

Greenlawn's high School, Mumbai

ICSE Preliminary Examination 2023

Literature in English

English Paper-2

12/01/2023

Maximum Marks: 80

Time allowed: Two hours.

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 the paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.

The paper has four sections.

Section A is compulsory – All questions in Section A must be answered.

You must attempt one question from each of the Sections B, C and D and one other question from any Section of your choice.

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [ ].

Section A

(Attempt all questions from this Section.)

Question 1

Read the following questions and choose the most appropriate response from the choices given below (Please do not copy the question – simply write out in correct serial order the appropriate word or phrase.) [16]

- (i) In the story 'The Little Match Girl,' What day was the last evening of the old year?
  - (a) It was Christmas Day.
  - (b) It was Christmas Eve.
  - (c) It was Easter Sunday.
  - (d) It was New Year's Eve.
  
- (ii) What does the caged bird symbolise?
  - (a) The African
  - (b) The Whiteman
  - (c) The Negroes
  - (d) The African – Americans
  
- (iii) In the story 'All Summer in a Day' for how many years did it rain on Venus?
  - (a) One year
  - (b) Five years
  - (c) Six years
  - (d) Seven years

- (iv) How does the story 'The Blue Bead' by Norah Burke end?  
(a) climax  
(b) happy end  
(c) dramatic irony  
(d) triumphant note
- (v) In the poem, 'Nine Gold Medals,' where had the spectators gathered?  
(a) in the fields  
(b) on the fields  
(c) all round the field  
(d) among the fields
- (vi) Which of these statements is not correct?  
(a) Jesse Owens began to admire Luz Long.  
(b) He had trained hard for the great game.  
(c) He wanted to prove Hitler wrong.  
(d) He was initially calm and composed.
- (vii) To which mythological character does the line, 'It was I who leaped at the sun' refer to?  
(a) Zeus  
(b) Hercules  
(c) Icarus  
(d) Prometheus
- (viii) What does the author T.S. Arthur in his story, 'An Angel in Disguise' describe?  
(a) The poverty and misery of the times.  
(b) Spreading of values and social conditions.  
(c) The history of the times.  
(d) The transformative and restorative power of selfless love.
- (ix) Select the proverb which correctly sums up the theme of the poem 'Daffodils.'  
(a) Beauty is a nine days' wonder.  
(b) Live and let live.  
(c) A thing of beauty is a joy forever.  
(d) Beauty attracts; ugliness repels.
- (x) To what does the poet in the poem "Abou Ben Adhem" compare the angel?  
(a) the sun  
(b) moonlight



- (c) a lily  
(d) a star
- (xi) What was the name of Shylock's deceased wife?  
(a) Ria  
(b) Lia  
(c) Leah  
(d) Liah
- (xii) What is in Portia's mind as she leaves home for Venice?  
(a) She wants to surprise Bassanio by reaching Venice before him.  
(b) She plans to fight a legal battle for Antonio with the help of her relative.  
(c) She plans to appear in court in male attire.  
(d) She intends to offer a lot of money to Shylock to withdraw the case.
- (xiii) In Act V, who comes to announce the arrival of Portia?  
(a) Lorenzo.  
(b) Stephano  
(c) Gratiano  
(d) Jessica
- (xiv) What was Daniel, a Jewish character of the Old Testament famous for?  
(a) oratory  
(b) mathematical calculations  
(c) wisdom and sound judgement.  
(d) psychic powers.
- (xv) "I am a tainted wether of the flock." What does it reveal about Antonio's attitude?  
(a) arrogant  
(b) defeatist  
(c) humble  
(d) polite
- (xvi) With what could Orpheus draw trees, stones and even floods?  
(a) his mind  
(b) magic  
(c) his music  
(d) all of the above.

