

INTRODUCTION

Julius Caesar is a historical play which depicts events that took place around 42 B.C. Shakespeare has very deftly presented this political drama which is punctuated by personal strifes and moral dilemmas, faced by the main characters of the play.

Julius Caesar is an able general, statesman and an immensely popular Roman. He returns to Rome amidst cheers and adulation after defeating the sons of Pompey. The Romans turn up in large numbers to cheer him since he has filled up the coffers of Rome. Caesar refuses the crown, which is offered to him three times. But it is feared that he may one day ascend the throne and revoke the privileges of men like Cassius. The threat that Caesar was moving away from the ideals of Roman principles towards an empire ruled directly by himself, is the chief reason that Brutus joins the conspirators. Brutus is the most trusted, respected and 'noble of all Romans', but has a false conception of honour. He is an idealist, but is not shrewd enough to sense the purpose of the conspirators like Cassius.

SUMMARY

Caesar wanders about in his night-gown and is kept awake by Calpurnia's nightmares. She called out in her sleep about supernatural omens that spelled disaster. Calpurnia believes that such bad omens are a premonition of evil and some harm would befall Caesar. Caesar rebuffs her, refusing to give in to fear. Caesar deems the signs to apply to the world in general and refuses to believe they bore ill for him personally. Finally, Calpurnia prevails upon Caesar to stay at home. Decius Brutus jeopardises Calpurnia's plan and forces Caesar to go to the Senate, where the senators were waiting to offer a crown to him. On his way, Caesar rejects the petition of Cimber to revoke the orders for his brother's banishment. This proves to be the last nail in his coffin. Immediately afterwards, Casca and other senators along with Brutus stab Caesar. Caesar's last words are, "Et tu Brute?"

The conspirators turn to the plebians and start shouting slogans of "Liberty, Freedom and Enfranchisement" as if they were safeguarding the rights of all the Romans.

Mark Antony is too dumbstruck to see Caesar's dead body in a pool of blood, but tactfully restrains himself from making any statements. He requests Brutus for allowing him to make a funeral speech. Dismissing Cassius' objection, Brutus allows him but only after he has himself addressed the plebians. Antony uses his excellent oratorical skills very cleverly and succeeds in inciting the mob to mutiny and wreck havoc against the conspirators. Brutus and others have to flee for their lives and Octavius Caesar arrives to clinch the victory for Antony and save Caesar's honour.

सारांश

सीज़र रात के सोने के लिबास में इधर-उधर घूमते रहते हैं। क्योंकि कैलपूरनिया के भयानक सपने और डरावनी चीखें उन्हें सोने नहीं देतीं। वह नींद में अलौकिक घटनाओं और पूर्वाभास की चेतावनी देती रहती हैं और कहती हैं कि यह अपशुन पूर्वाभास है कुछ बुरा और भयानक घटना सीज़र के साथ होगी सीज़र उन्हें डाँटते हैं और डर का शिकार होने से इंकार करते हैं। सीज़र कहते हैं कि यह चिह्न तो संसार के लिए हो सकते हैं। वे इस बात पर पूरी तरह से विश्वास करने से इंकार करते हुए कहते हैं कि उन्हें कोई खतरा नहीं है।

अंत में कैलपूरनिया उन्हें घर पर ही रहने के लिए राजी कर लेती है। डेसियस ब्रूटस कैलपूरनिया की योजनाओं पर पानी फेर देते हैं और सीज़र को मजबूर कर देते हैं कि वे सीनेट जाएँ जहाँ सदस्य उन्हें ताज पहनाने का इंतज़ार कर रहे हैं।

मार्ग में जाते हुए सीज़र, सिंबर की याचिका को कि उसके भाई के निर्वासन के आदेश को वापिस लिया जाये, रद्द कर देते हैं। यह उनके ताबूत में आखिरी कील थी। उसके तुरन्त बाद, कास्का और दूसरे सभी सभा सदस्य जिनमें ब्रूटस भी शामिल है उन्हें कटार भौंक कर मार देते हैं। सीज़र के आखिरी शब्द "तुम भी ब्रूटस" थे।

सिंबर षडयंत्रकारी जनता की ओर झुकाव दिखाते हुए नारे लगाते हैं Liberty, Freedom, Enfranchisement 'आजादी - स्वतंत्रता, राजनीतिक अधिकार। मानों वे जनता को आश्वासन दे रहे हों कि वे सभी रोमवासियों के अधिकारों की रक्षा कर रहे हैं।

मार्क एंटनी (Mark Antony) सीज़र की खून से सनी लाश को देख भौंचक्का है परन्तु कुशलता से अपने मनोभावों को छुपाते हुए कुछ भी कहने से अपने को रोकता है। वह ब्रूटस से आज्ञा माँगता है कि वह दफ़नाने की क्रिया से पहले जनता को सम्बोधित कर कुछ कहे। कैसियस के विरोध को नज़रअंदाज़ कर ब्रूटस उसे इजाज़त दे देता है कि

वह जनता से दो शब्द कहे। एंटनी अपनी अद्भुत, भाषण देने की कला का पूरा इस्तेमाल करते हुए जनता को प्रभावित करने में सफल हो जाता है। भीड़ बगावत पर आमादा होकर षडयंत्रकारियों के विरुद्ध तोड़फोड़ शुरू कर देती है। ब्रूटस और दूसरे षडयंत्रकारी अपनी जान बचा कर भागते हैं और आक्टेवियस सीज़र आ कर एंटनी की विजय को पक्का करते हुए सीज़र की प्रतिष्ठा का मान रखते हैं।

WORD-MEANINGS

Whelped : Cried • **Yawned** : opened up • **Portents** : ill-omens • **Imminent** : going to occur • **Cognisance** : notice • **Puissant** : powerful • **Couchings** : bowing • **Decree** : judicial decision • **Pre-ordinance** : before authoritative order • **Cur** : dog • **Enfranchisement** : right to vote • **Strife** : War • **Coffers** : treasury.

