

**LILAVATIBAI PODAR HIGH SCHOOL, ISC**  
**Preliminary Examination - 2018-19**

**Subject: Literature in English**  
**Std.: X**

**Points: 80**  
**Duration: 2 hours**

**Instructions**

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 at least one question from each of the Sections A, B and C and not more than two questions from the same section.

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

**SECTION A – DRAMA**  
*Shakespeare: The Merchant of Venice*

**Question 1.**

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

**BASSANIO**

*'Tis not unknown to you, Antonio,  
How much I have disabled mine estate  
By something showing a more swelling port  
Than my faint means would grant continuance.*

- (a) Where does the above scene take place? What does Bassanio want from Antonio and why does he want it? [3]
- (b) How has Bassanio *disabled his estate* and what is his chief concern? [3]
- (c) What assurance does Antonio give Bassanio? [3]
- (d) How does Bassanio connect an example from his school days to his current request? [3]
- (e) Later in the play, how does Bassanio try to repay Antonio? Who helps him in doing so and why? [4]

**This paper consists of four printed sides**

### Question 2.

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

#### PORTIA

*Behold, there stand the caskets, noble prince:  
If you choose that wherein I am contain'd,  
Straight shall our nuptial rites be solemnized;  
But if you fail, without more speech, my lord,  
You must be gone from hence immediately.*

- (a) To whom is Portia addressing the above lines? Explain her current situation and the reason for it. [3]
- (b) Who are the three suitors brave enough to try to win Portia? What will they have to give up if they lose? [3]
- (c) What does the first suitor tell Portia about himself? [3]
- (d) Why does the second suitor not choose the gold casket? [3]
- (e) Which of the three suitors does Portia prefer and why? Which traits does Portia dislike in the other two suitors? What is your opinion on Portia's choice? [4]

### Question 3.

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

#### SHYLOCK

*There I have another bad match: a bankrupt,  
a prodigal, who dare scarce show his head  
on the Rialto; a beggar, that was used to come  
so smug upon the mart; let him look to his bond.*

- (a) Who is Shylock talking about in the above lines? Who is a *prodigal* and why does Shylock use that word to describe the person he is talking about? [3]
- (b) Give the details of the bond mentioned by Shylock. [3]
- (c) Why does Shylock dislike the person spoken about in the above lines? [3]
- (d) Later in this scene, how does Shylock justify the fact that there is no difference between a Christian and a Jew? [3]
- (e) Analyse the character of Shylock, using relevant details from the play. [4]

## SECTION B – POETRY

### Question 4.

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

*The most important thing we've learned,  
So far as children are concerned,  
Is never, NEVER, NEVER let  
Them near your television set.*

- (a) How do children behave when they are in front of a television screen? [3]
- (b) Why do parents allow their children to watch television? [3]
- (c) Discuss how the mind of a *beloved tot* is affected by television? [3]

- (d) What will children do if their parents throw away the television set? How, according to the poet, should parents respond to that behaviour? [3]
- (e) How should parents occupy their children in the absence of a television set? How will it help their children? Do you agree with the poet's view? Why? [4]

### Question 5.

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

*The athletes had come from so many countries  
To run for the gold, for the silver and bronze  
Many weeks and months in training  
All building up to the games.*

- (a) How many athletes have been mentioned in the poem? For which games had they gathered and from where had they come? [3]
- (b) Which was the final event of the day? What sound were the athletes waiting for and how were they waiting? [3]
- (c) What happened to the youngest athlete? How did he react to what had happened? [3]
- (d) What strange sight did the poet encounter? How did the race end? [3]
- (e) Discuss the central idea of the poem. How can you, as a young student, incorporate these learnings into your life? [4]

### Question 6.

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

*What does he plant who plants a tree?  
He plants a friend of sun and sky;  
He plants a flag of breezes free;  
The shaft of beauty, towering high;  
He plants a home to heaven anigh.*

- (a) How is a tree a friend of sun and sky? List some ways in which trees are useful to man. [3]
- (b) Explain the meaning and significance of the line: *the shaft of beauty, towering high; he plants a home to heaven anigh.* [3]
- (c) What does the poet mean when he says the one who plants a tree plants seed and bud of days to be [3]
- (d) Which unborn eyes does the poet refer to? What will they see in future? [3]
- (e) With reference to the last stanza of the poem, why does a person plant a tree? To whom is such a person compared? Why? [4]

## SECTION C - PROSE

### Question 7.

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

*I wasn't too worried about all this. I'd trained, sweated and disciplined myself for over six years, with the Games in mind.*

- (a) What was the writer not worried about? For which games had he been preparing? [3]
- (b) What startled the writer? What did he later learn about the person who had startled him? [3]
- (c) Describe the person who startled the writer. [3]
- (d) What does the writer consider his greatest prize? Why? [3]
- (e) Do you agree that *the essential thing is life is not conquering but fighting well*? Give an instance from your life to justify your opinion. [4]

### Question 8.

Answer the following questions with reference to Ruskin Bond's short story, *A Face in the Dark*.

*'Do you mean it was like this, Sahib?' asked the watchman, and raised the lamp to his own face...*

- (a) Who was Mr. Oliver? What did he usually do in the evening? [3]
- (b) Describe the setting of the story. [3]
- (c) What happened one evening when Mr. Oliver was returning from town? [3]
- (d) How did Mr. Oliver react to what he saw? What was its result? [3]
- (e) In your opinion, was Mr. Oliver imagining things around him or did he experience something paranormal? Justify your view. [4]

### Question 9.

Answer the following questions with reference to O. Henry's short story, *Hearts and Hands*.

*The younger man roused himself sharply at the sound of her voice, seemed to struggle with a slight embarrassment which he threw off instantly, and then clasped her fingers with his left hand.*

- (a) Quoting specific lines from the story, describe the three main characters. Where did they meet? [4]
- (b) How were two of the characters acquainted? Mention why they had lost contact. [4]
- (c) Discuss how O. Henry uses the character of the glum faced man to bring out the theme of compassion and kindness. Use details from the story to support your answer. [8]