

# ST. GREGORIOS HIGH SCHOOL

## LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

### PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2018-19

Std: X

Marks:80

Date: 17/12/2018.

Time: 2 Hrs

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.

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Attempt five questions in all.

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 .

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

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#### SECTION A - DRAMA

The Merchant of Venice: Shakespeare

Question 1.

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

Salanio: Fare ye well:

We leave you now with better company.

Salarino: I would have stay'd till I had made you merry,

If worthier friends had not prevented me.

Antonio: Your worth is very dear in my regard

I take it, your own business calls on you,

And you embrace the occasion to depart.

- i. What confession does Antonio make to his friends, Salanio and Salarino, at the beginning of this scene? (3)
- ii. What does Salanio say he would do, if he was in Antonio's shoes? (3)
- iii. Would Salarino react differently? Support your answer giving two instances only. (3)
- iv. Later on in the play, what 'gossip' does Salarino give Salanio, with regard to Antonio's business venture? Does it turn out to be 'mere gossip'? Comment. (3)
- v. Name these 'worthier friends' who arrive onto the scene. Give your estimate of each of their worth, as Antonio's friend. (4)

## Question 2

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

**Portia:** How little is the cost I have bestow'd

In purchasing the semblance of my soul

From out the state of hellish cruelty!

This comes too near the praising of myself ;

Therefore no more of it: hear other things.

- i. What line of reasoning is followed by Portia, when she concludes that she is purchasing 'the semblance of her soul, from the state of hellish cruelty'? (3)
- ii. What is this 'little cost' that Portia has incurred? Give your view regarding this so called 'little cost' and Portia's qualities that stand out here. (3)
- iii. Mention the task Portia commits to Lorenzo and Jessica, along with the reason she gives them. (3)
- iv. Is Portia being wholly truthful to them? Explain, in context to this scene only. (3)



- v. When Portia next appears in the play, she is highly recommended and praised, in a letter. Give the gist of this praise and very briefly state whether she was deserving of it.

(4)

### Question 3

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

Jessica: I would out-night you, did nobody come

But, hark, I hear the footing of a man.

Lorenzo: Who comes so fast in silence of the night?

- i. How does Lorenzo describe the night, when this scene opens and what does he allude to? (3)
- ii. Give two examples to show how Jessica matches Lorenzo, step by step, in this game they are playing. (3)
- iii. How does Jessica's and Lorenzo's outlook on 'Music' differ? (3)
- iv. Whom does Lorenzo go on to hint at, when he says, 'let no such man be trusted.' What evidence in the play proves this? (3)
- v. Describe and account for the 'mood' of the play, towards its end. (4)

### SECTION B – POETRY

#### *A Collection of Poems and Short Stories.*

### Question 4.

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

Ten thousand saw I at a glance,

Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

(Daffodils-William Wordsworth)

- i. What does the poet compare himself to, in the first stanza? How appropriate is this comparison? (3)
- ii. What do the Daffodils symbolise? What words does he use to describe their movement and how does he go on to make a comparison? (3)

- iii. When Wordsworth calls it, 'ten thousand,' what poetic device is this? *hyperbole*  
Describe the competition that he witnesses. *fluttering & dancing in the breeze* (3)
- iv. The last stanza is a change in time and place. *years later couch*. Comment. (3)
- v. Write the message of the poem. Have you ever had such an experience?  
Give an account of it. (4)

### Question 5

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

He plants the forest's heritage,

The harvest of a coming age;

(The Heart of the Tree- Henry Cuyler Bunner)

- i. Give the functions which a tree performs on this Earth, with regard to the earlier lines, of the above stanza. (3)
- ii. Identify the Figure of Speech common to both and explain: (3)
- a. The Forest's heritage.
- b. The Harvest of a coming age.
- iii. How does a tree prove itself to be a 'friend of the sun and the sky'? (3)
- iv. Describe the image the poet has created, at twilight. (3)
- v. The poet believes that 'Man' is the 'Destiny Maker' of a Nation. How far do you agree with him? (4)

### Question 6

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

'And the banner above that said, "Special Olympics"

Could not have been nearer the mark.'

(Nine Gold Medals- David Roth)

- i. What is the special Olympics? What is its mission? (3)
- ii. Mention the final event of this Olympics. Give the condition of the participants and the overall atmosphere prevalent there. (3)
- iii. Did the event go off smoothly? Discuss. (3)



- iv. What was so unique about the end result of this event? What qualities of the participants stood out? (3)
- v. Give your views and feelings on the above incident, in light of today's competitive World. (4)

### SECTION B – Stories.

#### *A Collection of Poems and Short Stories*

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 100, St. James' Road, Chennai - 600 011  
 Tel: 4341 4000  
 Mob: 9821263050

#### Question 7

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

A red-faced foreigner, who had been driving the yellow vehicle, got down and went round it, stooping, looking and poking under the vehicle; then he straightened himself up, looked at the dashboard, stared in Muni's direction and approached him.

(A Horse and Two Goats -R. K. Narayan)

- i. What decline in fortune had Muni suffered? How did his wife now make ends meet? (3)
- ii. How and where did Muni spend his days? What according to him, was advantageous about that spot? (3)
- iii. How did Muni react to the arrival of the red-faced foreigner? What prompted this reaction?
- iv. What impression have you formed of the red-faced foreigner? Support it with relevant examples from the story. (3)
- v. What glaring cultural differences are most noticeable between Muni and the red-faced foreigner? At the end of the story, do you believe, Muni's spot proved to be truly advantageous to him? (4)

#### Question 8

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

Joe did not see the Guardians of the Poor on that day, on the next, nor on the day following. In fact, he never saw them at all on Maggie's account,

(6)

for in less than a week Mrs. Joe Thompson would as soon leave thought of taking up her own abode in the almhouse as sending Maggie there.

(An Angel in Disguise- T.S. Arthur)

- i. What was this almhouse or poor house? Mention the context, when it was first referred to, in the story. (3)
- ii. What was the role played by the Guardians of the Poor? List the mixed views given by the people, present there, regarding Maggie going into the poorhouse. (3)
- iii. How did Mrs. Thompson greet Mr. Joe Thompson on his arrival home, after the funeral? Why was he not at all surprised by this? (3)
- iv. According to you, which three strategies or ploys employed by Mr. Joe Thompson, on his wife, brought them to this juncture of keeping Maggie? (3)
- v. 'Angels come in all forms and disguises.' Briefly justify this statement. (4)

(Question 9)

Answer the following questions with reference to Jesse Owen's, 'My Greatest Olympic Prize.'

- i. Where was the 1936 Olympic Games held? Why were nationalistic feelings at an all time high? Why was Jesse Owens not too worried about all this? (4)
- ii. When the broad jump trials began, did Jesse Owens manage to remain as nonchalant and unworried, as he had earlier been? Justify your answer. (4)
- iii. What turned out to be Jesse Owen's 'Greatest Olympic Prize'? Relate how and who was instrumental in helping Jesse? What sterling qualities of this person stood out? (8)