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS (SOLVED)

6. Answer the following questions briefly.

(a) *How do the heavens 'blaze forth' the death of Julius Caesar?* [C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

Ans. Calpurnia sees ill-omens that predict the death of Caesar beforehand. The heavens predict the death of princes and great kings. There were fierce battles, blood rained, ghosts were seen, graves opened up, battle cries were heard. All this signalled that someone as powerful as Caesar was bound to suffer.

(b) *What does Calpurnia convince Caesar of?*

Ans. She convinces Caesar to avoid going to the senate. She believed that Caesar would be safe if he stays at home.

(c) *Why does Calpurnia say Caesar's 'wisdom is consumed in confidence?' What does it mean?*

Ans. When Caesar is adamant about going to the senate, Calpurnia dissuades him. But Caesar believes that ill-omens are for the weak and not for the mighty like him. Then Calpurnia says that Caesar's over confidence has clouded his wisdom. He was so confident that he refused to see reason nor understood the indication behind the ill-omens.

(d) *What was Calpurnia's dream? How was it interpreted by Decius Brutus?*

[C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

Ans. Calpurnia sees a terrifying dream in which Caesar is murdered, his statue is gushing blood and many smiling Romans are bathing their hands in his blood. Calpurnia was not superstitious but earlier in the night she had a nightmare comprising the dead man walking about. She felt that the dream was a premonition of the evil that was going to befall Caesar. So she forbids Caesar to go to the Senate. But Decius cleverly interprets it positively. He says that the vision of Romans bathing in Caesar's blood signifies that Caesar's spirit or influence will touch many lives; staining their handkerchieves in Caesar's blood indicates reverence, dedication and a token of memory on part of the Romans.

(e) *What arguments did Brutus and other conspirators give to justify the killing of Caesar?* [C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

Ans. Julius Caesar is an able general and a mighty conqueror who has brought great glory to Rome. It is believed by many that Caesar is too ambitious and would one day be the Roman emperor and a dictator. Jealous of Caesar's growing power, Cassius instigates a conspiracy to murder Caesar. The conspirators were unhappy with Caesar's obstinacy and egoistic behaviour. Cassius was jealous of Caesar's soaring power and popularity. According to Cassius, Caesar was a tyrant who wanted to treat the Romans as slaves and that Roman liberty and democracy were under threat from Caesar. Brutus stabbed Caesar because he was an idealist and believed that ambition and tyranny should be nipped in the bud but Cassius killed Caesar because he wanted to be a part of the Roman triumvirate.

(f) *Why is Decius more successful than Calpurnia in persuading Caesar?* [C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

Ans. Decius interprets Calpurnia's dream as a fair and fortunate vision. He says that the vision of Romans bathing in Caesar's blood signifies Caesar's spirit or influence will increase manifold. Basically he boosts Caesar's ego, flatters his greatness and might and makes him feel more powerful. So Caesar is happier with his version.

(g) *What is the petition put before Caesar by the conspirators? How does Caesar respond to it?*

Ans. The conspirators want Caesar to pardon Publius Cimber and recall the order of his banishment. Caesar refuses the request and says that his order cannot be changed and he will stick to his decision.

(h) *Who says 'Ete tu Brute'? When and why?*

Ans. Caesar utters these words which mean, "you too, Brutus". These are uttered when Brutus stabs Caesar and Caesar is too hurt to see that even his dear friend Brutus could resort to such treachery.

(i) *In the moments following Caesar's death, how do the conspirators proclaim to justify Caesar's death?* [C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

Ans. The conspirators wish to justify Caesar's death by announcing their love and loyalty to Rome. They say that Caesar was very ambitious and Romans would have become slaves under his autocratic rule. According to Brutus, Caesar was a tyrant and Roman liberty and democracy was under threat and Caesar wished to become an Emperor.

(j) *What does Antony say after Caesar's death, when he sees the body of Caesar?*

Ans. Antony apologises to Caesar's body for being meek and gentle with his murderers. He curses the hands that killed such a noble man. He also requests them to kill him for he cannot tolerate Caesar's death.

(k) *How do Brutus and Cassius respond to Antony's speech?*

Ans. Both Brutus and Cassius request Antony not to plead for his own death. They offer him authority and good position and ask for his support in the murder of Caesar.

(l) *Whom does Antony call "the choice and master spirits of this age." Why?*

Ans. Antony calls Brutus and Cassius the most powerful people after Caesar's death; they have all the power. Moreover, he wants to flatter their ego, to pretend that he is not against them.

(m) *How do Brutus and Cassius respond to*

Antony's request for giving a speech? What are the conditions imposed by them.

Ans. Cassius is very much against Antony's idea of speech but Brutus feels that no harm can befall him and others with just a speech. Brutus says that he will give a speech first and justify Caesar's death so there will not be a problem, if Antony delivers his speech later. Moreover Antony is had agreed to deliver the speech from the same platform and not talk against them.

(n) *When he is left alone with the body of Caesar what does Antony call Brutus and others?*

Ans. Antony curses the murderers and he seeks forgiveness for being polite to them. He calls them 'butchers' who killed the noblest of men.

(o) *What prediction does Antony make regarding the future events in Rome?*

Ans. Antony prophesies that Rome will be ravaged with civil war, violence and extreme blood shed will leave the earth full of dead bodies. Goddess of revenge will descend on earth with Caesar's spirit and the stench of dead bodies will fill the earth.

