



ALLEN CAREER INSTITUTE

PRELIMINARY EXAM : 2019-20

Paper Set : SET-I(HT)

SUBJECT : English Literature

Max Marks : 80

ICSE Board - Sample Paper - 1

Duration : 2 Hrs.

- ▶ *ATTEMPT FIVE QUESTIONS IN ALL FROM ONLY THREE TEXT BOOKS.*
- ▶ *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 BOOKS YOU HAVE ALREADY COMPULSORILY CHOSEN.*
- ▶ *THE INTENDED MARKS FOR QUESTIONS OR PARTS OF QUESTIONS ARE GIVEN IN BRACKETS [].*

SECTION - A (DRAMA)

Answer one or more questions from only one of the following plays.

Q.1 Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow :

Antonio : Commend me to your honourable wife.
Tell her the process of Antonio's end;
Say how I loved you. Speak me fair in death,
And when the tale is told, bid her be judge
Whether Bassanio had not once a love.
Repent but you that you shall lose your friend,
And he repents not that he pays you debt;
For if the Jew do cut but deep enough,
I'll pay it presently with all my heart.

Bassanio : Antonio, I am married to a wife
Which is as dear to me as life itself;
But life itself, my wife, and all the world,
Are not with me esteemed above the life.
I would lose all-ay, sacrifice them all
Here to this devil-to deliver you.

- (i) When does Antonio speak these lines? Do you think that the Jew had planned to kill Antonio? [3]
- (ii) What can you understand about Antonio's present condition from his speech? [3]
- (iii) What does Antonio want Bassanio to do ? [3]
- (iv) Who snubs Bassanio's claims and how? [3]
- (v) What does Bassanio claim to do for Antonio? What does it tell you about their friendship? [4]

Q.2 Read the following extract given below and answer the question that follow:

Portia : If to do were as to know what were good to do, chapels had been churches and poor men's cottages princes' palaces. It is a good divine that follows his own instructions. I can easier teach twenty what were good to be done, than be one of the twenty to follow mine own teaching. The brain may devise laws for the blood, but a hot temper leaps o'er a cold decree : Such a hare is madness the youth-to skip o'er the meshes of good counsel the cripple.

- (i) Where are the speaker's? What are they speaking about ?
- (ii) How does Portia retort Nerissa's view? What is her mood?
- (iii) What are Portia's view of Nerissa's thought? What according to her comes in the way of man's happiness and prosperity ?
- (iv) What is youth compared to and how?
- (v) Who enters later in the scene ? What news does he bring ? How does Portia react to it ?

Q. 3. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Shylock : What judgement shall I dread, doing no wrong ?
You have among you many a purchased slave,
Which-like your asses and your dogs and mules-
You use in abject and in slavish parts,
Because you bought them. Shall I say to you,
Let them be free! Marry them to your heirs!
Why sweat they under burdens ? Let their beds
Be made as soft as yours and let their palates
Be seasoned with such viands? You will answer.
"The slaves are ours," So do I answer you.
The pound of flesh, which I demand of him,
Is dearly bought. 'Tis mine and I will have it.

- (i) What reasons does Shylock give to justify his refusal to accept the loan amount? [3]
- (ii) What offer does Bassanio put forth to save Antonio? How does Shylock react to it? [3]
- (iii) What does the Duke tell Shylock? [3]
- (iv) What is Shylock's reaction to the Duke's statement? [3]
- (v) How does Shylock's reason his stance regarding the bond ? [4]

SECTION B : POETRY

Answer one or more questions from this section.

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

A free bird leaps
On the back of the wind
and floats downstream
till the current ends
and dips his wing
in the orange Sun rays
and dares to claim the sky (I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings-Maya Angelou)

- (i) How does the poet describe the world of nature? [3]
- (ii) What is the symbolic reference to the Sun, Sky and the Wind? Explain with reference to the poem. [3]
- (iii) Here what is 'free bird metaphor' for? [3]
- (iv) How does the caged bird behave and why? [3]
- (v) Is his state of captivity natural ? Give reasons for your answer. [4]

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

The waves beside them danced; but they
out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed-and gazed-but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought: (Daffodils-William Wordsworth)

- (i) Explain the above lines. [3]
- (ii) Give meaning of jocund. Who could not help being happy? [3]
- (iii) With reference to the above extract state why wordsworth can be called nature Poet. [3]
- (iv) How does the daffodils fill the author with pleasure? [3]
- (v) What is 'wealth' referred to in the above lines? How does the author describe this wealth. [3]

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

He gave out a cry of frustration and anguish
His dreams and his efforts dashed in the dirt
But as sure as I'm standing here telling the story
Now it's a strange one, but here's what occurred.

