



VIVEK TUTORIALS

English Literature
Preliminary Examination
Max Marks: 80

Date : 11/Feb/2019

Grade: 10th (ICSE)

Time: 2 Hour

General Instruction:

Attempt five questions in all. You must attempt one question from each of the sections A, B and C and any two other questions.

SECTION A - DRAMA

Shakespeare : The Merchant of Venice

Question 1

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

Bassanio : In my school-days, when I had lost one shaft,
I shot his fellow of the self-same flight
The self-same way with more advised watch,
To find the other forth; and by adventuring both,
I oft found both.

- (i) In what context does Bassanio speak these words? [3]
- (ii) Bring out the meaning of the extract. What does he want to establish with his childhood example? [4]
- (iii) What aspect of the speaker's personality is revealed here ? [3]
- (iv) What assurance does the speaker give here? [3]
- (v) How does Antonio respond to these words? [3]

Question 2

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

PORTIA : Inquire the Jew's house out, give him this deed,
And let him sign it. We'll away tonight,
And be a day before our husbands home :
This deed will be well welcome to Lorenzo.

- (i) Who are the two people in conversation? Who is the Jew? Why are they looking for his house? [3]
- (ii) What is in the deed? What brought about this deed? [3]
- (iii) Who are the husbands? Why is the speaker so eager to reach home before the husbands? Where is the home? [3]
- (iv) Who is Lorenzo and why will he be happy to see the deed? [3]
- (v) Who enters the scene, hereafter? What transpires between this person and the speaker? [4]

Question 3

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

GRATIANO : That ever holds : who riseth from a feast
With that keen appetite that he sits down?
Where is the horse that doth untread again
His tedious measures with the unbated fire
That he did pace them first ? All things that are,
Are with more spirit chased than enjoy'd.
How like a younger or a prodigal
The scarfed bark puts from her natie bay,
Hugg'd and embraced by the strumpet wind !

How like the prodigal doth she return,
 With oer-weather'd ribs and ragged sails,
 Lean, rent, and beggar'd by the strumpet wind !

- (i) To which comment does Gratiano say, 'That eer holds'? What does it mean? [3]
 (ii) Explain, 'All things that are with more spirit chased than enjoyed'. Which two examples does the speaker give to prove his point? [4]
 (iii) Explain the meaning of scarfed bark and strumpet wind. What does the wanton wind do? [3]
 (iv) Give the meaning of : 'How like a younger or a prodigal The scarfed bark puts from her natie bay, Hugg'd and embraced by the strumpet wind!' [3]
 (v) Who come just after this extract? What does he say to his friends? [3]

SECTION B – POETRY

A Collection of Poems

Question 4

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

What does he plant who plants a tree?
 He plants, in sap and leaf and wood,
 In love of home and loyalty
 And far-cast thought of civic good—
 His blessings on the neighbourhood,
 Who in the hollow of His hand
 Holds all the growth of all our land—
 A nation's growth from sea to sea
 Stirs in his heart who plants a tree.

1. What motivates the man to plant a tree according to the poet? [3]
 2. Does the man plant a tree because of his love of society and his nation? [3]
 3. How is the man holding the blessing on his neighbourhood in his hand? [3]
 4. What is meant by a nation's growth from sea to sea? [3]
 5. Explain with reference to context. [4]

Question 5

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

The most important thing we've learned,
 So far as children are concerned,
 Is never, NEVER, NEVER let
 Them near your television set -
 Or better still, just don't install
 The idiotic thing at all.
 In almost every house we've been,
 We've watched them gaping at the screen.
 They loll and slop and lounge about,
 And stare until their eyes pop out.
 (Last week in someone's place we saw
 A dozen eyeballs on the floor.)

- Q1. The poet's treatment of his subject is critical, but he still does not sound too opinionated. Why? (3)
 Q2. Why do you think the poet has used the adverb 'never' three times in the third line? (3)
 Q3. What has been referred to as 'the idiotic thing' in this stanza? Why? (3)
 Q4. Do you think that the idea of not installing a television set sounds practical in today's context? (3)
 Q5. Describe the significance of the bracketed lines at the end of the stanza. (4)

Question 6

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

Thus I entered, and thus I go!
In triumphs, people have dropped down dead,
"Paid by the world, what dost thou owe
Me?"—God might question; now instead,
Tis God shall repay: I am safer so.

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Read the above lines and answer the questions that follow:

1. Give an example of Antithesis from the poem 'The Patriot: An Old Story.' [3]
2. How did the leader come and go? [3]
3. What type of poetic piece 'The Patriot: An Old Story' is? [3]
4. Can one see the faith of humans in Godwin the poem? [3]
5. Explain with reference to the context. [4]

SECTION C – PROSE**A Collection of Short Stories****Question 7**

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

There was a time when our people covered the land as the waves of a wind ruffled sea cover its shell-paved floor, but that time long since passed away with the greatness of tribes that are now but a mournful memory. I will not dwell on, nor mourn over, our untimely decay, nor reproach my paleface brothers with hastening it, as we too may have been somewhat to blame.

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- Q1. What does the opening paragraph of 'Chief Seattle's Speech' imply? (3)
- Q2. Explain with the metaphor that how did Chief Seattle compare his people with that of Whites? (3)
- Q3. Which offer was Chief Seattle talking about here? Was it generous to him? Why? (3)
- Q4. How did Chief Seattle describe that once upon a time his people were numerous? (3)
- Q5. While talking about the buying of land, why did Chief Seattle become sentimental? (4)

Question 8

16

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

When there was a strong wind, the pine trees made sad, eerie sounds that kept most people to the main road. But Mr. Oliver was not a nervous or imaginative man. He carried a torch - and on the night I write of, its pale gleam, the batteries were running down - moved fitfully over the narrow forest path. When its flickering light fell on the figure of a boy, who was sitting alone on a rock, Mr. Oliver stopped.

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Boys were not supposed to be out of school after seven P.M. and it was now well past nine.

What are you doing out here, boy, asked Mr. Oliver sharply, moving closer so that he could recognize the miscreant.

1. Why did Mr Oliver take the shortcut? What did he carry with him? [3]
2. Whom did Mr Oliver meet in the forest? [3]
3. What thought ran through Mr Oliver's mind when he saw the boy? [3]
4. What was Mr Oliver's reaction? [3]
5. Why did the people keep to the main road instead of taking the shortcut? [4]

Question 9

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

What is the central conflict of the story "All Summer in a Day"?

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----- All the Best -----