***Question 1 16***

***“Nature hath fram’d strange fellows in her time.”***

1. Who is the speaker of these lines? Where are they spoken and to whom? 3
2. How does the speaker explain nature’s strange ways regarding people? 3
3. Who was Nestor? Explain his significance. 3
4. What assurance does Antonio give Salerio and Solanio after they share their insecurities? 3
5. How does Salerio explain the contrast of Antonio’s melancholy when Antonio says he is not in love? 4
6. Salerio. They are spoken to Solanio and Antonio. In a street in Venice.
7. Salerio swears by two-headed Janus that nature had framed strange fellows. Some would evermore peep through their eyes and laugh like parrots and a bagpiper. The others are of such vinegar aspect that they would not show their teeth to smile even though Nestor swears that the jest is laughable.
8. Nestor was an old Greek general who fought in the Trojan War. He was a serious fellow who would not laugh even if the joke was good. He is mentioned to highlight the funniness of the joke.
9. Antonio’s assurance to Salerio and Solanio is that his ships are not the reason for his melancholy. His ventures are not trusted in one bottom or in one place. His whole estate is not upon the fortune of that present year. Therefore, he is not sad because of his merchandise.
10. Salerio says that he is sad just because he is not merry. Suddenly he would laugh and leap and say that he is merry because he is not sad. He swears by two-headed Janus that nature had framed strange fellows. Some would evermore peep through their eyes and laugh like parrots and a bagpiper. The others are of such vinegar aspect that they would not show their teeth to smile even though Nestor swears that the jest is laughable.

***Question 2 16***

***“God made him, and therefore let him pass for a man.”***

1. Who is being spoken about? How is he described? 3
2. How is the appearance of the English lord described? 3
3. Which example does Portia give to Nerissa to prove that she abides by her father’s condition? 3
4. What request does Portia make to Nerissa to avoid her getting married to the German lord? 3
5. What is Nerissa’s formula for ideal happiness? What example does she give to substantiate it? 4
6. Portia says that God has made the French lord, so she considers him to be a man. He talks about the horse more than the Neapolitan Prince and frowns more than Count Palatine. The moment a throstle bird sings he starts dancing and he would even fence with his own shadow. If Portia marries him, it would be like marrying twenty husbands. If he despises her she would forgive him but if he loves her she would never be able to requite him.
7. The English lord is called as a dumb-show. He is oddly suited with his doublet bought from Italy, his round hose bought from France, his bonnet from Germany. His behaviour has been borrowed from everywhere according to her.
8. Portia is not happy about the condition of the caskets but she still decided to abide by it. She says that even if she grows as old as Sibylla, she would die as chaste as Diana unless she can be obtained by the manner of her father’s will.

1. Portia requests Nerissa to place a deep glass of Rhenish wine on the contrary casket. She is sure that if the devil be within, and temptation outside he would choose it. She also calls him a sponge.
2. Nerissa believes that ideal happiness would be if a person is seated in the mean between extreme joy and extreme sorrow. She is aware that extreme joy can also lead to surfeit which would not allow the person to be really happy. She says superfluity comes sooner by white hair but it is the competency that lives longer.

***Question 3 16***

***“I am debating of my present store, and, by the near guess of my memory…”***

1. Who is ‘I’ here? Was he/she really debating of his/her present store? Justify. 3
2. Give an idea about the argosies of Antonio. 3
3. Which custom is Antonio willing to break? Why? 3
4. What does Shylock tell Bassanio about his financial condition while thinking about giving the loan? 3
5. What analogy does Shylock give Antonio to justify charging of interest? 4
6. Shylock. No. He was not debating of his present store. He was actually responds aside how Antonio looks like a fawning publican. He hates him because he is a Christian, but more for the fact that in spite of his low simplicity he lends out money gratis. That brings down the rate of usance in Venice.
7. Antonio has an argosy bound for Tripolis, another bound for Indies. He has learnt upon the Rialto that his third argosy is at Mexico and fourth for England. There are other ventures which he has squandered abroad.
8. Antonio tells Shylock that he neither lends nor borrows by taking or giving of excess (interest). But, to supply the ripe wants of Bassanio he would break a custom and is willing to pay interest.
9. Shylock says that he is debating of his present store and buy the near guess of his memory, he cannot instantly raise up the gross of full three thousand ducats. Nevertheless, he says Tubal, a wealthy Hebrew will furnish him.
10. Shylock says when Jacob, the third possessor of Holy Abram, grazed his uncle Laban’s sheep, he did not take any salary. Rather, they were compromised that all the eanlings which were streaked and pied should fall as Jacob’s hire. Jacob pilled certain wands and stuck them in front of the fulsome ewes and eanlings were born as streaked and pied. This was his way of winning thrift. He justifies it saying that any thrift is a blessing if men steal it not.

