

HIRANANDANI FOUNDATION SCHOOL, THANE

Second Preliminary Examination January, 2019

Subject: English II (Literature)

Std. X

Date: 04 /01/2019

Time: 2hrs

M.Marks: 80

Note: Answers to this paper must be written on the paper provided separately. You will not be allowed to write in 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. This paper consists of two printed pages.

Attempt five questions in all. You must attempt one question from each of the Section 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**

Shakespeare: The Merchant of Venice

**AMBIKA B**

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**Question 1**

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

**Antonio: Fie, Fie!**

**Salarino: Not in love neither? Then let us say you are sad**

**Because you are not merry: and 'twere as easy**

**For you to laugh and leap and say you are merry**

**Because you are not sad. Now by two-headed Janus,**

**Nature hath framed strange fellows in her time.**

- (i) Who is Antonio? Where is he? What is his state of mind? [3]
- (ii) What does Antonio say about his ships? What contrary situation does he face later? [3]
- (iii) Who is Janus? Why is he referred to as two-headed? Based on this example, how does Salarino categorise Antonio? [3]
- (iv) Describe the two types of strange fellows that Nature has framed. [3]
- (v) Briefly give a character sketch of Antonio in this play. [4]

**Question 2**

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

**Portia: There are some shrewd contents in yon same paper,**

**That steals the colour from Bassanio's cheek;**

**Some dear friend dead; else nothing in the world**

**Could turn so much the constitution**

**Of any constant man.**

- (i) Who has come to give the letter to Bassanio? What happens to Bassanio when he reads the content of the letter? According to Portia when would one react in this manner? [3]
- (ii) How does Bassanio explain the truth about his financial status to Portia in this scene? [3]
- (iii) How does Bassanio describe Antonio to Portia in this scene? [3]
- (iv) How does Portia volunteer to help Antonio? What does it tell about Portia? [3]
- (v) What was the content of the letter? [4]

**Question 3**

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

**Shylock: I have possess'd your Grace of what I purpose;**

**And by our holy Sabbath have I sworn**

**To have the due and forfeit of my bond:**

- (i) Who is the speaker? Who is referred to as 'your Grace'? Where are they at this point of time? [3]
- (ii) What did 'Your Grace' tell the speaker about Antonio's condition to arouse pity? [3]
- (iii) In this scene, what examples does Antonio give to Bassanio to explain that it is useless to plead with the speaker for mercy? [3]
- (iv) Later in the scene, how does Shylock expose the poor treatment meted out to slaves by the Venetians, as they are 'purchased property'? [3]

- (v) What reason does Shylock give to 'your Grace' for choosing 'a pound of flesh' over three thousand ducats? What examples does he cite to explain behavior that may seem unreasonable to others? [4]

## SECTION B - POETRY

### Treasure Trove

#### Question 4

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

Some are like field of sunlit corn,  
Meet for the bride on her bridal morn,  
Some, like the flame of her marriage fire,  
Or, rich with the hue of her heart's desire  
Tinkling, luminous, tender, and clear,  
Like her bridal laughter and bridal tear.

- (i) Who are singing this song? Where are they? How do they refer to their wears? [3]  
 (ii) State the colour of bangles meant for a maiden. What do these colours symbolise? [3]  
 (iii) What do you understand by the phrases 'bridal laughter' and 'bridal tear'? With what have they been compared in the extract? [3]  
 (iv) Explain the significance of bangle colours of the bride. [3]  
 (v) What are the significance of the colours of the bangles which the middle aged women wear? How has she earned her importance in her family? [4]

#### Question 5

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

They say it was a shocking sight  
After the field was won  
For many thousand bodies here  
Lay rotting in the sun;  
But things like that, you know, must be  
After a famous victory.

- (i) Who is the speaker? To whom is he speaking? Where are they? [3]  
 (ii) Which battle is being referred to? To whom does 'they' in the extract refer? Why do you think the sight was shocking even when the battle was won? [3]  
 (iii) Why has the poet repeatedly used the phrase 'twas a famous victory'? Do you agree it was a famous victory? What does it signify? [3]  
 (iv) State clearly how the poet creates an atmosphere of devastation caused by battle in the poem? [3]  
 (v) Comment upon the contrasted viewpoint in the poem. [4]

#### Question 6

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

What does he plant who plants a tree?  
He plants, in sap and leaf and wood,  
In love of home and loyalty  
And far-cast thought of civic good—  
His blessing on the neighbourhood...

- (i) Why has the poet begun the poem with a question? Which figure of speech has been used here? [3]  
 (ii) What is meant by 'far-cast thought of civic good'? In what way is the planter's work a blessing? [3]  
 (iii) In what way is a nation's growth dependent on planting trees? [3]  
 (iv) Give six functions that the tree performs on this earth? [3]  
 (v) Comment on the appropriateness of the title of the poem 'The Heart of the tree' [4]

## SECTION C – PROSE

### Treasure Trove

#### Question 7

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

**“This statue had been closer to the population of the village at one time, when this spot bordered the village.**

**Muni sat at the foot of the statue, watching his two goats graze in the arid soil among the cactus and lantana bushes. He looked at the sun; it had tilted westward no doubt, but it was not the time yet to go back home;**

- (i) What is the name of the village referred in the extract? Describe the village. [3]
- (ii) What advantage did Muni have of sitting at the foot of the statue? [3]
- (iii) Why didn't Muni go back home early? [3]
- (iv) Whom did Muni meet while sitting at the foot of the statue? What was the newcomer's profession? What did Muni think of his profession, looking at his clothes? [3]
- (v) Describe the statue which the 'newcomer wished to purchase. [4]

#### Question 8

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

**‘Sibia glanced at the Gujar women as they went past’**

- (i) Who are the Gujars? What is their typical dwelling? How is Sibia similar to the Gujars? [3]
- (ii) Describe the Gujar women. What did they carry with them? [3]
- (iii) Describe the struggle between Gujar woman and crocodile [3]
- (iv) How did Sibia attend to the Gujar woman after rescuing her from the crocodile? [3]
- (v) In the story Sibia comes across as a courageous and contented child. Discuss. [4]

#### Question 9

- (i) Why does Jesse Owens say that he was not worried about the nationalistic feelings in Berlin where he would be participating in the Olympics? [4]
- (ii) How was Jesse Owens taken by surprise at the games? Why did his performance suffer? [4]
- (iii) “The important thing in the Olympic games is not winning but taking part. The essential thing in life is not conquering but fighting well.” How did Luz Long exemplify these famous words by Pierre Coubertin founder of the modern Olympic Games? [8]