(Nine Gold Medals-David.....)

- (i) Who is 'he' referred to in the above lines? [3]
- (ii) Why did he cry out ? [3]
- (iii) What is 'strange' referred to in the above lines? [3]
- (iv) What do you think was 'his dreams' ? Were they dashed into the dirt? [3]
- (v) What according to you is the underlying message of the poem? [4]

SECTION C : PROSE

Answer one or more questions from only ONE of the following books that you have studied:

Q.7 Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

A Collection of Short Stories

Tribes follow tribes, and nations follow nations, 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. We will see.

We will ponder your proposition and when we decide we will let you know. But should we accept it, I here and now make this condition that we will not be denied the privilege without this soil is sacred in the estimation of my people. Every hillside, every valley, every plain and grove, has been hallowed by some sad or happy event in days long vanished. Even the rocks, which seem to be dumb and dead as they swelter in the Sun along the silent shore, thrill with memories of stirring events connected with the lives of my people, and the very dust upon which you now stand responds more lovingly to their footsteps than yours, because it is rich with the blood of our ancestors and our bare feet are conscious of the sympathetic touch.

- (i) How does the speaker realise that he should not mourn at the untimely fate of his people. [3]
- (ii) How is every part of the soil sacred to his tribal people? Explain. [3]
- (iii) Why does the dust upon which they are standing respond more lovingly to the tribal people than those of the white people? [3]
- (iv) What comment does the speaker make about the destiny of the white people? [3]
- (v) What are the conditions put forward by the speaker? [3]

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

- (i) Describe the horse statue by which Muni had taken his seat. [4]
- (ii) Give your impression about the foreigner. [4]
- (iii) How has R.K. Narayan represented a clash of cultures in his short story. [8]

Q.8 Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

He gave her a shove. But she did 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. And this was because she would play no games with them in the echoing tunnels of the underground city. If they tagged her and ran, she stood blinking after them and did not follow. When the class sang songs about happiness and life and games her lips barely moved. Only when they sang about the Sun and the summer did her lips move as she watched the drenched windows. And then, of course, the biggest crime of all was that she has come here only five years ago from Earth, and she remembered the Sun and the way the Sun was and the sky was when she was four in Ohio. And they, they had been on Venus all their lives, and they had been only two years old when last the Sun came out and had long since forgotten the colour and heat of it and the way it really was. But Margot remembered.

(All Summer in a Day-Ray Douglas Bradbury)

- (i) What was 'biggest crime' that has been referred to in the above passage?
- (ii) What did Margot remember about her time on Earth?
- (iii) Why was Margot bullied by the other children?
- (iv) What can you gather about Margot from the above lines?
- (v) How is Margot different from all other children on planet Venus?

Answer the following questions with reference to Norah Burke's short story 'The Blue Bead'.

- (i) Explain the importance of 'The Blue Bead' in the story. [4]
- (ii) How does the author describe the Gujars? [4]
- (iii) What had amazed Sibia in the railroad bazaar? [8]

Q.9 Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

Mrs. Thompson did not reply, but presently turned towards the little chamber where her husband had deposited Maggie; and pushing open the door, went quietly in. Joe did not follow; he saw that, her state had changed, and left that it would be best to leave, her alone with the child. So, he went to his shop, which stood near the house, and worked until dusky evening released him from labour. A light shining through the little chamber windows was the first object that attracted Joe's attention on turning towards the house it was a good omen. The path led him by this windows and, when opposite, he could not help pausing to look in.

It was now dark enough outside to screen him from observation. Maggie lay, a little raised on the pillow with the lamp shining full upon her face. Mrs. Thompson was sitting on the bed, talking to the child; but her back was towards the window, so that her countenance was not seen. From Maggie's face, therefore, Joe must read the character of their intercourse. He saw that her eyes were intently fixed upon his wife; that now and then a few words came, as if in answers from her lips; that her expression was sad and tender; but he saw nothing of bitterness or pain. A deep-drawn breath was followed by one.

(An Angel in Disguise-TS Arthur)

- (i) What did Mrs Thompson do after listening to her husband's plea? Why did Joe Thompson think its best to leave his wife alone with the child? [3]
- (ii) What attracted Joe's attention when he returned from his shop? [3]
- (iii) What did Joe notice when he looked in the little chamber? Why does he not go into the room? [3]
- (iv) How did Maggie's react when Joe entered the little chamber and why? [3]
- (v) How does Joe Thompson react when he sees Maggie? What does he ask Maggie? [4]