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PUBLIC SCHOOL

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2018-2019
LITERATURE IN ENGLISH
ENGLISH Paper 2

STD : X
TIME : 2 hrs.

DATE: 02.01.2019
MARKS: 80

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 answers.

Attempt five questions in all.

You must attempt one question from each of the Sections A, B and C and not more than two other questions from the same books you have already compulsorily chosen.

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets []

This paper consists of four printed pages.

Nothing should be written on the question paper.

Section A- Drama
The Merchant of Venice

Question 1

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

*Portia: You see me, Lord Bassanio, where I stand,
Such as I am: though for myself alone
I would not be ambitious in my wish,
To wish not myself much better; yet for you,*

- (i) Where are Portia and Bassanio? What makes Portia speak the above words? What was inscribed on the golden casket? [3]
- (ii) What led to the applause and praise for Bassanio? What was contained in the casket he chooses? What does he mean by 'thrice-fair lady'? [3]
- (iii) What has Bassanio said in praise of Portia's portrait? [3]
- (iv) What comparison has been drawn between Portia and Hesion? Why? [3]
- (v) Describe in brief the Casket Story in the play 'The Merchant of Venice'. How relevant did it prove to be? [4]

Question 2

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

*Solanio: I never heard a passion so confus'd,
So strange, outrageous, and so variable,
As the dog Jew did utter in the streets:*

- (i) Whose outburst of anger was heard in the streets? What was the reason for his such 'confused' and 'variable' cry? [3]
- (ii) To whom is Solanio speaking with? What news had the listener heard from a Frenchman and what did he wish in his heart? [3]
- (iii) Why was the masquerade cancelled? Who had come searching for Gratiano and why is he called a kind gentleman? [3]

- (iv) Illustrate the examples given by Gratiano to prove the eagerness of a lover for his beloved. [3]
- (v) Shylock demands justice and Portia advocates mercy. Discuss justice and mercy, as per your opinion, in the current scenario of the world. [4]

Question 3

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

*Shylock: Nay, take my life and all; pardon not that:
You take my house, when you do take the prop
That doth sustain my house; you take my life
When you do take the means whereby I live*

- (i) What has Portia pronounced that made Shylock speak the above words? [3]
- (ii) Name the people present in the scene? Why have they gathered there? [3]
- (iii) Who was Pythagoras? Why is Gratiano ready to hold opinion with him? [3]
- (iv) What penalty would Antonio have to pay if the bond was forfeit? Later, what loophole did Portia find in the bond? [3]
- (v) What mercy did Antonio render Shylock? In your opinion, is this true mercy? [4]

Section-B Poetry

A Collection of Poems & Short Stories

Question 4

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

*With fearful trill
Of things unknown
but longed for still
and his tune is heard
on the distant hill*

(I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings)

- (i) What words are used by the poet in the first stanza of the poem to express the privileges enjoyed by others? [3]
- (ii) Under what circumstances does the caged bird sing? What does it tell us about his plight? [3]
- (iii) Explain 'Of things unknown'. How does the bird intend to start an awakening? [3]
- (iv) Mention at least three stark contrast between the caged bird and its counterpart. [3]
- (v) The poem metaphorically highlights a conflict faced by many. Discuss how racism, slavery and oppression segregates society. [4]

Question 5

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

*His blessings on the neighbourhood
Who in the hallow of His hand
Holds all the growth of all our land - -
A nation's growth from sea to sea*

(The Heart of the Tree)

- (i) What will be considered as a blessing on the neighbourhood? Explain the metonym in 'forest's heritage'. [3]
- (ii) According to the poet, who is responsible for a nation's progress and how? [3]
- (iii) Explain how a tree can save the earth from Global Warming and Climate change. [3]
- (iv) Give two examples from the poem to prove that trees not only have aesthetic value but are a necessity to all living things. [3]
- (v) Do you agree with the title of the poem? Justify. [4]

Question 6

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

*Then all nine joined hands and continued
The one hundred metres reduced to a walk
And the banner above that said "Special Olympics"
Could not have been nearer the mark*

(Nine Gold Medals)

- (i) Who are the 'nine' being referred to in the poem? Name the sports meet that brought them to this place. [3]
- (ii) Explain the aims and objectives of this prestigious sports meet. [3]
- (iii) Which final event is being talked about in the extract? What was the mood of the spectators in the beginning? [3]
- (iv) How did this, much awaited event commence? What untoward incident happened midway? [3]
- (v) How does the poem show the value of true sportsmanship? [4]

Section C- Prose

A Collection of Short Stories

Question 7

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

They turned on themselves, like feverish wheel, all tumbling spokes. Margot stood alone. She was a very frail girl who looked as if she had been lost in the rain for years and the rain had washed out the blue from her eyes and red from her mouth and yellow from her hair.

- (i) What is the anticipated event? Who are 'they' in the above extract? [3]
- (ii) Why is Margot treated differently? Comment the imagery used to describe her. [3]
- (iii) What did William do to trouble Margot? What did the teacher say to her class about the event? [3]
- (iv) Mention any three ways in which Margot describes the sun. [3]
- (v) Which part of the story did you find most striking? Give reasons for your answer. [4]

Question 8

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

Our departed braves, fond mothers, glad, happy hearted maidens, and even the little children who lived here and rejoiced here for a brief season, will love those somber solitudes and at eventide they greet shadowy returning spirits.

- (i) Who is the speaker? Describe him. [3]
- (ii) Why did the White men find it easy to colonise this region? What religious tool did they use to persuade the Red men. [3]
- (iii) What was the native belief of the the Red men concerning their ancestors? [3]
- (iv) What affection do the departed souls have for their land? Give examples from the story to justify. [3]
- (v) How has the speaker presented his argument in favour of Native American's rights and environmental values? Do you agree with the speaker? [4]

Question 9

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

As it turned out, Luz broke his own past record. In doing so, he pushed me on to a peak performance. I remember that at the instant I landed from my final-jump- the one which set the Olympic record...

- (i) What are the names of the Olympians? When and where did this game take place? [4]
- (ii) How can one state that they were true sportsmen? Quote specific statements to back your answer. [4]
- (iii) How did the author show that his friendship is his greatest Olympic prize? Is this portrayal realistic? Explain why you think so. [8]
