

BAI AVABAI F. PETIT GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL  
FIRST PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION (2018 - 2019)

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

ENGLISH Paper - 2

STD: X  
MARKS: 80

DATE: 22.11.2018  
TIME: 2 Hrs. + 15 Mins.  
Reading Time

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.

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Thakur Village, Kandivali (E),  
Mumbai - 400 101.  
Mob. 9821263050.

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

Shylock:

I am bid forth to supper, Jessica:

There are my keys- But wherefore should I go?

- (i) Where is Shylock going for supper? What premonition does Shylock have? How is this premonition ironical? [4]
- (ii) Why is Shylock hesitant to attend the invitation to supper? What makes him change his mind? On what grounds had he refused the invitation to supper, earlier in the play? [4]
- (iii) How does Shylock react when he learns about the masquerade? [4]
- (iv) Jessica calls Launcelot 'a merry devil'. Why does she call him so? How does Shylock justify parting with Launcelot later in this scene? [4]

This paper consists of 5 printed sides and one blank side.

Turn Over

Question 2.

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

Portia:

"It is an attribute to God himself;  
An earthly power then show likest God's  
When mercy seasons justice."

- (i) What are the three qualities of mercy, which Portia states to Shylock just before this extract? Earlier in the play, who else had appealed to Shylock to show mercy? [4]
- (ii) How does Shylock react to Portia's emotional request? How does Bassanio plead with Shylock? [4]
- (iii) Why according to Gratiano, was the theory of Pythagoras apt in the case of Shylock? [4]
- (iv) How does Antonio distribute Shylock's property when the tables turn in his favour? [4]

Question 3.

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

Bassanio:

Madam, you have bereft me of all words,  
Only my blood speaks to you in my veins;  
And there is such confusion in my powers,  
As, after some oration, fairly spoke  
By a beloved prince, there doth appear  
Among the buzzing pleased multitude;

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- (i) What has happened to cause Bassanio to be 'bereft of all words'? Explain in detail. [4]
- (ii) Which casket has Bassanio chosen, earlier? How does the scroll inside the casket summarize his fortune? [4]
- (iii) State Portia's opinion about any four of her suitors who go away without taking part in the lottery of caskets. [4]
- (iv) Which casket appeals to the Prince of Arragon? Why? How does he justify his choice of casket? [4]

SECTION B –POETRY

A Collection of Poems & Short Stories

Question 4.

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

Now tell us what 'twas all about,' Young Peterkin, he cries;  
And little Wilhemine looks up With wonder-waiting eyes;  
'Now tell us all about the war,  
And what they fought each other for.'

- (i) What is the topic of discussion in the above lines? [4]
- (ii) Why did Wilhemine look up with 'wonder-waiting eyes'? What response does old Kaspar give to the question asked to him by the children? What does the reply show about a common man's attitude towards war? [4]
- (iii) Where did old Kaspar's father live? What was the consequence of the war on his family? [4]
- (iv) How does old Kaspar go on to describe the effect of war on the countryside and the innocent people? How is the poem relevant in contemporary times? [4]

Question 5.

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

The caged bird sings  
with a fearful trill  
of things unknown  
but longed for still  
and his tune is heard  
on the distant hill  
for the caged bird  
sings of freedom.

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- (i) Who is referred to as the 'free bird' and the 'caged bird' in the poem? [4]
- (ii) What condition is the caged bird in? [4]
- (iii) What dreams does the caged-bird have? [4]
- (iv) What parallel can be drawn to the poet's feelings and that of the caged bird? [4]

Question 6.

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

Some are aglow with the bloom that cleaves

To the limpid glory of newborn leaves.

- (i) Who is the speaker of the above lines? On what occasion are these lines spoken? [4]
- (ii) What does the word 'some' mean? How many stages of a woman are linked with the word 'some'? Which colours suit these stages? [4]
- (iii) Name and explain any two figures of speech mentioned in the poem. [4]
- (iv) In the poem Bangle Sellers, has the poet presented the middle-aged woman in a positive or a negative light? Justify. [4]

SECTION C – PROSE  
A Collection of Poems & Short Stories

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Question 7

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

While I was going over on the boat, all I could think about was taking home one or two of those gold medals.

- (i) Which country did the speaker belong to and where was he going? In which event was the speaker confident of winning gold medals? What was the reason for his confidence? [4]
- (ii) What surprise was in store for the speaker on the day of the broad-jump trials? What thoughts crossed the speaker's mind then? [4]
- (iii) How was the bond of 'real friendship' formed between the speaker and opponent? [4]
- (iv) 'Individual excellence, rather than race or nationality distinguishes who we are.' Comment on the statement with reference to the short story, 'My Greatest Olympic Prize.' [4]

Question 8:

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

"Say, Mr. Marshal," growled the glum-faced man. "This isn't quite fair. I'm needing a drink, and haven't had a smoke all day. Haven't you talked long enough? Take me in the smoker now, won't you? I'm half dead for a pipe."

- (i) Who is 'Mr. Marshal' and who is the 'glum-faced man', in the above lines? Why have they been called a 'linked couple'? [3]
- (ii) Who had the 'two' encountered in the coach earlier? What was that person's initial reaction on seeing them together? [3]

- (iii) What caused a change of heart in the glum-faced man? What effect did the explanation given by the glum-faced man have on this person? [3]
- (iv) What remark does one of the passengers pass about 'Mr. Marshal' as the 'linked couple' sidle down the isle? What ironical twist is revealed by this? [3]
- (v) 'People ignore the obvious details and often jump to conclusions that aren't true'. Do you agree with the statement? Give a justification to your answer based on the short story, 'Hearts and Hands'. [4]

**Question 9.**

- (i) The children in Victorian society were not only orphaned but also neglected and abused. Justify the statement with close reference to the short story, 'The Little Match Girl.' [4]
- (ii) Explain how the visions of the Little Match Girl were symbolic of her undying hope. [4]
- (iii) By the reading of the story, what can you say about the relationship that existed between the girl and her grandmother? Explain how the story is interspersed with didactic elements. [8]