

Final Term Examination 2017-2018

Std. : IX
Subject : English Literature

Full Marks : 80
Time : 2Hrs.+15mins.

NOTE : Attempt five questions in all. You must attempt at least one question from each of the Section A, B and C and not more than two other questions from any section.

SECTION A - DRAMA [THE MERCHANT OF VENICE]

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

Question 1.

Portia : Now he goes,
With no less presence, but with much more love,
Than young Alcides, when he did redeem
The virgin tribute paid by howling Troy
To the sea - monster : I stand for sacrifice;
The rest aloof are the Dardanian wives,
With bleared visages, come forth to view
The issue of the exploit. Go, Hercules !

- a) Who is Alcides ? What is the 'virgin tribute' ? How did Alcides save the virgin tribute ? [3]
- b) Who is compared to young Alcides and what is the comparison between the two ? Why does Portia here stand for sacrifice ? [3]
- c) Give the meanings of : [3]
- (i) howling Troy
- (ii) bleared visages
- (iii) the issue of the exploit
- d) What are 'the rest aloof' referred to in the extract ? Who are 'the Dardanian wives' ? What were the wives doing in the scene when Alcides was saving the virgin tribute ? [3]
- e) Explain in your own words what Portia means by saying — 'Go, Hercules!'. What will she be doing at the same time ? [4]

Question 2.

Servant : Madam, there is alighted at your gate
A young Venetian, one that comes before
To signify the approaching of his lord.....

- a) Who is referred to as 'the young Venetian' ? Where has he come from and why ? [3]
- b) The visitor brought gifts of rich value. Why ? What does this indicate in the context of the scene ? [3]

- c) Why does Portia ask to the speaker to be silent ? [3]
- d) Towards the end of the scene, what does Portia say to Nerissa and what does Nerissa wish for?[3]
- e) Mention and justify any four qualities of Portia. [4]

Question 3.

Morocco : Mislike me not for my complexion,
 The shadowed livery of the burnished sun,
 To whom I am a neighbour and near bred.....

- a) Where is this scene set ? Account for Morocco's presence in this place. [3]
- b) What can you assess of Morocco's appearance and character based on the above extract ? [3]
- c) Mention any three actions that Morocco says he would be happy to perform in order to win Portia.[3]
- d) What does Morocco have to swear before he makes his 'hazard' ? [3]
- e) Portia speaks of 'the lottery of my destiny'. What exactly is she referring to ? What in your opinion are Portia's feelings regarding this matter ? [4]

SECTION B - POETRY

Question 4. That's how the race ended, nine gold medals
 They came to the finish line holding hands still
 And the banner above and nine swiling faces
 Said more than these words ever will
 Said more than these words ever will

- a) Which race is referred to here ? Who were the participants ? [3]
- b) How did the participants reach the finishing line ? Why did they not compete against one another ?[3]
- c) What were the words on the banner ? How did the words turn significant ? [3]
- d) Give an example of alliteration from the poem. Why does the stanza in the extract have five lines ?[3]
- e) Which human value is celebrated in the poem ? What message does the poem convey to us ? [4]

Question 5. Their logs held tight in death's still hands
 was proof of human sin.
 They didn't die from the cold without
 They died from the cold within.

- a) Who are referred to as 'they' here ? Where were 'they' ? What were 'they' doing ? [3]
- b) What were the logs in their hand ? What was their significance ? [3]
- c) What prevented the first man from giving up his log of wood ? Also, state the prejudice he suffered from. [3]
- d) Who among the gathering was an opportunist ? How can you say so ? [3]
- e) Would you say that 'The Cold Within' is an apt title for this poem? Give reasons for your answer. [4]

Question 6. Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem bold,
And to the presence in the room he said,
"What writest thou ?" The vision raised its head,
And with a look made of all sweet accord,
Answered, "The names of those who love the Lord."

- a) In whose presence did Abou become bold ? What made him bold ? [3]
- b) Describe the angel. How did he look at Abou ? [3]
- c) What had Abou seen on waking up one night from a deep dream of peace ? [3]
- d) What kind of a poem is this ? Give an example of a simile from this poem. [3]
- e) Explain — "book of gold". What message does the poet want to convey through the poem ? [4]

SECTION C - PROSE

Question 7. He went up casually to them and stroked their backs with every show of courteous attention. Now the truth dawned on Muni. His dream of a lifetime was about to be realized.

- a) Who is 'he' ? How is 'he' dressed ? Why was 'he' there ? [3]
- b) What did Muni often dream of ? [3]
- c) Muni assumed that a recent incident had brought this visitor to his village. Give details of this incident. [3]
- d) What was the visitor actually interested in ? What did he offer Muni soon after they met ? Why did the offer surprise Muni ? [3]
- e) Which part of the story do you find most amusing ? Give reasons for your answer. [4]

Question 8. Idleness, vice and intemperance had done their miserable work and the dead mother lay cold and still amid her wretched children. She had fallen.....

- a) Who are the 'wretched children' ? Why are they frightened ? [3]
- b) Who among these children is the most wretched ? Why ? [3]
- c) Why did the neighbours go to the old tumble down hut ? [3]
- d) In the course of the story what happens to the 'wretched children' ? [3]
- e) Comment on any two characters from the story which has impressed you the most and justify. [4]

Question 9. Answer the following questions with reference to the story. 'The Blue Bead'.

- a) Give a brief character sketch of Sibia. [4]
- b) What aspects of hardships of the life of people living in the foothills of the Himalayas are presented by the author in the above story ? [4]
- c) 'The Blue Bead' is a story of courage rather than wish fulfillment. Do you agree ? Give reference from the story to support your answer. [8]