**7. Literature Paper 2: Section C – Unseen Poetry**

**27.1. In ‘Invictus,’ how does the poet present ideas about fate and determination? [24 marks]**

**Invictus**

Out of the night that covers me,

Black as the pit from pole to pole,

I thank whatever gods may be

For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance

I have not winced nor cried aloud.

Under the bludgeonings of chance

My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears

Looms but the Horror of the shade,

And yet the menace of the years

Finds and shall find me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,

How charged with punishments the scroll,

I am the master of my fate,

I am the captain of my soul.

*William Ernest Henley*

* Spend 30 minutes answering the question.
* Analyse the language used in the poem.

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**27.2. In both ‘Invictus’ and ‘How Did You Die?’ the poets describe success and failure. What are the similarities and/or differences between how the poets present their feelings about success and failure? [8 marks]**

**How Did You Die?**

Did you tackle that trouble that came your way

With a resolute heart and cheerful?

Or hide your face from the light of day

With a craven soul and fearful?

Oh, a trouble's a ton, or a trouble's an ounce,

Or a trouble is what you make it,

And it isn't the fact that you're hurt that counts,

But only how did you take it?

You are beaten to earth? Well, well, what's that!

Come up with a smiling face.

It's nothing against you to fall down flat,

But to lie there-that's disgrace.

The harder you're thrown, why the higher you bounce

Be proud of your blackened eye!

It isn't the fact that you're licked that counts;

It's how did you fight-and why?

And though you be done to the death, what then?

If you battled the best you could,

If you played your part in the world of men,

Why, the Critic will call it good.

Death comes with a crawl, or comes with a pounce,

And whether he's slow or spry,

It isn't the fact that you're dead that counts,

But only how did you die?

*Edmund Vance Cooke*

* Spend 15 minutes answering the question.
* Compare ideas across both poems.

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