

**GREENLAWNS HIGH SCHOOL  
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2020-21**

**SUBJECT : LITERATURE IN ENGLISH**  
**TIME : 2 HRS**

**CLASS: X**  
**MARKS: 80**

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**ENGLISH PAPER – II**

*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.*

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*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.*

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**SECTION A – DRAMA**

*Answer at least **one** question from this Section.*

***The Merchant of Venice: Shakespeare***

**Question 1**

**[16]**

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

**Portia:** .....*O me, the word “choose”! I may neither choose whom I would, nor refuse whom I dislike; so is the will of a living daughter curbed by the will of a dead father. Is it not hard, Nerissa, that I cannot choose one, nor refuse none?*

- (i) Where are Portia and Nerissa? What was Portia’s complaint at the beginning of the scene? (3)
- (ii) How did Nerissa respond to Portia’s complaint? (3)
- (iii) Explain the word play on the word ‘will’. What does Nerissa reveal about the terms of the ‘will’? (3)
- (iv) Name the suitors whom Portia tells Nerissa to ‘over name’ in this scene. (3)
- (v) What is the mythical story of Sibylla? In what context does Portia mention her? What does this reveal about Portia’s character? (4)

**Question 2****[16]**

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

*Gratiano: And it is marvel he out-dwells his hour,  
For lovers ever run before the clock.*

- (i) Where is Gratiano? Who is with him? What observation about love and lovers does Gratiano's companion make immediately afterwards? (3)
- (ii) Explain the metaphor about the 'scarfed bark' that Gratiano uses to support his companion's observation. (3)
- (iii) Why is Lorenzo late? What object does Jessica give him? Why is she glad that love is blind? (3)
- (iv) Why does Lorenzo say that he loves Jessica 'heartily'? (3)
- (v) Who arrives on the scene at the very end? Why is this person irritated? What changes in their plans does he mention? (4)

**Question 3****[16]**

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

*Antonio: But little: I am arm'd and well prepared.-  
Give me your hand, Bassanio: fare you well!  
Grieve not that I am fallen to this this for you;*

- (i) According to Antonio, how is Fortune being kind to him? (3)
- (ii) What does Bassanio say in reply to Antonio? (3)
- (iii) How does Gratiano support Bassanio's point? Why are their dialogues ironic? (3)
- (iv) A little before, who had requested Portia to "wrest once the law to your authority"? Why did Portia say that this could not be done? (3)
- (v) Summarise the climactic argument by Portia which finally turns the plaintiff into the defendant. (4)

## SECTION B – POETRY

Answer at least **one** question from this Section.

### *Treasure Trove –A Collection of Poems*

#### Question 4

[16]

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

*He plants a friend of sun and sky;  
He plants the flag of breezes free;  
The shaft of beauty, towering high;*

- (i) Name the poem. Mention the question asked at the beginning of each stanza.  
To whom is it addressed? (3)
- (ii) Who are the friends of the tree? Why are they referred to as friends? Identify the figure of the speech used. (3)
- (iii) What kind of a home does the tree provide? Discuss the auditory image created by the poet just after this in the first stanza. (3)
- (iv) Explain why the tree is the ‘forests heritage.’ What will constitute the ‘harvest’ of the coming age? Mention any four products mentioned in the poem. (3)
- (v) Whose hand is referred to in the phrase ‘...of His hand’? Explain this phrase and state how it connects to the person who plants a tree. What ‘stirs’ in the heart of this person? (4)

#### Question 5

[16]

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

*Six humans trapped by happenstance  
In bleak and bitter cold.*

- (i) In your opinion, in which season did this incident occur? Describe the weather. Mention any two positive things about the situation in which the humans were stuck. (3)
- (ii) What was the race of the first person? Name the sin of which he/she is guilty and explain how and why he/she committed it. (3)
- (iii) What do the rich man and the poor man think about each other? How do they behave towards each other? (3)
- (iv) What does the word ‘forlorn’ mean and why is it ironic? Which person can be described as an opportunist? Describe this person’s attitude. (3)
- (v) Describe the tragic ending of the poem. What is the message of the poem? (4)

**Question 6****[16]**

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

*It was a summer evening,  
Old Kaspar's work was done,*

- (i) Mention where Old Kaspar and his grandchildren are, and what they are doing at the beginning of the poem. (3)
- (ii) How does Old Kaspar react to the discovery of the skull? Why is Peterkin standing 'expectant by'? (3)
- (iii) What is the poetic refrain? Explain why it is ironic, especially in reference to the 'shocking sight' that is mentioned in the poem. (3)
- (iv) Name the two military generals mentioned in the poem? How does Old Kaspar extoll their virtues? How does Wilhelmine criticise his ideal of war? (3)
- (v) The poem highlights 'the pity of war'. Justify this statement in reference to the personal tragedy that Old Kaspar suffered in the war. (4)

**SECTION C – PROSE**

*Answer at least one question from this Section.*

*Treasure Trove –A Collection of Short Stories*

**Question 7****[16]**

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

*The White Chief says that Big Chief at Washington sends us greetings of friendship and goodwill.*

- (i) What offer did the Big Chief in Washington make to the Native Indians? (3)
- (ii) Who is the Big Chief in Washington? Why does Chief Seattle say that his offer appears to be 'just' and 'wise'? What is Chief Seattle's tone? (3)
- (iii) Whom does Chief Seattle blame for hastening the decay of the Native Indians? What is his opinion about revenge? (3)
- (iv) Who are the 'wounded doe' and the 'hunter'? Why are they mentioned? (3)
- (v) On what condition will Chief Seattle accept the offer? What warning does he issue about the decay of the White man? (4)

**Question 8****[16]**

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

*As they passed down the aisle of the coach the only vacant seat offered was a reversed one facing the attractive young woman. Here the linked couple seated themselves.*

- (i) Describe the appearance of the young men who formed the 'linked couple'. (3)
- (ii) What was the first thing that Miss Fairchild said to Mr. Easton? Describe her voice and tone. (3)
- (iii) How does Mr. Easton's companion first lead Miss Fairchild to conclude that Mr. Easton is a marshal? (3)
- (iv) What does Miss Fairchild say when she speaks 'irrelevantly' and 'truly'? (3)
- (v) What feelings does Miss Fairchild have for Mr. Easton? How does Mr. Easton's companion prevent Miss Fairchild from betraying her feelings any further? (4)

**Question 9****[16]**

Answer the following questions with reference to R.K. Narayan's short story '*A Horse and Two Goats*'.

- (i) Describe the clay horse in its past and present glory. (4)
- (ii) Narrate the incident that led the red-faced foreigner to decide that it was time to look at other civilizations. (4)
- (iii) The end of the story is a mixture of joy, bewilderment and terror for Muni and his wife. Comment. (8)

