

ICSE PRE BOARD EXAMINATION 2022 -23
ENGLISH LITERATURE

Time allowed: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 80

Answers 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.

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 and one other question from any Section of your choice.

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

SECTION A

(Attempt all questions from this Section.)

Question 1

Read the following questions and choose the most appropriate response from the choices given below
(Please do not copy the question - simply write out in correct serial order the appropriate word or phrase.)

[16]

- ✓(i) What makes Margot different from the rest of her classmates in Bradbury's story 'All Summer in a Day'?
- She's a native Venusian.
 - She remembers sunlight.
 - She has extraordinary powers.
 - She can't talk.
- ✓(ii) What do you think was Jesse Owens's greatest Olympic prize?
- The gold medal he won in the long jump.
 - The win he scored over Luz Long.
 - The true friendship he formed with Long.
 - He gained money in the games.
- ✓(iii) Shylock said he would not grant mercy for the simple reason that
- he hated Bassanio.
 - he loved Antonio.
 - he loved Bassanio.
 - he hated Antonio.
- ✓(iv) Bassanio offered Shylock six thousand ducats, _____ the original loan amount.
- thrice
 - equal to
 - four times
 - twice
- ✓(v) Bassanio rejected the golden casket because _____.
- he knew that Midas had found gold hard to digest.
 - he knew that outward appearances are often deceptive.
 - he found gold too shiny for his taste.
 - he had been told which casket contained Portia's portrait.
- ✓(vi) Why is the friendship between Antonio and Bassanio godlike?
- Because Antonio cannot sacrifice his own life for Bassanio.
 - Because Antonio wants to meet Bassanio before he dies.
 - Because Antonio can sacrifice his own life for the sake of Bassanio, his friend.
 - Because Antonio has lent money to Bassanio and has never asked for it.

- ✓(vii) Why did Tubal go to Genoa?
(a) To do business for Shylock
(b) To find Bassanio
(c) To find Jessica
(d) To find Antonio
- ✓(viii) Who is the only family member the little match girl is very attached to?
(a) Her sister
(b) Her grandfather
(c) Her grandmother
(d) Her father
- ✓(ix) What was the ultimate fate reserved for the patriot?
(a) He was hailed to glory.
(b) He became a public legacy.
(c) He was brutally executed.
(d) He was forgotten.
- ✓(x) "This is the fool that lent out money gratis." Here 'gratis' means _____.
(a) carefully
(b) happily
(c) free of interest
(d) with high interest
- ✓(xi) "Truly, the more to blame is he:" Who is 'he' here?
(a) Launcelot
(b) Lorenzo
(c) Shylock
(d) Antonio
- ✓(xii) "Fair sir, you are well o'erta'en."
Who is the speaker? Who is he addressing?
(a) Portia to Shylock
(b) Duke to Shylock
(c) Gratiano to Portia
(d) Antonio to Gratiano
- ✓(xiii) The poem 'Abou Ben Adhem' is rooted in a purely _____ context.
(a) spiritual
(b) secular
(c) modern
(d) sarcastic
- ✓(xiv) The nine sportsmen stood with smiling faces and gold medals under the banner that declared it a 'Special Olympics'. This shows
(a) human compassion.
(b) cooperation.
(c) true sportsman spirit.
(d) All of the above
- ✓(xv) What is the moral that the poet is trying to convey through the poem "Nine Gold Medals"?
(a) It is okay to fall down once in a while.
(b) Winning is important.
(c) Compassion is more important than competition.
(d) We should help each other.

What made Owens determined to beat Long in the Long Jump?

- (a) Long was Hitler's surprise packet for the Olympics.
- (b) Owens was jealous of Long.
- (c) If he lost to Long, the Nazis would feel even more proud about their own race.
- (d) He was the holder of the world record and did not want to be beaten by Long.

SECTION B

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)

DRAMA

(The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare)

Question 2

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

DUKE : *That thou shalt see the difference of our spirit,
I pardon thee thy life before thou ask it.
For half thy wealth, it is Antonio's;
The other half comes to the general state,
Which humbleness may drive unto a fine.*

PORTIA : *Ay, for the state; not for Antonio.*

SHYLOCK : *Nay, take my life and all; Pardon not that:
You take my house when you do take the prop
That doth sustain my house; you take my life
When you do take the means whereby I live.*

- (i) State in your own words the 'pardon' referred to in the extract. State the conditions under which pardon is granted. [3]
- (ii) What two conditions did Antonio impose on Shylock for being allowed to retain half of his wealth? [3]
- (iii) What would Gratiano do if he were the judge? [3]
- (iv) How can you conclude that Shylock is in a frustrated mood at this time? What are your feelings for Shylock at the end of this scene? [3]
- (v) Give the character of the Duke in this scene. [4]

