

LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL, RAPTINAGAR, GORAKHPUR
FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION 2021-2022

Class: X
English II

Time: 2 Hours
Max Marks: 80

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 at least **one** question from each of the **Sections A, B and C** and not more than **two other questions** from the same books you have already compulsorily chosen.

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

SECTION A- DRAMA

The Merchant of Venice: Shakespeare

Question 1

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

[16]

Shylock:

Out upon her! Thou torturest me, Tubal: it was my turquoise; I had it of Leah when I was a bachelor: I would not have given it for a wilderness of monkeys.

Tubal:

But Antonio is certainly undone.

Shylock:

Nay, that's true, that's very true. Go, Tubal, fee me an officer; bespeak him a fortnight before. I will have the heart of him, if he forfeit; for were he out of Venice, I can make what merchandise I will. Go, Tubal, and meet me at our synagogue; go, good Tubal; at our synagogue, Tubal.

- a) Why does Tubal say that Antonio is undone? What makes him say with certainty that Antonio is undone? Who is Leah? **[3]**
- b) In what mood is Shylock in this scene? How is Tubal said to be torturing him? **[3]**
- c) What is a synagogue? What can you conclude from Shylock's journey towards the synagogue? **[3]**
- d) How is Shylock going to punish Antonio? What would he gain by revengeful action? **[3]**
- e) In what way, by the end of the scene, does Shylock convince the audience that his attack on Antonio is without any mercy? Which character trait of Shylock is shown in this scene? **[4]**

Question 2

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

[16]

Portia:

Lorenzo, I commit into your hands
The husbandry and manage of my house
Until my lord's return; for mine own part,
I have toward heaven breathed a secret vow
To live in prayer and contemplation,
Only attended by Nerissa here,
Until her husband and my lord's return:

- a) What is meant by ‘the husbandry and manage of my house’? [3]
- b) What responsibilities does Portia give to Lorenzo? What would Portia do till her husband return? [3]
- c) Under what pretext was Portia leaving her house? [3]
- d) What was Portia’s intention in leaving her home? Why did she need Nerissa to accompany her? [3]
- e) Why does Portia say that during her absence Lorenzo would not find it difficult to run her house smoothly? How does Portia show that she is intelligent and has good management skills? [4]

Question 3

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

[16]

Portia:

Myself and what is mine to you and yours
 Is now converted; but now I was the lord
 Of this fair mansion, master of my servants,
 Queen o’er myself; and even now, but now,
 This house, these servants, and this same
 myself,
 Are yours, my lord; I give them with this ring;
 Which when you part from, lose, or give away,
 Let it presage the ruin of your love,
 And be my vantage to exclaim on you.

- a) Where does this scene take place? What makes Portia to speak these words? Where does Bassanio find the portrait of Portia? [3]
- b) What does Bassanio say praising Portia’s portrait? [3]
- c) What news makes Bassanio sad on this occasion? What does Portia ask him to do? [3]
- d) What work does Portia assign to Balthazar? [3]
- e) Where does Portia plan to go? What does she tell her servants about her trip? What does this scene reveal about the character of Portia? Give a reason to justify your answer. [4]

SECTION B - POETRY

Treasure Trove: A collection of ICSE poems

Question 4

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

[16]

The caged bird sings
 With fearful trill
 of things unknown
 but longed for still
 and his tune is heard
 on the distant hill
 for the caged bird
 sings of freedom.

- a) Under what circumstances does the caged bird sing? What does it tell us about his condition? [3]
- b) What is meant by: “fearful trill”? Why is it said to be fearful? [3]
- c) What song is he singing? Why? [3]
- d) Explain, ‘stands on the grave of dreams/his shadow shouts on a nightmare scream’ [3]
- e) What parallel can be drawn to the poet’s feelings and that of the caged bird? [4]

Question 5

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

[16]

The free bird thinks of another breeze
and the trade winds soft through the sighing trees
and the fat worms waiting on a dawn bright lawn
and he names the sky his own.

- a) To what does 'another breeze' refer? What is meant by sighing trees? [3]
- b) What good things of the earth are waiting for the free bird? [3]
- c) Give the meaning and significance of the following:
 - 1) and he names the sky his own.
 - 2) But caged bird stands on the grave of dreams. [3]
- d) The last two lines of the extract is a repetition of the earlier lines. Why is the repetition used? [3]
- e) State how does the second stanza of the extract, show that the caged bird:
 - 1) Is without freedom:
 - 2) Is struggling to express itself: [4]

SECTION C - PROSE

Treasure Trove: A collection of ICSE short stories

Question 6

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

[16]

She struck another- it burnt clearly and, where the light fell upon the wall, the bricks became transparent, like gauze. She could see right into the room ...

- a) Who was 'she' referred to in the extract? Where was she? What happened when she lit the match stick? [3]
- b) What did the girl see in the room when she lit the second match? What happened to these things after a moment? [3]
- c) Explain how the girl's visions are symbolic of her undying hope. [3]
- d) What does the light from the matches symbolise in the story? [3]
- e) Explain why the girl lit the whole bundle of matches at the end of the story? How does this reflect on her mental state? [4]

Question 7

Answer the following questions with reference to 'The Little Match Girl':

[16]

- a) Despite facing cold, hunger and apathy of the people around her, the girl doesn't lose her faith and hope. Justify the statement in the context of the story. [4]
- b) How does the story reflect on the theme of class differentiation in the Victorian Era? [4]
- c) Describe the little match girl's hallucinations and their significance. [8]