***Question 4 16***

***He plants, in sap and leaf and wood,***

***In love of home and loyalty***

***And far-cast thought of civic good…***

1. What does ‘His blessings’ refer to? Who is blessed in this extract? 3
2. Why is the tree considered to a friend to the sun and sky? Mention why the tree is compared to a flag of breezes? 3
3. According to the poet how does a nation grow? 3
4. Out of which emotions does the planter plant a tree? Mention the three benefits which are related to civic good. 3
5. Why is the first line of each verse repeated? Do you think the title of the poem is appropriate? Justify. 4

1. What does ‘His blessings’ refer to? Who is blessed in this extract? [3]

His blessings refer to the blessings of the person who does a noble deed of planting a tree and showers blessings on humanity. He said to be God-like persona or the Saviour as he grants life to every human being by planting. All those people who are in the neighbourhood and who benefit from the planting of the tree are blessed.

1. Why is the tree considered to a friend to the sun and sky? Mention why the tree is compared to a flag of breezes? [3]

The tree towers high towards the sky and appears as if it is extending its hand of friendship to the sun and the sky. The tree is a friend in the true sense of the word because it is beneficial to the environment as it reduces the temperature and purifies the atmosphere.

1. According to the poet how does a nation grow? [3]

A person who plants a tree plants the seed of growth and prosperity. Trees are the symbol of life as they purify the air and maintain ecological balance. One tree gives rise to many more leading to growth of forests across all the nations of the world. That’s how the nation grows.

1. Out of which emotions does the planter plant a tree? Mention the three benefits which are related to civic good. [3]

The planter plants a tree in love of home, in loyalty and far-cast thought of civic good. The three benefits that we get by planting a tree are; sap, leaf and wood.

1. Why is the first line of each verse repeated? Do you think the title of the poem is appropriate? Justify.

[4]

In the beginning of every stanza the poet asks ‘what does he plant who plants a tree’. He answers his own question by enlisting the several benefits of planting a tree. He repeatedly asks the question to emphasize that when a person plants a tree, he actually plants a lot of things along with it which have an everlasting positive effect on mankind.

***Question 5 16***

***“In bleak and bitter cold”***

1. Name the figure of speech used in the above given line. 3
2. Why did the first and the second person not give their logs? 3
3. Who is the third person? How is he dressed? What did he do? Why? 3
4. What was each man in the group aware of? 3
5. What are different types of discriminations highlighted in the poem? How can they affect the mankind? 4

Ans. The poet says that the cold is bleak and bitter as it could even kill the people. Here the line is “Alliteration’ as the sound ‘b’ is repeated. It is also an example of ‘Tautology’ as the words ‘bleak’ and ‘bitter’ have similar meaning.

Ans. The first person was a white lady, and when she saw a black man sitting opposite to her, her racist attitude stopped her from contributing to keep the fire burning. The second person refused to give his log because he saw a person who was not of his church, which justifies that this person was a classist.

Ans. The third person is a poor man. He sat in tattered clothes and gave his coat a hitch.

Ans. Each man was so full of hatred and contempt towards the other that he refused to give up his log to the fire that was dying. Each one thought that by doing so he was avenging the person whom he condemned. None was aware of the fact that eventually even he would die in the situation.