Question 3

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

Shylock : *Gaoler, look to him: tell me not of mercy;
This is the fool that lent out money gratis:
Gaoler, look to him.*

Antonio : *Hear me yet, good Shylock.*

Shylock : *I'll have my bond; speak not against my bond:
I have sworn an oath that I will have my bond.*

- (i) Where are Antonio, Shylock and the gaoler? Why was the gaoler present? [3]
- (ii) What are the three things about Antonio that Shylock tells the gaoler? [3]
- (iii) Why does Antonio say "Hear me yet"? Why does he call Shylock 'good Shylock'? [3]
- (iv) What is Shylock's attitude towards Antonio in this extract? What were the two main reasons for this attitude of Shylock towards Antonio? [3]
- (v) Later in the scene Salarino tries to bring hope to Antonio regarding the 'bond'. What does Salarino say, and how does Antonio point out that hope is in vain? [4]

SECTION C

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)

PROSE – SHORT STORIES

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

✓ Question 4

Read the extract from Ray Bradbury's short story, "All summer in a Day" given below and answer the questions that follow:

He turned to the other children.

"Nothing's happening today. Is it?"

They all blinked at him and then, understanding, laughed and shook their heads.

"Nothing, nothing!"

"Oh, but," Margot whispered, her eyes helpless. "But this is the day, the scientists predict, they say, they know, the sun..."

"All a joke!" said the boy, and seized her roughly. "Hey, everyone, let's put her in a closet before the teacher comes!"

"No," said Margot, falling back.

They surged about her, caught her up and bore her protesting, and then pleading, and then crying, back into a tunnel, a room, a closet, where they slammed and locked the door. They stood looking at the door and saw it tremble from her beating and throwing herself against it.

- ✓(i) Why did the boy push Margot? [3]
- ✓(ii) What did the boy tell the children to do? What did they do? [3]
- ✓(iii) What did the children see while standing there? [3]
- ✓(iv) What happened when the rain stopped? [3]
- ✓(v) Why was the door trembling? [4]

✓ Question 5

Read the extract from the short story, "My Greatest Olympic Prize" 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."

"Believe me, I know it," I told him - and it felt good to say that to someone.

For the next few minutes we talked together. I didn't tell Long what was "eating" me, but he seemed to understand my anger, and he took pains to reassure me.

- ✓(i) Who is the 'foreigner'? Describe him. [3]
- ✓(ii) What is the meaning of "Something must be eating you"? Explain. [3]
- ✓(iii) What did Luz Long advise Owens? [3]
- ✓(iv) How did they spend the rest of the evening? [3]
- ✓(v) What is the theme of the story? [4]

SECTION D

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)

POETRY

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

Question 6

Read the extract from the Poem, "The Patriot" given below and answer the questions that follow:

Alack, it was I who leaped at the sun

To give it my loving friends to keep!

Nought man could do, have I left undone:

And you see my harvest, what I reap

This very day, now a year is run.

There's nobody on the house-tops now-

*Just a palsied few at the windows set;
For the best of the sight is, all allow,
At the Shambles' Gate---or, better yet,
By the very scaffold's foot, I trow.*

- (i) What does 'leaping at the sun' show about the speaker's character?
What does the act in itself refer to? [3]
- (ii) How does the speaker remember his past actions and what does he say about the result? [3]
- (iii) What change has taken place on the rooftops? How does it affect the speaker? [3]
- (iv) What is the speaker's personal opinion about his punishment? [3]
- (v) What does the scaffold refer to? Do you feel he has committed any crime? [4]

✓ Question 7

Read the extract from the Poem, "**Nine Gold Medals**" given below and answer the questions that follow:

*Then all the nine runners joined hands and continued
The one hundred metres reduced to a walk
And the banner above that said "Special Olympics"
Could not have been nearer the mark.*

- ✓(i) How does the appearance of the banner give an emotional twist to the narration?
Does it suddenly change the reader's view about the narration? [3]
- ✓(ii) Why does the poet say the banner was 'up to the mark'? What did the athletes achieve? [3]
- ✓(iii) If this incident was taking place in the ordinary, what do you think would have happened?
Who would have helped the boy? [3]
- ✓(iv) What attributes have the athletes shown? Is it sportsmanship, foolishness or humanity? [3]
- ✓(v) What is so special about this particular race of "Special Olympics"?
What is the message in the poem that we can imbibe in our lives? [4]