(p) *Who says "let him be Caesar"? What light does this throw on the speaker?*

Ans. The 3rd citizen says this. This statement reflects the vulnerability of the mob who believe, whatever is told to them. They say that Brutus should be put in place of Caesar, after being impressed by his speech. Later they turn towards Mark Antony and are ready to kill Brutus and others.

7. **Julius Caesar and Antony reveal something about their character in their words and actions. We also learn about them from what other people say. Can you pick out the words that describe them from the box given below? Also, pick out lines from the play to illustrate your choice.**

superstitious	arrogant	loyal	clever
overconfident	manipulative	good orator	ambitious
brave	great conqueror	generous	fearless
loves flattery	firm	shrewd	crafty

Person	Extract from play	What it tells us about the character
Julius Caesar	1. the things that threaten'd me Ne'er look'd but on my back; when they shall see The face of Caesar, they are vanished.	arrogant over confident
	2. Cowards die many times before their deaths The heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes	Brave
	3. We are two lions littered in a day And I the elder and more terrible	fearless
	4. Thy brother by decree is banished If thou dost bend and pray and fawn for him	firm

	5. She dreamt tonight she saw my statue Which, like a fountain with a hundred spouts Did run pure blood	superstitious
	6. No, Caesar shall not; danger knows full well That Caesar is more dangerous than he	overconfident
Mark Antony	1. Of half that worth as those your swords, made rich With the most noble blood of all this world	loyal
	2. Produce his body to the market place And in the pulpit, as becomes a friend Speak in the order of his funeral	shrewd
	3. Woe to the hand that shed this costly blood Over thy wounds now do I prophecy A curse shall light the limbs of men	crafty
	4. I come here to bury Caesar, not to praise him The evil that men do lives after them And Brutus is an honourable man	manipulative
	5. Kind souls, what weep you when you but behold Our Caesar's vesture wounded? Look you here, Here is himself, marred, as you see, with trailers.	good orator

8. In the play 'Julius Caesar,' we meet the Roman mob. We find that as Brutus and Antony speak, the mob displays certain qualities and characteristics.

Given below are some characteristics of the mob. Complete the table by quoting the lines wherein these are revealed.

Words actions of the mob	Characteristics
1. The mob first believes Brutus that Caesar was ambitious and later believes Antony.	Foolish, fickle, easily manipulated
2. They forget Caesar's achievements	Does not understand the ideals of democracy
3. Give him a statue with our ancestors Let him be Caesar	Emotional
4. Read the will, the testament They are happy to know that Caesar left them money	Greedy
5. Me thinks there is much reason in his saying Caesar has had great wrong	Fickle
6. We will be revenged Seek 'Burn! Fire! kill! slay!	Violent

9. Antony employs a number of devices to produce the desired effect on the mob. These devices may be described as rhetorical devices. He first speaks in such a manner that it seems to the mob that he is in full agreement with Brutus about Caesar. Then step by step he moves away from Brutus' position, depicting Brutus as a villain and Caesar as a wronged man. Copy and complete the following table by showing how Antony builds the argument in Caesar's favour.

Antony's words	Argument
1. I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.	Does not wish to eulogise Caesar
2. The noble Brutus Hath told you Caesar was ambitious: If it were so, it was a grievous fault, And grievously hath Caesar anser'd it.	Seemingly agrees with Brutus Ironical.
3. I thrice presented him the crown, he refused it Yet Brutus says that he was ambitious	Pretends to say that Caesar was ambitious Clever
4. I rather choose to wrong the dead and you Then I will wrong such honourable men	He does not intend to wrong Irony Brutus and Cassius
5. If Brutus so unkindly knocked, or no For Brutus was Caesar's angel	Brutus was greatly loved by Caesar (hints at his treachery) manipulative

SOME IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

1. "What can be avoided

Whose end is purposed by the mighty gods." The above statement reflects Caesar's dignity and wisdom that the hour of death cannot be averted and is decided by God. Keeping the above statement in mind, discuss the circumstances that led to Caesar's death.

Ans. Caesar is fearless, valiant and believes that the fixed hour of death decided by heavens cannot be averted. This proves true in his case. He is persuaded by Calpurnia to avoid going to the Senate due to ill-omens. Caesar had nearly succumbed to Calpurnia's entreaties, but Decius Brutus ignites Caesar's pride, vanity and overconfidence proves to be his failing. Despite the premonitions, he proceeds towards the Senate. He haughtily rejects the petition of Metellus Cimber to revoke his brother's banishment. The conspirators are ready to kill Caesar. Casca is the first one to stab Caesar, followed by Brutus and others.

2 What characteristics are displayed by the Roman mob in the play? Discuss how the mob changes the fate of the main characters of the play?

Ans. Mob is of strategic importance in the plays of Shakespeare. It gives us a deep insight of the main characters and is instrumental in turning the tide of events. The mob is full of hero worship. They glorify Caesar when he brings victory and fills the coffers of Rome. They rejoice in his honour, worship him and put him on a pedestal as a hero. But the commoners are too gullible, very easily swayed and exhibit 'herd-mentality.' When Brutus convinces them that Caesar's murder was justified in the interest of Rome, they believe him, but when Mark Antony plays on their emotions, they rise in mutiny. They are overwhelmed to hear of Caesar's will and cause heavy destruction. So

mob can turn the tide, depending upon who proves to be clever to exploit it to his advantage.

3. Compare and contrast the characters of Brutus and Mark Antony. [C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

Ans. Brutus is a powerful public figure, a dignified military leader and a loving friend. The conflicting value systems that battle with each other, in the play, are enacted on a micro level in Brutus' mind. Even after the murder of Caesar has been committed, questions remain whether it was a noble, selfless act or failure of a great nobleman and friend.

