

STD XII

ENGLISH PAPER 2
LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

(Prescribed Textbooks)

(Maximum Marks: 100)

(Time allowed: Three hours)

(Candidates are allowed additional 15 minutes for only reading the paper.
They must NOT start writing during this time.)

Answer **Question 1** from **Section A** (compulsory) and **four** questions from **Section B**,
choosing at least **one** question from **each** of the **three** prescribed textbooks.
The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [].

SECTION A

(Compulsory)

THE TEMPEST - Shakespeare

Question 1

Choose **two** of the passages (a) to (c) and answer briefly the questions that follow:

(a) **FERDINAND:** *Most sure, the goddess
On whom these airs attend!—Vouchsafe my prayer
May know if you remain upon this island,
And that you will some good instruction give
How I may bear me here. My prime request,
Which I do last pronounce, is—O you wonder!—
If you be maid or no.*

MIRANDA: *No wonder, sir,
But certainly a maid.*

FERDINAND: *My language! Heavens,
I am the best of them that speak this speech,
Were I but where 'tis spoken.*

PROSPERO: *How? The best?
What wert thou if the King of Naples heard thee?*

- (i) Who is Ferdinand? How had he reached the island? [1]
(ii) How does Ferdinand react when Prospero chides him for calling himself *the best*? [2]
(iii) Why does Prospero speak so sternly with Ferdinand? [2]

- (iv) What does Prospero accuse him of, a little later in the scene? What does Miranda say in defence of Ferdinand?
- (v) How does Ferdinand resist Prospero? What is the outcome?
- (vi) Give the meanings of the following words as they are used in the context of the passage:

vouchsafe , bear

(b) **ARIEL** : *You are three men of sin, whom Destiny,
That hath to instrument this lower world
And what is in 't, the never-surfeited sea
Hath caused to belch up you—and on this island
Where man doth not inhabit, you 'mongst men
Being most unfit to live, I have made you mad,
And even with such like valour men hang and drown
Their proper selves*

- (i) Whom is Ariel addressing as *three men of sin*? Why does he address them in this way?
- (ii) How has Ariel troubled them just before these lines? In which shape does he appear before them?
- (iii) In which other shape had Ariel appeared before these men earlier in the play? What had Ariel done then?
- (iv) Is Ariel correct in saying that *man doth not inhabit* this island? Give reasons for your answer.
- (v) What do the men do upon hearing Ariel's words? What does Ariel say about their action?
- (vi) Give the meanings of the following words as they are used in the context of the passage:

never-surfeited , belch

(c) **PROSPERO**: *Mark but the badges of these men, my lords,
Then say if they be true. This misshapen knave,
His mother was a witch, and one so strong
That could control the moon, make flows and ebbs,
And deal in her command without her power.
These three have robbed me, and this demi-devil—
For he's a bastard one— had plotted with them
To take my life. Two of these fellows you
Must know and own. This thing of darkness I
Acknowledge mine.*

- (i) Who are the *my lords* Prospero is addressing? Where are they? [1]
- (ii) Who are *these men*? Why does Prospero want *my lords* to look at their *badges*? [2]
- (iii) *This misshapen knave*- to whom is Prospero referring? What does Prospero say about this person's mother? [2]
- (iv) Describe the condition and dress of *these men*? How did they come to be in this state? [2]
- (v) How does Prospero deal with the three of them? State what you think of Prospero's decision? [2]
- (vi) Give the meanings of the following words as they are used in the context of the passage: [2]

mark ,

misshapen

[1]

SECTION B

Answer **four** questions from **Section B**, choosing at least **one** question from **each of the three prescribed textbooks**.

THE TEMPEST - Shakespeare

Question 2

- (a) Describe the features of the *ideal commonwealth* which Gonzalo describes to Alonso and his companions. [8]
- (b) What effect does his description have on Alonso, Sebastian and Antonio? [6]
- (c) How does the *ideal commonwealth* compare to Prospero's dukedom and the enchanted island? [6]

Question 3

- (a) Referring closely to the play describe the different tasks performed by Ariel for Prospero. Why does Prospero get these tasks performed? [20]

ECHOES

Question 4

- (a) In the story *Salvatore*, describe Salvatore's life when he joined the army. In what way was this life different from his life in the village? [8]
- (b) Describe the manner in which Salvatore learnt about his fiancé's betrayal. How did this affect him? [6]
- (c) Evaluate Salvatore's nature from the manner in which he deals with the conflicts and upheavals of his life. []

Question 5

Referring closely to the short story *Fritz* describe how a traumatic incident of Jayanto's childhood returns to haunt him during his trip to Bundi. []

Question 6

How is the theme of *love for wildlife* brought out in the story
A Gorilla in the Guest Room?

REVERIE

Question 7

Referring closely to the poem *John Brown*, answer the following questions.

- (a) Narrate the instructions given to the young boy by his mother as he sets off for war.
- (b) What did the young boy's mother say and do after her son went off to war? What was the shock awaiting her when she went to receive her son .
- (c) What did the son tell his mother about his experiences of war? Comment on his final action in the poem.

Question 8

Give a detailed account of how Ehrmann presents a simple, positive guideline for life in his poem *Desiderata*.

Question 9

Discuss *Birches* as a poem that moves from naturalistic description to a fanciful explanation of why the birches are bent and concludes with philosophical exploration of a person's existence in the world.