

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION, JANUARY 2019

Std. X  
Subject: English Literature

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2019  
Marks: 80

(Two Hours)

(Answers to this paper must be written on the paper provided separately.)

You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.

This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.

(The time given at the head of the paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.)

Attempt five questions in all.

You must attempt one question from each of the Sections A, B and C  
and any two other questions.

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [ ]

SECTION A - DRAMA

*The Merchant of Venice : Shakespeare*

Question 1.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Salarino: Why, man, I saw Bassanio under sail:  
With him is Gratiano gone along;  
And in their ship I am sure Lorenzo is not.

Salanio: The villain Jew with outcries raised the duke;  
Who went with him to search Bassanio's ship.

- (i) Where was Bassanio going? What two reasons had he earlier given for going there? [3]
- (ii) What does Salanio mean by 'with outcries rais'd the duke'? What was the outcome, when the Duke went to search Bassanio's ship? [3]
- (iii) What information did Salanio share with Salarino about Shylock's violent outburst? [3]
- (iv) Earlier Shylock had asked - "What says that fool of Hagar's offspring'ha?" What did he go on to say about that person? [3]
- (v) What does Salarino wish in silence for Antonio? Why? What does the parting scene between Antonio and Bassanio reveal about Antonio's character? [4]

Question 2.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Portia: I would detain you here some month or two  
Before you venture for me. I could teach you  
How to choose right, but then I am forsworn;

- (i) What does Portia say about Bassanio's eyes? Why does she wish that Fortune go to hell? [3]
- (ii) What reasons does Portia give for speaking to Bassanio for so long? What is Bassanio's reply to her? [3]
- (iii) Portia requests that music be played while Bassanio makes his choice. How will the music sound different according to his choice of the casket? [3]
- (iv) Which two caskets does Bassanio go on to reject? What reason does he finally give for doing so? Why does he choose the casket of his choice? [3]
- (v) How does Portia instantly react to Bassanio's selection of the casket? A little later she delivers a long speech about herself, what character traits can you attribute to her from this speech? [4]

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Question 3.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Antonio: I have heard  
Your Grace hath ta'en great pains to qualify  
His rigorous course; but since he stands obdurate,  
And that no lawful means can carry me  
Out of his envy's reach, I do oppose  
My patience to his fury, and am arm'd  
To suffer, with a quietness of spirit  
The very tyranny and rage of his.

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- (i) What does the Duke say to Antonio just before this extract? [3]
- (ii) How does Shylock reply to the Duke's appeal for a gentle answer with regards to the Sabbath and to the Law? [3]
- (iii) How does Bellario in his letter strongly recommend the young lawyer to represent him at the trial? [3]
- (iv) 'Wrest once the law to your authority.' Who says this? What is Portia's reply to this request? What does she finally say to Shylock, to turn the tables on him? [3]
- (v) From the above extract it is clear that Antonio has resigned himself to his fate. Briefly give two other examples from the text to demonstrate the same feeling. [4]

SECTION B – POETRY

*A Collection of Poems and Short Stories*

Answer one or more questions from this Section:

Question 4.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Six humans trapped by happenstance  
In bleak and bitter cold  
Each one possessed a stick of wood  
Or so the story's told

Their dying fire in need of logs,  
But the first one held hers back,  
For of the faces round the fire,  
She noticed one was black.

- (i) What does the poet mean by the line, 'Six humans trapped by happenstance'? [3]
- (ii) What feeling prevented the woman from sharing her stick of wood? [3]
- (iii) Why did the 'next man' not consign his log of wood to the dying fire? [3]
- (iv) State how the line 'Their dying fire in need of logs' connect with the theme of the poem. [3]
- (v) How does the black man who is the victim of injustice become an abuser in this situation? [3]
- (vi) How does the poet refer to this group of people? In what context does he say so? What 'proof of human sin' is referred to in the poem? [4]

**Question 5.**

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

THEY... USED... TO... READ! They'd READ and READ,  
AND READ and READ and then proceed  
READ come more, Great Scott! Gadzooks!  
One half their lives was reading books!  
The nursery shelves held books galore!  
Books cluttered up the nursery floor!  
And in the bedroom, by the bed,  
More books were waiting to be read!

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- (i) Why does the poet use all capital letters in the line THEY... USED... TO READ? What do the words Great Scott! Gadzooks mean? [3]
- (ii) 'It smells so good, what can it be? Good gracious, it's Penelope' Explain these lines. [3]
- (iii) What kind of books did the younger children, who lived long ago read? [3]
- (iv) What adverse effects does viewing of 'the idiot box', have on children? [3]
- (v) What does the poet urge the parents to do in order to inculcate the habit of reading among the children? How does the poet assure the parents of the benefits of reading at the end of the poem? [4]

**Question 6.**

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

The athletes had come from so many countries  
To run for the gold, for the silver and bronze  
Many weeks and months in training  
All building up to the games.

- (i) What is the Special Olympics? What were the feelings of the athletes and the spectators at this event? [3]
- (ii) Explain the lines: 'The signal was given, the pistol exploded And so did the runners on hearing the sound' [3]
- (iii) Who had an unfortunate experience during the race? What happened to this person? How did he react at that moment? [3]
- (iv) Explain how the hundred metres race was reduced to a walk. [3]
- (v) What special qualities did the athletes manifest at the Special Olympics? How did it turn out to be special for all of them? [4]

**SECTION C – PROSE**

*A Collection of Short Stories*

Answer one or more questions from this Section.

**Question 7.**

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

He looked at me very blankly and tiredly, then said, having to share his worry with someone, "The cat will be alright, I am sure". There is no need to be unquiet about the cat. But the others.

Now what do you think about the others?

"Why they'll probably come through it all right"

"You think so?"

"Why not, "I said, watching the far bank where now there were no carts.

- (i) Who is 'he'? Describe this person. [3]
- (ii) Who are 'the others' being spoken about? Why does 'he' seem to be worried about them? [3]
- (iii) What is a pontoon bridge? What was the narrator's duty? [3]
- (iv) Why does the narrator say at the end of the story – "was all the good luck that the old man would ever have." [3]
- (v) How does Hemingway show us the effect of war on the lives of common people through the story of the Old Man at the Bridge. [4]

**Question 8.**

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

She pulled one out – scr – r – ratch – how it spluttered and burnt! It had a warm, bright flame like a tiny candle when she held her hand over it – but what a strange light!

- (i) Where was the little girl sitting? Why did she not want to go home? [3]  
(ii) What happened when the little girl lit the first match? [3]  
(iii) What did the little girl visualise in the room when she struck the second match? [3]  
(iv) What did the little girl visualise about the Christmas tree and its decorations? [4]  
(v) Explain how the girl's visions are symbolic of her undying hope. [4]

**Question 9.**

Answer the following questions with reference to Norah Burke's short story 'The Blue Bead'.

- (i) What is said about the crocodile's survival since birth, food and eating habits? [4]  
(ii) Who were the Gujars? When would they decide to move to another place? [4]  
(iii) Describe briefly instances from the story to show how Sibia was extremely poor and deprived of material possessions. [8]

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