Brutus' rigid idealism is both his greatest virtue and his most deadly flaw. He lives up to Antony's elegiac description as 'the noblest of Romans.' His commitment to principles leads him to miscalculations: wanting to curtail violence, he ignores Cassius' advice and does not kill Antony as well. In another moment of naive idealism, he allows Antony to give his funeral oration over Caesar's body. So he forfeits the authority of having the last word on the murder and allows Antony to incite the plebeians to riot against him. He later endangers his good relationship with Cassius by self-righteously condemning the fund-raising tactics.

So Brutus acts out of a desire to limit the self-serving aspects of his actions, ironically in each incident he dooms the very cause, he seeks to promote, thus serving no one.

4. How was Antony successful in instigating the people of Rome against the conspirators?

Or

Antony displays lot of maturity in the way he befriends the conspirators in order to avenge Caesar's death. Explain. [C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

Ans. Mark Antony is a clever statesman and a good friend of Caesar. He is foresighted enough to judge that Brutus is a famous public figure and has already won the approval of the plebeians, instead of censure, after killing Caesar. Now it is upto him to turn the tide, which threatens to flow on the side of the conspirators.

Antony proves strong in all the ways while Brutus proves weak. His impulsive, improvisatory nature serves him perfectly to persuade the conspirators that he is on their side, thus gaining leniency. Throughout his speech, he keeps repeating, 'Brutus is an honorable man.' "I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him," whereas he does just the opposite. He is able to persuade the plebeians of the conspirators' injustice and gains mass support. He contradicts the charges of Brutus that Caesar was ambitious by pointing out that Caesar had refused the crown twice, had filled the coffers of Rome and wept for all Romans.

Not too scrupulous to stoop to deceit and duplicity, as Brutus claims to be, Antony proves himself to be a consummate politician, using gestures and rhetoric to his advantage. He graphically displays all the stabs, Brutus and others have inflicted on Caesar's body and uses Caesar's body to exploit the plebeians emotionally. He responds to subtle cues, tailors his words very deftly and uses the most appropriate actions to incite the people. He deliberately thrusts the words 'mutiny' and 'riot' at them and gets the desired results. Unlike Brutus, who prides himself on solely acting with respect to virtue and blinding himself to his personal concerns. Antony never separates his private affairs from his public actions. So Antony's eulogy at Caesar's funeral is a master-stroke, and the mention of Caesar's will that leaves money and his property for all Romans, acts as the final nail in the coffin of the conspirators. So Antony's speech is a combination of wit, irony, sarcasm, pathos and satire.

REFERENCE TO CONTEXT – MCQS—MCQs

Read the following and write the most appropriate option from the ones given to you :

1. *Calpurnia : When beggars die, there are no comets seen, the heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes.*
*Caesar : Cowards die many times before their deaths;
 The valiant never taste of death but once.*

- (i) **Why does Calpurnia make the above observation?**
 (a) She is a coward
 (b) She is unsure of Caesar's capability
 (c) She wishes to stop Caesar from going to the senate
 (d) She is superstitious
- (ii) **How do heavens differentiate between the death of a prince and a beggar?**
 (a) Heavens are indifferent
 (b) There are ill omens when the mighty are going to fall
 (c) Beggars and poor are given special preference
 (d) It is the duty of Heavens to show some omens
- (iii) **What is Caesar's logic for not fearing death?**

- (a) Brave do not think of death
 (b) Brave are always ready to die
 (c) Brave are always thinking of death
 (d) Death always favours the brave
- (iv) **What does the above conversation reflect about Caesar's character?**
 (a) proud (b) selfless
 (c) fearless (d) superstitious

Answers : (i) (c) (ii) (b) (iii) (a) (iv) (c)

2. *Your statue spouting blood in many pipes
 In which so many smiling Roman's bathed
 Signifies that from you great Rome shall suck
 Reviving blood, and that great man shall press
 For tinctures, stains, relics and cognisance.*
- (i) **Who is the speaker and who is being addressed here?**
 (a) Caesar—Calpurnia (b) Caesar—Antony
 (c) Decius—Caesar (d) Calpurnia—Decius
- (ii) **What is the context of this speech?**
 (a) Calpurnia's dream
 (b) Caesar's statue spouting blood
 (c) Caesar's visit to Senate
 (d) Some personal problem between Caesar and Calpurnia
- (iii) **How will Rome be benefitted as a result?**

- (a) Caesar's enemies will decrease
- (b) He will become more powerful
- (c) Rome will gain strength and sustenance from Caesar
- (d) Caesar will exploit the weak.

(iv) **What is the effect of this speech on the listener?**

- (a) Caesar is shocked
- (b) Calpurnia is amazed
- (c) Caesar looks up to Decius in disbelief
- (d) Caesar is full of praise for Decius

Answers : (i) (c) (ii) (b) (iii) (c) (iv) (d)

3. *I must prevent thee, Cimber.*

*These couchings and these lowly courtesies
Might fire the blood of ordinary men,
And turn pre-ordinance and first decree
into the laws of children.*

(i) **What is the reason for this speech?**

- (a) Caesar's anger at Cimber's request
- (b) Caesar's politeness to pardon Cimber's brother
- (c) Cimber's audacity to provoke Caesar
- (d) Caesar's ignorance of the rules of Rome.