Ans. The poet has thrown light on the different ways in which people discriminate against each other. He gives the example of racial discrimination through the white lady and the black man. The poet also talks about the religious intolerance and class discrimination between the rich and the poor man. Such differences lead to envy, hatred, arrogance and revenge eventually destroying the very fiber of humanity.

***Question 6 16***

***“Bangle sellers are we who bear Our shining loads to the temple fair”***

1. Who is the narrator of the poem? Where does he go? Why does he go there? 3
2. Who are the prospective customers of the bangle seller? What terms does the poet use for them? Why? 3
3. How does the poet describe the red bangles? 3
4. How do the emotions of the bride connect to the bangles she wears? 3
5. Which women are referred to in the last stanza? What does the poet say about them? 4

Ans. The narrator of the poem is one of the bangle sellers. He goes to temple fair to sell his wares. A temple is visited by the Indian women regularly. When there is a temple fair, there is a consistent crowd thronging the place. Thus, he chooses the temple fair so that he can make a good profit in a single day.

Ans. It is young girls and women who are the prospective customers of the bangle seller. According to the Indian tradition, colourful bangles are worn by young unmarried girls or wives. These women are happy and content. Thus, the poet has used the terms, ‘happy daughters’ and ‘happy wives.

Ans. Some brides wear red bangles on the day of their marriage. In the Indian traditional marriage ceremony, the bride and the groom take seven vows around a fire. The bright red bangles of the bride are like the amber coloured frame of the marriage fire.

Ans. The bride’s heart is full of emotions on the day of her wedding, she is very happy to enter into a new world of her spouse and her heart is filled with passion and desire. On the other hand, she is also sad that she has to leave the comfort and protection of her parents’ house and the company of her siblings and her friends. The tinkling sound made by the bangles and their lustre are like her laughter soothing. Whereas, the tender and clear texture of her bangles is like tears.

Ans. The poet refers to women who have reached that stage of their lives where they have become the matriarchs of the family. They have fulfilled all their commitments. They have given birth and nurtured their children and accomplished all their duties towards their household and their family. Such women feel satisfies having met all expectations in life. They have now earned a position of respect and can stand by their husband’s side while performing all religious duties.

**SECTION C- PROSE**

*A Collection of Short Stories*

**Question 7.**

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

***“Death touches the spring of our common humanity.***

***This woman had been despised, scoffed at and angrily denounced***

***by nearly every man, woman and child in the village.***

1. How did the people of the village treat the woman during her life? What was their attitude towards her after her death? [3]

This woman had been despised, scoffed at, and angrily denounced by nearly every man, woman and child in the village. After her death, the news of her death was passed from lip to lip in subdued tones. Pity took the place of anger and sorrow of denunciation.

1. How and where did the mother die? How many children did she have? [3]

The mother had fallen upon the threshold of her own door in a drunken fit and died in the presence of her frightened little ones. She had three children; John, Kate and Maggie.

1. What did people carry with them when they visited the woman’s house on her death? Why did no one follow the dead cart? [3]

They carried a grave-cloth for her and some food for the three half-starving children. Some women also brought some cast- off clothes and changed the soiled and ragged clothes of Maggie, who was bedridden. Nobody followed the dead cart as it bore the unhonoured remains to its pauper grave.

1. Who was the dead woman’s youngest child? How had she become a disabled person? [3]

The youngest child was Maggie. She was hopelessly diseased. Two years before a fall from a window had injured her spine and she had not been able to leave her bed since.

1. Who was Joe Thompson? What type of a person was he? What doubt did Joe Thompson have when he decided to take the youngest child home? [4]

Joe Thompson was a wheelwright. He was rough in exterior but he had a heart and was very tender in some place. Being childless, Joe would be pleased to have the children come to his shop where sleds and wagons were made or mended. Joe’s wife Mrs Jane Thompson was not a woman of saintly temper, nor much given to self-denial for others’ good and he had well grounded doubts touching the manner of greeting he should receive on his arrival.

