
ICSE Board
Class X English Literature
Board Paper II – 2016
(Two hours)

Total 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.

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

*Attempt **five** questions in all.*

*You must attempt **one** question from each of the **Sections A, B and C***

*And any **two** other questions*

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

SECTION A - DRAMA

The Merchant of Venice : Shakespeare

Question 1.

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

Portia : As from her lord, her governor, her king.
 Myself and what is mine to you and yours
 Is now converted: but now I was the lord
 Of this fair mansion, master of my servants,
 Queen o'er myself; and even now, but now,
 This house, these servants, and this same myself,
 Are yours, my lord:

- (i) Where are Portia and Bassanio? What has just taken place which makes Portia to speak these words? What was the inscription given in the lead casket? [3]
- (ii) What does Bassanio say in praise of Portia's portrait? [3]
- (iii) What news saddens Bassanio on this happy occasion? What does Portia ask him to do? [3]
- (iv) Who is Balthazar? What was the work assigned to him by Portia? [3]
- (v) Where does Portia really plan to go? What similarity do we find between Portia and Antonio? What does this scene reveal about the character of Portia? Give a reason to justify your answer. [4]

Question 2

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

But mercy is above this sceptred sway;
It is enthroned in the hearts of kings,

It is an attribute to God himself;
And earthly power doth then show likest God's
When mercy seasons justice.

- (i) Name the speaker. Why did the speaker appeal to the Jew for mercy? Earlier who else in the play appealed for mercy? [3]
- (ii) What are the three qualities of mercy which the speaker has stated just before the extract? [3]
- (iii) Give the meaning of 'But mercy is above this sceptred sway'. How does Shylock turn down Portia's plea for mercy? What does he insist on? [3]
- (iv) What is Bassanio ready to do for Antonio in the court? Why is Bassanio snubbed immediately by the disguised Portia? [3]
- (v) Mention two prominent character traits of Shylock as highlighted through the scene from which the extract has been taken. Substantiate your answer with examples from the text. [4]

Loyalties : John Galsworthy

Question 3.

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

Inspector : [*Sharply*] Are you sure there was nobody in the room already?
De Levis : [*Taken aback*] I don't know. I never thought. I didn't look under bed, if you mean that
Inspector : [*Jotting*] Did not look under bed. Did you look under it after the theft?
De Levis : No. I didn't.
Inspector : Ah! Now, what *did* you do after you came back from your bath?
Just give us that precisely.

- (i) What reply did De Levis give to the inspector's last question in the extract? [3]
- (ii) What made De Levis check the contents of his pocket book? What did he find there? Whom did he go to upon discovering the theft? [3]
- (iii) Who was Robert? Where was Robert's room? At what time did he take De Levis' clothes and boots? [3]
- (iv) What is the Inspector's final theory of the theft? [3]
- (v) Whom did De Levis accuse of stealing his money? What were his reasons for making this accusation? [3]

Question 4.

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

Mabel : [*Utterly surprised*] Ronny! Do they want me in Court?
Dancy : No.
Mabel : What is it, then? Why are you back?
Dancy : Spun.
Mabel : [*Blank*] Spun? What do you mean? What's spun?

Dancy : The case. They've found out through those notes.
Mabel : Oh! [*Staring at his face.*] Who?

- (i) Where are Mabel and Dancy at this time? What was Mabel doing just before this conversation? [3]
- (ii) Why did Mabel say, "Do they want me in court?" Explain the meaning of *spun* in the extract? [3]
- (iii) What 'notes' is Dancy talking about now? How does Mabel react immediately after the extract? [3]
- (iv) Dancy leaves a note for his best friend towards the end of the play. What is the name of his best friend? What is written in the note? [3]
- (v) What does Dancy do at the end? Why does he do that? What is your opinion of Mabel and Mabel and Dancy? [4]

SECTION B – POETRY

A Collection of Poems

Question 5.

