***Question 1 12***

***“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

Salerio. They are spoken to Solanio and Antonio. In a street in Venice.

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.

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.

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.

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***

***“You need not fear, lady, the having any of these lords…”***

1. Who is the speaker of these lines? Name the ‘lords’. 3
2. How is the appearance of the English lord described? 3
3. Why does Portia call the Scottish lord as having a neighbourly charity? 3
4. What information about suitors does Nerissa share with Portia in this dialogue? 3
5. What is Nerissa’s formula for ideal happiness? What example does she give to substantiate it? 4
6. Nerissa is the speaker of these lines. Neapolitan Prince, Count Palatine, Falconbridge, Scottish Lord, the Duke of Saxony’s nephew, Monsieur Le Bon
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 says that the Scottish lord has a neighbourly charity because he borrowed a box near the ear from the Englishman but did not pay him back. He swore that he would pay him when he was able but was yet to do it.
9. Nerissa eases the anxiety of Portia by informing her that the suitors had acquainted her with their determinations. They have decided not to continue with the suit and return back home without choosing the casket.
10. 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 a home for the heaven anigh”***

1. Why does the poet call the tree a ‘heaven anigh’? 3
2. Explain ‘treble of heaven’s harmony’. 3
3. Explain the meaning of the word ‘twilight’. Why has the poet mentioned ‘happy twilight’ in the poem? 3
4. In the second stanza, what does he plant who plants a tree? 3
5. Is the poem relevant even in today? 4

Ans. The tree is towering high into the sky. Moreover, there is a lot of harmony and peace surrounding the tree. The birds net in the tree and sing in the twilight and this fills the atmosphere with music that is very soothing. Al this makes the tree like a heaven close by.

Ans. The tree houses many birds which croon to their young ones. The high pitch of the mother bird heard in the hushed and happy twilight is like a harmonious blend of several notes creating divine music. The poet refers to this as ‘the treble of heaven’s harmony’.

Ans. Twilight is the time of the day immediately after sunset. Just like human being, the birds and animals return to their dwellings where the young ones are waiting for them. Both, the parent birds and the young ones, are happy at this moment to meet each other after a long day. Thus, it is referred to as ‘happy twilight’.

Ans. He plants cool shade and tender rain, and seed and bud of days to be. He plants the glory, the beauty of the plains. He plants the forest’s heritage which would be the harvest of the future.

Ans. This poem strongly conveys the message that planting of trees is very important for the growth and welfare of humanity at large. This poem was written long ago when there wasn’t so much of a threat to our planet as it is today, yet the poet has highlighted the importance of planting trees. In today’s modern times it is required even more because it is a well-known fact that it Is excessive deforestation has posed a great threat to the survival of the planet.

***Question 5 16***

***“Their dying fire in need of logs”***

1. Give the meaning of the above given line. What does ‘dying fire’ symbolize? 3
2. What were the thoughts of the rich man? 3
3. Who was the fifth and the sixth person the group? Why did they not give their stick of wood? 3
4. Explain ‘forlorn group’. Why is it an irony and mention which figure of speech it is? 3
5. What does ‘cold within’ refer to? Does it affect humanity? Justify your answer. 4

Ans. Six people were trapped in bleak and bitter cold and the fire was their only chance of survival. After some time, the fire was about to die for lack of fuel. Each one had a log which they could put in the fire and keep it going to save themselves. None of them was ready to put their log as each one was prejudiced against some other in the group. Eventually all of them die as the fire dies. The ‘dying fire’ symbolizes the warmth and love in their heart which is dying slowly due do prejudices.

Ans. The rich man was thinking of the wealth in his store and wanted to protect it from the poor who, he thought, were lazy and lacked ambition. He did not want to give his wealth, the log he had, which could also help the poor.

Ans. The fifth man was a black man. There was white lady in the group, and he was full of hatred. He thought that the log was the only chance to take revenge. The sixth person was a calculative type of person. He was only ready to give to those who helped him too. Hence, they did not give their logs.

Ans. ‘Forlorn group’ means a lonely and isolated group. It is ironical because this group consists of six human beings and it cannot be lonely or isolated. However, it is due to their personal feelings and prejudices that have alienated them from each other. The figure of speech given here is ‘oxymoron’ as two opposite words are used together.

Ans. The cold within refers to the lack of warmth in the hearts of the people mentioned in the poem. Yes, it does affect humanity. The hatred within each one of them was a result of selfishness, greed, intolerance, discrimination and arrogance. The cold within caused the death of all the people. Similarly, such hatred and cold attitude of people towards each other, if not curbed, will lead to destruction of humanity at large.

***Question 6 16***

***“Who will buy these delicate, bright rainbow tinted circles of light”***

1. Name and explain the figure of speech in the above line. What is linked to the happiness of daughters and wives? 3
2. In the second stanza, some bangles are said to be like buds. Why? What do the symbolise? Give the comparison. 3
3. Which bangles are compared to the mountain mist? Why? 3
4. Which bangles does a bride wear on her wedding day? What are the bangles compared to? 3
5. What does the poet mean by “Whose hands have cherished, whose love has blest”? 4

Ans. The figure of speech in the given line is metaphor. The poet has compared the bangles indirectly to rainbow-tinted circles of light. The poet says that the bangles are shining symbols of the happy and cheerful lives of the happy daughters and happy wives who buy them.

