

CLASS IX - ANNUAL EXAMINATION

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.*

*You **must** attempt at least **one** question from each of the **Sections A, B and C** compulsorily.*

*You may attempt the remaining **two** questions from any section(s) of your choice.*

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

SECTION A – DRAMA

*Answer at least **one** question from this Section.*

The Merchant of Venice: Shakespeare

Question 1.

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

Shylock: *Ho, no, no, no, no; my meaning in saying
he is a good man is to have you understand me that
he is sufficient. Yet his means are in supposition:
he hath an argosy bound to Tripolis, another to the
Indies; I understand, moreover, upon the Rialto,
he hath a third at Mexico, a fourth for
England, – and other ventures he hath, squandered
abroad.*

This paper consists of 7 printed pages.

- (i) Where does this scene take place? To whom does Shylock address these words? What does this person want from Shylock? [3]
- (ii) 'Antonio is a good man and he is sufficient'.
What does Shylock mean by these words? [3]
- (iii) Give the meaning of the word 'argosy'.
What destinations are Antonio's argosies bound for? [3]
- (iv) What are the possible dangers that threaten Antonio's argosies at sea? [3]
- (v) What does Shylock really think of Antonio? [3]
What reasons does he give for feeling this way? [4]

Question 2.

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

Launcelot: *Marry, sir, to bid my old master, the Jew, to sup tonight with my new master the Christian.*

Lorenzo: *Hold here, take this [Gives money]: tell gentle Jessica
I will not fail her; speak it privately;
Go.*

- (i) Where are the speakers? What has Launcelot delivered to Lorenzo? How does Lorenzo know who the sender is? [3]
- (ii) Who is Launcelot's "old master"? Who is his "new master"? What is the purpose of Launcelot's visit to his old master? [3]
- (iii) What does Lorenzo mean when he says, "tell gentle Jessica I will not fail her;"? Why does he urge Launcelot to "speak it privately"? [3]
- (iv) What had Jessica said to Launcelot in an earlier scene when she heard that he was leaving her father's service? [3]
- (v) What was Jessica planning to do later that night? [4]

Question 3.

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

Portia: *There, take it, prince; and if my form lie there,
Then I am yours.*

(He opens the golden casket)

Morocco: *O hell! what have we here?
A carrion Death, within whose empty eye
There is a written scroll I'll read the writing.*

- (i) Where are Portia and Morocco? Why has Morocco travelled to this place? [3]
- (ii) Morocco chooses the golden casket. [3]
What message does the scroll inside it contain?
- (iii) Who had designed the casket test? What were the rules of the test? [3]
- (iv) How many other caskets were there in the room? [3]
State what was inscribed on each of them.
- (v) What does Portia say after Morocco leaves? [4]
What aspect of her character is revealed by her words?

SECTION B – POETRY

Answer at least one question from this Section.

A Collection of Poems

Question 4.

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

*Who will buy these delicate, bright
Rainbow-tinted circles of light?
Lustrous tokens of radiant lives,
For happy daughters and happy wives.*

(Bangle Sellers, Sarojini Naidu)

- (i) Who are the speakers in the poem? Where are they going? [3]
What do they intend to do there?
- (ii) How are bangles described in the above lines? [3]
What do the bangles symbolise?
- (iii) What does the poet compare to 'fields of sunlit corn', later in the poem? [3]
Why does the poet refer simultaneously to bridal laughter and bridal tear?
- (iv) In the poet's opinion, what does a woman who 'has journeyed through life midway' take pride in? [3]
- (v) What important stages of a woman's life does the poet refer to in this poem? [4]
What colours are associated with each of these stages?

Question 5.

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

*I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.*

(Daffodils-William Wordsworth)

- (i) Describe the poet's mood at the beginning of the poem. [3]
Which word in the opening line suggests the mood?
- (ii) What arrests the attention of the poet on his walk? [3]
How does he describe this view?
- (iii) To what does he compare this view? How far does this view extend? [3]

- (iv) Explain briefly the immediate effect of this view upon the poet. [3]
 What mood is conveyed by the following lines of the poem?

*'Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
 Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.*

- (v) What lasting effect does this view have on the poet? [4]
 What is the central theme of the poem?

Question 6.

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

*'We'll answer this by asking you,
 'What used the darling ones to do?
 'How used they keep themselves contended
 Before this monster was invented?'*

(Television, Roald Dahl)

- (i) Who are the 'darling ones'? [3]
 How did they entertain themselves before the invention of television?
- (ii) In what ways do parents find the television useful or convenient? [3]
- (iii) What, according to the poet, are the harmful effects of television on the minds of children? [3]
- (iv) What kind of stories did children of Roald Dahl's generation read? [3]
 Which children's author does he name in the poem?
- (v) At the end of the poem, what does Roald Dahl ask parents to do with their television sets? How, according to the poet, would children respond to this action of theirs? [4]

SECTION C – PROSE

Answer at least one question from this Section.

A Collection of Short Stories

Question 7.

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

"I was taking care of animals," he explained.

"Oh," I said, not quite understanding.

"Yes," he said, "I stayed, you see, taking care of animals. I was the last one to leave the town of _____." He did not look like a shepherd nor a herdsman and I looked at his black dusty clothes and his grey dusty face and his steel rimmed spectacles and said, "What animals were they?"

- (i) Where is this story set? Who is the narrator? [3]
To which town did the Old Man belong?
- (ii) What animals was the Old Man taking care of? [3]
- (iii) Why was the Old Man required to leave his home? [3]
Why was he unhappy about having to leave?
- (iv) How old was the Old Man? [3]
What does he mean when he says, "I am without politics"?
- (v) What was the narrator trying to persuade the Old Man to do? What is the [4]
central theme of Hemingway's short story "Old Man at the Bridge"?

Question 8.

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

Hastily others went out, some glancing at Maggie, and some resolutely refraining from a look, until all had gone. She was alone! Just beyond the

threshold Joe Thompson, paused, and said to the blacksmith's wife, who was hastening off with the rest, --

"It's a cruel thing to leave her so."

"Then take her to the poor house: she'll have to go there," answered the blacksmith's wife, springing away, and leaving Joe behind.

- (i) Briefly explain the circumstances that had led to Maggie being left all alone. [3]
- (ii) Why did the neighbours feel that Maggie should be sent to the poor house? [3]
- (iii) What did Joe Thompson do for a living? [3]
What did he do when he re-entered the hovel?
- (iv) How had Maggie become bed-ridden? [3]
- (v) How did Maggie prove to be an angel in disguise in the life of Jane Thompson? [4]

Question 9.

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

- (i) Who is Mr Oliver? What is his profession? Whom did he encounter while taking a short cut through the pine trees? [1]
- (ii) What is the cause of his panic? Whom did he stumble on? Bring out the similarity between the two encounters that Mr. Oliver had that night? [1]
- (iii) Give a brief description of Mr. Oliver's second encounter that night. Comment briefly on the ending of the story and say what makes it effective. [1]