



**FUSCO'S SCHOOL (ICSE)**  
Indiranagar, Bangalore  
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION 2016-2017  
Subject: English Literature

Class VIII

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:

Shylock: The patch is kind enough, but a huge feeder,  
Snail slow in profit, and he sleeps by day  
More than the wild-cat; drones hive not with me;  
Therefore I part with him; and part with him  
To one that I would have him help to waste  
His borrow'd purse.

- a. Who is Shylock talking to? What instructions does he give this person immediately after this extract? (3)
- b. Who is parting from Shylock and why? Where is he going? (3)
- c. What are three characteristics Shylock gives of the person referred to as 'him'? (3)
- d. Where is Shylock going? Why does he go there in hate? (3)
- e. Give the meaning of: (4)
  - i. drones hive not with me.
  - ii. His borrow'd purse.

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

Morocco: Why, that's the lady; all the world desires her;

From the four corners of the earth they come

To kiss this shrine, this mortal breathing saint:

- a. Who is Prince of Morocco referring to in this extract? Where is he in this scene? (3)

- c. Which casket does Morocco choose? Give two reasons why he chose this casket. (3)
- d. What are three reasons Morocco cites to deserve the lady? (3)
- e. What does he find in the casket? What does he say on choosing the wrong casket? What is the lady's reaction? (4)

### SECTION B-PROSE

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

He thought for a minute and then wrote his own name and address on Kasim's interview and drew a deep breath. When he came out he had the satisfaction of knowing that he would be coming for work the next day, but the problem of finding another name and address for tomorrow was already beginning to worry him.

- a. Whom does 'he' refer to? Where is this person at the moment? Why has 'he' come here? (3)
- b. Why did 'he' write his own name and address on the interview? (3)
- c. Who was Kasim? What does his interview tell us about him? (3)
- d. What personal problems did 'he' face at home? (3)
- e. Give two similarities between Kasim and his interviewer. Also give two dissimilarities between the two of them. (4)

**Question 4. Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:**

With thoughts such as these crossing his mind, Rizwan stood at a shop selling cold drinks, looking for someone who worked for a living but not was a shop owner. At that instant his eyes fell on a man carrying a load on his head and walking in his direction. Rizwan quickly went up to him and, without any greeting placing a hand on his shoulder, enquired, "Yourname?"

- a. Why was Rizwan selling cold drinks at the shop? What thoughts occurred to him as he stood in the market? (3)
- b. Who was the man carrying the load and walking to Rizwan? What was the load he was carrying? (3)
- c. What do you understand about Rizwan's character from the way he stopped the man without greeting him? (3)
- d. What is socio-economic condition of the people at that time? (3)
- e. What is the central theme expressed in the short story *Hunger* by Nasira Sharma? (4)

**SECTION C-POETRY**

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

What do you weave, O ye flower-girls

With tassels of azure and red?

Crowns for the brow of a bridegroom,

Chaplets to garland his bed.

Sheets of white blossoms new-garnered

To perfume the sleep of the dead.

- a. What do the flower-girls weave? For whom do they weave them? (3)
- b. Give the meaning of 'tassels of azure and red'? What is its significance? (3)
- c. For what are 'white blossoms' used? What do they represent in this poem? (3)
- d. How does the extract show both joy and sorrow? (3)
- e. How has the poet used the five senses of in the poem to describe the bazaar? (4)

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

What do you call, O ye pedlars?

Chessmen and ivory dice

What do you make, O ye goldsmiths?

Wristlet and anklet and ring,

- a. What all were being sold by the merchants? (3)
- b. What is being ground by the maidens? Which items are the vendors weighing? (3)
- c. Describe the bells that the goldsmiths are crafting for the pigeons? What do they make for the dancers and kings? (3)
- d. Which instruments are the musicians playing? What are the magicians doing? (3)
- e. How is the poem Indian in content and presentation? What in the poem appealed to you? (4)

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