
 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.

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 []

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:

'----- Yet look, how far

The substance of my praise doth wrong this shadow

In underprizing it, so far this shadow

Doth limp behind the substance.

Here's the scroll,

The continent and summary of my fortune.'

- i) Identify the speaker. Where does the scene take place? Mention the characters present at the onset of this scene. (3)
- ii) Explain the reference to, 'the substance of my praise' and the artist who made the 'shadow'? In what way does the former wrong the latter? (3)
- iii) One of the suitors comments on the Elizabethan practice, when he remarks, 'To be the dowry of a second head
The skull that bred them in the sepulchre';
Elucidate the irony in the above lines. (4)
- iv) Briefly state the message on the scroll. Besides the scroll, what other object was discovered by this suitor? (3)
- v) How has one of the suitors praised Portia's hair, eyes and lips? (3)

Question 2

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

Shylock: 'This kindness will I show:

Go with me to a notary, seal me there

Your single bond; and in a merry sport....'

- i) Where does the scene take place? Which 'kindness' is being referred to here? (3)

- ii) Explain the line, 'Your single bond', mention the conditions elucidated in the bond. (3)
- iii) Earlier in this scene Antonio had remarked, 'The devil can cite Scripture for his purpose', give an account of this 'scripture' in your own words. (3)
- iv) What did Shylock mean when he said, "If he will take it, so; if not adieu; And, for my love, I pray you wrong me not."? (3)
- v) When Bassanio expresses his concern about the bond, How does Antonio reassure him? At this juncture, what does Shylock say to both of them? (4)

Question 3

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

Shylock: What, wouldst thou have a serpent sting thee twice?

Antonio; I pray you, think you question with the Jew:

You may as well.....

- i) Complete Antonio's dialect as he reasons with the Duke that it is futile to persuade Shylock to change his mind. (3)
- ii) Explain the device used in Shylock's response in the above line of the given extract. How does he exemplify this by asking another question just before this speech? Mention any three possible reasons for Shylock's hatred towards Antonio. (3)
- iii) Later, why does Gratiano remark that 'justice be accused'? Why does he say that he now 'holds opinion' with Pythagoras? (3)
- iv) At this juncture, a clerk arrives with a letter, exemplify the contents of this letter? Who had sent the letter and why was it sent? (4)
- v) How does Shylock respond to the Duke when the Duke says, 'How shalt thou hope for mercy, rendering none?' (3)

SECTION B - POETRY

A Collection of Poems

Question 4

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

'Until they're hypnotized by it,
 Until they're absolutely drunk
 With all that shocking ghastly junk'

- i) Describe what the poet sees at every house with a television set. Why is he upset with what he has seen? (3)
- ii) Why are some words in this poem printed in capital letters, while others printed in small letters? Why is it important to instill in children the need to read books? (3)
- iii) How does television prove to be useful and convenient for the parents? What effect does it have on children's imagination? (3)
- iv) Mention any three descriptive words used by the poet to portray his intense dislike of a television set. What advice is given to the parents after they get 'dirty looks' from their children? (3)
- v) Comment on the poet's different use of language for television and books. Why is there a reference to the 'children living long ago'? Identify the device used in the following line: (4)
'The younger ones had Beatrix Potter'

Question 5

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

'There's nobody on the house-tops now---
Just a palsied few at the windows set;
For the best of the sight is, all allow,
At the Shambles' Gate---

- i) Compare the scene displayed in the above extract to that of the one witnessed by the patriot a year ago. (3)
- ii) Where is he being taken in the rain? What does the rain symbolize in the context? (3)
- iii) What is referred to as 'the best of the sight'? Why is it referred so? Do you think this action is justified? (3)
- iv) Elucidate the Biblical allusion in the first line of the poem; 'It was roses, roses, all the way' (3)
- v) Explain the following lines: (4)
 - a) There's nobody on the house-tops now---
Just a palsied few at the windows set;
 - b) 'Tis God shall repay: I am safer so.

Question 6

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

'And then the old man shook his head,
And with a natural sigh.....'

- i) Who is the old man? What does he reveal in the above response?
What causes him to sigh? (3)
- ii) What was the account of the battle as related by the old man?
Mention the heroes described by him. (3)
- iii) How did the battle affect the old man's family? What was the 'shocking sight' mentioned by the old man? (3)
- iv) Which were the countries that fought this war? Where was it fought?
Who won the war? (3)
- v) Point out the refrain in the poem. What effect does the refrain have on the listeners? What do you think is the poet's attitude to war? Mention the irony as portrayed by the poet. (4)

SECTION C---PROSE
A Collection of Short Stories

Question 7

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

"Its Miss Fairchild," he said, with a smile. "I'll ask you to excuse the other hand ; " it's otherwise engaged just at present."

- i) Who was Mr. Easton? Where was he going? Who was with him? (3)
- ii) Describe the reaction of Ms. Fairchild on seeing the two men and then after recognizing Mr. Easton. What is revealed about Ms. Fairchild's nature? (3)
- iii) Explain the verbal irony when Mr. Easton remarks, 'I had to do something'; What opening did Mr. Easton perceive in the West? (3)
- iv) What did Ms. Fairchild say about Mr. Easton's life in Washington?
Elucidate Mr. Easton's comment, 'My butterfly days are over'. (3)
- v) What reason has been given by a listener for going for a smoke? Which hand of the officer is handcuffed to the convict? Why is this information crucial in the story? (4)

Question 8

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

'So the little girl walked about the streets on her naked feet, which were red and blue with the cold.'

- i) Why does the author remark that the girl was a 'picture of misery'? Why was the girl carrying matches with her? (3)
- ii) Explain how the girl's visions are symbolic of her undying hope. Give evidence from the story to support your answer. (4)
- iii) Comment on the relationship the girl shared with her father and her grandmother. (3)

- iv) Why does the little girl believe that there is hope for a better life after death? (3)
- v) Give a brief sketch of the little match girl representing the Victorian society and the indifference of the wealthy people. (3)

Question 9

Answer the following questions with reference to Ernest Hemingway's short story, 'Old Man at the Bridge'.

- i) Explain why the old man finally resigns to his fate. What does the bridge symbolize in the story? [4]
- ii) State the narrator's attitude towards the old man. Give evidence from the story to support your answer. [4]
- iii) Hemingway is known for using symbols to interpret the complex reality of his times; mention any three symbols, and their significance in the story, How does the story highlight the theme of destruction caused by war? [8]
