

LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL, RAPTINAGAR, GORAKHPUR

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION - 2020- 2021

Class X
English - IITime: 2 Hours
Marks: 80

(Answer any 5 questions)

*Attempt five questions in all from three text books.**You must attempt at least one question from each of the Section A, B and C and not more than two other questions from the same books you have already compulsorily chosen.*SECTION - A (DRAMA)

I. Read the extract given below and answer the following questions:

[16]

Portia:

Away, then! I am lock'd in one of them:
 If you do love me, you will find me out.-
 Nerissa, and the rest, stand all aloof.-
 Let music sound while he doth make his choice;
 Then, if he lose, he makes a swan-like end,
 Fading in music: that the comparison
 May stand more proper, my eye shall be the stream
 And watery death-bed for him. He may win;
 And what is music then? then music is
 Even as the flourish when true subjects bow
 To a new-crowned monarch: such it is
 As are those dulcet sounds in break of the day
 That creep into the dreaming bridegroom's ear,
 And summon him to marriage.- Now he goes,
 With no less presence, but with much more love,
 Than young Alcides, when he did redeem
 The virgin tribute paid by howling Troy
 To the sea-monster: I stand for sacrifice;
 The rest aloof are the Dardanian wives,
 With bleared visages, come forth to view
 The issue of the exploit. Go, Hercules!
 Live thou, I live: with much, much more dismay
 I view the fight than thou that mak'st the fray.

- 1) What does Portia tell to Bassanio? [3]
- 2) What instructions does she give before the choice is made? [3]
- 3) Who is Alcides? In what way Bassanio looks like young Hercules. [3]
- 4) Explain the meaning of 'he makes a swan-like end.' What contemporary belief about swans is expressed in the extract? [3]
- 5) In what way does Bassanio look like young Hercules? What is Portia's anxiety? [4]

II. Read the extract given below and answer the following questions:**[16]****Portia**

I never did repent for doing good,
 Nor shall not now: for in companions
 That do converse and waste the time together,
 Whose souls do bear an equal yoke of love,
 There must be needs like proportion
 Of lineaments, of manners, and spirit;
 Which makes me think that this Antonio,
 Being the bosom lover of my lord,
 Must needs be like my lord. If it be so,
 How little is the cost I have bestow'd
 In purchasing the semblance of my soul
 From out the state of hellish cruelty!
 This comes too near the praising of myself;
 Therefore no more of it: hear other things.
 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:
 There is a monastery two miles off,
 And there we will abide. I do desire you
 Not to deny this imposition:
 The which my love and some necessity
 Now lays upon you.

- 1) What does Portia say of her past actions? [3]
- 2) What is Portia's opinion about those friends who spend their time together? [3]
- 3) Why doesn't Portia want to continue the talk about the resemblance between Bassanio and Antonio anymore? [3]
- 4) What does Portia want to do until the return of Gratiano and Bassanio? [3]
- 5) What assignments does Portia give to Lorenzo? Which aspect of Portia's character is shown in this scene? [4]

SECTION - B (POETRY)**III. Read the extract given below and answer the following questions:****[16]**

Their logs held tight in death's still hands
 Was proof of human sin.
 They did not die from the cold without
 They died from the cold within.

- 1) What was the weather like when the six people found themselves together? [3]

- 2) Why wouldn't the third man put his piece of log in the dying fire? [3]
- 3) What did the black man see in his piece of wood? Give an instance from the poem to show that his feelings were somewhat justified. [3]
- 4) Who among the gathering was an opportunist? How can you say so? [3]
- 5) Would you say that 'The Cold Within' is an apt title for this poem? Give reasons for your answer. [4]

IV. Read the extract given below and answer the following questions: [16]

And then the old man shook his head
 And, with a natural sigh,
 "Tis some poor fellow's skull," said he,
 'Who fell in the great victory.

- 1) Who is the old man? What causes him to sigh? [3]
- 2) What incident prompted the old man to give an account of the Battle of Blenheim? [3]
- 3) How did the battle affect the old man's family? [3]
- 4) Name the two countries that fought each other in the battle. Which army won? What reason does the old man give for the victory? [3]
- 5) Point out the refrain in the poem. What effect does the refrain have on the reader? What do you think is the poet's attitude to war? [4]

SECTION - C (SHORT STORIES)

V. Read the extract given below and answer the following questions: [16]

She pulled one out – scr-r-ratch! –how it spluttered and burnt! It had a warm, bright flame like a tiny candle when she held her hand over it –but what a strange light! It seemed to the little girl as if she were sitting in front of a great iron stove with polished brass knobs and brass ornaments. The fire burnt so beautifully and gave out such a lovely warmth. Oh, how wonderful that was! The child had already stretched her feet to warm them, too, when – out went the flame, the stove vanished and there she sat with the burnt match in her hand.

- 1) Who is she referred to in the extract? Where was she and why? [3]
- 2) What did she pull out? Why? [3]
- 3) What strange vision did she see in the light? How does she feel? [3]
- 4) What does the vision reflect on the physical and emotional needs of the girl? [3]
- 5) Give two instances from the story to show that children were abused in Victorian society. What was the effect of this on the little girl? [4]

VI. Answer the following questions with reference to Ernest Hemmingway's short story entitled "The Old Man at the Bridge" [16]

- 1) Explain why the narrator takes so much time to converse with the old man. Use details from the story to support your answer. [4]
- 2) What statements from the story suggest that the old man is about to give up on life? Quote specific statements to back your answer. [4]
- 3) How does Hemmingway show that war disrupts the lives of ordinary people? Is this portrayal realistic? Explain why you think so. [8]