APRIL 2026 **71510/205C4A**

Time : Three hours Maximum : 75 marks

SECTION A — (20 marks)

I. Annotate any FIVE of the following : (5 × 2 = 10)

1. The drum beat deep in my inside,
And fishes danced in the rivers,
And trees swayed under the rhythm of my joy.

2. Tomorrow, at dawn, when the land is pale with light,
I shall leave. You see, I know you wait for me,
In the silence where no reply ever comes.

3. Pleasant speech flows from the heart,
Soft as the petals of a flower,
Winning hearts better than gifts or gold.

4. A room full of books is not a lifeless vault,
But a theatre of the mind,
Where each book whispers memories to the reader.

5. We never spoke much,
For our souls were already speaking -
He was not my friend; he was myself.

6. You are not acting; you are living -
With real tears and real pain,
While we, the actors, only pretend.

7. Ours is a story left unfinished,
Cut short by your rules and limits,
Yet we suffer more than those you applaud.

II. Answer any FIVE of the following questions in one or two sentences : (5 × 2 = 10)

8. What does Dante see in the Seventh Sphere of Paradise?

9. What is the moral of "Pyramus and Thisbe"?

10. What does Goethe's violet symbolize?

11. What is the central image in "The Mystic Drum"?

12. Why do the six characters seek an author?

13. What does Montaigne say about perfect friendship?

14. What does Thiruvalluvar emphasize in Chapter 10 (Iniavai Kooral)?

SECTION B — (25 marks)

III. Answer any FIVE of the following in about 100 words each. (5 × 5 = 25)

15. How does the poem "The Mystic Drum" portray the disillusionment in love?

16. What is the tone of Victor Hugo's poem "Tomorrow at Dawn" and how is it conveyed?

17. What does Thiruvalluvar emphasize about the power of words in "Thirukkural".

18. How does Montaigne describe his friendship with La Boétie in "Of Friendship"?

19. What is the role of memory in Walter Benjamin's "Unpacking My Library"?

20. What are the main themes explored in Pirandello's *Six Characters in Search of an Author*?

21. Describe the role of Cardinal Richelieu in *The Three Musketeers*.

22. How does friendship function as a central theme in *The Three Musketeers*?

SECTION C — (30 marks)

IV. Write essay on any THREE of the following in about 300 words each. (3 × 10 = 30)

23. Explain what the drum represents in Gabriel Okara's poem 'The Mystic Drum".

24. Discuss the feelings expressed by the speaker in Victor Hugo's poem "Tomorrow at Dawn".

25. Discuss the nature of friendship as described by Montaigne in his essay "Of Friendship".

26. Examine the reasons why the six characters seek an author in Luigi Pirandello's play *Six Characters in Search of an Author.*

27. Explain the character and significance of Milady de Winter in Alexandre Dumas' novel *The Three Musketee*rs.