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

The woods are lovely, dark and deep.
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

(*Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*: Robert Frost)

- (i) Who is 'I' referred to in the extract? Which season of the year is it? What evidence is there in the poem to support your answer? [3]
- (ii) Who has made him aware of his mistake? How does it make the speaker aware of his mistake? What does it seem to say? [3]
- (iii) What are the three sounds heard? [3]
- (iv) What has been said earlier by the poet about the owner of the woods? [3]
- (v) What does lovely, dark and deep suggest? What is the underlying significance in the repetition of the last two lines of the extract? Mention the moral tag that the poet attaches to the poem. [4]

Question 6.

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

The morning stretched calm, beautiful, and warm.
Sprawling half clad, I gazed out at the form
Of shimmering leaves and shadows. Suddenly
A strong flash, then another, startled me.
I saw the old stone lantern brightly lit.

(*A Doctor's Journal Entry for August 6, 1945*: Vikram Seth)

- (i) In which country did the incident described in the poem occur? What had caused the flashes? What happened to his house soon after? [3]
- (ii) Describe the injuries suffered by the Doctor. [3]
- (iii) What was his wife's name? What happened to a house standing before them? [3]
- (iv) How does he describe the people he met on the way? [3]
- (v) Why were the people walking with their hands away from their bodies? What was common to all of them? What message does the poem convey? [4]

SECTION C - PROSE
Collection of Short Stories

Question 7.

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

"That only leaves October, November and December," said the Queen. "And after that we shall have to begin all over again."

"No, we shan't," said the King, "because I think twelve daughters are enough for any man and after the birth of dear little December I shall be reluctantly compelled to cut off your head."

He cried bitterly when he said this, for he was extremely fond of the Queen.

- (i) Why did the king change the names of his daughters so many times? [3]
- (ii) In what way Princess September different from her sisters? What reason does the author give for this difference in their temperaments? [3]
- (iii) Which unusual birthday tradition did the King of Siam observe? Mention some of the gifts that he gave. [3]
- (iv) Why did Princess September put the Nightingale in a cage? What reason did she give to the bird for putting it in a cage and then keeping it there? [3]
- (v) How did the bird behave upon being locked in a cage? What is the message of the story? [4]

Question 8.

The Last leaf explores the theme of Friendship and Self-sacrifice. Discuss this with close reference to O' Henry's 'The Last Leaf'. [16]

Animal Farm - George Orwell

Question 9.

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

These three had elaborated old Major's teachings into a complete system of thought, to which they gave the name of Animalism.

- (i) Who had elaborated on Old Major's teachings? [3]
- (ii) When and where did they hold their secret meetings? How did the meetings end? [3]
- (iii) What had the Old Major said about the 'nature of this life of ours'? [3]
- (iv) Who were the most faithful describes? How did they contribute towards the preparations for the rebellion? [3]
- (v) How did the animals celebrate the day after the rebellion? [4]

Question 10.

Give an account of how Napoleon and his companions were unjust and cruel in their behaviour towards the other animals. [16]

To Sir With Love : E.R. Braithwaite

Question 11.

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

NEXT MORNING, I HAD AN IDEA. IT WAS nothing clear cut, merely speculative, but I considered it all the way to school. Then, after assembly, as soon as they were quiet I waded in. This might be a bit rough, I thought, but here goes.

"I am your teacher, and I think it right and proper that I should let you know something of my plans for this class."

- (i) Who is 'I' in the above lines? Where is he? In what mood was he when he entered the class? [3]
- (ii) What did the narrator expect from his students at this moment? [3]
- (iii) Who entered soon after this? What did she do that made the narrator angry? What challenge did he give her? [3]
- (iv) What was the effect of the challenge on her? What plan did the narrator have in mind regarding the conduct of the young ladies? Whose help did he seek for this? [3]
- (v) What did the narrator expect from the boys? What was the reaction of the children when they heard the narrator's expectations? [4]

Question 12.

Give an account of the incidents of racial discrimination that Braithwaite has described in the novel 'To Sir With Love'. [16]