



DHRUV INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2015-2016

Subject: English Literature

Date: January 15, 2016

Std.: X A

Time: 2 Hours

(Plus 15 minutes reading time)

Marks: 80

General Instructions:

- All answers must be written on the separate answer booklet provided.
- 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 this paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.
- Attempt five questions in all.
- This paper has 6 questions on 6 pages.
- 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

My wind cooling my broth
Would blow me to an ague when I thought
What harm a wind too great at sea might do.
I should not see the sandy hourglass run,
But I should think of shallows and of flats
And see my wealthy Andrew docked in sand,



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Vailing her high top lower than her ribs
To kiss her burial. Should I go to church
And see the holy edifice of stone
And not bethink me straight of dangerous rocks,
Which, touching but my gentle vessel's side,
Would scatter all her spices on the stream,
Enrobe the roaring waters with my silks,
And, in a word, but even now worth this,
And now worth nothing? Shall I have the thought
To think on this, and shall I lack the thought
That such a thing bechanced would make me sad?
But tell not me. I know Antonio
Is sad to think upon his merchandise.'

- i) What does 'wealthy Andrew' refer to? When would Salarino suffer from a shivering fit like that of ague? [3]
- ii) How are other ships compared with those of Antonio? [3]
- iii) How would Salanio have behaved if he had ships like those of Antonio at sea? [3]
- iv) What is Antonio's mood like in the scene? What explanation do his friends offer for it? [3]
- v) Explain: 'Vailing her high- top lower than her ribs/ To kiss her burial. State two reasons why this scene is important to the play. [4]



Question 2

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

'PORTIA

How all the other passions fleet to air,
As doubtful thoughts, and rash-embraced despair,
And shuddering fear, and green-eyed jealousy!
O love, be moderate. Allay thy ecstasy.
In measure rein thy joy. Scant this excess.
I feel too much thy blessing. Make it less,
For fear I surfeit.'

- i) Where is Portia? What makes her so exclaim? [3]
- ii) Write of Portia's feelings as described by her in the given lines. [3]
- iii) Why does Bassanio choose the lead casket? [3]
- iv) What does Portia give to Bassanio as a token of her surrender? What warning accompanies it? Why is this incident important to the play? [3]
- v) On receiving the letter from Gratiano, what confession does Bassanio make to Portia? [4]

Section B- Poetry

Question 3

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

'Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards
perfection
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way
Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit



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Where the mind is led forward by thee
Into ever-widening thought and action
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country
awake.'

(‘Where the Mind...’ by R.N. Tagore)

- i) What is meant by ‘tireless striving’? What does the speaker want his countrymen to achieve by this? How has ‘tireless striving’ been personified in the verse? [3]
- ii) Whose ‘mind’ is the speaker talking about in the extract? Who is ‘thee’ and where will he lead the mind? [3]
- iii) What do you think the speaker means by ‘heaven of freedom’? How does he feel that his country can achieve this? [3]
- iv) The speaker has also spoken of the head being ‘held high’. Why is the head bowed and needs to be held high? [3]
- v) Explain : ‘Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way
Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit...’ [4]

Question 4

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

“Whose woods these are I think I know,
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.”

(‘Stopping by the ...’ by Robert Frost)



- i) Whose woods are referred to in the extract? What does the speaker know about the owner of the woods? [3]
- ii) Why has the speaker stopped by the woods? Give the symbolic meaning of the woods as used in the poem. [3]
- iii) Do you think the speaker is happy with his lonely state? Give reason for your answer. [3]
- iv) Give the symbolic meaning of the last two lines of the poem- And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep. [3]
- v) Give the contrasting images of the natural world and the man-made world as given in the poem. [4]

Section C – Prose

Question 5

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

"I have something to tell you, white mouse," she said.

"Mr. Behrman died of pneumonia to-day in the hospital. He was ill only two days. The janitor found him the morning of the first day in his room downstairs helpless with pain. His shoes and clothing were wet through and icy cold. They couldn't imagine where he had been on such a dreadful night..."

- i) Who is the speaker and who is she addressing? Who was Mr. Behrman? [3]
- ii) Why do you think the speaker addresses the listener as 'white mouse'? [3]



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- iii) Where had Behman been on such a dreadful night? How do we know of it? [3]
- iv) In the story do you think Behman's sacrifice actually helped in saving Johnsy's life? Give reason for your answer. [3]
- v) How was Behman's last painting a masterpiece in more than one way? [4]

Question 6

The Kabuliwala presents the picture of two fathers with contrasting stands in life. Compare the character of the narrator with that of the Kabuliwala. [16]
