



ALLEN CAREER INSTITUTE

PRELIMINARY EXAM : 2019-20

Paper Set : SET-I(HT)

SUBJECT : English Literature

ICSE Board - Sample Paper - 1 Solutions

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 :

- (i) Antonio speaks these lines after Shylock rejects the plea for engaging a surgeon to tend to Antonio's wounds from bleeding to death as a part of his revenge. It all seems to point that the Jew had planned on getting his revenge by killing Antonio.
- (ii) Antonio's speech point out that he was prepared for his end at the hands of Shylock for not paying back the debt within the stipulated time. Thus, now even if Shylock refuses to find a doctor to tend to his wounds he would accept his death.
- (iii) Antonio wants Bassanio to mention him to his wife (Portia) and tell her how he died. He also wants that Bassanio should remember him as a truly loving friend. He consoles his friend stating that he should not feel guilty for Antonio is dying for his debt.
- (iv) Portia, disguised as the young doctor of Rome named Balthazar sounds Bassanio for his claims of sacrificing even his wife. She points out that his wife is not likely to be thankful to him if she hears about Bassanio's claim.
- (v) Bassanio replies to Antonio's speech by stating that he is prepared to sacrifice everything his wife, his own life and all of the world to save him from the devil Shylock's clutches. This claim by Bassanio shows his deep and sincere love for his dearest friend Antonio who had entered into a dangerous bond for Bassanio. This shows that both Antonio and Bassanio share a deep bond and both seem to be ready to do anything for each other.

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

- (i) The speakers, Portia and Nerissa are in a room in Portia's house in Belmont. They are speaking about the many suitors who have arrived from different parts of the world, to try their luck of marrying Portia.
- (ii) When Nerissa states that her (Portia's) thoughts would be better and effective when put to practice, Portia retorts by pointing that it is easy to know what is good than putting it to practise. Portia is in a sad and sombre mood.
- (iii) Portia says that it is easy to know what is good but very difficult to put it to practise for her. Man often does not practise what he preaches and this difference between man's actions and beliefs is what comes in his way of happiness and prosperity.
- (iv) The youth is compared to a rash hare who easily skips over snares. Just like a hare, the youth avoids all the nets of good advice laid by wise old man and invites troubles.
- (v) A servant enters later in the scene and informs Portia that four suitors are leaving without taking chance. He further conveys the news that a new suitor, the Prince of Morocco, will be coming soon to try his luck at the lottery of caskets. Portia, upon hearing this, states that she cannot welcome the fifth suitor.

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

- (i) Shylock states that there is no particular reason of his preference for Antonio's flesh over the amount. He points that each one of us have some aversion to one thing or other. Similarly, he has a definite loathing of Antonio and wants to go forward with an unprofitable law suit against him.
- (ii) Bassanio offers twice the amount of loan, that is six thousand ducats to save Antonio from the condition of bond. However, Shylock turns down the offer instantly, demanding onlyt he pound of flesh from Antonio's body.
- (iii) The Duke points out that each one of us ask God for mercy for the wrongs we do. He tells Shylock that if he shows no mercy himself than he shall have no hope of receiving God's mercy.
- (iv) Upon hearing the Duke, Shylock says that since he has done no wrong, no sentence can be passed on him. Therefore, he finds he does not need God's mercy and demands what he had acquired as a result of the bond, i.e. Antonio's pound of flesh.
- (v) Insisting on Antonio's pound of flesh, Shylock states that CHristians have many slaves and asks the Duke if they would treat them well, give them freedom or marry them to their children. He himself points that they could not do so as they have bought them. Similarly, he had bought this pound of flesh at a very high price and he would have it. Even the law stands on his side. He further state sthat he had been insisting on the pound of flesh only to get his revenge from Antonio for he dislikes him and finds it to be reason enough to fulfill his demands.

SECTION B : POETRY

Answer one or more questions from this section.

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

- (i) The poet describes the natural beauty of the sunset. The free birds fly freely in the wind, dip their wings against the orange sky. They had a sense of owning the sky and fly with out any constraints.
- (ii) The Sun, sky and wind represent freedom, free space and power respectively. The poet referred to them to compare the condition of a free bird who enjoys all the three while a caged bird longs for it and sings for her freedom.
- (iii) The free bird is a metaphor for the white American, who enjoys all the freedom and privilages in the world and rules over less-endowed people on this planet.
- (iv) The caged bird is bound by the cage. He can only observe the outside world through the bars of his cage. He can only open his mouth to sing. He behaves this way because his wings have been clipped and his feet are tied.
- (v) The caged bird is a metaphor for the status of the African-American as he does not have the same rights as white American does. This is not a natural state of affairs for the black. Consequently, he is forced to live in captivity serving the White man.

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

- (i) The waves in the lake or sea were rising and falling on a breezy day. The flowers were also swaying in the breeze but the flowers were more spontaneous and looked prettier moving to the winds. Referring to himself and many others with a poetic inclination, he felt such people who are prone to liness would find the beauty of nature appealing to their minds. He kept looking at the flowers and hardly realised that the view of these flowers would flash across his mind later.
- (ii) Jocund means cheerful. The poet feels that all people would feel happy looking at these beautiful

flowers that were dancing to give him a beautiful spectacle whose worth he could not understand then but now fills him with pleasure.

