

Std: X
Date: 06/10/16

Marks: 80
Time: 2 hours

You will not be allowed to write during the first **ten** minutes.
This time is to be spent on reading the question paper.
The time given at the head of this paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.
The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets

Attempt FIVE questions in all.

SECTION A-DRAMA
THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

Question 1.

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

Portia: By my troth, Nerissa, my little body is aweary of this great world.

Nerissa: You would be, sweet madam, if your miseries were in the same abundance as your good fortunes are: and yet, for aught I see, they are as sick that surfeit with too much as they that starve with nothing. It is no mean happiness, therefore, to be seated in the mean: superfluity comes sooner by white hairs, but competency lives longer.

- a) Where does the scene take place? Who is the second speaker? Mention the people present in this scene. What does the phrase, 'By my troth' mean? [3]
- b) According to Nerissa why is Portia's body "aweary of this great world"? Where does the happiness lie according to her? [3]
- c) Give the meaning of :
 - i) 'they are as sick that surfeit with too much, as they that starve with nothing;'
 - ii) 'Superfluity comes sooner by white hairs, but competency lives longer'. [3]
- d) Who is 'a divine'? When can such a person be called 'a good divine'? [3]
What could Portia 'easily teach' but not practice?
- e) Against the background of what is said after this extract, briefly explain how Portia is bound by the dictates of her father's will? [4]

Q2

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: [16]

Portia: Thou shalt have nothing but the forfeiture,
To be so taken at thy peril, Jew.

Shylock: Why, then the devil give him good of it!
I'll stay no longer question.

Portia: Tarry, Jew:
The law hath yet another hold on you.

- i) At this point, why does Portia refuse Shylock even the principal amount he lent to Antonio? Who had offered Shylock more than the principal amount earlier? What was Shylock's attitude to that offer? [3]
- ii) How does Portia trap Shylock insisting that he will have nothing, but the forfeiture? Why has the forfeiture to be taken at 'Shylock's peril'? [3]
- iii) Why does Gratiano say later that Shylock has to be hanged at the expense of the state? [3]
- iv) As per the Venetian law, what penalty would Shylock have to pay for conspiring against Antonio? [3]
- v) When Portia asks Antonio if he would like to render mercy to Shylock, what is his response? [4]

SECTION B –POETRY

A COLLECTION OF POEMS AND SHORT STORIES

Question 3

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

The morning stretched calm, beautiful, and warm. Sprawling half clad, I gazed out at the form Of shimmering leaves and shadows. Suddenly A strong flash then another, startled me. I saw the old stone lantern brightly lit.

(A Doctor's Journal Entry for August 6, 1945 by Vikram Seth)

- (i) What does the poet conclude the flashes to be? What was he doing just before the flashes occurred? [3]
- ii) Describe the scene immediately after this extract [3]
- iii) What was the weird experience he had? Why did he think it weird? What was the real reason? [3]
- iv) Describe the condition of his wife. What was her name? [3]
- v) Later in the poem, the doctor asks his wife to go ahead. Why? What were his feelings after she had gone? [4]

Question 4

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

He felt the cheering power of spring,
It made him whistle, it made him sing;
His heart was mirthful to excess,
But the Rover's mirth was wickedness.

(The Inchcape Rock by Robert Southey)

- a. Describe the 'cheering power of spring'. [3]
- b. What made the Rover sing? What kind of 'wickedness' does he perform? And why? [3]
- c. Why had the sailors, passing by earlier, blessed the Abbot of Aberbrothok? [3]
- d. Describe the weather on the the Rover's second visit to the place. What made one of his sailors say..."But I wish we could hear the Inchcape Bell"? Quote the words of assurance the Rover spoke, just before this quoted line? [3]
- e. What made the Rover tear his hair in the end? What else did he do? What was the dreadful sound he heard ? What did it indicate? [4]

Question 5

'Kabuliwala, O Kabuliwala, and the chums of incompatible years engaging in their familiar bantering and innocent laughter, my heart would fill with delight.'

- a) Earlier, why had the narrator said that the sight 'moved him'? What was this sight? Explain the phrase, 'incompatible years'. [3]
- b) Why is the mother unable to overcome her fear of the Kabuliwala? Mention the 'pointed questions' she puts forth before the narrator? [3]
- c) Describe the hustle and bustle pervading the house on the day of Mini's wedding. [3]
- d) Why does the sight of Mini on the day of her wedding, leave the Kabuliwala confused ? Which question was asked by the Kabuliwala at this point? What was Mini's reaction? [3]
- e) Compare the age of Mini when she met the Kabuliwala and her age at the time of her wedding. How does it reflect on Tagore's society and the culture of Bengal at that time? [4]

OR

Question 6

In our world of braggarts and hypocrites, real heroes often go unacknowledged; With reference to 'India's Heroes', enumerate the varied examples that highlight this fact and bring out the spirit of heroism. [16]

