

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'. [3]
What does Shylock mean by these words?
- (iii) Give the meaning of the word 'argosy'. [3]
What destinations are Antonio's argosies bound for?
- (iv) What are the possible dangers that threaten Antonio's argosies at sea? [3]
- (v) What does Shylock really think of Antonio? [4]
What reasons does he give for feeling this way?

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;"? [3]
Why does he urge Launcelot to "speak it privately"?
- (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 Maggle, 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? [4]
- (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? [4]
- (iii) Give a brief description of Mr. Oliver's second encounter that night. [8]
Comment briefly on the ending of the story and say what makes it effective.