

NAME OF STUDENT:

MAX.MARKS: 80

DATE:

TIME: 2 HOURS

NOTE: 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 or parts of questions are given in brackets.

SECTION A

(Attempt all questions from this Section)

QUESTION 1

(16)

Choose the correct answers to the questions from the given options.

(Do not copy the question, write the correct answer only.)

1. In Hans Christian Andersen's story, what forces the Little Match Girl to go about selling matches on the street?
 - (a). Poverty
 - (b). Greed
 - (c). The weather
 - (d). Desire for wealth
2. What was the blue bead?
 - (a). A piece of perforated glass.
 - (b). A round blue pebble.
 - (c). A blue marble.
 - (d). A blue river rock.
3. Why according to Maya Angelou, does the caged bird sing?
 - (a). To pass the time.
 - (b). Because he is hungry for fat worms.
 - (c). To voice his protest.
 - (d). To communicate with the free bird.
4. The line "The house – roofs seemed to heave and sway," in Robert Browning's poem "The Patriot" means _____
 - (a). The roofs of the houses were swaying in the wind.
 - (b). The roofs were so crowded with people that they appeared to be heaving and swaying.
 - (c). The house-roofs were lifted off due to an earthquake.
 - (d). The roofs of houses were blown away in the heavy rain and strong wind.

5. _____ was Portia's faithful servant.
- Bellarion
 - Balthazar
 - Launcelot
 - Stephano
6. What rare quality of Bassanio helps him choose the right casket?
- His desperate need for money.
 - His dislike of gold and silver.
 - His honesty.
 - His ability to look beyond outward appearances.
7. What did the Little Match Girl see when she struck the second match stick?
- A beautiful Christmas Tree.
 - Her grandmother who loved her dearly.
 - Bright stars shooting across the sky.
 - A stuffed goose waddling towards her.
8. Which of the following statement is NOT true of Sibia?
- She had long golden hair.
 - She was twelve years old.
 - She had to work hard from her early years.
 - She had no money to buy glass beads at the bazaar.
9. What makes "The Patriot" in Browning's poem feel sad and bitter?
- The welcome he received.
 - Getting wet in the rain.
 - The fickle-mindedness of his followers.
 - The flags on the Church spire.
10. What sight fills the poet Wordsworth's heart with joy?
- The lonely cloud.
 - A host of golden daffodils.
 - The dancing waves.
 - The stars in the Milky Way.
11. Joe Thompson was a _____.
- Barber
 - Gardener
 - Carpenter
 - Wheelwright
12. Why does Portia suggest that Bassanio should delay before choosing the casket?
- Portia wants to pray before Bassanio chooses any one of the caskets.
 - Portia wants to tell Bassanio which casket to choose.
 - Portia is afraid that Bassanio will choose the wrong casket and she will lose his company.
 - Portia begs Bassanio not to hurry to choose the casket.
13. What did the roses spread on the patriot's way symbolize?
- People's way of showing their love and appreciation for the patriot.
 - People's way of showing their hatred for the patriot.
 - People's way of showing their concern for the patriot.
 - People's way of showing their rejection of the patriot's deeds.
14. How did Maggie become a disabled person?
- From birth she was disabled.
 - She had a fall from a window and had injured her spine.
 - She was suffering from a dangerous disease.
 - She had injured her leg while playing and was unable to walk.

15. Soon after Portia and Bassanio declare their love for each other, another pair also declares their love for each other and asks to be married at the same time as Portia and Bassanio. They are_____.
- (a) Gratiano and Jessica
 - (b) Gratiano and Nerissa
 - (c) Lorenzo and Nerissa
 - (d) Lorenzo and Jessica
16. A free bird leaps on _____.
- (a) The current ends.
 - (b) The top of the trees.
 - (c) The back of the wind.
 - (d) The mountain top.

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:

Portia:

And look what notes and garments he doth give thee,

Bring them , I pray thee, with imagined speed

Unto the trajet, to the common ferry

Which trades to Venice. Waste no time in words,

But get thee gone : I shall be there before thee.

Balthazar:

Madam, I go with all convenient speed.

