

**Half-yearly Examination - 2016-2017**  
**ENGLISH LITERATURE**

Time : 2 Hrs. + 15 min  
F. M. : 80

Std. : X

Attempt five questions in all.

Section A (Drama)

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow :

1. Mislike me not for my complexion,  
The shadow'd livery of the burnished sun  
To whom I am a neighbour.....
- Who is the speaker? How was his complexion? What explanation did he give for his complexion? (3)
  - Give the meanings of : (3)
    - Phoebus' fire
    - scarce thaws the icicles
    - this aspect of mine
  - What is Portia's reaction immediately after this extract? (3)
  - What do you mean by a scimitar? What was the speciality of the speaker's scimitar? (1+2)
  - State any two brave deeds that Morocco was prepared to do in order to win Portia. State in your own words how Morocco is aware of the possibility of losing in the lottery of the casket choice. (2+2)
2. Portia : I could teach you  
How to choose right but then I am forsworn
- State what Portia has said before this extract to indicate that she is in love with Bassanio. What reason does she give for not teaching Bassanio how to choose? (3)
  - How long would Portia have liked to detain Bassanio? What sin is referred to here? On what condition will this sin be committed? (3)
  - Give the meaning of 'Beshrew your eyes'. In what ways have Bassanio's eyes divided Portia? (3)
  - Why has Portia referred to time as naughty? What excuse does she give for speaking too long? (3)
  - Later in the scene, to what does Portia compare music, in case Bassanio chooses correctly? What impression do you form of Portia as a lover in this scene? (4)

SECTION B - Poems

3. I believe if a pebble is thrown upward I can pierce.....
- What does the speaker believe she can achieve by throwing a pebble upward? Give the symbolic meaning of "throwing a pebble upwards." (3)
  - Why does the poet want to soar to the heights? What do you understand by "heights"? (3)
  - Explain "dive right into the depths and swim with the sharks". Name the poet. (3)
  - What do priceless gems signify? The word 'angels' has been used in two different contexts in the poem. Explain. (3)

- e. How does the poem highlight the theme of empowerment of women? Give two examples from your observation in the modern world to show the need for empowering women. (4)
4. The morning stretched calm, beautiful and warm,  
Sprawling half clad, I gazed out a the farm of shimmering leaves and shadows. Suddenly a strong flash then another startled me.
- a. What does the poet conclude the flashes to be? What was he doing just before the flashes occurred? (3)
- b. Describe the scene immediately after this extract. (3)
- c. What was the weired experience he had? What happened to the house infront of him? (3)
- d. What was his wife's name? Describe her condition after the explosion. (3)
- e. Explain the symbolic meaning of 'silence was common to all'. What message has the poet tried to convey through this poem? (4)

#### SECTION C - SHORT STORIES

5. That is how Alagu Choudhari became the head panch. Ramadhan Mishra and others who were opposed to Jumman cursed the old lady for her folly in their heart of hearts.
- a. Who nominated Alagu as the head panch? Why did Ramadhan Mishra and others curse the old woman for her folly in their heart of hearts? Why did the old lady take the matter to the Panchayat? (3)
- b. Why didn't Jumman propose anybody's name as a nominee for the Head Panch? What special arrangements had been done by Jumman for the Panchayat? (3)
- c. What did Alagu tell the old woman after his nomination? What was her reply? (3)
- d. Describe how Alagu carried on the proceedings as the Head Panch. (3)
- e. What was the verdict passed by Alagu? How far do you agree with the title of the story? (4)
6. What picture do you form from the story 'Journey by Night' of the life and hardship of people living in the vicinity of the forests? Support your answer with suitable examples from the text. (16)