(ii) **What kind of behaviour is disliked by the speaker?**

- (a) giving compliments
- (b) bowing and bending to impress
- (c) acts of cowardice
- (d) acts of defiance and opposition

(iii) **What is the speaker's conception of law?**

- (a) Laws are a child's play
- (b) Laws cannot be changed at will
- (c) Laws should be flexible
- (d) Laws can be bent to save the guilty

(iv) **What light does the above speech throw on his character?**

- (a) kind and compassionate
- (b) authoritative
- (c) strict and law-abiding
- (d) fickle-minded

(v) **What is the reason for Cimber's behaviour?**

- (a) He is afraid of Caesar
- (b) He wishes to plead for his brother
- (c) He wishes to lay a trap for Caesar
- (d) He hates Caesar

Answers : (i) (c) (ii) (b) (iii) (b) (iv) (c) (v) (c)

4. *O, pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth,
That I am meek and gentle with these butchers
Thou art the ruins of the noblest man
that ever lived in the tide of times.
woe to the hand that shed this costly blood!
over thy wounds now do I prophecy, –*

[C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

(i) **Who is referred to as 'bleeding piece of earth'?**

- (a) Rome
- (b) Caesar's dead body
- (c) Brutus
- (d) Caesar's home

(ii) **What crime have the 'Butchers' committed?**

- (a) tyranny against Rome
- (b) Shed blood of Romans
- (c) killed Caesar
- (d) looted the coffers of Rome

(iii) **The speaker is full of grief at the death of Caesar, but his behaviour is very meek and gentle towards the conspirators? Why?**

- (a) He is afraid of them
- (b) His own life is in danger
- (c) He wishes to sidetrack them
- (d) He is calm by nature

(iv) **What prophecy does the speaker make?**

- (a) Rome will be destroyed
- (b) Caesar will be grieved
- (c) Conspirators will meet their doom soon
- (d) Rome will not be at peace ever

(v) **Who are the conspirators?**

- (a) Brutus and Antony
- (b) Cassius and Brutus
- (c) Caesar and Calpurnia
- (d) Antony and Cimber

Answers : (i) (b) (ii) (c) (iii) (c) (iv) (c) (v) (b)

5. *Brutus:*

*Not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved
Rome more.*

*Had you rather Caesar were living and die all
slaves, than that*

*Caesar were dead, to live all free man? As
Caesar loved me*

*I weep for him, as he was fortunate, I rejoice at
it, as he was*

valiant, I honour him.

(i) **Why does Brutus make the above speech?**

- (a) To plead and justify himself

- (b) to provoke the conspirator
 - (c) he is afraid of Mark Antony
 - (d) he wishes to prove his nobility
- (ii) **Why does Brutus need to reaffirm and emphasise his love for Caesar?**
- (a) He was considered Caesar's best friend
 - (b) No one could ever associate him with murder
 - (c) He was weak
 - (d) He wished to prove his love for Rome
- (iii) **What reasons does Brutus offer for killing Caesar?**
- (a) Caesar was too dominating
 - (b) Roman liberty and democracy were at stake under Caesar
 - (c) Caesar was too strict in implementing laws
 - (d) He was ruthless and unkind
- (iv) **Mention a praiseworthy quality of Caesar which Brutus speaks about despite killing him.**
- (a) Authoritative (b) Ruthless
 - (c) Brave (d) Kind
- (v) **How important was honour to Brutus?**
- (a) important (b) most important
 - (c) least important (d) indifferent to it

Answers : (i) (a) (ii) (d) (iii) (b) (iv) (c) (v) (b)

6. *Mark Antony :*

*But Brutus says he was ambitious,
And Brutus is an honourable man.
He hath brought many captives home to Rome
Whose ransoms did the general coffers fill;
Did this in Caesar seem ambitious?*

- (i) **Why does Mark Antony keep repeating that 'Brutus is an honourable man'?**
- (a) Because his is clever
 - (b) Not to sound disagreeable to the crowd
 - (c) Because he is patriotic
 - (d) Because he respects Brutus
- (ii) **Quote one example from the above speech that is in praise of Caesar?**
- (a) he waged wars
 - (b) punished the captives of war
 - (c) filled the coffers of Rome by bringing captives to Rome
 - (d) he was ambitious

- (iii) **Mark Antony's conception of 'ambitious' is to have**
- (a) selfish motives (b) materialistic gains
 - (c) wage wars (d) love for Rome
- (iv) **What attitude of Mark Antony is reflected by the above speech?**
- (a) cleverness (b) great oratorical skills
 - (c) bravery (d) vanity

Answers : (i) (a) (ii) (c) (iii) (d) (iv) (b)

7. *Antony :*

*But here's a parchment with the seal of Caesar;
I found it in his closet, 'tis his will :
which, pardon me, I don't mean to read –
And they would go and kiss dead Caesar's wounds
And dip their napkins in his sacred blood.*

- (i) **What secret does Antony reveal to the people of Rome?**
- (a) That Caesar left a will for Romans to read
 - (b) That Caesar was a very honest man
 - (c) That Caesar was misguided
 - (d) That Caesar stabbed Rome in the back
- (ii) **What would be the effect of Caesar's will?**
- (a) Romans would protest and revolt against the conspirators
 - (b) They will feel guilty
 - (c) They will feel happy at Caesar's death
 - (d) They will kiss Caesar's wounds
- (iii) **Why does Antony show hesitation in reading Caesar's will?**
- (a) He does not wish to reveal the will
 - (b) He is unhappy at Caesar's will
 - (c) It is a part of his acting and pretension
 - (d) He does not wish Romans to know about it
- (iv) **What are the contents of Caesar's will?**
- (a) Caesar wished to be remembered as a hero
 - (b) Caesar wished his statue to be built in the centre of Rome
 - (c) He had left all his money, perks etc. for Romans
 - (d) He had left everything to Calpurnia

Answers : (i) (a) (ii) (b) (iii) (c) (iv) (c)