## SECTION B

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)

### DRAMA

(*The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare)

#### Question 2

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

**Gratiano:** *Thou almost makest me waver in my faith,  
To hold opinion with Pythagoras,*

- (i) Who was Pythagoras? What was his belief? [3]
- (ii) What did Gratiano say about Shylock's curish spirit? [3]
- (iii) How did Shylock react to Gratiano's railing? [3]
- (iv) What was Bassanio willing to give Shylock in order to save Antonio's life? [3]
- (v) What had Dr. Bellario written in his letter to the Duke? [4]

#### Question 3

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

**Portia:** *A quarrel, ho, already! what's the matter?*

- (i) Why were Nerissa and Gratiano quarrelling? Where was the quarrel taking place? [3]
- (ii) Later, Portia and Bassanio too were engaged in a quarrel. According to Bassanio, what would abate the strength of Portia's displeasure? Who blamed himself for this quarrel? [3]
- (iii) How did Gratiano describe the person whom he gave the 'object of the quarrel' to? [3]
- (iv) At the end, what good news did Portia give Antonio? What was Antonio's reply to this news? [3]
- (v) What is 'manna'? What was the 'manna' that Lorenzo was happy to receive? [4]



## SECTION C

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)

### PROSE – SHORT STORIES

(Treasure Trove – A Collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories)

#### Question 4

Read the extract from T.S. Arthur's short story, 'An Angel in Disguise' given below and answer the questions that follow:

*But no one said, "I'll take Maggie."*

- (i) How did the village mothers look after Maggie? Why would the poor house prove to be a blessed change for Maggie? [3]
- (ii) What was Joe Thompson's occupation? How do we come to know that Joe Thompson liked children? [3]
- (iii) As Mrs. Thompson had nothing to love and care for, what impact did this have on her personality? Where did Mrs. Thompson carry her precious burden? [3]
- (iv) What caused Maggie to be bed-ridden? Mention the names of Maggie's siblings. [3]
- (v) What words did Joe Thompson quote from the Bible that greatly subdued his wife? [4]

#### Question 5

Read the following extract from Jesse Owens' autobiography, 'My Greatest Olympic Prize' and answer the questions given below:

*"Jesse Owens, "I'm Luz Long. I don't think we've met."*

- (i) In which country were Jesse Owens and Luz Long? For which games and event did these two individuals come? [3]
- (ii) What mistakes did Jesse Owens make at this particular event? To participate in these games, how many miles did Jesse travel? [3]
- (iii) Who was the founder of these particular games? What important ideals did these games stand for? [3]
- (iv) How did Luz Long look the part of the 'Aryan – Supremacy' theory? [3]
- (v) What good advice did Luz Long give Jesse Owens? How did Jesse Owens refer to his friendship with Luz Long? Who disapproved of the friendship between these two individuals? [4]

## SECTION D

(Answer any one or more questions from this Section.)

### POETRY

(Treasure Trove – A Collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories)

#### Question 6

Read the following extract from the poem 'Daffodils' by William Wordsworth and answer the questions that follow:

*'A poet could not but be gay,  
In such a jocund company:'*

- (i) Explain the term 'jocund company'. To whose 'jocund company' was the poet referring? [3]
- (ii) To what did the poet give little thought? Name the figure of speech in the following line, 'Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.' [3]
- (iii) What activity was the 'jocund company' involved in? Mention the figure of speech used in this context. [3]
- (iv) All at once, what did the poet notice? Where was the object of the poet's interest located? [3]
- (v) What was the 'bliss of solitude'? What kind of a poem was this? [4]

#### Question 7

Read the following extract from the poem 'Abou Ben Adem' by Leigh Hunt and answer the questions that follow:

*And to the presence in the room he said, "What writest thou?"*

- (i) Who was the presence? What was the presence doing? At that moment, what made Abou bold? [3]
- (ii) What kind of look did the presence have? To what was the presence compared? What is the figure of speech used here? [3]
- (iii) Why was Abou slightly disappointed? What did he request the presence to do? Mention two qualities of Abou. [3]
- (iv) Mention three archaic words used in the poem. [3]
- (v) The second time, how did the presence appear? What did the presence show Abou? What was the theme of the poem? [4]