Ans. The buds are pink in colour like the blush on a maiden’s face. So, the pink bangles are compared to buds. The pink buds symbolise small girls who are about to enter the adolescent age. Just like the buds are about to blossom into flowers, these girls are about to blossom into young adolescents.

Ans. The blue and silver bangles are compared to the mountain mist. Patches of the blue sky peeping through the mist gives a silvery effect. This is like wearing silver and blue bangles.

Ans. A bride wears either bright green or bright red bangles on the day of her wedding. The green bangles are compared to the vast fields of corn which shine brightly in the sunlight. The bright ones are like the flame of her marriage fire. The red colour also symbolises the passion of the newly wed.

Ans. In these lines the poet refers to the role of a woman when she becomes a mother. This is the most significant phase of a woman’s life where she makes a lot of sacrifices. She sacrifices her sleep and nurture her children. Her hands have taken care of the children and her love has blessed them.

**Section C- Prose**

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

***Question 7 16***

***“Yonder sky that has wept tears of compassion upon my people”***

1. What does the Chief Seattle say about the sky? 3
2. What is the White Chief’s wish? What does the Orator say about his wish? Why? 3
3. How does Chief Seattle bring out the difference between the number of whites and the native Americans? What are the examples given by him to bring out the difference? 3
4. What ‘mournful memory’ does the Orator speak of? 3
5. What does the Chief Seattle say about the youth? 4

Chief Seattle says that the sky has wept tears of compassion upon his people for several years. He further says that the sky appears to be changeless and eternal but it is not. Sometimes it is clear and devoid of clouds but at the other times it is overcast with clouds.

The White Chief wishes to buy the lands of the Red Indians and in return allow them to live there comfortably. The Orator thinks that this deal is a fair and generous one because the Red man no longer has rights that he needs respect. He thinks that the offer is wise.

Ans. The whites are in large numbers just like the grass that covers the huge grasslands of prairies. The tribal people of Seattle are few. They are like the trees that have been scattered on the plains due to a storm.

Ans. The Orator recalls the time when his people were large in number. They covered the land like the waves of a wind-ruffled sea covers its bed. But that was long ago and now the tribe has reduced and the greatness of the tribe is just a mournful memory.

Ans. Chief Seattle says that the youth is impulsive. He says that when the young people get angry at some real or imaginary wrong, and they disfigure their faces with black paint which is a sign of valour, it denotes that their hearts are black and they are often cruel and relentless. Even the old men and old women are unable to restrain them.

***Question 8 16***

***Now the red man implored, ‘Please, please I will speak slowly...’***

1. Where has this red man come from? What was he wearing? How did his clothes cause confusion? 3
2. Why does Muni’s wife call ‘chewing drumstick out of sauce’ as an unholy craving? 3
3. What can we imply about relations between people of Kritam and Kuppam? 3
4. Why did the red man implore? 3
5. Was Muni a regular smoker? Give substantial evidence from the story. 4
6. The red man has come from America. He was wearing khaki clothes and Muni thinks that he is kind of an Impostor who has come to investigate about the murder.
7. When Muni told his wife that he was tired of eating drumstick leaves and he had a desire to chew the drumstick out of sauce, his wife taunted him. She said that he had only four teeth in his jaw. She said so because in that acute poverty he wanted the luxury of eating the drumsticks out of sauce.
8. We can imply that the relations between people of Kritam and Kuppam are not cordial. According to Muni, people of Kuppam can go to any extent and will not stop at anything. He was also sure that his village has always had a clean record and the culprit must be definitely from the other village.
9. The red-faced man i.e. the American man implored Muni to try and understand what he was trying to say. He was frustrated as he had gotten along with English everywhere in the country. He wondered if there were any religious or spiritual scruples against English speech.
10. No, Muni wasn’t a regular smoker. He had not smoked since many years. Many years ago, the shop man had given him a cigarette on credit. When the foreigner lit the cigarette, Muni took a deep puff and started coughing. Though it was pleasant, the effect was so racking that he had tears in his eyes. His head reeled due to its effect

***Question 9***

1. Explain the significance of ‘Easter Sunday’ in the backdrop of the war. Which literary device is used here? 4
2. Explain the contrast given in the first paragraph of the story. 4
3. How does Hemmingway show that war disrupts the lives of the civilians in ‘Old Man at the Bridge’? 8

Easter Sunday is the day of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the third day after his crucifixion. Good Friday is the day that the innocent Christ sacrificed himself for humanity. Here the writer is juxtaposing the sacrifice of this old man on the day of Christ’s resurrection. It is a day of hope and new beginning. However, there is no hope or any beginning in the old man’s life. Hence the literary device used here is Irony.

He sat by the side of the road. He was seen near a pontoon bridge by the Ebro river. Though the other men, women, children were crossing the bridge and moving ahead, the old man sat there without moving and seemed too tired to walk any further. This contrast is shown with the word ‘but’ in the first paragraph.

Old Man represents many civilians who have fallen victims due to war. War destroys and devastates everything- life as well as property- people are moving- men women and children- the old man sits at the side- doesn’t move- homeless- hopeless-without family- seventy six years old- travelled twelve kilometres- the narrator urges him to move- cross the bridge but he doesn’t- various animals- symbolism of animals- cat represents independent people- the pigeons are the refugees who will move when they get the opportunity- goats get killed- like innocent victims- nowhere to go- bridge symbolises transition- new life- those who cross are safe- those who don’t, they die- the man feels hopeless on Easter day- Easter ironically a day of new beginning and new hope-