

Half-Yearly Examination 2020

Class – IX

Subject – English II

Time: 2hrs

M.M:80

Note – Do not write during the first 15 minutes, this time is for reading the question paper. The time given at the head of this paper is the time allowed for writing.

Attempt all the questions.

SECTION-A (DRAMA)

1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

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 dole
Of usance for my moneys, and you'll not hear me:
This is kind I offer.

- (i) Where does this scene take place? Who is the speaker? To whom is he talking? 3
- (ii) What are the 'shames' which the speaker says have stained him? 3
- (iii) What are the 'present wants'? Who is in need of the 'present wants'? Why? 3
- (iv) Explain "This is kind I offer". What does the speaker propose to do immediately after this? 3
- (v) What do you think of Antonio and of Shylock with regard to the signing of the bond? 4

2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

Launcelot

[Aside] O heavens, this is my true-begotten father! who, being more than sand-blind, high-gravel-blind, knows me not: I will try confusions with him.

Gobbo

Master young gentleman, I pray you, which is the way to master Jew's?

Launcelot

Turn up on your right hand at the next turning, but, at the next turning of all, on your left; marry, at the very next turning, turn of no hand, but turn down indirectly to the Jew's house.

- (i) Where are Launcelot and old Gobbo? What is meant by 'true-begotten father'? Why can't old Gobbo recognize his son? 3
- (ii) Why is old Gobbo looking for the way to Master Jew's house? How does Launcelot confuse the old man while giving directions to him to reach the Jew's house? 3
- (iii) What was Gobbo's reaction to the directions given to him by Launcelot? 3
- (iv) What present has Gobbo brought to give to the Jew? What does Launcelot say to his father about it? 3
- (v) Launcelot plays a comic role in this scene. Give two examples of comedy provided by him. 4

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

Nerrisa

Then is there the County Palatine.

Portia

He doth nothing but frown; as who should say, "An you will not have me, choose": he hears merry tales, and smiles not: I fear he will prove the weeping philosopher when he grows old, being so full of unmannerly sadness in his youth. I had rather be married to a death's head with a bone in his mouth than to either of these: God defend me from these two!

- (i) Where are Portia and Nerrisa? What are they generally discussing about? In what mood is Portia in the scene? 3
- (ii) Who is the County Palatine? Why has he come to Belmont? 3
- (iii) Who is the first prince described by Portia? What does she say about him? 3
- (iv) Who is the weeping philosopher? In which context is he referred to in the extract? Give the meaning of: *a death's head with a bone in his mouth*. 3
- (v) Give a character sketch of the County Palatine. What impression does Portia have about him. 4

SECTION-B (POETRY)

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

The last man of this forlorn group
 Did nought except for gain.
 Giving only to those who gave
 Was how he played the game.

Their logs held tight in death's still hands
 Was proof of human sin.
 They didn't die from the cold without
 They died from the cold within.

- (i) Explain the phrase "forlorn group." Which figure of speech is used here? 3
- (ii) What game is the poet referring to while mentioning the last man of the group? 3
- (iii) What "proof of human sin" is being referred to here? Explain. 3
- (iv) The poet says that the characters "died from the cold within". What does he mean? 3
- (v) What message is the poet trying to convey in the poem? How does he succeed in carrying out his task? 4

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

Bangle sellers are we who bear
 Our shining loads to the temple fair....
 Who will buy these delicate, bright
 Rainbow-tinted circles of light?
 Lustrous tokens of radiant lives,
 For happy daughters and happy wives.

- (i) What is being referred to as "shining loads"? 3
- (ii) Bangle sellers could sell their goods anywhere. Why do they choose to sell them at the temple fair? 3
- (iii) Which figure of speech is used in the line, " Rainbow-tinted circles of light"? Explain what is linked to the happiness of daughters and wives. 3
- (iv) What role do the bangle sellers play in a traditional Indian set-up, according to the extract? 3
- (v) Explain how the Poet uses her descriptive skills to present facts. Give two examples from the extract. 4

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

Some are like fields of sunlit corn,
 Meet for a bride on her bridal morn,
 Some, like the flame of her marriage fire,
 Or, rich with the hue of her heart's desire,

Tinkling, luminous, tender, and clear,
Like her bridal laughter and bridal tear.

- (i) What is being compared to "fields of sunlit corn"? Why? 3
- (ii) What do you understand by the phrases "bridal laughter" and "bridal tear"?
With what have they been compared in the extract? 3
- (iii) Which figure of speech is used in these two lines? Explain with examples. 3
*Some, like the flame of her marriage fire,
Or, rich with the hue of her heart's desire,*
- (iv) Bring out the relevance of the line: 3
Some, like the flame of her marriage fire,
- (v) Weddings become befitting occasions to wear bangles. In what ways does the poet associate bangles with a bride? 4

SECTION-C (PROSE)

7. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

There was a pontoon bridge across the river and carts, trucks, and men, women and children were crossing it. The mule-drawn carts staggered up the steep bank from the bridge with soldiers helping push against the spokes of the wheels. The trucks ground up and away heading out of it all and the peasants plodded along in the ankle deep dust. But the old man sat there without moving. He was too tired to go any farther.

- (i) What is a pontoon bridge? Why are many people crossing the bridge? 3
- (ii) Where is the old man sitting? Unlike others, why doesn't he move? 3
- (iii) Who is the speaker in the above extract? Why is he there? 3
- (iv) What is the first question that the narrator asks the old man? What does he answer? Why does the old man smile? 3
- (v) Why is the old man the last one to leave his town? Describe his physical appearance. 4

8. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

Noting the other's interest in his speech, Muni felt encouraged to ask, "How many children have you?" with appropriate gestures with his hands. Realizing that a question was being asked, the red man replied, "I said a hundred," which encouraged Muni to go into details. "How many of your children are boys and how many girls? Where are they? Is your daughter married? Is it difficult to find a son-in-law in your country also?" In answer to these questions the red man dashed his hands into his pocket and brought forth his wallet in order to take immediate advantage of the

bearish trend in the market. He flourished a hundred rupee currency note and said, "Well this is what I meant."

(i) Muni asked the red man, "How many children do you have? The red man replied, "I said a hundred." What was each one talking about? Explain the humour in this conversation. 3

(ii) Give two examples to show that Muni was curious about the red man. 3

(iii) Looking at the hundred rupees note, how did Muni react? What did he think was the purpose of giving him that money? 3

(iv) How did Muni describe the village headman? 3

(v) Why did the red man show some interest in Muni's goats? Briefly describe the intentions of Muni for rearing the goats. Why couldn't his plan be carried out? 4

9. Answer the following questions with reference to Ernest Hemingway's short story, 'Old man at the bridge'.

(i) Explain why the old man finally resigns to his fate. 4

(ii) Describe briefly the character of old man in the story. 4

(iii) How does the story highlight the theme of destruction caused by war? 8

