

The Merchant of Venice – Play

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

- a. Bassanio: How much I have disabled my estate,
By something showing a more swelling port
Than my faint means would grant continuance ...
- i) Identify the listener. What has the listener just said which makes Bassanio speak the above lines? (3)
- ii) Give the meanings of the following: (3)
1. disabled mine estate
 2. swelling port
 3. faint means
- iii) A little later, in his speech, Bassanio notifies Antonio about his plan for the repayment of the loan. Bring out the 'childhood proof' used as a comparison by Bassanio in this regard. (3)
- iv) What can you conclude about the character and the way of living of Bassanio from his speech? (3)
- v) Draw a character sketch of the listener as deduced from this scene. (3)
- b. Morocco: To win thee, lady, But, alas the while!
If Hercules and Lichas play at dice ...
- i) State briefly the brave deeds, Morocco is prepared to undertake in order 'to win' the lady, in this speech. (3)
- ii) How has Morocco subtly drawn out a comparison between the strength of the Africans and the Europeans in his earlier speech? (3)
- iii) What were the conditions laid by Portia before Morocco when he was about to make his choice? (3)
- iv) What makes Morocco refer to Hercules and Lichas in the above speech? (3)
- v) Highlight the character traits of Portia as found in this scene. (3)

SECTION B

The Treasure Trove – Poetry

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

- a. Some are made for a maiden's wrist,
Silver and blue as the mountain mist, ...
- i) Which colours of the bangles are meant for the wrists of the maidens? What do the colours symbolise? (3)
- ii) Later in the stanza, how are the buds set to dream? Mention the poetic device used. (3)
- iii) Explain the line: 'Silver and blue as the mountain mist'. (3)

- iv) Highlight the poet's usage of imagery in a bride with her bangles on her wedding morning and wedding night. (3)
 - v) Comment on the purple and grey colours as being symbolic to maturity. (3)
- b. Six humans trapped by happenstance
In bleak and bitter cold.
- i) Describe the third one in the group of six humans. Was he a prejudiced being? Give reason to justify your answer. (3)
 - ii) What did the first, second and third 'humans' do with their respective sticks? State the reasons for their action. (3)
 - iii) How did the last man succumb to death because his own selfishness in the end? (3)
 - iv) What message did the poet deliver at the end of the poem? (3)
 - v) Later in the poem, the phrase 'bespoke revenge' conveys an underlying message. Explain the context of the phrase. (3)

SECTION C

The Treasure Trove – Stories

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

- a. It was my business to cross the bridge, explore the bridgehead beyond and find out to what point the enemy had advanced.
- i) State the different activities mentioned in the opening paragraph of the story. (3)
 - ii) Pick out and explain any three elements of symbolism used in the text. (3)
 - iii) Why was the narrator closely watching the bridge? (3)
 - iv) Where did the old man, the protagonist of the story, come from? Give a brief description of the physical appearance of the old man. (3)
 - v) How does the protagonist show his concern for his animals? (3)
- b. "What is to be done with the children?" That was the chief question now.
- i) Mr Joe Thompson finally helped Maggie to move out of that place where she had been living with her siblings. What kind of a man was Mr. Thompson? Give evidence from the text that shows that he loved children. (3)
 - ii) How were the other two children rescued? (3)
 - iii) Which Biblical message did Mr. Thompson mention to his wife? (3)
 - iv) Who is the most wretched of all the children? Give reasons to back your answer. (3)
 - v) Discuss how love has acted as a redeemer in the story of 'An Angel in Disguise'. (3)