

SECOND PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION (2015-2016)

X
: 14.01.2016

Marks : 80
Time : 2 Hrs

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

ENGLISH Paper-2

(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 this 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:

Bassanio:

'Have you heard any imputation to the contrary?'

Shylock:

Ho, no, no, no, no; my meaning in saying he is a good man is to have you understand me that he is sufficient. Yet his means are in supposition:

- i) What does Shylock mean when he says 'that he is sufficient. Yet his means are in supposition'? Why is Shylock assessing the wealth of the 'good man'? [3]
- ii) State the terms and conditions of the bond. Who will furnish Shylock with the money? [3]

- (ii) Why does Shylock hate the 'good man'?
- (iv) What kindness is Shylock showing to the 'good man'? What reasons has Shylock given for showing this kindness? [3]
- (v) How do you view Shylock's character in this scene? [4]

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Question-2

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

Gratiano:

A second Daniel, a Daniel, Jew!

Now, infidel, I have you

on the hip.

- i) Who had called Portia 'Daniel' earlier? Why? [3]
- ii) What is the penalty imposed on those who plot against the life of a Venetian citizen? [3]
- iii) In what way does the Duke and Antonio show mercy to Shylock? [3]
- iv) Why does Bassanio refuse to part with his ring? What offer does he make to Portia instead? [3]
- v) What qualities of Portia are portrayed in the trial scene? Justify it with instances. [4]

SECTION B – POETRY

A Collection of Poems

Question-3

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

He gives his harness bells a shake

To ask if there is some mistake

The only other sound's the sweep

Of easy wind and downy flake

(Stopping by woods on a Snowy Evening : Robert Frost)

What sounds could be heard by the speaker? [3]

Where has the speaker stopped? Why does the horse give its harness bells a shake? [3]

What does the speaker say about the owner of the woods? How does he describe the woods? [3]

(iv) Why has the speaker stopped near the woods? What do you understand by the darkest evening of the year?

v) Explain the lines given below:

But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
and miles to go before I sleep.

[4]

Question-4

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

*My right side bled, my cheek was torn, and I
Dislodged, detachedly, a piece of glass,
All the time wondering what had come to pass.*

(A Doctor's Journal Entry for August 6, 1945 : Vikram Seth)

i) Who is the speaker in the above stanza? What other physical injuries did the speaker receive? [3]

ii) In what condition does the speaker's wife emerge? What did they trip over and what was their reaction? [3]

iii) Why did the speaker later tell his wife to 'go on ahead'? How did he feel after she left? [3]

iv) How does he describe the people he saw? [3]

v) How does the poem portray the horrors of war? What are your feelings after reading the poem? [4]

SECTION C - PROSE

A Collection of Short Stories

Question-5

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

But, lo! After the beating rain and fierce gusts of wind that had endured through the livelong night, there yet stood out against the brick wall one ivy leaf. It was the last one on the vine. Still dark green near its stem with its serrated edges tinted with the yellow of dissolution and decay, it hung bravely from the branch some twenty feet above the ground.

- i) What changes could be seen in Johnsy after seeing that the last ivy leaf had not fallen? [3]
- ii) From what was Johnsy ailing? What peculiar 'fancy' had taken hold of her? [3]
- iii) What was old Behrman's reaction when he heard about Johnsy's peculiar fancy? [3]
- iv) What led to Johnsy and Sue having a joint studio? [3]
- v) What happened to Old Behrman in the end? Why did Sue consider the painted leaf on the wall to be his masterpiece? [4]

Question-6

With close reference to the story 'The Kabuliwala', justify how friendship goes beyond age. How does the narrator realise that he and the Kabuliwala were 'just the same.' [16]