8. *Antony :*

*Good friends, sweet friends, let me not stir you up
To such a sudden flood of mutiny*

*They that have done this deed are honourable
What private griefs they have, alas, I know not
That made them do it.*

- (i) **What is the occasion of Mark Antony's speech?**
(a) Caesar's birthday
(b) Anniversary of Roman invasion
(c) Caesar's murder
(d) Antony's celebration
- (ii) **What does the use of 'stir' and 'muting' reveal about the purpose of Antony's speech?**
(a) It is a wake-up case for Romans
(b) He wants them to rise up and revolt
(c) He wants most of them to bow before Caesar's statue
(d) He does not want anything from the Romans
- (iii) **What is meant by 'private griefs'?**
(a) virtues
(b) personal problems
(c) professional jealousy
(d) treason against Rome
- (iv) **Who are the 'sweet friends' Antony wishes to address?**
(a) Brutus and Cassius
(b) Romans
(c) Decius
(d) Calpurnia and Caesar's relatives

Answers : (i) (c) (ii) (b) (iii) (b) (iv) (b)

9. *If there by any in this assembly, any dear friend of Caesar's to him I say, that Brutus' love to Ceasar was no less than his. If then that friend demand why Brutus rose against Caesar, this is my answer. Not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more. Had you rather Caesar were living and die all slaves, than that Caesar were dead, to live all free men?*

- (i) **Why according to Brutus, did he kill Caesar?**
(a) Brutus wanted to save Rome from slavery
(b) Brutus hated Caesar.
(c) Cassius forced Brutus to kill Caesar
(d) Brutus himself wanted to become the king of Rome.

- (ii) **How does Brutus justify the assassination of Caesar?**
(a) Brutus said that Caesar was ambitious.
(b) Brutus said that he would enslave Rome.
(c) Brutus said that he would become a tyrant.
(d) All of the above
- (iii) **How did the mob react to the speech given by Brutus?**
(a) The mob revolted against Brutus.
(b) The mob agreed with Brutus' decision.
(c) The mob criticised Brutus' decision
(d) None of the above.

Answers : (i) (a) (ii) (d) (iii) (b) (iv) (b)

10. *You know not what you do. Do not Consent that Antony speak in his funeral.*
- (i) **_____ funeral is being talked about.**
(a) Cassius's (b) Caesar's
(c) Brutus's (d) none of the above
- (ii) **The person had been _____**
(a) killed in the war
(b) poisoned
(c) killed by his own friends
(d) killed by a wild animal
- (iii) **The speaker did not want Antony to speak because :**
(a) he was not a good speaker.
(b) he might instigate the public.
(c) he will not let anyone else speak.
(d) none of the above.

Answers : (i) (b) (ii) (c) (iii) (b)

11. *Calpurnia : What mean you, Caesar? Think you to work forth? You shall not stir of your house today*
Caesar : Caesar shall forth.
- (i) **Calpurnia stopped Caesar from going out of the house because**
(a) Caesar's enemies were out to kill him
(b) Caesar war not well
(c) Calpurnia saw Caesar being killed in her dream
(d) it was raining heavily
- (ii) **Caesar wanted to go out of the house because**
(a) he didn't care about his wife
(b) he wanted to throw the enemies of Rome out of the country

- (c) he was worried about the safety of the common man
 (d) he had to attend an important meeting
- (iii) These lines tell us about Caesar that he**
 (a) was a superstitious person
 (b) was a coward
 (c) was proud
 (d) was soft-hearted

Answers : (i) (c) (ii) (c) (iii) (c)

12. *Caesar, I have never stood on ceremonies,
 Yet now they fright me*

- (i) _____ who says these words to Caesar?**
 (a) Calpurnia, his wife
 (b) Decius
 (c) The watchman

(d) Antony

(ii) What does this tell us about the character of the speaker?

- (a) He / She is nervous
 (b) He / She is superstitious
 (c) He / She is rational
 (d) He / She is strong and bold

(iii) They in the above extract refer to some sights seen by his wife. What are they?

- (a) graves opening and yielding the dead
 (b) lightning shattering the skies
 (c) a lioness giving birth in the street
 (d) all of the above

Answers : (i) (a) (ii) (b) (iii) (d)

REFERENCE TO CONTEXT – NON-MCQs

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow :

1. *What can be avoided*

Whose end is proposed by the mighty Gods?

(a) Who makes the above comment?

Ans : Julius Caesar makes this comment.

(b) Discuss the context of the above remark?

Ans : Calpurnia had witnessed some ill omens, so she does not wish Caesar to go to the Senate.

(c) Do you believe that the speaker's belief is justified in the end? How?

Ans : Yes, it proves true because it was God's will for Caesar got murdered.

2. *"And many lusty Romans*

Came smiling and did bathe their hands in it"

And these she applies for warnings

(a) Identify the speaker and the listener.

Ans : The speaker is Caesar and the listener is Decius Brutus.

(b) What do the warnings indicate?

Ans : The warnings indicated future tragedy for Caesar, i.e., death.

(c) How does the above remark prove to be true? Discuss?

Ans : Caesar got stabbed by other conspirators when he went to the Senate.

3. *But I am constant as the northern star*

Of whose true-fixed and resting quality

There is no fellow in the firmament

(a) Who is 'fixed' like the star?

Ans : Julius Caesar himself.

(b) Discuss the context of the above.

Ans : Brutus is making a request to Caesar to grant pardon to Publius Cimber.

(c) What qualities of the speaker are quoted above?

Ans : He is law-abiding and believes that one must never change oneself for rules.

4. *O mighty Caesar! dost thou lie so low?*

Are all thy conquests, glories, triumphs, spoils

Shrunk to this little measure.