(Exit)

Portia:

Come on, Nerissa ; I have work in hand

That you yet know not of: we'll see our husbands

Before they think of us.

Nerissa:

Shall they see us?

- (i) Where does Portia send Balthazar? Why does she choose him to do the errand for her? (3)
- (ii) What does Balthazar take with him? To whom is he to give it? (3)
- (iii) What was the purpose of sending Balthazar to Portia's cousin? (3)

- (iv) Give the meaning of :
 (a) With imagined speed (3)
 (b) To the common ferry/ Which trades to Venice (3)
- (v) What hints does Portia give to Nerissa in the extract regarding their mission? When and how are the rest of the plans to be revealed? (4)

QUESTION 3

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

Bassanio:

Good cheer, Antonio! What, man, courage yet!

The Jew shall have my flesh, blood, bones, and all,

Ere thou shalt lose for me one drop of blood.

Antonio:

I am a tainted wether of the flock,

Meetest for death: the weakest kind of fruit

Drops earliest to the ground; and so let me;

You cannot better be employ'd, Bassanio,

Than to live still, and write mine epitaph.

- (i) How did Bassanio encourage Antonio assuring him of every help? (3)
 (ii) What is meant by "tainted wether of the flock"? In what way is he meetest for death? (3)
 (iii) What is an epitaph? Why does Antonio talk about the epitaph at this time? (3)
 (iv) State the generous offer made by Bassanio to save his friend just before the extract. (3)
 (v) Who comes immediately after Antonio's speech? Why does the person come?(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:

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, where a shining white cloth was spread on the table.

- (i) Who was 'she' referred to in the extract? Where was she? What happened when she lit the first match stick? (3)
 (ii) What did the girl see in the room when she lit the second match? What happened to these things after a moment? (3)
 (iii) Explain how the girl's visions are symbolic in the story. (3)
 (iv) What does the light from the matches symbolize in the story? (3)
 (v) 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 5

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

At the same moment a Gujar woman came down with two gurrahs to the water on the other side. In order to get the good clear water, which would quickly fill both gurrahs to the top without sand, she walked onto the stepping – stones.

She was within a yard of the crocodile when he lunged at her.

Up out of the darkling water heaved the great reptile, water slushing off him, his livid jaws yawning and all his teeth flashing as he slashed at her leg.

The woman screamed, dropped both brass pots with a clatter on the boulder , from whence they bounced to the water, and Sibia saw them bob away in the current . Oh, the two good vessels gone.

- (i) What happened when the Gujar woman walked on to the stepping – stones? (3)
- (ii) When the crocodile attacked the woman, how did she react? (3)
- (iii) Who mourns the loss of the vessels? Why? (3)
- (iv) Describe the struggle between the woman and the crocodile. (3)
- (v) Briefly state the theme of conflict between human beings and wild nature as shown in 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 following extract from the poem and answer the questions that follow:

But a bird that stalks
down his narrow cage
can seldom see through
his bars of rage
his wings are clipped and
his feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing.

- (i) Why does this stanza begin with, “But”? (3)
- (ii) Why do you think the cage is “narrow”? What is meant by “his bars of rage”? (3)
- (iii) Why does a bird that stalks down his narrow cage can seldom see through his bars of rage? (3)
- (iv) Under what circumstances does the caged bird sing? What does it tell us about his condition? (3)



- (v) Whom does the poet indirectly refer to while mentioning of the free bird and the caged bird? Why? (4)

QUESTION 7

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

There's nobody on the house – tops now---

Just a palsied few at the windows set;

For the best of the sights is, all allow,

At the Shambles' Gate---or, better yet,

By the very scaffold's foot, I trow.

- (i) Compare the scene on the house-tops a year ago and now as mentioned in the extract above. (3)
- (ii) The speaker says that "there's nobody on the house-tops now---." What according to you has changed the situation? (3)
- (iii) What difference is seen in people's attitude towards the patriot earlier and now? (3)
- (iv) What is referred to as "the best of the sight"? Why? (3)
- (v) Where is the speaker being taken? Why? State whether this action is justified. (4)

END