

GRADE X

M.M: 80

Time: 2 Hours

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

PAPER – 2

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.

The paper has four Sections. Section A is compulsory – All questions in Section A must be answered. You must attempt one question from each of the Sections B, C and D and one other question from any Section of your choice. The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [].

SECTION A

(Attempt all questions from this Section.)

Question 1

Read the following questions and choose the most appropriate response from the choices given below (Please do not copy the question - simply write out in correct serial order the appropriate word or phrase.) [12]

1. Maggie's sweetness, love, patience and gratitude transform _____ completely.

- a) Town people b) Joe Thompson c) Mrs Thompson

2. What did the Little Match girl see when she struck the second match?

- a) A beautiful candle lit Christmas tree
b) Her grandmother who loved her dearly
c) Bright stars shooting across the sky

3. The Blue Bead is a story of a twelve-year old Indian girl who saves the life of a Gurjar woman from the _____.

- a) Bear b) Tiger c) Crocodile

4. What sight fills the poet Wordsworth's heart with joy?

- a) A field of daffodils b) The stars in the Milky Way c) The dancing waves

5. What is the encaged bird in Maya Angelou's poem sing about?

- a) Justice b) Freedom and equality c) Honesty

6. 'The Patriot' describes the fate of a _____

- a) villain b) terrorist c) hero

7. Who is Shylocks's friend?

- a) Antonio b) Launcelot c) Tubal

8. In Act 3 Scene 2: Who begs Bassanio to postpone his choice for a few days?

- a) Jessica b) Portia c) Nerissa

9. Who referred Shylock as 'the most impenetrable cur'.

- a) Salarino b) Antonio c) Duke

10. Who complimented Portia as "god-like amity".

- a) Doctor Bellario b) Bassanio c) Lorenzo

11. When Shylock speaks of Jessica's elopement he exclaims, 'My own flesh and blood to rebel!' What feeling do his words convey?

- a) pride b) envy c) betrayal

12. Why did the little match girl walk about the street?

- a) to sell the candles b) to sell the matches c) to buy some food

Section B

(Answer one or more questions from this section)

DRAMA

(The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare)

Question 2

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

PORTIA: I commit into your hands
The husbandry and manage of my house
Until my lord's return: for mine own part,
I have toward heaven breathed a secret vow
To live in prayer and contemplation,
Only attended by Nerissa here,
Until her husband and my lord's return:

1. To whose hands does Portia commit the 'husbandry and manage' of her house? What is meant by 'husbandry and manage'? [3]
2. How does Portia ensure that Lorenzo's authority will be accepted? [3]
3. Why have Portia's and Nerissa's husbands left them? Mention in detail. [3]
4. What does Portia plan to do till their husbands return? What does she actually do? [3]
5. Where does Portia say she and Nerissa will live till their husbands return? In the last Act, what does Portia's servant say his mistress has been doing prior to returning home? [4]

Question 2

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

JESSICA: Past all expressing. It is very meet
The Lord Bassanio live an upright life;
For, having such a blessing in his lady,
He finds the joys of heaven here on earth;
And if on earth he do not mean it, then
In reason he should never come to heaven.

1. To whose question does Jessica give this answer? Who is 'Past' all expressing? [3]
2. Where are Jessica and Lorenzo at this time? What responsibility has been entrusted to them? Why was there the need to do so? [3]
3. Explain the line 'And if on earth he do not mean it, then In reason he should never come to heaven.' [3]
4. What does Jessica say next to show the worth of a person like Portia? Explain in your own words. [3]
5. What does the person spoken to say about himself immediately after? What praise had he bestowed on the person being discussed here in the previous scene? [4]

SECTION C

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)

PROSE - SHORT STORIES

(Treasure Trove — A Collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories)

Question 4

Read the following extract from Hans Christian Anderson's story, 'The Little Match Girl' and answer the questions given below:

"She huddled down in a heap in a corner formed by two houses, one of which projected further out into the street than the other, but though she tucked her little legs up under her she felt colder and colder. She did not dare to go home, for she had sold no matches and earned not a single penny. Her father would be sure to beat her, and besides it was so cold at home, for they had nothing but the roof above them and the wind whistled through that, even though the largest cracks were stuffed with straw and rags. Her thin hands were almost numb with cold."

1. What did the little girl do to escape the cold? [3]
2. Why was she scared of her father? When would her father beat her? [3]
3. How were the largest cracks in the roof of the little girl's house stuffed with? [3]
4. What did the little girl do to warm her fingers? [3]
5. What did the fire produced by lighting a match give out? [4]

Question 5

Read the following extract from Norah Burke's story, 'The Blue Bead' and answer the questions given below:

With all the force of her little body, she drove the hayfork at the eyes, and one went in - right in - while its pair scratched past on the horny cheek.

The crocodile reared up in convulsion, till half his lizard body was out of the river, tail and nose nearly meeting over his stony back. Then he crashed back, exploding water, and in an uproar of bloody foam the disappeared.

He would die. Not yet, but presently, though his death would not be known for days; not till his stomach, blown with gas, floated him.

Then perhaps he would be found upside down among the logs at the timber boom, with pus in his eye.

1. What did Sibia do when she saw the woman being attacked by the crocodile? [3]
2. What did Sibia aim at to harm the crocodile? What did she use to attack the crocodile to save the woman? [3]
3. What happened to the crocodile after he was attacked by Sibia? [3]
4. When would the crocodile die? [3]
5. What did Sibia do to bring her out of water? How did Sibia deal with wounds? [4]

SECTION D

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)

POETRY

(Treasure Trove – A Collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories)

Question 6

Read the following extract from the poem 'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings' by Maya Angelou and answer the questions given below:

But a bird that stalks
down his name cage
can seldom see through
his bars of rage
his wings are clipped and
his feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing.

1. What does the free bird 'claim', and why? [3]
- How does the encaged bird behave? [3]
- Is his state of captivity natural? Why/Why not? [3]
- What do 'bars of rage' stand for? [3]
- What does the encaged bird sing about? [4]

Question 7

Read the following extract from the poem 'The Patriot' by Robert Browning and answer the questions given below:

I go in the rain, and, more than needs,
A rope cuts both my wrists behind;
And I think, by the feel, my forehead bleeds,
For they fling, whoever has a mind,
Stones at me for my year's misdeeds.

1. In which condition is the speaker here? Why? [3]
2. Explain : "A rope cuts both my wrists behind." [3]
3. Why have some people hurled stones at him? [3]
4. How had the same people treated him a year ago? [3]
5. What do you think of the crowd mentality? [4]