(a) Identify the speaker.

Ans : Mark Antony is the speaker.

(b) Why is Caesar lying so low?

Ans : Caesar has been murdered by the conspirators.

(c) Why have his achievements come to naught according to the speaker?

Ans : Since Caesar is killed, his achievements have come to a standstill.

5. *For your part*

To you our swords have leaden points, Antony

Our arms, in struggle of malice and our hearts

Of brothers' temper

(a) Who is the speaker and the listener?

Ans : The speaker is Brutus and the listener is Mark Antony.

(b) **What is the assurance, the speaker is giving to the listener?**

Ans : Brutus assures Antony that they have no dangerous designs or ill-will against him.

(c) **What support is required by the speaker?**

Ans : He seeks support from Antony for the murder of Caesar.

6. *Had you rather Caesar were living and die all slaves,
Than that Caesar were dead, to live all free men?*

(a) **Identify the speaker?**

Ans : Brutus is the speaker.

(b) **Discuss the context of the above remark.**

Ans : Brutus in his funeral speech blames Caesar for being dictatorial.

(c) **What kind of situation is presented by the speaker? Is it true and justified?**

Ans : He says that Caesar wanted to make all Romans slaves and he wished to become an Emperor himself. No it is not true, because Caesar had given no evidence of doing so.

7. *The evil that men do lives after them
The good is oft interred with their bones;
So let it be with Caesar.*

(a) **Who is the speaker and what is the context?**

Ans : Antony is delivering his speech on the death of Julius Caesar.

(b) **What good had Caesar done according to the speaker?**

Ans : Caesar had done lot of good for Rome.

(c) **What evidence does the speaker give to prove it?**

Ans : He reads out Caesar's will to prove it.

8. *That was the most unkindest cut of all*

*For when the noble Caesar saw him stales
Ingratitude, more strong than traitors' arms
Quite vanquished him.*

(a) **What was the unkindest cut? Who gave it?**

Ans : The most unkind cut was the wound caused by Brutus.

(b) **Whose sight pained Caesar the most? Why?**

Ans : The sight of Brutus attacking him.

(c) **What is ingratitude according to Antony.**

Ans : Ingratitude is treachery of a dearest friend, which causes maximum pain.

9. *Caesar : And you are come in happy time,
To bear my greeting to the senators
And tell them that I will not come today.*

Calpurnia : Say he is sick

(a) **Who is Caesar speaking to?**

Ans : He is speaking to Desius Brutus.

(b) **What message does Caesar want to send to the senators?**

Ans : He wanted to tell the senators that he was not well.

(c) **What makes Caesar change his mind?**

Ans : His wife's pleadings forced him to change his mind.

10. *Nor heaven nor earth have been at peace tonight:
Thrice hath Calpurnia in her sleep cried out,
Help, ho! they murder Caesar!" Who' within?*

(a) **Who is Calpurnia?**

Ans : She is Caesar's wife.

(b) **What does the disturbance in the sky indicate?**

Ans : It indicates that something bad is going to happen.

(c) **Does Calpurnia's dream come true?**

Ans : Yes, it comes true. Her husband, Caesar, gets murdered.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. **Brutus was not shrewd and foresighted enough to cash in upon the conspiracy and the killing of Caesar. Discuss how did his miscalculations affect the conspirators.**

Ans : Brutus was an idealist and a zealous Roman. He was not a good judge of human psychology and was very

gullible. After killing Caesar, Brutus justifies his act by calling Caesar 'ambitious' and that he wished to be the Roman Emperor. He told the mob that Caesar wanted to be an Emperor and was an enemy to Roman liberty and democracy. Antony proved all these claims wrong and Brutus' greatest mistake was to allow Antony to give a speech over Caesar's body.

2. Give two examples of supernatural elements from the play.

Ans : Calpurnia sees many ill-omens in her dreams. They are mostly supernatural elements used to predict the future. The examples are as follows:

- 1 A lioness lays a litter in a city street.
- 1 Graves opened, the dead walked and there were fierce battles fought in the skies.

3. How does Caesar react to Cimber's pleadings to recall his brother from banishment?

Ans : Caesar is very arrogant and conceited of his judgement and his decisive nature. He not only refuses to pardon Cimber's brother from being banished but he also refuses to listen to the entreaties of Brutus. He is obstinate and infuriates Cimber and Brutus with his rudeness. He calls himself 'a fixed star' and abuses Cimber by calling him a dog and insulting him. He refuses to accept their 'bows' and 'respects' and stays adamant on his decision.

4. What are the contents of Caesar's will that Mark Antony refers to? [C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

Ans : Antony uses emotional blackmail to provoke the Romans against the conspirators. He exploits their sentiments by saying that Caesar was not money-minded and he has left all his riches for the Romans in his will. He elaborates that Caesar has left all his walks, gardens, private chambers and newly planted orchards on the bank of Tiber for them. This revelation makes the Romans very emotional.

4. Why does Brutus kill Caesar?

[C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

Ans : Brutus is Caesar's friend. He has great Republican zeal, noble idealism and he is a great moralist. He is a champion of public liberty and freedom. But he is not a good judge of psychology. He gets misled by the conniving nature of the conspirators and joins them to kill Caesar because of his love for the liberty and bright future of Rome.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Brutus' character is a conflict between his notions of honour and friendship of Caesar. Discuss how he resolves this conflict and why he is unsuccessful.

