

City International School

ANNUAL EXAMINATION 2015 - 2016

Date : 01/03/2016

Std : IX

Subject : English Literature

Marks : 80

Time : 2 hrs

Answer 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 Section A, B and C and any two other questions.

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets ().

SECTION – A [Merchant of Venice]

Q. 1 Read the extract and answer the questions given below.

Arragon: And well said too; for who shall go about
To cozen fortune and be honourable
Without the stamp of merit? Let none presume
To wear an undeserved dignity,
O that estates, degrees and offices
Were not derived corruptly,

- a. Which of the three caskets appeal to the Prince of Arragon? What was the inscription on it? Why does he call it a 'treasure-house.'? (3)
- b. What reasons does he give to reject the other caskets? (3)
- c. What are the 'estates, degrees and offices'? What does he says about them? (3)
- d. What does he find on opening the casket of his choice? What was written in the scroll? (3)
- e. Portia's father, even though, he is dead, has power over his daughter's choice of husband – 'The will of a living daughter is curbed by the will of a dead father'. Do you think it was right of her father to device such a way to marry Portia? Justify. (4)

Q. 2 Read the extract and answer the questions given below.

Antonio: In sooth, I know not why I am so sad,
It wearies me, you say it wearies you;
But how I caught it, found it or came by it,
What stuff 'tis made of, where of it is born,
I am to learn;

- a. Who is Antonio speaking to? What is 'It' that he has? According to him what is the reason for it? (3)
- b. What do the listeners think could be the real reason of 'It'? How would the First listener behave if he was Antonio? (3)
- c. Later in the scene, what reason does Gratiano give for Antonio's state of mind? What role would he like to play and why? (3)
- d. 'That you today promis'd to tell me of?' What is the topic of discussion? What does Bassanio tell about his present financial condition? (3)
- e. What does Antonio say to show his solidarity towards Bassanio? Which childhood incident does Bassanio quote to stress his case? (4)

SECTION – B [POETRY]

Q. 3 Read the extract and answer the questions given below.

I don't recall what happened then; I think I must have cried;
I put my arms around him and I pulled him to my side
And, as I held him to me, I could feel our wounds were pressed
The large one in my heart against the small one in his chest.

- a. Why did the narrator cry? Explain the ironical significance of the title. (3)
- b. Why was the narrator not able to recall what happened then? What thoughts Was the soldier boy preoccupied with? (3)
- c. What imagery does the poet draw to create the scenery of a battlefield? (3)
- d. Why does the soldier count himself lucky? Enumerate the events that led to the small pain in his chest? (3)
- e. Explain the last two lines of the poem. (4)

Q. 4 Read the extract and answer the questions given below.

Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way
Into the dreary desert sand of dread habit
Where the mind is led forward by thee

- a. What is meant by 'tireless striving'? What does the speaker want his countrymen to achieve? How has 'tireless striving' been personified in the extract? (3)
- b. Whose mind is the speaker talking about? Who is 'thee' and where will he lead the mind? (3)
- c. Explain why 'reason' has been compared to a clear stream. (3)
- d. Name the poet of the poem. What does he say about the world that has been broken into fragments? (3)
- e. What does the poet mean by 'heaven of freedom'? How does he feel that his country can achieve the heaven of freedom? (4)

SECTION – C [PROSE]
Short Stories

Q. 5 Read the extract and answer the questions given below.

Very well, if you must have, have him. It is all the same to me whether you nominate Alagu Chowdhari or Ramadhan Misra. Alagu, who did not wish to be dragged into the dispute, now demurred and said 'Aunt, you are not unaware of my relations with Jumman'.

- a. Briefly narrate the dispute between the aunt and the nephew (3)
- b. Who proposed Alagu's name as the headpanch? Why was Alagu reluctant to be dragged into the dispute? (3)
- c. Who was Ramdhan Misra? What were his presumptions about the verdict? (3)
- d. Do you think Jumman tried to manipulate the villager in his favour? Explain. (3)
- e. The story drives home a very strong message. What was that verdict and what do you understand by it? (4)

Q. 6 'The Bet' portrays two characters. With close reference to the two, write an account of the story. State whether you sympathize with the lawyer or not. Give reasons for your answer. (16)