

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 from only three text books.

You must attempt at least 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 [].

SECTION A – DRAMA

Answer one or more questions from the following play

Question 1

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

Antonio

*"I am a tainted wether of the flock,
Meetest for death. The weakest kind of fruit
Drops earliest to the ground, and so let me.
You cannot better be employed, Bassanio,
Than to live still and write mine epitaph."*

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- What is a 'tainted wether'? Why is it 'meetest for death'? Why does Antonio refer to himself as such? [3]
- What has Bassanio said to Antonio just before this? How is Bassanio's reaction in keeping with his character? [3]
- How does Shylock justify his insistence upon the bond? Mention any two examples given by him in the context. [3]
- What is your opinion of Portia's skill as a lawyer? Do you think the trial was fair? Give one reason for each of the questions to justify your answer. [3]
- What have we seen in the Duke's behaviour towards the proceedings till now? [Do not repeat any point that you may have used earlier] [4]

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Question 2

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

Lorenzo

*I know you would be prouder of the work
Than customary bounny can enforce you*

- a) When would Portia be prouder of her work? How is Portia's 'god-like amity' evident? [3]
- b) Why does Portia feel that there must be a similarity between Antonio and Bassanio? [3]
- c) What work does Portia commit into Lorenzo's hands? Why? [3]
- d) What instructions does Porta give to Balthazar soon after? [3]
- e) Bring out Portia's character in this scene. [4]

Question 3

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

*Portia: Now he goes ,
With no less presence, but with much more love,
The young Alcides, when he did redeem
The virgin tribute paid by howling Troy
To the sea- monster; I stand for sacrifice;
The rest aloof are the Dardanian wives,
With bleared visages come forth to view
The issue of th' exploit*

- a) Explain the reference to Alcides, the virgin-tribute and the Dardanian wives. How does Portia equate it to the situation at hand? [3]
- b) Earlier, Portia calls for music when Bassanio is making his choice. What purpose does it serve? If Bassanio makes the right choice, what will be the role of music then? [3]
- c) What are the first two examples that Bassanio gives to prove that 'world is still deciev'd with ornament'? [3]
- d) What reason does Bassanio give for choosing the lead casket ? Describe Portia's feelings when Bassanio decides to choose the lead casket [3]
- e) Later in this scene, what does Portia observe and say about Bassanio, as he reads Antonio's letter? Why does Bassanio compare every word in the letter to a gaping wound? [4]

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Question 4

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

*The signal was given, the pistol exploded
And so did the runners on hearing the sound
But the youngest among them stumbled and staggered
And he fell on his knees to the ground*

- a) Who fell down? What did he do when he fell down? Why did he do that? [3]
- b) Narrate what happened after the young boy was brought to his feet.
What were the dreams of the fallen athlete? [3]
- c) What is 'Special Olympics'? Which event is referred to here? Why does the poet repeat the line 'said more than these words ever will'? [3]
- d) Why did the nine athletes join hands? What did their action of joining hands show? Why was the race reduced to a walk? [3]
- e) Which words indicate how the nine contestants would have felt when they all reached the finish line together? Do you think they were happy because they had won the gold medal? Why? What have you learnt from the poem? [4]

Question 5

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

*He plants cool shade and tender rain
And seed and bud of days to be,
And years that fade and flush again
He plants the glory of the plain
He plants the forest's heritage ;
The harvest of a coming age ;
The joy that unborn eyes shall see.*

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- a) Enumerate any three benefits of planting trees as suggested by the poet in this extract. What do the plants do to provide cool shade in a place? [3]
- b) How do the trees provide for the harvest of the following years? In what way a nation's growth depends on planting trees? [3]
- c) What do the expression, unborn eyes indicate? What will they see? Why will they rejoice? [3]
- d) What is meant by 'far-cast thought of civic good'? In what way is the planter's work a blessing? State for whom it is a blessing. [3]
- e) Comment on the appropriateness of the title of the poem 'The heart of the tree'. In what way is the poem relevant in our times? [4]

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Question 6

Read the extract given below and the 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 sing of freedom*

- a) Why does a bird that stalks down his narrow cage can seldom see through his bars of rage? Why do you think the cage is "narrow"? What is meant by "his bars of rage"? [3]
- b) Who are referred to as free bird and caged bird in the poem? Why? What is the difference between a free bird and a caged bird? [3]
- c) Why does the caged bird sing of 'things unknown'? What is meant by 'fearful trill'? Why is it said to be fearful? [3]
- d) What is the grave of dreams? Why does a caged bird stand on the grave of dreams? Explain: "his shadow shouts on a nightmare scream". [3]
- e) The caged bird reflects the status of women in the society. Do you agree? Elucidate. [4]

Section C Short stories

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Question 7 ✓

As they passed down the aisle of the coach the only vacant seat offered was a reversed one facing the attractive young woman. Here the linked couple seated themselves. The young woman's glance fell upon them.

- a) Which coach is referred to in the extract? Where had the coach stopped? How can you conclude that the coach was crowded? [3]
- b) Name the young woman in the coach. What is said about her just before the extract? Describe the reaction of the young woman on seeing the two men. [3]
- c) What did she say about Easton's life in Washington? Why won't Easton be in Washington in the near future? What is meant by 'my butterfly days are over'? [3]
- d) What did the glum-faced man do to cut short the conversation between Easton and the young woman? What could be the reason for his action? What reason did the glum-faced man give for his going for a smoke? [3]
- e) Do you like the way the story ends? Give reason to justify your opinion. What role do the 'hearts' and 'hands' play in the plot of the story? [4]

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Question 8

I was watching the bridge and the African looking country of the Ebro delta and wondering how long now it would be before we would be before we would see the enemy, and listening all the while for the first noises that would signal that ever mysterious event called contact

- a) Who is crossing the bridge? Why are they traveling? Cite evidence from the text to support your answers. [3]
- b) What is the narrator's business? How did the old man's problem affect the narrator's "business"? [3]
- c) Describe the old man's clothing. What was the old man's occupation in San Carlos? What is the narrator's initial response to the man's clothing? [3]
- d) What explanation did the old man provide about why he left San Carlos? What concern does he have about some of the animals he left behind? [3]
- e) How does Hemingway show us the effect of war on the lives of common people through the story of the Old Man at the Bridge? [4]

Question 9

- a) How does the author describe the poor little girl and her home in the story 'The Little Match Girl'? [4]
- b) What kind of relationship existed between the girl and her deceased grandmother? What were the words that her grandmother used to say? [4]
- c) Describe the little match girl's hallucinations while lighting the match stick and their significance. [8]

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