"?
3. What effect does the verb "stare" create?
4. How is the train personified in this extract?
5. What atmosphere is created by these lines?

Mcqs Answers

B. A mail train delivering letters across Britain

C. England to Scotland

B. The train is moving powerfully.

B. Personification

B. A steep gradient at Beattock

A. It imitates the movement of the train

C. Communication and service

Extract 1

1.refers to the train travelling across the England–Scotland border.

2.To emphasize that the train carries important financial documents.

3.They show that the train performs a vital service by delivering essential mail.

4.The theme of communication and public service.

5.The train is portrayed as reliable, efficient, and important.

Extract 2

1.To emphasize personal emotions before business matters.

2.One is emotional and personal, while the other is official and financial.

3.It creates a rhythmic, train-like movement.

4.It carries both emotional and practical aspects of life.

5.It connects people across different social and personal circumstances.

Extract 3

1.Nature is shown observing the passing machine.

2.Their windows appear expressionless.

3.It suggests curiosity and attention.

4.The train is referred to as "she."

5.An atmosphere of wonder and observation.

Bonku Babu's Friend MCQs

1. Why was Bonku Babu a frequent target of ridicule in Kankurgachhi?

- A. He was poor and unemployed.
- B. He was timid and never protested against insults.
- C. He was a newcomer to the village.
- D. He disliked social gatherings.

2. What was Bonku Babu's profession?

- A. Lawyer
- B. Doctor
- C. School teacher
- D. Shopkeeper

3. Which quality of Bonku Babu made him particularly interested in astronomy and science?

- A. His adventurous nature
- B. His curiosity and love of learning
- C. His desire for fame
- D. His competitive spirit

4. What unusual event occurred near the pond on Bonku Babu's way home?

- A. A meteor crashed into the water.
- B. A strange light and an unknown spacecraft appeared.
- C. A group of villagers gathered mysteriously.
- D. An earthquake shook the area.

5. What was the name of the extraterrestrial visitor?

- A. Ang
- B. Bong
- C. Angla

D. Ang

6. From which planet did Ang claim to have come from?

A. Mars

B. Jupiter

C. Cranium

D. Venus

7. Which special ability did Ang demonstrate first?

A. Flying through the air

B. Reading minds

C. Freezing Bonku Babu's movement temporarily

D. Becoming invisible

8. Why did Ang choose to speak with Bonku Babu?

A. Bonku Babu was wealthy.

B. Bonku Babu was famous.

C. Bonku Babu was intelligent and curious.

D. Bonku Babu was the village leader.

9. What gift did Ang indirectly leave Bonku Babu with?

A. A scientific instrument

B. A bag of money

C. Confidence and self-respect

D. A book about space

10. What was Bonku Babu's reaction at the next village meeting?

A. He remained silent as usual.

B. He stopped attending meetings.

C. He firmly confronted those who mocked him.

D. He apologized to everyone.

Extract 1

“Bonku Babu broke out into goose pimples, but an irrepressible curiosity drove him further forward. As he went past a cluster of bamboo stems, an object came into view. It looked like a giant glass bowl turned upside-down, covering the pond completely.”

- 1.Explain the significance of the contrast between "goose pimples" and "irrepressible curiosity." What does it reveal about Bonku Babu's character?
- 2.Why does Satyajit Ray introduce the mysterious object gradually instead of describing it fully at once?
- 3.How does the image of the "giant glass bowl" contribute to the atmosphere of the narrative?
- 4.What aspect of Bonku Babu's personality distinguishes him from the other villagers in this moment?
- 5.How does this extract prepare the reader for the thematic development of the story?

Extract 2

“His hands and feet were tied with an invisible rope. There was no strength left in his body. He could neither move forward, nor backward.”

- 1.Identify the figure of speech in "tied with an invisible rope." Why is it effective?
- 2.How does the author's choice of imagery intensify the reader's sense of suspense?
- 3.What psychological state of Bonku Babu is reflected in this description?
- 4.In what way does this moment symbolize Bonku Babu's life before meeting Angla?
- 5.How does the extract reflect a common feature of science fiction literature?

Extract 3

“All at once, his ears began ringing. He felt as if someone was humming loudly—a long, steady noise.”

- 1.How does the auditory imagery contribute to the effectiveness of this scene?
- 2.Why is the sound described as "long" and "steady"?
- 3.What does Bonku Babu's reaction reveal about his mental strength?
- 4.Explain how the extract marks the transition from the ordinary world to the extraordinary.
- 5.Why might the author have chosen sound rather than sight as the first indication of the alien presence?

MCQs Answers

B – He was timid and never protested against insults.

C – School teacher.

B – His curiosity and love of learning.

B – A strange light and an unknown spacecraft appeared.

C – Angla.

C – Cranium.

C – Freezing Bonku Babu's movement temporarily.

C – Bonku Babu was intelligent and curious.

C – Confidence and self-respect.

C – He firmly confronted those who mocked him.

Extract 1

1.The contrast highlights the conflict between fear and curiosity. Although frightened, Bonku Babu's desire for knowledge is stronger than his fear.

2.The gradual revelation builds suspense and heightens the reader's anticipation.

3.It creates an atmosphere of wonder, mystery, and scientific possibility.

4.His intellectual curiosity and open-mindedness distinguish him from the narrow-minded villagers.

5.It foreshadows the encounter that will transform Bonku Babu's self-image and confidence.

Extract 2

1.Metaphor. It vividly conveys complete helplessness without an actual rope.

2.The imagery of paralysis creates tension and uncertainty.

3.Fear, helplessness, and astonishment.

4.It symbolically represents how he has been emotionally restrained by years of ridicule and lack of self-confidence.

5.It presents an unexplained phenomenon that exceeds ordinary human experience.

Extract 3.

1.It allows readers to experience the event through Bonku Babu's senses, making it more vivid.

- 2.It suggests a powerful and controlled source rather than a random noise.
- 3.Despite discomfort, he continues forward, showing determination.
- 4.The unexplained sound signals the beginning of a supernatural or extraterrestrial experience.
- 5.Sound creates suspense because its source remains hidden initially.