

**I TERM EXAMINATION 2020-21**  
**CLASS- X (ICSE)**

Time : 2 hrs.

**SUBJECT- ENGLISH LITERATURE PAPER- 2**

M.M.: 80

***General Instructions:***

- i. *You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.*
- ii. *This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.*
- iii. *The time given at the head of this paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.*
- iv. *Attempt FIVE questions in all from only three text books*
- v. *You must attempt at least one question from each of the sections A,B,C and any two other questions.*
- vi. *The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [ ]*

**SECTION 'A' (DRAMA)**

**The Merchant of Venice: Shakespeare**

**Q.1** Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

**Portia:** Behold, there stand the caskets, noble prince:  
If you choose that wherein I am contain'd,  
Straight shall our nuptial rites be solemnized:  
But if you fail, without more speech, my lord,  
You must be gone from hence immediately.

- a. To whom are these words addressed? Which words reveal the social position of the person spoken to? Where does this scene take place? [3]
- b. What are the three things that the person spoken to must do under oath? [3]
- c. Explain: [3]  
If you choose that wherein I am contain'd,  
Straight shall our nuptial rites be solemnised:
- d. What must the person do if he fails? [3]
- e. What opinion do you form of the character of the person from this scene? [4]

**Q.2** 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.

- a. Where are Portia and Nerissa? How is the 'the will of a living daughter curbed by a dead father'? [3]
- b. Earlier, how had Nerissa tried to cheer Portia? [3]
- c. What was Portia's reaction to what Nerissa had said? [3]
- d. What reasons does Nerissa give to Portia to justify 'the will of a dead father' immediately after the given extract? Does the justification finally prove correct? Give reasons for your answer. [3]
- e. Towards the end of the scene, Portia affirms that she must abide by 'the will of a dead father'. What does she say? From what she says, what opinion do you form of her? [4]

**Q.3** Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:  
**Shylock :** How now Tubal! What news from Genoa? Hast thou found my daughter?

**Tubal :** I often came where I did hear of her, but cannot find her.

- a. Who is Tubal? What has been said about him a little earlier in the same scene? By whom? [3]
- b. What information does Tubal now give to Shylock concerning Antonio? How does Shylock react to this news? [3]
- c. In what context is Shylock's wife referred to in the scene? What is her name? [3]
- d. What instructions does Shylock give to Tubal at the end of their meeting? [3]
- e. Mention two prominent character traits of Shylock as through the scene from which the extract has been taken. Substantiate your answer with examples from the text. [4]

### **SECTION 'B' (POETRY)**

#### **TREASURE TROVE : A COLLECTION OF POEMS**

**Q.4** Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

What does he plant who plants a tree?

He plants, in sap and leaf and wood,

In love of home and loyalty

And far- cast thought of civic good-

His blessings on the neighbourhood

Who in the hollow of His hand

Holds all the growth of our land---

A nation's growth from sea to sea

Stirs in his heart who plants a tree.

- a. Why does the poet asks the same question at the beginning of every stanza? [3]
- b. With what objective does the person mentioned in the extract plant a tree? [3]
- c. What is his act of planting a tree described as in the extract? [3]
- d. Why does the poet use the word 'his' in the extract? [3]
- e. What does this person hold in the hollow of his hand? What stirs in his heart? [4]

**Q.5** Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Continuous as the stars that shine

And twinkle on the Milky Way,

They stretched in never ending line

Along the margin of a bay;

Ten thousand saw I at a glance,

Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

- a. Who is the 'I' referred to in the extract? What did he see? Where? [3]
- b. What is the Milky Way? Why does the poet refer to the Milky Way? [3]
- c. **Explain:** Ten thousand saw I at a glance,  
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance. [3]
- d. To what does the poet compare himself in the beginning of the poem? Explain the comparison. [3]
- e. Describe in detail what happens when the poet is in a pensive mood. [4]

- Q.6** Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:  
 Some are meet for a maiden's wrist,  
 Silver and blue as the mountain mist,  
 Some are flushed like the buds that dream,  
 On the tranquil brow of the woodland stream,  
 Some are aglow with the bloom that cleaves  
 To the limpid glory of new born leaves.
- What objects are referred to as 'some' in the extract? What is the meaning of 'meet'? What are they 'meet' for? [3]
  - What are they compared to in the second line of the extract? Explain the comparison. [3]
  - Explain:** Some are flushed like the buds that dream,  
 On the tranquil brow of the woodland stream, [3]
  - Explain the imagery that is used in the last two lines of the extract. [3]
  - Which stages of a woman's life have been dealt with in the poem?  
 How is the poem a reflection of these stages? [4]

### **SECTION 'C' (PROSE)**

#### **A COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES**

- Q. 7** Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:  
 The torch fell from his trembling hand. He turned and scrambled down the path, running blindly through the trees and calling for help.
- Who is he? Where is he? What had brought him there? [3]
  - Why was his hand trembling? [3]
  - What does he see immediately after this extract? [3]
  - Does anyone come to help him? If so who is it? [3]
  - If you were Mr. Oliver, what would your feelings be at the end of the story? [4]
- Q. 8** Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:  
 But let us hope that the hostilities between us may never return. We would have everything to lose and nothing to gain. Revenge by young men is considered gain, even at the cost of their own lives, but old men who stay at home in times of war, and mothers who have sons to lose, know better.
- From where has the extract been taken? Who is referred to as 'us' by the speaker? [3]
  - Why does the speaker hope that the hostilities between us may never return? What hostilities is he referring to? [3]
  - What does the speaker have to say about revenge in the extract? [3]
  - What happens when the young Red Indians get angry? What does their action signify? [3]
  - What opinion do you form of the speaker from the above extract? [4]
- Q. 9** Answer the following questions with reference to Hans Anderson's short story 'The Little Match Girl'
- Describe the condition of the little girl and why she was out in the streets on New Year's Eve. [4]
  - What does the girl see in the light of the first two matches? [4]
  - What insight do we get into the lives of the poor children during the Victorian period through this story? [8]

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