

**JUNE 1995 ENGLISH LITERATURE 12 PROVINCIAL EXAMINATION
ANSWER KEY/SCORING GUIDE**

ITEM CLASSIFICATION

TOPICS

1. Literary Selections
2. Forms and Techniques
3. Recognition of Authors and Titles
4. Sight Passage
5. Short Paragraphs
6. Drama Questions
7. General Essay

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS:

Q	C	T	K	S	Q	C	T	K	S
1.	K	1	A	1	16.	K	2	D	1
2.	U	1	D	1	17.	U	2	C	1
3.		DELETED			18.	K	3	A	1
4.	K	1	C	1	19.	K	3	C	1
5.	U	1	D	1	20.	K	3	D	1
6.	K	1	B	1	21.	K	3	B	1
7.	U	1	B	1	22.	K	3	D	1
8.	U	1	C	1	23.	K	3	B	1
9.	U	1	B	1	24.	K	3	D	1
10.	U	1	D	1	25.	K	3	C	1
11.	U	1	D	1	26.		DELETED		
12.	U	2	C	1	27.	K	4	B	1
13.	K	2	A	1	28.	K	4	D	1
14.	U	2	A	1	29.	U	4	D	1
15.	K	2	A	1	30.	K	4	C	1

WRITTEN-RESPONSE QUESTIONS:

	Q	B	C	T	S
SECTION 2: (Do both)	1.	1	H	4	6
	2.	2	H	4	4
SECTION 3: (Score only two)	3.	3	U	5	10
	4.	4	U	5	10
	5.	5	U	5	10
SECTION 4: (Score only two)	6.	6	H	6	10
	7.	7	H	6	10
	8.	8	H	6	10
	9.	9	H	6	10
	10.	10	H	6	10
	11.	11	H	6	10
SECTION 5: (Score only one)	12.	12	H	7	20
	13.	13	H	7	20
	14.	14	H	7	20

Multiple Choice = 30 (30 questions)

Written Response = 70 (7 questions)

TOTAL = 100 marks

LEGEND:

Q = Question

K = Keyed response

C = Cognitive level

S = Score

T = Topic

B = Score box number

SECTION 2: SIGHT PASSAGE

Value: 15 marks

Suggested Time: 20 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the passage and answer the following questions. You may use this page for rough work.

55

The wish, that of the living whole
No life may fail beyond the grave,
Derives it not from what we have
The likest God within the soul?

Are God and Nature then at strife, 5
That Nature leads such evil dreams?
So careful of the type she seems,
So careless of the single life,

That I, considering everywhere 10
Her secret meaning in her deeds,
And finding that of fifty seeds
She often brings but one to bear,

I falter where I firmly trod,
And falling with my weight of cares
Upon the great world's altar-stairs 15
That slope thro' darkness up to God,

I stretch lame hands of faith, and grope,
And gather dust and chaff, and call
To what I feel is Lord of all,
And faintly trust the larger hope. 20

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Alfred, Lord Tennyson. *In Memoriam. Victorian Poetry and Poetics*, eds. Walter E. Houghton and G. Robert Stange. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, Riverside Press, 1959.

SECTION 2: SIGHT PASSAGE (continued)

INSTRUCTIONS: Use the space provided in this booklet for written-response questions. Write your final version of each answer in INK. Complete sentences are **not** required in this section.

1. Select and explain **three** quotations which illustrate the speaker's religious concerns. (6marks)

Response: (Any **THREE** of the following)

Quotation: "The wish... no life may fail beyond the grave" (line 1)

Explanation: There is no certainty about immortality.

Quotation: "No life may fail beyond the grave" (2)

Explanation: concern about Heaven or any sort of afterlife.

Quotation: "God within the soul" (4)

Explanation: whether humans are unique creations of God with immortal souls, or merely animals produced by natural selection.

Quotation: "Are God and Nature then at strife..." (5)

Explanation: the uncertainty of the speaker that there is a benevolent God ruling the natural world.

