

**I TERM EXAMINATION 2021-22**  
**CLASS- IX (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 the three text books. You must attempt at least one question from each of the Section A, B and C and not more than two other questions from the same books you have already compulsorily chosen.
- v. The intended marks for question 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:

Bassanio: In Belmont is a lady richly left;  
And she is fair, and, fairer than that word,  
of wonderous virtues: sometimes from her eyes  
I did receive fair speechless messages:

- a. Who is the speaker addressing? Where is he? What is the occasion? [3]
- b. Who is the 'lady' referred to here? [3]  
Why is the speaker mentioning her? What does he mean by richly left?
- c. How does the speaker describe the lady? [3]
- d. Explain 'And she is fair, and, fairer than that word, of wonderous virtues: [3]
- e. Give any four character traits of the speaker. [4]

**Q.2** Gratiano:

Let me play the fool  
With mirth and laughter let old wrinkles come.  
And let my liver rather heat with wine  
Than my heart cool with mortifying groans.  
Why should a man whose blood is warm within  
Sit like his grandsire cut in alabaster.  
Sleep when he wakes, and creep into the jaundice  
By being peevish?

- a. To whom is the speaker talking to? Where is he? Who are the other persons present at the occasion? [3]
- b. What is the occasion of this speech? Whom is Gratiano criticising indirectly? What advice does Gratiano give him? [3]
- c. What are the three ways in which the speaker wishes to approach his old age? [3]
- d. What impressions does the speaker leave on his friends? Quote the lines to support your answer. [3]
- e. Describe the character traits of the speaker on the basis of the extract. [4]

**Q.3 Nerissa:**

You father was ever virtuous, and holy men at their death have good inspirations: therefore, the lottery that he hath devised in these three chests of gold, silver and lead, where of who chooses his meaning chooses you, will, no doubt, never be chosen by any rightly but one who you shall rightly love. But what warmth is there in your affection towards any of these princely suitors that are already come?

- a. When does Nerissa say these words, and why? To whom does she say these words? [3]
- b. Whom is your father' referred to? What does Nerissa think of him? [3]
- c. What is the purpose of the lottery devised by him? Describe the conditions of the contest? [3]
- d. Explain 'whereof who chooses his meaning chooses you.' [3]
- e. Name the princely suitors mentioned by Nerissa and state feelings of the listener towards these suitors. [4]

**SECTION 'B' (POETRY)**

**TREASURE TROVE**

**Q.4** 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. Where is the poet? What is he doing? What pleasant sight made him compare the flowers to the stars? [3]
- b. Explain the figure of speech, used in the first line and the fifth line of the extract. [3]
- c. Where did he see the flowers? Describe the appearance of the flowers? [3]
- d. Explain "Tossing their heads in sprightly dance: [3]
- e. What message is conveyed through the poem? [4]

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

Some are like fields of sunlit corn,  
Meet for a bride on a her bridal morn,  
Some, like the flame of her marriage fire,  
or, rich with the hue of her heart's desire  
Tinkling, luminous, tender and clear,  
like her bridal laughter and bridal tear.

- a. What kinds of bangles have earlier been mentioned? Describe. [3]
- b. Which hues of bangles are cherished by a bride? What are they symbolic of? [3]
- c. Explain 'Some, like the flame of her marriage fire, or, rich with hue of her heart's desire'. [3]
- d. What fulfils the life of an Indian wife and mother? [3]
- e. Explain the figure of speech used in the extract? [4]

**Q.6** Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

"What does he plant who plants a tree?  
He plants cool shade and tender rain  
And seed and bud of days to be.  
And years that fade and flush again."

- a. Whom does the poet admire in the poem? Name the poem and the poet. [3]
- b. What does the poet mean by "fade and flush again"? [3]
- c. Explain the "cool shade and tender rain." [3]
- d. Mention at least two benefits of planting a tree. Can we live without trees? [3]
- e. What message do you get from this poem? How far the message is relevant in today's scenario? [4]

### SECTION 'C' (PROSE)

#### A Collection of Short Stories

- Q. 7** Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:  
Tribe follows tribe, and nation follows nation, like the waves of the sea. It is the order of nature, and regret is useless. Your time of decay may be distant, but it will surely come, for even the White Man whose God walked and talked with him as friend to friend, cannot be exempt from the common destiny. We may be brothers after all.
- a. How has the Chief shown earlier that he is not happy about the fate of his people? [3]
  - b. What is the order of nature referred to by the Chief? How does he hint that justice will be done at the end? [3]
  - c. What is referred to: the "White Man whose God walked and talked with him? [3]
  - d. Give the meaning and significance of:  
"We may be brothers after all." [3]
  - e. What could be the common destiny of man? Give the hints given in the extract to show that the Chief foresees the unity of all human beings. [4]
- Q. 8** Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:  
From before Kipling's time, the school had been run on English public school lines: and the boys, most of them from wealthy Indian families, wore blazers, caps and ties. Life magazine, in a feature on India, had once called it the 'Eton of the East'. Mr. Oliver had been teaching in the school for several years.
- a. Who was Mr. Oliver? What was his usual activity during the evening? [3]
  - b. What was called 'Eton of the East' Why? [3]
  - c. What kind of weather was there on the night when Oliver was returning to his school? How does it add to the setting of the story? [3]
  - d. What did Oliver encounter while coming back to school one night? What did he do after that? [3]
  - e. What kind of a man was Oliver as described at the beginning of the story? How did he prove himself opposite of this description? [4]
- Q. 9** Answer the following questions with reference to O. Henry's short story? Hearts and Hands.
- a. Justify the statement that "appearances can be deceptive" with reference to the story. [4]
  - b. Which characteristic trait does the marshal reveal by choosing to lie for Mr. Easton? How does this depict the overall theme of Hearts and Hands? [4]
  - c. People often jump to conclusions that aren't true. They ignore obvious details when the information is not appealing to them. How far are these statements applicable in the story 'Hearts and Hands'. [8]

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