

ANNUAL EXAMINATION 2020-21

Class 9 (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

The Merchant of Venice Shakespeare

Question 1

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

Nerissa

Your father was ever virtuous; and holy men at their death have good inspirations: therefore the lottery that he hath devised in these three chests of gold, silver and lead whereof who chooses his meaning chooses you, – will no doubt, never be chosen by any rightly, but one who shall rightly love. But what warmth is there in your affection towards any of these princely suitors that are already come?

- (i) Where is Nerissa at the moment? What is she discussing about? In what mood is Portia in this scene? [3]
- (ii) What qualities did Portia's father possess? Describe the lottery referred to in the extract. [3]
- (iii) What has Portia just said in response to which Nerissa speaks these words? Give Nerissa's reaction to the lottery. [3]
- (iv) Who are Sibylla and Diana? Why are they referred to later in the scene? [3]
- (v) Name any two suitors of Portia mentioned in the scene. Also write any one striking trait of each. [4]

- (iii) What did Salarino hear from the Frenchman, the previous day? What did Salarino wish? [3]
- (iv) What advice did Antonio give to Bassanio about the latter's stay in Belmont? [3]
- (v) Describe how Antonio and Bassanio parted. What does it reveal about their relationship? [4]

Question 3

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

Shylock

If a Jew wrong a Christian, what is his humility?

Revenge. If a Christian wrong a Jew, what should his sufferance be by the Christian example? Why, revenge. The villainy you teach me, I will execute, and it shall go hard but I will better the instruction.

- (i) Where is Shylock at the moment? Who else is present in the scene? [3]
- (ii) Mention any three ways in which Antonio has offended Shylock. [3]
- (iii) Who is the 'bankrupt' mentioned earlier in the scene? How will the bankrupt's loss affect Shylock as far as his revenge and financial position is concerned? [3]

- (iv) Who enters later in the scene? What news does he bring? [3]
- (v) What does Shylock mean when he says, 'I will better the instruction'? In what state of mind does he speak these words? Lately, what has happened with him that makes him speak this way? [4]

SECTION B – POETRY
A Collection of Poems

Question 4

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 contented
Before this monster was invented?'
Have you forgotten? Don't you know?

Television, Roald Dahl

- (i) What question is the poet answering in this extract? Who is the poet addressing? What does the poet say in his answer? [3]
- (ii) What 'monster' is the poet referring to in the extract? Mention any two ways in which the monster affected the children. [3]
- (iii) How did people of previous times keep themselves 'contented'? What used to be the scene in the nursery room? Why are certain words in the poem written in capital letters? [3]
- (iv) How does the 'monster' prove to be useful and convenient for the parents? How does it kill children's imagination? Name the figure of speech used here. [3]
- (v) What suggestion does the poet give towards the end of the poem? How would the children react? Later, how would the children feel? [4]

Question 5

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

Their logs held tight in death's still hands
Was proof of human sin.
They did not die from the cold without
They died from the cold within.

The Cold Within, James Patrick Kinney

- (i) Who are the people referred to in the poem? Earlier in the poem, why did they need logs? [3]
- (ii) What prejudice does the black man have and for whom? How does he want to use his stick? [3]
- (iii) What is meant by 'forlorn group'? Why was this group 'forlorn'? Which figure of speech is used here? [3]
- (iv) What proof of 'human sin' is referred to here? What happened at the end of the poem? [3]
- (v) The poet says that the characters 'died from the cold within'. What does he mean? What message is the poet trying to convey through the poem? [4]

Question 6

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

'They say it was a shocking sight
 After the field was won,
 For many thousand bodies here
 Lay rotting in the sun;
 But things like that, you know, must be
 After a famous victory.'

After Blenheim, Robert Southey

- (i) Which victory is being referred to in the extract? Who is the speaker here? Who is being addressed? [3]
- (ii) What made the sight 'shocking'? What did the speaker say about the effects of the battle on his own family? [3]
- (iii) Who fought the battle? Who were responsible for this victory? [3]
- (iv) Earlier in the poem what had the poet meant by 'wonder waiting eyes'? Who looked with 'wonder waiting eyes'? What figure of speech was used here? [3]
- (v) Comment on the underlying themes of the poem. Give reasons to support your answer. [4]

SECTION C – PROSE

A Collection of Short Stories

Question 7

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

It was my business to cross the bridge, explore the bridgehead beyond and find out to what point the enemy had advanced. I did this and returned over the bridge. There were not so many carts now and very few people on foot, but the old man was still there.

- (i) Who is the speaker in the above extract? Why is he there? Why are many people crossing the bridge? [3]
- (ii) Where was the old man sitting? Give a brief description of the old man. [3]
- (iii) Why did the old man leave his hometown? What did he do there? Why was he the last person to leave his town? [3]
- (iv) What were the old man's animals symbolic of? [3]
- (v) Why is the speaker left in despair at the end of the story? Bring out the irony and comment on the theme of the story. [4]

Question 8

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

Of the seven hundred thousand villages dotting the map of India, Kritam was probably the tiniest, indicated on the district survey map by a microscopic dot.

- (i) What does 'Kritam' mean? How many houses did the village consist of? Why was one of the houses exceptional in the village? [3]
- (ii) Describe the 'other houses' in the village. [3]
- (iii) In Muni's prosperous days, how many sheep and goats did he have? Why did he carry a 'crook'? [3]
- (iv) What did he gather for fuel at sunset? What kind of meal was provided to him by his wife? [3]
- (v) What happened when his fortunes declined? What impression do you form of his character from the story? [4]

Question 9

With reference to the short story 'Hearts and Hands', answer the following questions:

- (i) Who was the young girl in the story? Describe her appearance. Why did the glad look in her eyes slowly change to bewildered horror? [4]
- (ii) Why did Mr Easton feel embarrassed? Why did he clasp her fingers with his left hand? What did the glum faced man tell the young woman about Mr Easton? What effect did his remarks have on the young woman? [4]
- (iii) The main interest of the story 'Hearts and Hands' lies in the story's irony at the end. Explain. [8]