**“The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson Questions (17 marks)**

**Answer in point form on a separate piece of paper.**

1. Describe the setting of the story. (2)
2. What evidence is there that the lottery has been going on for a long time? (1)
3. What is Old Man Warner’s attitude about those who would like to change things? (1)
4. Explain how the lottery works. (2)
5. In what way is the title, “The Lottery”, misleading? Why would the author want to trick the reader by having a misleading title? (2)

**Pick one question from each of the themes to answer. Use complete sentences.**

**Theme 1: Society and Class (2)**

1. How would you characterize the village’s society? Happy? Affluent? Patriarchal? How does it compare to your own village/town/city?
2. What kinds of values do the townspeople seem to hold about the social roles of men and women? Do these roles have any connection to the lottery?
3. What’s up with the children of the village – specifically the boys – being the first to stockpile stones? What, if anything, is Jackson trying to suggest about children?
4. Do any class differences exist in “The Lottery”? What influence might that have on the story?

**Theme 2: Traditions and Customs (2)**

1. How has the lottery evolved over time, and how can we tell? Does its evolution give us clues about its origin?
2. Who supports the lottery? Who might want to stop it? What kinds of arguments are produced for and against the lottery?
3. Is there any evidence indicating why the villagers might participate in the lottery?

**Theme 3: Hypocrisy (3)**

1. Do you think the characters in “The Lottery” are hypocritical in their relationships with other people in the town? Why are they willing to turn on their friends and relatives because of a lottery drawing?
2. What do the different characters in “The Lottery” seem to feel that the lottery is for? What purpose does it have in the village now? What might it once have accomplished?
3. Which characters seem to enjoy the lottery the most? What characteristics to they share? How do they differ from one another?

**Theme 4: Family (2)**

1. Does the lottery strengthen familial bonds or act as a destructive force?
2. How does the Hutchinson family compare to other families in the village?
3. Why does Bill Hutchinson tell his wife to be quiet when she protests his selection?