

ICSE Board
Class X English Literature
Board Paper – 2018

2 Hours

Total Marks: 80

Answers to this paper must be written on the paper provided separately.

*You will **not** be allowed to write during the first **15** minutes.*

This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.

The time given at the head of this paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.

*Attempt **five** questions in all.*

*You must attempt **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 chosen*

The intended marks of questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [].

SECTION A – DRAMA

*Answer one or both questions from only one play, either *The Merchant of Venice* or *Loyalties**

The Merchant of Venice: Shakespeare

Question 1

Read the extract given below and answer the question that follow:

*Portia: Go draw aside the curtains and discover
 The several caskets to this noble prince –
 Now make your choice*

*Morocco: The first of gold, who is the inscription bears,
 “Who chooseth me shall gain what many men desire”;*

- (i) Who is Morocco? How did he introduce to Portia when they first met in an earlier scene?[3]
- (ii) How would Morocco know that he had made the right choice? What would his reward be?
- (iii) Which casket did Morocco finally choose? What reasons did he give for rejecting the casket made of lead?
- (iv) What two objects does Morocco find in the casket of his choice? What reason does he give to Portia for leaving in haste?
- (v) How does Portia respond to Morocco's parting words? What does this reveal of her nature?

Question 2

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Bassanio : *Were you the doctor, and I knew you not?*

Gratiano : *Were you the clerk?*

Antonio : *Sweet lady, you have given me life and living
For here I read for certain that my ships
Are safely come to road*

Portia : *How now Lorenzo!
My clerk hath some good comforts too for you.*

- (i) Where does this scene take place? What had Portia directed Antonio to give to Bassanio just moments before the above words were spoken? [3]
- (ii) Portia had just given Antonio, Bassanio and Gratiano a letter to read. Who had written this letter? What does Bassanio learn about Portia from this letter? [3]
- (iii) What good news Portia have for Antonio? How does he respond to it? [3]
- (iv) To whom does Portia refer as 'My clerk'? What good comforts does the 'clerk' have for Lorenzo? [3]
- (v) How was Bassanio persuaded to give away the ring that Portia had given him at the time of their marriage? What does this reveal of Bassanio's relationship with Antonio? [4]

OR

Loyalties: John Galsworthy

Question 3:

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Margare : *Here the wind!*

Winsor : *What's the move now, General?*

Canyange : *You and I had better see the inspector in De Levis's room
Winsor. [To the others] if you'll all be handy. In case he wants to put
Questions for himself*

Margaret : *I hope he'll want me; it's just too thrilling*

Dancy : *I hope he won't want me; I am dog-tired. Come on Mobil.
[He puts his arm in his wife's]*

Canyange : *Just a minute, Charles.*

- (i) Who is Margaret? Why does she say 'Here's the wind!'?
- (ii) Why does Canyange suggest that they see the Inspector in De Levis' room? What does Margaret find 'thrilling'?

- (iii) Who enters soon after? What had this person been asked to do earlier?
- (iv) How does De Levis happen to have such a large sum of money on that particular day? What steps does he take to keep the money safe?
- (v) Whom does De Levis suspect of having stolen his money? What leads Canyange to suspect the same person? What is Canyange's opinion of this person?

Question 4

- (i) Where is this scene set? What had Dancy just confessed to Mabel?
- (ii) What had Dancy's lawyer suggested he should do? Why had he made this suggestion?
- (iii) How does Mabel express her loyalty to Dancy soon after he had made the confession? Who knocks at the door at this point?
- (iv) Who else enters the house? What sound do they all hear? Why does Mabel faint?
- (v) What message did Dancy's letter contain?
What is your opinion of Dancy at the end of the play?

SECTION B – POETRY

Answer one or both questions from this Section.

A Collection of poems

Question 5

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

*“I’m grateful, Sir”, he whispered, as I handed my canteen
And smiled a smile that was, I think, the brightest that I’ve seen.
“Seems silly a man my size so full of vim and zest
Could find himself defeated by a small pain in his chest.”*

(Small pain in my chest – Michael Mack)

- (i) Where is 'he' when the narrator encounters him? Describe the scene around him.
- (ii) What does 'he' ask the narrator for? What reasons does he give for his request?
- (iii) What does the narrator see when he looks at him? How do we know that 'he' is very young and completely unaware of the seriousness of his injury?
- (iv) How does 'he' describe the battle that he had been fought the night before and his role in it?
- (v) What feeling do you think the narrator must have experienced when he 'put' his arms around

him?

What is the central theme of this poem?

Question 6

Read the extract given below 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.

(The professor – Nissim Ezekiel)

- I. Who is the speaker? What relationship did he share with the listener?
- II. How many sons does the speaker have? What does he say about them?
- III. What are the names of the speaker's daughters? Why does the speaker believe that his daughters are 'well settled in life'?
- IV. How old is the speaker? Why does he say that his health is 'OK'? What reason does he give to explain his state of health?
- V. What characteristics typical of Indian speech and thought does the poet make fun of through this poem?

SECTION C – PROSE

Answer one or both questions from only ONE book you have studied, either *A collection of Short stories* or *Animal Farm* or *To Sir with Love*

A Collection of Short stories

Question 7.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Sher Singh could feel immediately the heat of the boy's body burning through the cotton cloth.

He felt the weight too, and he wondered how he was going to manage.

'He is too big for you' said the mother. She spoke in the whisper of despair.

'You will never get there.'

Sher Singh said nothing.

He set off.

- (i) Who was the 'boy'? Why was Sher Singh sure that the little boy would die?
- (ii) What did Sher Singh's father do for a living? Mention any two acts of courage he had performed that had earned him the title 'Bahadur'.

- (iii) How does his mother use her skill as a hill woman to prepare Sher Singh for his long and dangerous journey?
- (iv) Mention any three challenges that Sher Singh encountered on his way to the hospital.
- (v) How does the doctor at the hospital address Sher Singh at the end of the story?
Why do you think he refers to him in this way?

Question 8

With close reference to the text, show how Stephan Leacock makes effective use of humour and exaggeration to describe his attempts to get back his 'Lost Dollar'.