Quotation: "... Nature leads such evil dream?" (6)

Explanation: The existence of doubt rises with awareness of evil in the world, and concerns about the hereafter.

Quotation: "So careful of the type" (7)

Explanation: survival of the fittest (Darwinism) undermines the concept of man as God's special creature.

Quotation: "So careless of the single life." (8)

Explanation: The experience of death brings about the sense of injustice in the world.

Quotation: "... finding that of fifty seeds
She often brings but one to bear..." (11–12)

Explanation: The carelessness of nature in creating and destroying life brings a sense of doubt in the causality of God's world.

Quotation: "I falter where I firmly trod" (13)

Explanation: The speaker's strong faith is now wavering.

Quotation: "... falling with my weight of cares
Upon the great world's altar-stairs" (14)

Explanation: The struggle—the spiritual one metaphorized as a stair up to spiritual awareness—is now a heavily-burdened journey, and the journey is now difficult (reflecting the impact of scientific thought).

Quotation: "... thro' darkness up to God" (16)

Explanation: The lack of light signifies ignorance and doubt, not enlightenment.

Quotation: "I stretch lame hands of faith..." (17)

Explanation: The hands are not strong/not sure with strong faith.

Quotation: "And faintly trust the larger hope." (20)

Explanation: The adverb "faintly" describes the doubt which accompanies the hope.

Other responses may be possible.

Response Criteria:

One mark for each quality. (3 marks) One mark for each quotation. (3 marks)

One mark given for a quote without an explanation.

2. In stanzas 1 and 2, Tennyson asks two questions. In your own words, state what each question asks. **(4marks)**

Response:

Question One (involves synthesizing all of stanza 1):

Isn't our longing for immortality proof of the existence of God?

OR

Isn't our ardent wish for some sort of afterlife proof that we possess immortal souls which reflect the nature of our Creator?

Question Two (involves the first two lines of stanza 2):

Are God and his creation, Nature, at war with one another?

OR

Is Nature's apparent lack of concern about individual members of a species responsible for our modern doubts about God's very existence?

Other responses may be possible.

Response Criteria: Two marks for each question.

SECTION 3: SHORT-PARAGRAPH QUESTIONS

Value: 20 marks total

Suggested Time: 25 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS: Write **concise, focused** answers of approximately **100 words** each on any **two** of the following three topics. Make specific references to the works. You may not need to use all the space provided for your answers. Do **not** double space.

3. From *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, identify and discuss **two** ways in which Gawain keeps and/or fails to abide by the code of chivalry. **(10marks)** Respond on page 13.
4. Identify and discuss **two** insights about human nature in Burns' "To a Mouse" and/or "To a Louse." **(10marks)** Respond on page 14.
5. With reference to **two** details from Tennyson's "The Lady of Shalott," discuss the lady's dilemma. **(10marks)** Respond on page 15.

I have selected _____ and _____ .

NOTE: If you write on more than **two** topics, only the first **two** will be marked.

3. From *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, identify and discuss **two** ways in which Gawain keeps and/or fails to abide by the code of chivalry. **(10marks)**

Response:

Principal ways: (Any TWO of the following)

Gawain conducts himself according to the chivalric code:

- **Although he accepts the lady's token, Gawain safeguards her honour.**
- **Gawain begs forgiveness for taking the green girdle to protect his life.**
- **Gawain honors his agreement to meet the Green Knight at the Chapel.**
- **After the third swing, Gawain stands ready to do battle with the Knight.**
- **Gawain is faithful to the extent that he exchanges kisses for his host's gifts.**
- **Gawain stands ready to receive a blow from the Green Knight's axe, as agreed.**
- **Gawain honours the code by accepting the challenge on behalf of King Arthur, and perseveres in his quest, even though his servant urges him to abandon it.**

Gawain fails to abide by the chivalric code:

- **Gawain flinches as the Knight begins his first blow: cowardice, or reflex action?**
- **In fear for his life, Gawain agrees to accept the lady's token of the green girdle; in failing to exchange the girdle with the Baron, Gawain breaks his word.**
- **Instead of relying on his faith in God, he resorts to a superstitious protection.**
- **He is dishonest not to mention the girdle.**

Other responses may be possible.

