



Estd. 1861

BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION (2023-24)
CLASS – X
LITERATURE IN ENGLISH (ENGLISH PAPER – 2)

Maximum Marks: 80

Time allowed: Two hours

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

Choose the correct answers to the questions from the given options.
(Do not copy the question, write the correct answers only.)

[16]

- “None but that ugly treason of mistrust,
Which makes me fear th’ enjoying of my love.”
Who says the above words and to whom?
(a) Bassanio to Portia (c) Gratiano to Nerissa
(b) Portia to Bassanio (d) Nerissa to Gratiano
- Farmer Jones offered to take
(a) Maggie (c) Kate
(b) John (d) All the children of the dead woman
- The Olympic games were held in
(a) 1934 in Berlin, Germany (c) 1936 in Berlin, Germany
(b) 1940 in London, UK (d) 1936 in Cape Town, South Africa
- How thick was the hide of the crocodile?
(a) 2 inches (c) 1 inch
(b) 3 inches (d) Around 1 and a half inch
- The message conveyed by the poet in ‘Nine Gold Medals’ is:
(a) it is okay to fall down in a while
(b) winning is not very important
(c) compassion is more important than competition
(d) all of the above
- In the poem ‘Daffodils’ “a poet could not but be gay, in such a jocund company!” Here ‘jocund company’ refers to the:
(a) Friends of the poet (c) Stars
(b) Waves (d) Daffodils
- In Act III Scene IV, why does Portia say that Nerissa and she will see “our husbands/before they think of us”?
(a) She plans to disguise herself and Nerissa as men and follow their husbands
(b) She is planning a surprise for them
(c) They will come back very soon
(d) All of the above
- In the poem ‘Abou Ben Adhem’, how does Adhem speak to the angel?
(a) With humility (c) With sarcasm
(b) With pride (d) In a sleepy voice

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9. When she is disguised as Balthasar, what argument does Portia make for Shylock showing mercy?
 - (a) Mercy is a blessing
 - (b) Mercy is the law
 - (c) Shylock will earn respect
 - (d) None of these
10. What token does Portia, disguised as a lawyer, ask from Antonio?
 - (a) Gloves
 - (b) Letter of thanks
 - (c) Diamonds
 - (d) Ring
11. As soon as the court scene ends, Portia sends Nerissa:
 - (a) To Shylock's house
 - (b) Back to Belmont
 - (c) To find Bassanio
 - (d) To find Antonio
12. In Shakespeare's drama 'The Merchant of Venice', what did the people refer to as Goodwins?
 - (a) The harbour
 - (b) The place of shipwreck
 - (c) A deadly sight
 - (d) The deep waters
13. In the short story 'All Summer in a Day', the students hated Margot because:
 - (a) Margot picks on William
 - (b) Margot's experiences are very different from the other students
 - (c) Margot thinks that she is better than the other students
 - (d) Margot does not like to take showers
14. In the poem 'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings', the caged bird sings about:
 - (a) Unknown things that he longs for and for freedom
 - (b) Love and friendship
 - (c) Fat worms and freedom
 - (d) Happiness
15. When the little girl lights the first matchstick in 'The Little Match Girl', she imagines:
 - (a) Building a snowman
 - (b) Laughing with her father
 - (c) Sitting beside a warm stove
 - (d) Sleeping in a warm bed
16. Sibia, in the short story 'The Blue Bead', did not mention about her heroic act to her mother because:
 - (a) She did not think she had done anything great
 - (b) She did not like her mother
 - (c) She was too excited and happy after finding the blue bead
 - (d) It was usual for her to rescue people in distress

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:

Antonio: Commend me to your honorable wife,
 Tell her the process of Antonio's end,
 Say how I loved you, speak me fair in death,
 And when the tale is told, bid her be judge
 Whether Bassanio had not once a love.
 Repent but you that you shall lose your friend
 And he repents not that he pays your debt.
 For if the Jew do cut but deep enough,
 I'll pay it instantly with all my heart.

