



FUSCO'S SCHOOL (ICSE)

Indiranagar, Bangalore

Annual Examination 2017

Subject: English Literature

Time: 2 hrs

Class VIII

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 : Why, look you, how you storm!

I would be friends with you and have your love,
Forget the shames that you have stain'd me with,
Supply your present wants, and take no doit
Of usance for my moneys, and you'll not hear me:
This is kind I offer.

- a. What were the 'shames' which stained Shylock? (3)
- b. What is meant by 'the present wants'? On what terms is the speaker willing to supply the wants? (3)
- c. How does Antonio storm Shylock? Why was Shylock willing to lend money without interest? (3)
- d. What did the speaker propose to do immediately after this? (3)
- e. Who is the third person, present at the scene? Why is he reluctant to agree to Shylock's terms? (4)

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

Arragon : What's here? The portrait of a blinking idiot,
Presenting me a schedule! I will read it.
How much unlike art thou to Portia!
How much unlike my hopes and my deservings!
"Who chooseth me shall have as much as he deserves."
Did I deserve no more than a fool's head?
Is that my prize? Are my deserts no better?

- a. Who is the "blinking idiot"? What does "the blinking idiot" signify? What is a schedule?(3)
- b. What is written on the scroll? (3)
- c. Why did Arragon choose the silver casket? (3)
- d. Who says the following words? Give the meaning of these words. (3)
To offend, and judge, are distinct offices,
And of opposed natures.

- e. When Arragon leaves, what does Portia say? (4)

SECTION B-POETRY

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

I don't recall what happened then. I think I must have cried;
I put my arms around him and I pulled him to my side
And, as I held him close to me, I could feel our wounds were pressed
The large one in my heart against the small one in his chest.

- a. Why does the soldier feel that it is getting dark earlier than it used to be? (3)
b. Which war is referred to here? Why does he wince up at the sun? (3)
c. Give the meaning and significance of the following: (3)
1. I think, before I travel on I'll get a little rest:
2. I think I must have cried:
d. What does the narrator realise when he pulls the soldier towards himself? (3)
e. Why is "small pain in my chest repeated throughout the poem? What is the large wound the poet is referring to? (4)

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

I am going out rarely, now and then

Only, this is price of old age
But my health is O.K. usual aches and pains.
No diabetes, no blood pressure, no heart attack
This is because of sound habits in youth.

- a. Who is the poet? Why doesn't Professor Sheth go out frequently? What is the price of old age? (3)
b. What does the poet say about his daughters? What does it hint about the lifestyle of the urban Indians? (3)
c. What reason does the speaker give for his good health? What according to you could be the sound habits followed by him in his youth? (3)
d. How old is the professor and how long does he wish to live? (3)
e. Explain the theme of the poem. (4)

SECTION C-PROSE

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

For a second time, preparations for holding the panchayat were set afoot.
Both parties started vigorous canvassing in their support. At length, on the third day after the quarrel, the panchayat met. The setting was the same as for the first panchayat. The panches sat under the same old tree.

- a. When was the first time the panchayat was held? Who were the two parties involved and what was the dispute? (3)
b. Who are the two parties involved in the present case? What was the quarrel between the two? (3)
c. Who advised them to refer the matter to the panchayat? Why? (3)
d. Who was nominated as the head-panch in the present case? What was the verdict of the panchayat? (3)
e. What impact did the panchayat verdict have on the villagers? (4)

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

There may be a list of them. The more I think of it the less I like it, because I am quiet sure that if I had once forgotten a dollar, I should never pay it, on this side of the grave.

If there are such men I want them to speak out. Not all at once: but in reasonable numbers, and as far as may be in alphabetical order, and I will immediately, write their names down on paper.

- a. Whom does 'them' refer to in the first sentence of the extract? What is meant by: 'on this side of the grave'? (3)
- b. What does the narrator's writing down in the alphabetical order suggest about him? (3)
- c. Who are the people whom the narrator does not feel it necessary to pay back? Why? (3)
- d. What movement does the narrator want to start? What does this plan of his reveal about his character? (3)
- e. State briefly how far the title of the story is appropriate. (4)