Ans : Brutus has great Republican zeal, noble idealism and he is a great moralist. He is a champion of public liberty and freedom. It is this love for liberty that urges him to join the conspirators for the murder of Caesar. He is an idealist and a dreamer of the bright future of Rome. Being honourable, he fails to see the dishonourable nature of Casius and others. Even Antony calls him the noblest of souls. But he is not at all practical. He gets misled by the conniving nature of the conspirators and sides Cassius in killing Caesar. He sacrifices his love and friendship for the sake of Rome. So he is equally responsible for this tragedy.

2. "Caesar's dead body could accomplish what Caesar could not do in his life time." Discuss the strategic importance of Caesar's dead body and how it is exploited to the maximum.

Ans : Mark Antony takes full advantage of Caesar's dead body and exploits this situation to the hilt. Caesar's dead body emotionally grieves the Romans, his stabs cause them pain. Antony points out the wounds and this physical evidence turns the tide. The Romans psychologically start

siding with Antony and change their stand. During his lifetime, Caesar had few enemies and critics but all them become emotional to see his dead body. So Antony exploits this to the maximum. Seeing Caesar's blood, the mob gets ready to mutiny.

3. Now let it work. Mischief, thou art afoot, Take thou what course thou wilt!

Who says the above lines? How does he succeed in instigating the people of Rome against the conspirators?

OR

Antony in his speech presents Caesar as "a paragon of virtue and patriotism." Discuss the glowing tributes he paid to Caesar in his funeral speech. [C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

Ans : Antony in his speech, highlights the positive qualities of Julius Caesar. Caesar was a great warrior, a formidable General who brought captives to Rome and filled its coffers. He was valiant and fearless. Moreover, he was not ambitious, as projected by the conspirators. He had thrice refused the crown when he was offered. Caesar's heart bled for the welfare of Rome and he had Roman interests on top of any other consideration. He had also bequeathed all his property, money, walks, chambers

and orchards for the people of Rome. He was a champion of Roman liberty and wanted to make Rome a very powerful nation. Hearing all this, mob feel emotionally supportive of Antony and he was able to provoke them to rise against Brutus and others.

5. What are the contents of Caesar's will? What effects do these exert on the attitude of the Romans?

Ans : Antony shows Caesar's will gradually by increasing the suspense and by asking the conspirators to circle around it. First he shows his unwillingness to reveal it, which makes the Romans very excited. They are pleasantly surprised to discover that Caesar has left all his riches and belongings to them. All his walks, gardens, chambers, orchards for the use of local Romans. This makes all the Romans very emotional and they feel that Caesar has been wronged and rise to mutiny. The mob is basically fickle-minded. Firstly, they are swayed by the emotions of Brutus and support him. Later they feel emotionally supportive of Antony and get provoked to rise against Brutus and others.

6. Discuss the character of Caesar in the light of the following :

- (a) As a husband
- (b) As a statesman
- (c) As a friend

Ans :(a) Caesar is a concerned husband and gives due regard to Calpurnia's fears by refusing to go to the senate. He is thoughtful of her considerations and does believe that she has only his true interests at heart.

(b) Caesar is an able general, very valiant and bent upon the welfare of Rome. He has waged wars, brought many captives and filled the coffers of Rome. He is conceited but not unmindful of the liberty of local people. He had refused to become the Emperor of Rome, thrice.

(c) Caesar was a true friend of Antony and Brutus. He was very loyal and was most hurt to see that even his dear friend Brutus had stabbed him.

Antony respects Caesar and his love is proved by his tribute offered to Caesar on his funeral.

7. Caesar had done a lot of good things for the people of Rome. Yet he got nothing but death. Do you think his end was justified? Explain.

[C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

Ans : Caesar was a great diplomat and a zealous Republican. He is ambitious, dominant and often aggressive and rude. He is also haughty, boastful and arrogant. He calls men like Decius Brutus 'curs' and calls the senators 'grey beards'. He succumbs to flattery and that proves to be his undoing. Though he has the welfare of Rome at his heart but he comes across as very arrogant who would never change himself for anything and anyone. He is insulting to many and this infuriates people like Decius Brutus. However, his murder is not justified in any way because he was a true Roman and a benefactor of the common people.

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

[C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

Ans : Caesar is a fearless valiant and believes that the fixed hour of death cannot be averted. When Caesar is adamant about going to the Senate, Calpurnia dissuades him pleading that she has seen a terrifying dream in which Caesar is murdered, his statue is gushing blood and many smiling Romans are bathing their hands in his blood. She also sees a dead man walking about. She feels that the dream was premonition of the evil that was going to befall Caesar.

So she forbids him to go to the senate. But she doesn't succeed in her attempt because Decius Brutus cleverly interprets it positively. He says that the vision of Romans bathing in Caesar's blood signifies that Caesar's spirit or influence will touch many lives, and are indicates reverence and dedication for Caesar on part of the Romans. Caesar comes under the flattery of Brutus and refuses the requests of Calpurnia and leaves for the Senate.

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

1. Make a **PROJECT** on 'Art of Public Speaking'.

You can collect evidence and give examples of famous leaders and orators.

2. Match List B with List A.

LIST A		LIST B
Famous Speeches	Dates/ Years	Speakers
1. Declaration of War on U.S.	11-12-1941	Mother Teresa
2. Quit India	8-8-1942	Martin Luther King
3. D-Day Order	6-6-1944	John Kennedy
4. Iron-Curtain Speech	5-3-1946	Martin Luther King
5. No Easy Walk to Freedom Speech	21-9-1953	M.K. Gandhi
6. Birth of New Nation	7-4-1957	Hitler
7. Ask What Your Country can Do for You	20-6-1960	Nelson Mandela
8. We Choose to Go to the Moon	22-10-1962	Winston Churchill
9. I Have a Dream	28-8-1963	Eisenhower
10. Nobel Lecture	11-12-1979	John Kennedy