- (i) Why does Antonio speak these words? Where was he? Who is 'your honorable wife'? [3]
- (ii) Why is Antonio in the present situation? What was he wishing for? [3]
- (iii) What did Bassanio claim to do for Antonio in his speech of reply to Antonio? Who snubs his claim? [3]
- (iv) Antonio in the same speech considers fortune to be kind on him. Why? [3]
- (v) What role did Portia play in the trial scene? How did she become his saviour and lucky for him? Comment. [4]

Question 3

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

Portia: So doth the greater glory dim the less.
A substitute shines brightly as a king
Until a king be by

- (i) Where is Portia? Whom is she speaking these words to? Where have they returned from? [3]
- (ii) When does she speak these words and in what connection? [3]
- (iii) Who announces her arrival? What reason of their absence had she given to all? [3]
- (iv) Mention the names of three birds that she uses as examples in her speech when she hears music. [3]
- (v) Portia is happy and at peace with herself in the last scene of the play. What do you think is the reason? What is she looking forward to and why? [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 given below and answer the questions that follow:

Chattering as they went, the women followed the dusty track toward the river. On their way, they passed a Gujar encampment of grass huts where these nomadic graziers would live for a time until their animals had perhaps finished all the easy grazing within reach, or they were not able to sell enough of their white butter and white milk in the district, or there was no one to buy the young male buffaloes for tiger-bait.

- (i) Where were the women going? What did they pass by while going towards the river? [3]
- (ii) Who were the Gujars? Where had the Gujar men and boys gone? [3]
- (iii) Give a brief description of the dress of the Gujar women. [3]
- (iv) How was Sibia a jungle? What did she notice about the buffaloes that were left behind by the Gujars? [3]
- (v) What is the other name given to Sibia by Noah Burke in the short story 'The Blue Bead'? Why is this name appropriate for her? [4]

Question 5

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

He gave her a shove. But she did not move; rather she let herself be moved only by him and nothing else. They edged away from her, they would not look at her. She felt them go away. And this was because she would play no games with them in the echoing tunnels of the underground city. If they tagged her and ran, she stood blinking after them and did not follow. When the class sang songs about happiness and life and games her lips barely moved. Only when they sang about the sun and the summer did her lips move as she watched the drenched windows. And then, of course, the biggest crime of all was that she had come here only five years ago from Earth, and she remembered the sun and the way the sun was and the sky was when she was four in Ohio.

- (i) Who are 'he' and 'her' in 'he gave her a shove'? Who are 'they' referred to as in the given extract? [3]
- (ii) Why did she not play games with them? What is meant by 'the biggest crime'? [3]
- (iii) When did she reach the place she was currently in? Where had she come from? [3]
- (iv) List any three ways in which she was not like them. [3]
- (v) Bradbury tries to bring out a meaningful message for the readers of his short story 'All Summer in a Day'. The message is brought out by the change in the point of view of 'they' towards the protagonist. How and why did this point of view change? Discuss. [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 given below and answer the questions that follow:

*The air broke into a mist with bells,
The old walls rocked with the crowd and cries.
Had I said, "Good folk, mere noise repels---
But give me your sun from yonder skies!"
They had answered, "And afterward, what else?"*

- (i) Who is the speaker in the given extract? What time is he referring to in this extract? Where is he at the present moment? [3]
- (ii) How was the present scenario different from that of the past? [3]
- (iii) Explain 'the air broke into a mist with bells'.
- (iv) What does the phrase 'and afterward what else' convey about the people and their feelings towards the speaker? [3]
- (v) What does Robert Browning convey about the life of a public hero and human mentality in general? Discuss briefly with reference to his short poem 'The Patriot'. [4]

Question 7

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

*The signal was given, the pistol exploded
And so did the runners on hearing the sound
But the youngest among them stumbled and staggered
And he fell on his knees to the ground.*

- (i) How does the poet convey the intensity of the moment and the field? [3]
- (ii) Which event is referred to in the given extract? How did it start? [3]
- (iii) What happened to one of the athletes? What was his reaction? [3]
- (iv) What was the reaction of the other participants? Why was it strange? [3]
- (v) How did the event come to an end? What human values are displayed at the end of David Roth's short poem 'Nine Gold Medals'? [4]

