



Narsee Monjee Educational Trust's  
**JAMNABAI NARSEE SCHOOL**  
Narsee Monjee Bhavan, Narsee Monjee Marg,  
N.S. Road No. 7, J.V.P.D. Scheme,  
Vile Pagar (W), Mumbai - 400 046, India.

☎ 022 2995 1075 / 2995 1076

☎ 022 2995 1075 / 2995 1076

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**PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION FEBRUARY 2022**

**LITERATURE IN ENGLISH**

**Std. 10**

**Reading time: 1:30 p.m. to 1:40 p.m.**

**Writing time: 1:40 p.m. - 3:10 p.m.**

**Marks: 40**

**Date: 02.02.2022**

This paper consists of 5 printed pages

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*(Candidates are allowed additional 10 minutes for only reading the paper.  
They must NOT start writing during this time.)*

*You will not be allowed to write during the first 10 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.*

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*The paper has four sections. Section A is compulsory -*

*All questions in Section A must be answered.*

*You must attempt one question from each of the Sections B, C and D.*

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

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**SECTION A**

**Question 1** Choose the correct answers to the questions from the given options. (Do not copy the question, Write the correct answer only.) [10]

- i) The athletes were standing determined and poised for \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) their names to be called out.  
b) the race to begin.  
c) the sound of the gun.  
d) applause from the audience.
- ii) Why did the youngest of the contestants give out a cry of frustration and anguish?  
a) Everyone turned around to help him to his feet.  
b) He had stumbled and fallen.  
c) His dreams and his efforts were dashed to the dirt.  
d) He had lost the race.



- iii) Abou Ben Adhem requested the vision to write his name \_\_\_\_\_  
a) in the book of gold.  
b) as one that loves his fellow men.  
c) as one the Lord had blest.  
d) as one who loves the Lord.
- iv) 'My Greatest Olympic Prize' is a story set in the \_\_\_\_\_  
a) 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin.  
b) 1934 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.  
c) 1636 Winter Olympics in Berlin.  
d) 1736 Winter Olympics in France.
- v) Everyone expected Jesse Owens to win the broad jump event easily because \_\_\_\_\_  
a) he had trained and sweated for the event for many years.  
b) he had already won several such events in the earlier Olympic Games.  
c) he had set a record in the Columbia State University the previous year.  
d) he had set the world record in the Ohio State University in college.
- vi) Which one of the following has **NOT** been used to describe the vegetation on planet Venus?  
a) It was a nest of octopi.  
b) It was like a volcanic eruption and a hurricane.  
c) It was the colour of rubber and ash.  
d) It was the colour of stones and white cheese and ink.
- vii) According to Shylock, whom would he rather have had as Jessica's husband than a Christian?  
a) Chus  
b) Laban  
c) Barrabas  
d) Lorenzo
- viii) As a reward for her services, what does Portia take from Antonio?  
a) His gloves  
b) His ring  
c) His money  
d) His cloak
- ix) Which story does Lorenzo refer to when he speaks of a lover who stood 'upon the wild sea banks, and waft her love to come again to Carthage'?  
a) Troilus and Cressida  
b) Thisbe and Pyramus  
c) Dido and Aeneas  
d) Medea and Aeson



- x) Which one of the following characters would perfectly fit the description 'intelligent, resourceful and compassionate'?
- a) Bassanio
  - b) Antonio
  - c) The Duke
  - d) Portia

SECTION B  
DRAMA

(The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare - Acts 4 and 5)

Question 2

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

**Gratiano:** "Not on thy sole, but on thy soul, harsh Jew,  
Thou makest thy knife keen; but no metal can,  
No, not the hangman's axe, bear half the keenness  
Of thy sharp envy. Can no prayers pierce thee?"

- i) Whom does Gratiano address in the above lines? Where are they? [2]
- ii) What was the Jew doing that makes Gratiano speak to him in this manner? What does the word 'keenness' mean? [2]
- iii) A little earlier, what three things does Antonio compare the Jew to, to prove that it was pointless to argue with him? [3]
- iv) According to Gratiano, why was he inclined 'to hold opinion with Pythagoras'? [3]

Question 3

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

**Portia:** "You are all amazed:

*Here is a letter, read it at your leisure;  
It comes from Padua, from Bellario:"*

- i) What did the letter from Bellario contain? What was Lorenzo a witness to? [2]
- ii) What 'better news' did Portia bring for Antonio? How does Antonio react to it? [2]
- iii) What does 'manna' mean? How has Lorenzo received 'manna'? [3]
- iv) The play ends on a happy note. Mention any two reasons to support this observation. Give one characteristic of Portia's that is responsible for this happy ending. [3]



SECTION C  
PROSE - SHORT STORIES

(Treasure Trove – A Collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories)

Question 4

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

***"Something must be eating you," he said-proud the way foreigners are when they've mastered a bit of American slang. "You should be able to qualify with your eyes closed."***

- i) Whom does the foreigner address in the above lines? What event are the two athletes at? [2]
- ii) What has just happened that has made the foreigner approach the African American athlete? [2]
- iii) What advice does the foreigner give his opponent? What was the consequence? [3]
- iv) What theory did the Fuhrer believe in? How does it contrast with what the founder of modern Olympic Games wanted to advocate? [3]

Question 5

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

***"It was the color of flaming bronze and it was very large. And the sky around it was a blazing blue tile color. And the jungle burned with sunlight as the children, released from their spell, rushed out, yelling into the springtime."***

- i) What does 'it' in the extract refer to? What was the special occasion that made the children excited about that day? [2]
- ii) Describe any two activities the children indulged in after they rushed out? [2]
- iii) One of the children was missing from these activities. Who was it and why did she miss this moment? [3]
- iv) What is the theme of the story? Do the children realise their mistake? Give two reasons to support your answer. [3]

SECTION D  
POETRY

(Treasure Trove – A Collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories)

Question 6

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

***"The vision raised its head,  
And with a look made of all sweet accord,  
Answered, "The names of those who love the Lord."***

- i) What did Abou Ben Adhem see one night when he awoke? [2]
- ii) How did Abou respond to the answer given by the vision in the extract? What did he request the vision? [2]



- iii) What happened the following night? [3]  
 iv) Name the poet. What message does the poet convey through the poem? Give a reason why the message is especially relevant today. [3]

Question 7

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

*"All round the field spectators were gathered  
 Cheering on all the young women and men  
 Then the final event of the day was approaching  
 The last race about to begin."*

- i) What were the young women and men competing for? What was the last event of the day? [2]  
 ii) What happened as soon as the sound of the pistol exploded? [2]  
 iii) Why does the poet call what happened next, a strange story? [3]  
 iv) Why did the event deserve to be called 'Special Olympics' for more than one reason? What one characteristic, according to you, was predominantly displayed by all the contestants? [3]

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