



U.S.OSTWAL ENGLISH ACADEMY (ICSE), MIRA RD  
SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT-I (2019-20)

STD: X  
DATE: 25/9/19

ENGLISH LITERATURE

TIME: 2 hrs  
MARKS: 80

**General Instructions:**

1. Answers to this paper must be written in the paper provided separately.
2. You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.
3. This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.
4. The time given at the head of this paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.
5. 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)**

1. Read the following extract and answer the questions given below:

[16marks]

The dearest friend to me, the kindest man,  
The best-condition'd and unwearied spirit  
In doing courtesies, and one in whom  
The ancient Roman honour more appears  
Than any that draws breath in Italy.

**Questions:**

- a. Who is the speaker? Who is "the dearest friend"? What is the trouble the friend is facing? To what does the speaker refer when he says that his dearest friend has in him "The ancient Roman honour"? 3
- b. What is meant by, "The best-condition'd and unwearied spirit in doing courtesies"? 3
- c. What did Portia say when she heard that Antonio owed only three thousand ducats to the Jew? State in your words why she suggested that Bassanio and she should get married immediately. 3
- d. What has Antonio said in his letter about his misfortune? What has he requested his friend to do? 3
- e. "Shakespeare has no heroes; but only heroines." Briefly state how far this saying, in this scene, is true as far as Portia is concerned. 4

2. Read the following extract and answer the questions given below:

[16marks]

The duke cannot deny the course of law:  
For the commodity that strangers have  
With us in Venice, if it be denied,  
Will much impeach the justice of the state,

Since that the trade and profit of the city  
Consisteth of all nations.

**Questions:**

- a. Who is the speaker? Where is he? Which duke is referred to in the extract? 3
- b. Explain: "For the commodity that the strangers have with us in Venice."  
Who are the strangers in the extract? What commodity do they have in Venice? 3
- c. What would happen if the commodity is denied to them? On what does the prosperity of Venice depend? Give reason to justify your answer. 3
- d. What does Antonio later say that he could hardly spare a pound of his flesh? Why does Antonio wish that Bassanio should be there with him? 3
- e. What does this scene show about Antonio's attitude to Bassanio? Compare and contrast the characters of Antonio and Shylock in this scene. 4

**SECTION B (POEM)**

**3. Read the following stanza and answer the questions given below: [16 marks]**

Alack, it was I who leaped at the sun  
To give it my loving friends to keep!  
Nought man could do, have I left undone:  
And you see my harvest, what I reap  
This very day, now a year is run.

**Questions:**

- a. What does the speaker mean by 'it was I who leaped at the sun'? 3
- b. Explain: 'Nought man could do, have I left undone.' 3
- c. What was changed in a year? 3
- d. What effect does it have on the speaker? 3
- e. What is your opinion about the change? 4

**4. Read the following stanza and answer the questions given below: [16 marks]**

Abou Ben Adhem (may his tribe increase!)  
Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace,  
And saw, within the moonlight in his room,  
Making it rich, and like a lily in bloom,  
An angel writing in a book of gold:

**Questions:**

- a. Identify the poem and the poet. Who is Abou Ben Adhem? 3
- b. What does the poet mean by 'may his tribe increase'? Why did the poet put the phrase in parenthesis (brackets)? 3
- c. Describe the setting in your own words in which Abou woke up from his dream. 3
- d. What does the poet try to say through the comparison with 'a lily in bloom'? 3
- e. What was the angel writing in the book of gold? What message does the poet give to the readers? 4



### SECTION C (PROSE)

**5. Read the following extract and answer the questions given below: [16marks]**

Suddenly all the tension seemed to ebb out of my body as the truth of what he said hit me. Confidently, I drew a line full foot in back of the board & proceeded to jump from there. I qualified with almost a foot to spare.

**Questions:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| a. Who is the speaker? How and why did all the tension ebb out of the speaker's body? | 3 |
| b. What did the other person say which hit the speaker?                               | 3 |
| c. What made the speaker confident?   | 3 |
| d. In what did the speaker qualify? Did he go any far after getting qualified?        | 3 |
| e. Comment on the relationship between the speaker and 'he'?                          | 4 |

**6. Read the following extract and answer the questions given below: [16marks]**

It completely won the shopman over; he liked his sense of humour to be appreciated. Muni engaged his attention in local gossip for a few minutes, which always ended with a reference to the postman's wife, who had eloped to the city some months before.

**Questions:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| a. Who completely won over shopman? Why                             | 3 |
| b. Who liked his sense of humour to be appreciated?                 | 3 |
| c. Why did Muni engage in local gossip?                             | 3 |
| d. What was Muni's real intention?                                  | 3 |
| e. What do you infer about Muni's character from the above passage? | 4 |