

THE FIRST COMPARATIVE EXAMINATION 2022-23

Class X (ICSE)

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

ENGLISH Paper 2

(Two hours)

Maximum marks: 80

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 one question from each of the Sections A, B and C
and any two other questions.*

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

SECTION A – DRAMA

The Merchant of Venice: Shakespeare

Question 1

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

Shylock: Why, thou loss upon loss;
the thief gone with so much, and so much to find the thief;
and no satisfaction, no revenge;
nor no ill luck stirring but what lights on my shoulders;
no sighs but of my breathing; no tears but of my shedding.

- (i) Who is the 'thief' referred to in the extract? What had the 'thief' stolen? [3]
- (ii) Who is Tubal? Why did he go to Genoa? What news did he bring about the 'thief'? [3]
- (iii) Why does Tubal say that Antonio is undone? What is Shylock's reaction on hearing about his misfortune? [3]
- (iv) Shylock talks of two very distinct emotions in the above extract. What are they? Give one reason to justify each of these emotions. [3]
- (v) In what way, by the end of the scene, does Shylock convince the audience that his attack on Antonio is without any mercy? What does this revelation of his intentions show about his character? [4]

Question 2

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

Portia: I would detain you here some month or two
Before you venture for me, I could teach you
How to choose right, but I am then forsworn;
So will I never be: so may you miss me;
But if you do, you'll make me wish a sin,
That I had been forsworn. Beshrew your eyes,
They have o'erlook'd me and divided me;
One half of me is yours, the other half yours,
Mine own, I would say; but if mine, then yours,
And so, all yours! O, these naughty times
Puts bars between the owners and their rights!
And so, though yours, not yours.

- (i) In what way does Portia show that she is more fond of Bassanio than the other two suitors who had attempted the choice of caskets? [3]
- (ii) What does Portia mean by, "I would detain you here some month or two/Before you venture for me"? [3]
- (iii) What were the inscriptions written on the three caskets? [3]
- (iv) What is the 'sin' referred to in the extract? What instructions does Portia give to others present before Bassanio makes his choice? [3]
- (v) What does this extract tell you about Portia's feelings for Bassanio at this time? What does Bassanio, say a little later, to show that he too has the same feelings for Portia? [4]

SECTION B - POETRY

A Collection of Poems

Question 3

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

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude.

(*Daffodils*, William Wordsworth)

- (i) Who is the speaker? Where was he wandering? Describe the sight that greeted his eyes when he was out walking in the countryside. [3]

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- (ii) Where were the daffodils growing? To what does the poet compare the flowers? [3]
- (iii) How many daffodils does the poet see at a glance? What are the daffodils said to be doing in the poem? What effect does this have on the poet? [3]
- (iv) What is the 'wealth' mentioned by the poet? What is the 'bliss of solitude' as mentioned in the poem? [3]
- (v) Compare the poet's mood at the start of the poem with his mood at the end. What do you suppose causes this change in mood? [4]

Question 4

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

But a caged bird stands on the grave of dreams
his shadow shouts on a nightmare scream
his wings are clipped and his feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing.

(I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou)

- (i) In the context of the poem who are referred to as 'free bird' and 'caged bird'? Why are these terms associated with them? [3]
- (ii) How has the poet described the condition of the free bird at the beginning of the poem? What terms are used in the poem to show that the free bird enjoys limitless opportunities? [3]
- (iii) How has the poet described the plight of the caged bird? What is the only ray of hope left for the bird in the adverse circumstances of its life? [3]
- (iv) Explain: [3]
'But the caged bird stands on the grave of dreams his shadow shouts on a nightmare scream'.
- (v) The song of the caged bird is said to reach distant hills. Bring out the significance of this statement with reference to the theme and background of the poem. [4]

SECTION C – PROSE
A Collection of Short Stories

Question 5

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

So the little girl walked about the streets on her naked feet, which were red and blue with the cold. In her old apron she carried a great many matches, and she had a packet of them in her hand as well.

- (i) Who is 'she'? How has the writer described her condition in the story? [3]
- (ii) What time of the year it was? What was she doing on the streets at this hour? [3]
- (iii) Where did she hide in order to protect herself from extreme cold? Why did she not want to go home? [3]
- (iv) Explain what happened when she lit the first match. What was the significance of the vision she saw first? [3]
- (v) What happened to her at the end of the story? How is the fate of the girl a complete contrast to the setting of the story? [4]

Question 6

With reference to T.S. Arthur's short story, 'An Angel in Disguise', answer the following questions:

- (i) How did the children's mother die? What did the villagers decide to do about the children? [4]
- (ii) What did Joe see when he looked in through the brightly lit window of his home later that evening? Why does this scene fill him with a sense of relief? [4]
- (iii) How does the author describe Mrs. Thompson initially? Trace the change in Mrs. Thompson's nature from the time that Maggie enters the Thompsons' home. [8]

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