**Question 8.**

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

***Now the red man implored, “Please, please I will speak slowly, please try to***

***understand me. Can’t you understand even a simple word of English?***

***Everyone in this country seems to know English.”***

1. Where was Muni when this man met him? What was Muni doing? Which village did he belong to? [3]

Muni was sitting at the foot of the statue. He was watching his two goats graze in the arid soil among the cactus and lantana bushes. He belonged to a village named Kritam.

1. What did this man stop there? What caught his attention? [3]

This man i.e. the American stopped there as the fuel of his car had got over. He wanted to know if there was any gas station nearby or whether he would have to wait until another car comes. His attention was caught by the marvellous statue of a horse.

1. What had Muni just finished telling this man? [3]

Muni had just finished telling this man that he knew nothing about the murder. He also added that they would hold the man for him if they happened to see any bad character around. They would bury him up to his neck in a coconut pit if he tries to escape. He also assures that his village has always had a clean record and he speculates that it must be definitely another village.

1. What is Muni’s response? Did Muni know any English? How did Muni introduce himself? [3]

Muni made some indistinct sounds in his throat and shook his head. No, he only knew ‘yes’ and ‘no’. Muni introduced himself with his name and that those two goats were his and no one could gainsay that. He added that his village is full of slanderers who would not hesitate to say that what belonged to a man didn’t belong to him.

1. What information does this man give Muni about himself? How does this extract show the misconception foreigners have about people in this country? [4]

The American man describes his experience when he was working in shirt sleeves in the office on the fortieth floor of the Empire State Building. They had the hottest summer in history and they had a power failure one day and they got stuck up for four hours with no elevator and no air-conditioning. He wanted to visit other civilisations and wondered how other people in another part of the world survived without basic needs of life. The misconception he probably had was that India was one of those countries that lacked basic facilities like electricity.

**Question 9.**

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

***As they passed down the aisle of the coach the only vacant seat offered***

***was a reversed one facing the attractive young woman.***

1. Describe the appearance of the linked couple. [4]

Among the newcomers in the coach there were two young men. One of them was a handsome man with a bold and frank facial expression and manner. The other one was a ruffled, serious looking person, heavily built and roughly dressed. They were handcuffed together and therefore are referred to as the ‘linked couple’.

1. In your opinion state how minor characters play an important role in the story? [4]

It is the minor characters i.e. the two other passengers in a seat nearby who had heard most of the conversation reveal the truth. One of them subtly brings out the truth that Easton is the prisoner and the glum-faced man the marshal. As a marshal’s right hand is never handcuffed it is very clear that Easton is the prisoner and the glum-faced man a marshal. A prisoner’s right hand is handcuffed in order to restrict his movements.

1. O. Henry presents various ironical situations in the story. Comment. [8]

The two men who enter are judged by their appearances. Mr Easton is of handsome presence with a bold, frank countenance and manner; the other is a ruffled, glum-faced person, heavily built and roughly dressed. The readers just like the lady immediately accept this as the truth due to the appearances of the two men. O. Henry thus clearly brings out the fact that ‘appearances can be deceptive’. Later in the story from the conversation of the other two passengers one realises that Mr Easton was actually the criminal and glum-faced man was the Marshall. O. Henry does drop subtle hints from the start to suggest the actuality of both’s characters. One, when Mr Easton says that his butterfly days are over and also when glum-faced man was observing the girl’s countenance with veiled glances from his keen, shrewd eyes. It is a typical characteristic of a policeman to do so.

world of her spouse and her heart is filled with passion and desire. On the other hand, she is also sad that she has to leave the comfort and protection of her parents’ house and the company of her siblings and her friends. The tinkling sound made by the bangles and their lustre are like her laughter soothing. Whereas, the tender and clear texture of her bangles is like tears.

Ans. The poet refers to women who have reached that stage of their lives where they have become the matriarchs of the family. They have fulfilled all their commitments. They have given birth and nurtured their children and accomplished all their duties towards their household and their family. Such women feel satisfies having met all expectations in life. They have now earned a position of respect and can stand by their husband’s side while performing all religious duties.