

SECTION -- A
THE MERCHANT OF VENICE : SHAKESPEARE

Question- 1

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

Antonio : content ,i' faith: I'll seal to such a bond.

And say there is much kindness in the Jew.

Bassanio: You shall not seal to such a bond for me.

I'll rather dwell in my necessity.

- (a) Where are Antonio and Bassanio? Why are they there? What are the extra terms of the mentioned by Shylock in the earlier lines? (3)
- (b) Why is Antonio so confident that he would not forfeit the bond? (3)
- (c) How does Bassanio react to Antonio's willingness to seal the bond?
What aspects of Bassanio's and Antonio's character are shown in this incident? (4)

Question – 2

Portia : ...But come, I'll tell thee all my whole device

When I am in my coach , which stays for us.

At the park- gate; and therefore haste away,

For we must measure twenty miles to-day.

- (a) To whom is Portia addressing? What was the question asked by the person?
What reply does Portia give? (3)
- (b) What other steps has Portia taken to make her plan successful?
What is the *device* mentioned here? (3)
- (c) What was Portia's mood in this scene? Highlight her character in relation to this scene. (3)

Question -3

Bassanio: Therefore , thou gaudy gold,

Hard food for Midas ,I will none of thee;

Nor none of thee ,thou pale and common drudge

'Tween man and man:

- (a) What are his reasons for rejecting gold and silver caskets? Bring out the allusion mentioned in the extract. (3)
- (b) Why does Bassanio choose the lead casket?
- (c) Describe Portia's feelings when Bassanio decides to choose the lead casket?
Explain *green – eyed jealousy*.

SECTION – B Collection of Poems

Question – 4

*In the world's broad field of battle
In the bivouac of Life,
Be not like dumb, driven cattle!
Be a hero in the strife!*

- (a) What does the poet ask us to do in the *next* stanza? How? (3)
(b) What is meant by 'the bivouac of Life'? What does the poet want to convey here? (3)
(c) What kind of a poem is this? Justify the title of the poem. (2)

Question- 5

*I am not against. We have to change with times
Whole world is changing. In India also
We are keeping up.*

- (a) Who is the speaker? What has he told about his sons earlier? (3)
(b) What is the speaker not against? What is the irony highlighted here?
Why was he happy about the listener? (3)
(c) What does he think about his health? What makes him happy?
What reasons does the speaker ascribe for the present condition of his health? (4)

Question- 6

*'Can it be dark soon?' He winced up at the sun
"It's growing dim and I thought that the day had just begun.*

- (a) Why does the soldier feel that it is getting dark earlier than it used to be? (3)
(b) What was soldier's plan? What happened soon? (3)
(c) What kind of a poem is this? What message does the poet give through this poem? (3)

SECTION-C PROSE-COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES

Question-7

The evening was turning dark. Rizwan was thinking of the unending problem back home.

- (1) Who was Rizwan? On what condition was the work given? What was the difficulty that he faced? (3)
(2) What were the problems he faced at home? Where was he moving towards and why? (3)
(3) How is socio-economic inequality brought out in the story? (4)

Question-8

"To-morrow at twelve o'clock I regain my freedom and the right to associate with other men, before I leave this room and see the sunshine, I think it necessary to say a few words to you.

- (1) Where is the banker now? How does he reach there? What does he find? (3)
(2) What is the banker's plan as he looks at the lawyer? (3)
(3) Why does the lawyer write that he despises *freedom and life and health, and all that in your book is called the good things of the world?*
What does the lawyer want to prove? (4)