



## ICSE 2021 ENGLISH LITERATURE

Time allowed: 2 Hrs.

Maximum Marks: 80

### *General Instructions:*

1. Attempt **five** questions in all.
2. You must attempt at least **one** question from each of the **Sections A, B and C**.
3. You may attempt the remaining **two** questions from any section(s) of your choice.
4. The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [ ].

### SECTION A – DRAMA

Answer at least **one** question from this Section.

#### *The Merchant of Venice: Shakespeare*

#### **Question 1.**

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

MOROCCO: Mislike me not for my complexion,  
The shadowed livery of the burnished sun,  
To whom I am a neighbour and near bred.  
Bring me the fairest creature northward born,  
Where Phoebus' fire scarce thaws the icicles,  
And let us make incision for your love  
To prove whose blood is reddest, his or mine.  
I tell thee, lady, this aspect of mine  
Hath feared the valiant. By my love I swear

The best-regarded virgins of our clime  
Have loved it too. I would not change this hue  
Except to steal your thoughts, my gentle queen.

PORTIA: In terms of choice I am not solely led  
By nice direction of a maiden's eyes.  
Besides, the lottery of my destiny  
Bars me the right of voluntary choosing.

- (i) Where is this scene set? Account for Morocco's presence in this place. [3]
- (ii) What can you assess of Morocco's appearance and character based on the given extract? [3]
- (iii) Mention any three actions that Morocco says he would be happy to perform in order to win Portia. [3]
- (iv) What does Morocco have to swear before he makes his 'hazard'? [3]
- (v) Portia speaks of 'the lottery of my destiny'. What exactly is she referring to? What in your opinion are Portia's feelings regarding this matter? [4]

### Question 2.

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

SHYLOCK: Shall I not receive my principal?

PORTIA: Thou shalt have nothing but the forfeiture,  
To be taken at thy peril, Jew.

- (i) Explain what Portia means by the above words. [3]
- (ii) How does Shylock respond to her words? [3]
- (iii) What more does Portia tell Shylock about the Laws of Venice as applicable to an 'alien' (foreigner)? [3]
- (iv) What does Antonio propose to do with his share of Shylock's goods? [3]
- (v) What role does Portia play in this scene? What does this reveal of her character? [4]

### Question 3.

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

Antonio: But little: I am arm'd and well prepared.  
Give me your hand, Bassanio: fare you well!  
Grieve not that I am fallen to this for you;  
For herein Fortune shows herself more kind  
Than is her custom: it is still her use  
To let the wretched man outlive his wealth,  
To view with hollow eye and wrinkled brow  
An age of poverty; from which lingering penance  
Of such misery doth she cut me off.

- (i) Where is this scene set? To whom are these words addressed? To what question does Antonio respond with the words, '*But little:*'? [3]
- (ii) What does Antonio mean when he says, "*Grieve not that I have fallen to this for you*"? [3]
- (iii) What does Antonio instruct Bassanio to do immediately after speaking these lines? [3]
- (iv) What is Bassanio's response to this speech? [3]
- (v) On what note does Antonio conclude his speech? What does this reveal of Antonio's attitude to life and death? [4]

## SECTION B – POETRY

Answer at least **one** question from this Section.

### *A Collection of Poems*

#### **Question 4.**

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

“Now tell us what it was all about”.  
Young Peterkin, he cries.  
And little Wilhelmine looks up  
With wonder – waiting eyes,  
“Now tell us all about the war,  
And what they fought each other for”.  
– After Blenheim, Robert Southey

- (i) Who are Peterkin and Wilhelmine ? How does the poet describe the scene at the beginning of the poem ? [3]
- (ii) What did Young Peterkin find and where ? Describe it. [3]
- (iii) Who is referred to as “each other” ? What did they fight for ? [3]
- (iv) To whom are the words in the extract addressed ?  
How was this person’s family affected by the war ? [3]
- (v) What, according to the poet, are the consequences that are often associated with great and famous victories ? [4]

#### **Question 5.**

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

‘All right!’ you’ll cry. ‘All right!’ you’ll say,  
‘But if we take the set away,  
What shall we do to entertain  
Our darling children? Please explain!’

(*Television*, Roald Dahl)

- (i) What important lesson does the poet say he has learnt at the start of the poem? [3]
- (ii) Describe some of the scenes that the poet says he has seen in houses which have televisions. [3]
- (iii) List the ways in which television viewing affects the mind of a 'beloved tot'. [3]
- (iv) What other activity does the poet recommend to entertain children? Mention two ways in which this activity would benefit them. [3]
- (v) What does the poet advise readers to do at the end of the poem? What does he assure them will happen if they followed his suggestion? What would you say is the central idea in this poem? [4]

**Question 6.**

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

All round the field spectators were gathered  
 Cheering on all the young women and men  
 Then the final event of the day was approaching  
 The last race about to begin.  
 – Nine Gold Medals, David Roth

- (i) Where had the 'young women and men' come from? [3]  
 What had brought them together?  
 How had they prepared themselves for the event?
- (ii) What was the last event of the day? [3]  
 How many athletes were participating in this event?  
 What signal were they waiting for?
- (iii) What happened to the youngest athlete half way through the race? [3]  
 How did he respond?
- (iv) What 'strange' turn did the story take at this point? [3]
- (v) Why does the poet say that the banner – 'Special Olympics' could not have been nearer the mark? [4]

## SECTION C – PROSE

Answer at least **one** question from this Section.

### *A Collection of Short Stories*

#### **Question 7.**

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

He gave her a shove. But she did not move, rather she let herself be moved only by him and nothing else. They edged away from her; they would not look at her. She felt them go away.

- (i) Who is 'she'? Describe her. [3]
- (ii) Where is this story set? Mention any two ways in which the way of life on their planet differs from life on earth. [3]
- (iii) To what does she compare the sun? What does this tell us about her? [3]
- (iv) Why did the other children not come to her aid when William shoved her? [3]
- (v) How does her behaviour set her apart from the others? Why do you suppose the other children treat her the way they do? [4]

#### **Question 8.**

Answer the following questions with reference to R.K. Narayan's short story entitled 'A Horse and Two Goats':

The foreigner followed his look and decided that it would be a sound policy to show an interest in the old man's pets. He went up casually to them and stroked their backs with every show of courteous attention. Now the truth dawned on Muni. His dream of a lifetime was about to be realised.

- (i) What did Muni often dream of? [3]
- (ii) How was the foreigner dressed? Why did Muni feel the urge to run when he first laid eyes on him? What stopped him from doing so? [3]
- (iii) Muni assumed that a recent incident had brought this visitor to his village. Give details of this incident. [3]

- (iv) What was the visitor actually interested in? What did he offer Muni soon after they met? Why did the offer surprise Muni? [3]
- (v) Which part of the story do you find most amusing? Give reasons for your answer. [4]

**Question 9.**

Answer the following questions with reference to Ray Douglas Bradbury's short story, 'All Summer in a Day' :

- (i) Name the planet on which this story is set. [4]  
Describe everyday life on this planet.
- (ii) Why was there so much excitement in the school room that morning? [4]  
What set Margot apart from the other children ?
- (iii) Describe how the planet was transformed when the sun came out and shone briefly over it. [8]  
Why was Margot not able to witness this phenomenon ?  
What emotion do you suppose the other children experienced when Margot emerged at the end of the story ?