- (iii) Wordsworth enjoyed beauties of nature. He liked to wander in woods, valleys and over the hills. He observed natural objects very minutely. Here in this poem he describes the beautiful description of nature is matchless so he can be rightly called a nature poet.
- (iv) The poet states that later whenever he lays on his couch in vacant or pensive mood, the dancing daffodils flashed upon his mind and filled him with pleasure. The pleasure made him dance along the daffodils, making him forget all worries.
- (v) The 'wealth' refers to the show of dancing daffodils that he saw when he was in the woods with his sister, Dorothy. The dancing golden daffodils were, as the poet feels, like the stars that shine and twinkle. They were, it seemed to him dancing and rejoicing in the wind. He states that he was so lost in its beauty that he could not recognise its worth but now as he remembers this beautiful scene, during vacant or pensive mood, his feelings instantly lighten and he is filled with immense pleasure.

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

- (i) 'He' is the youngest participant of the special Olympics for the differently-abled. He had participated in the last event of the day which was a one hundred metre race.
- (ii) The youngest participant of the special Olympics cried out because he had fallen down on his knees, as he tried to run. Now, all his dreams and efforts to win the race had been dashed as he could not run in the race.
- (iii) The narrator informs the leader that after the youngest participant fell down on his knees a strange event occurred; all the other participants stopped to help the youngest. All the nine participants then crossed the winning line together to win nine Gold medals.
- (iv) The young participant dreamed of winning Gold medal in the one hundred metre race of Special Olympics. However, as soon as the race his legs give him, that makes him fall the ground. Now, he cannot run the race or win a medal making his dreams dash in the dirt.
- (v) The poem presents to us an event that during the Special Olympics when the young's participant fell. The poet tells the reader that at other participants came to help the boy and finish the race together.

This act of compassion is recognised and each them is awarded a Gold medal. By presenting event, the poet celebrates the spirit of care what one gather is that the world needs compassion, cooperation and collaboration instead of competitive.

SECTION C : PROSE

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

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

- (i) The speaker finds death to be inevitable. He observes that death is a common destiny of all. Tribe will follow tribe, nation will follow nation and each is bound to meet the ultimate end. Therefore, he realises that he should not mourn at the untimely face to his people as it is the order of nature. If this was tribes time then there will also be a time of decay of the white settlers.
- (ii) For the tribal people each and every part of the soil is sacred as it is associated with an event, happy or sad. In other words, it is full of memories of stirring events connected with their lives. This association of memories with each and every corner of their land makes it sacred.
- (iii) The speaker points out that the dust responds more lovingly to the tribal people as it is rich with the blood of their ancestors. Their bare feet are conscious of the sympathetic touch.
- (iv) The speaker is aware that death and decay are inevitable for all. Hence, he is conscious that the white man cannot escape their ultimate destiny of death. Even their God who had interacted with the white man was not exempted from it.
- (v) The speaker puts forward a condition before the white chief stating that they will sell their land but would have full freedom to visit the tombs of their ancestors, friends and children at any time. These places were sacred to tribal people and there should be no restrictions imposed to visit their soil and tombs.

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

- (i) The biggest crime' referred to in the above lines belong to Margot who has come to planet Venus, five years ago from Earth due to which she is differentiated among her peers.
- (ii) Margot had come to Venus five years ago from Earth. She remembered how the Sun was in the sky when she was four years old and lived in Ohio.
- (iii) Margot was bullied by the other children for being different from them. She did not only belong to Earth but also remembered the Sun, its heat and colour unlike them who had seen the Sun only once.
- (iv) Margot was not readily accepted in the society of Venus as she was bullied by other students/ children. She did not interact with them. Even when they would tag her in a game, she would not react. She did not sing along the happy songs but did sing the songs of Sun and summer.
- (v) Margot is different from all other children on planet Venus as she had been living on Earth for four years before she came to planet Venus. Margot remembers having seen the Sun everyday while living in Ohio (United States). In comparison to her, children living at Venus are able to see the Sun only once in seven (7) years, that too only for two (2) hours. Margot remembers Sun's colours, its shape its heat etc. but children at Venus do not remember any such thing. Moreover Margot's sadness for leaving her planet Earth and Sun made her feel distant and lonely at planet Venus as those children could not help her. Instead they teased her and made her feel more lonely.

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

- (i) After listening to her husband's plea, Mrs Thompson went towards the room where Maggie was kept without replying to her husband. Joe Thompson observed a change in his wife's attitude as she went quietly in and thought that it would be best to leave his wife alone with the child.
- (ii) When Joe Thompson returned from his shop his attention went to the light shining from the little chambers window. This, he found to be a good omen for the future.
- (iii) Joe noticed that his wife was sitting on Maggie's bed and was talking to her while Maggie's concentration was focused on his wife. Maggie, he further added, that, replied in a sad and tender manner. He considered it best to not go to the little chamber to show that he has no concern for the child.
- (iv) Maggie looked at Joe tenderly, gratefully and pleadingly when Joe entered the little chamber where she was kept as he had brought her home when nobody else was ready to take her.
- (v) Joe is surprised by the thin frame of Maggie when he examines her under the lamp light. He finds that Maggie had an attractive face full of childish sweetness. He also gathers that she had suffered a lot at such a young age and therefore appears to be quiet.

When Joe came to her room, he asked Maggie about her health. He asked her if she had been sick for long or had the doctor been to see her or if she had any pain." He further questioned if she felt good on the soft bed.