



FUSCO'S SCHOOL (ICSE)

Indiranagar, Bangalore

HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION 2016-2017

Subject: English Literature

Class IX

Time: 2hrs
Marks: 80

General instructions :

- i. Attempt five questions in all.
- ii. You must attempt one question from each of the Sections A, B and C and any two other questions.

SECTION A- DRAMA

The Merchant of Venice – William Shakespeare

Question 1. Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

None but that ugly treason of mistrust,
Which makes me fear the enjoying of my love:
There may as well be amity and life
'Tween snow and fire, as treason and my love.

- a. Who is the speaker here? Who else is present in this scene? Where is the scene taking place? (3)
- b. Why does the lady want the speaker to tarry a day or two? For what reason is the speaker here? (3)
- c. What is the meaning of 'amity'? What kind of mistrust is the speaker referring to? (3)
- d. What prevented the lady from helping the speaker from choosing right? (3)
- e. What would happen if the speaker lost or won? Write your answer according to the words of the lady in case of both these situations. (4)

Question 2. Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

Shylock: How now Tubal! What news from Genoa?

Hast thou found my daughter?

Tubal: I often came where I did hear of her, but cannot find her.

- a. Where is Tubal and Shylock in this scene? Who is Tubal? How are the two people related? (3)
- b. What are the losses suffered by Shylock due to his daughter's elopement? (3)

- c. In this scene Shylock is also happy. Give two instances that show this. (3)
- d. Who is Shylock's wife? What had he given her before marriage?
Why is Shylock sad again thinking of his wife? (3)
- e. From this scene draw out four inferences about Shylock's character. (4)

SECTION B-PROSE

Question 3. Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

"Let me out, let me out," said the little bird.

"You'll have three meals a day served by my Maids of Honour; you'll have nothing to worry you from morning till night, and you can sing to your heart's content."

"Let me out, let me out," said the little bird. And he tried to slip through the bars of the cage, but of course he couldn't open it. Then the eight Princesses came in and looked at him. They told September she was very wise to take their advice.

- a. Why was the bird shut in the cage? Why was the cage considered special according to September? What happened to the workman who made the cage? (3)
- b. What advice did the eight princesses give to September about the bird?
What was their intention? (3)
- c. What did the bird say when he was caged? Why did September take him in the cage for a walk? What happened to the bird next morning? (3)
- d. How was September and her sisters married off in the end? Why was September more attractive than her sisters? (3)
- e. The King of Siam was an odd character. Give four instances from the story to prove this point. (4)

Question 4

Give an account of the friendship between Princess September and the Nightingale. (16)

SECTION C-POETRY

Question 5. Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

Art is long, and Time is fleeting,
And our hearts, though stout and brave,
Still, like muffled drums, are beating
Funeral marches to the grave.

- a. What has the beating of the hearts been compared to in this stanza? (3)
- b. How does the poet ask us to act with each passing day? (3)

- c. Explain the simile in this stanza. (3)
- d. What does the first line in this stanza mean? (3)
- e. Give any four moral principles given in the poem. (4)

Question 6. Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

In the world's broad field of battle,

In the bivouac of Life,

Be not like dumb, driven cattle!

Be a hero in the strife!

- a. What is the world's broad field of battle? Why is it referred to as field of battle? (3)
- b. What in the extract tells us that we should be self-motivated? (3)
- c. Which strife is mentioned here? Who becomes a hero in this strife? (3)
- d. Give the meaning of 'bivouac of life'. How should one act in the bivouac? (3)
- e. Give four reasons why you appreciate this poem. (4)
