

GREENLAWNS HIGH SCHOOL
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION YEAR 2020

SUBJECT : ENGLISH LITERATURE
TIME : 2 HRS.

CLASS : X
MARKS : 80

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.
Time given at the head of this paper is the time allowed for writing.

Attempt five questions in all.

You must attempt at least one question from each of the sections A, B and C and not more than two other questions from the same sections you have already chosen.
The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets. []

SECTION 'A' DRAMA

Q.I. Read the extract given below and answers the questions that follow:

Bassanio : 'Well we shall see your bearing'

Gratiano : 'Nay, but I bar tonight,

You shall not gauge me by

What we do tonight

- What is Gratiano's request to Bassanio? What preparations is Bassanio making? Why? Explain the term 'bearing' given in the extract. [3]
- What does Bassanio tell Gratiano about 'his bearing'? [3]
- What is Bassanio's advice to Gratiano? How will Gratiano's behaviour affect Bassanio? [3]
- A little earlier in the play, how does Bassanio describe Gratiano's speech to Antonio? [3]
- What is Gratiano's promise to Bassanio with reference to the context? [4]

Q.II. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Gratiano : 'What's the news from Venice?

How doth that royal merchant, good

Antonio? I know he will be glad of

our success.

We are Jasons and we have won the fleece.'

- With reference to the context, explain the last line of the given extract. [3]
- What had Bassanio not mentioned to Portia, when he told her that he was worse than nothing? [3]
- Name the countries where Antonio's business ventures had set forth. [3]

- d) What does Jessica now tell them about what she had heard her father swear about, back home? [3]
- e) What are the contents of Antonio's letter to Bassanio? [4]

Q.III. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Portia : 'It must not be. There is
no power in Venice that can alter
a decree established...'

- a) According to Portia, why can't the decree be altered? [3]
- b) i) What is Portia's request to Shylock with respect to the penalty mentioned in the bond. [2]
- ii) A little later, what does Portia ask Antonio to do? [1]
- c) What are Portia's queries to Shylock about some precautionary arrangements? Why? [3]
- d) What is Portia's final warning to Shylock which turns the plaintiff into the accused? [3]
- e) How was Fortune kinder to Antonio than usual? [4]

SECTION 'B' POETRY

Q.IV. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

'What does he plant who plants a tree?
He plants a friend of sun and sky,
He plants the flag of breezes free
The shaft of beauty towering high.'

- a) What does a person who plants a tree actually do? Explain the second line of the extract. [3]
- b) What does the poet metaphorically tell us about the tree? [3]
- c) What mutual benefit does the bird and nature derive by the presence of a tree? [3]
- d) How does a tree symbolise the cycle of life? [3]
- e) What is the poet's message through this poem? Mention any three ways in which trees help us. [4]

Q.V. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

'Bangle-sellers are we who bear
Our shining loads to the temple fair...
Who will buy these delicate bright
Rainbow-tinted circles of light'

- a) Who is the narrator? Which phrase tells us that 'they' are hard-working? [3]
Of what are the multi-coloured bangles a symbol?
- b) Which type of bangles do the maidens wear? Briefly illustrate how the poet [3]
has described them.
- c) How has the poet beautifully brought out the comparison made for the [3]
bridal bangles?
- d) What type of bangle does a middle- aged woman wear? What does it [3]
reveal about her personality.
- e) What is the poet also known as? Why? What type of a poem is this? [4]
What is the poet renowned for?

Q.VI. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

'Last Week in someone's place we saw
A dozen eyeballs on the floor
They set and stare and stare and sit
Until they are hypnotised by it.'

- a) Who are 'they' mentioned in the extract? What does hypnotised mean? [3]
Who is hypnotising? What is its effect? Which literary device is used in
the first two lines?
- b) How did the parents benefit while 'they' were hypnotised? [3]
- c) What did they do before the monster was created? Finally what is the [3]
poet's plea to the parents?
- d) After the initial tantrum, what transformation is seen in 'them'? What do [3]
'they' realise about the idiot-box?
- e) According to the poet, what harm does this idiot-box bring upon 'them'. [4]

SECTION 'C' PROSE

Q.VII. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

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

- a) What message did the White Chief send to Chief Seattle, which he [3]
sarcastically finds generous and just?
- b) How does Chief Seattle elaborate on the Red Indian youth being impulsive? [3]
- c) How are the White Man's sentiments different from the Red Man [3]
where ancestors were concerned?

- d) How does Chief Seattle get emotionally sentimental about the natural features, rocks and dust? [3]
- e) In conclusion what does Chief Seattle say, will happen once the Red Indian tribe becomes a myth? Why will the white man never be alone? [4]

Q.VIII. Read the extract given below and answer the question that follow:

'But its size did not prevent it giving itself the grandiose name Kritam ----

- a) What is the meaning of Kritam in a regional language? How many houses did Kritam have? How were they built? [3]
- b) In his prosperous period of life, what was Muni's routine in the morning? What was Muni's wife's final warning before he leaves? [3]
- c) How did Muni's wife manage to keep dinner ready for him inspite of their financial crunch? [3]
- d) What advantages did Muni experience from the place where he was seated for the day? [3]
- e) What happened when the yellow vehicle stopped in front of Muni? What was Muni asked? What does the story highlight? [4]

Q.IX. Answer the following questions with reference to T.S. Arthur's sensitive and compassionate story 'An Angel in Disguise'.

- a) How has the author described the three children? [4]
- b) How did the neighbouring ladies help Maggie on the day of the funeral? How did they behave once the funeral was over? [4]
- c) How has the author described Joe Thompson's household before Maggie stepped in? What changes came about thereafter? [8]