Response Criteria: Content and written expression.

4. Identify and discuss **two** insights about human nature in Burns' "To a Mouse" and/or "To a Louse."
(10marks)

Response:

Principal insights: (Any TWO of the following)

"To a Mouse"

- There is a criticism of people's indifference to nature (the startled mouse who steals a little in order to survive). Fellow mortals need to acknowledge each other's right to survive.
- There is an unfairness in the way the world works. The meek always suffer at the hands of the powerful; there is a rough equality or justice in this world.
- People have to watch their sense of self-importance. They must care for those less fortunate than themselves.
- Accidents of fate destroy the hopes of human beings as well as mice.
- People tend to be over-confident or presumptuous ("The best laid schemes o' mice an' men...").
- People are unable to respect "nature's social union." Burns makes this observation with more foresight than many of his contemporaries, for Man's "dominion" may destroy us all (as Wordsworth later acknowledges). We mistakenly put our own interests first, without regard to the consequences of our actions and choices.
- People have a sense of self-importance. Humans should recognize that all creatures are fellow mortals.
- People are less fortunate than the mouse in that they have memory and foresight.

"To a Louse"

- Burns turns a gentle or light satire into a moment for us all to think about our own pretensions and hypocritical natures, for we can all suffer from self-deceptions.
- "But Miss's fine Lunardi!" Burns is having some fun with pretensions of all sorts, including fashion.
- If we were to see ourselves as others see us, perhaps we'd be less full of pride and less inclined towards pretentious behaviour.
- Humans are vain: "O Jenny, dinna toss your head..." We do not see ourselves "as ithers see us!"
- Burns satirizes our acceptance of appalling social inequalities, doing so with mocking humour (sometimes sharp and bitter): "Swith, in some beggar's haffet squattle; / There ye may creep, and sprawl, and sprattle...."
- Burns dramatizes our lack of self-knowledge or self-awareness: If we saw ourselves more clearly, we could free ourselves from "mony a blunder," and "O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us...."

Other responses may be possible.

Response Criteria: Content and written expression.

5. With reference to **two** details from Tennyson's "The Lady of Shalott," discuss the lady's dilemma. **(10marks)**

Response:

Principal details: (Any TWO of the following)

- **The Lady lives alone "embowered" in a tower on an island, unknown to all around. Like an elderly recluse, she must sit and weave and see the world second-hand through her mirror. There is a "curse" (the source of her dilemma) in that she must spin her view of the world into a tapestry, or suffer the consequences if she looks to Camelot. She can experience the real world but only in the "shadows" or reflections in her mirror. One day she sees Sir Lancelot, by whom she is bedazzled, and turns from her mirror. She then succumbs to the real world, the force of direct experience.**
- **The mirror cracks when the Lady turns from her artistry, her creation. We learn that she now must suffer the consequences for leaving her "art." In order for her to participate in the "real world," she must die, as the cracked mirror suggests symbolically.**
- **The lovers and the funeral as they pass also signify the fact that she must experience life only through shadows of the real world. After seeing the "two young lovers," she becomes aware of her intense loneliness, and says she is "half sick of shadows." For the woman artist to give up her fantasy, she must also relinquish her "art." For the Lady to free herself of her web of fantasy, a symbol for the life of the artist, she must give up her art, which is her life.**
- **The Lady of Shalott appears to be young and innocent. From Tennyson's description of Sir Lancelot, we can assume that he is no ordinary knight, and that the Lady cannot pass up this opportunity to participate in the real world of knights and ladies. However, in doing so, she surrenders her innocence and brings the curse upon herself.**

Other responses may be possible.

Response Criteria: Content and written expression.

