

# ICSE Solved Paper 2019

## English Paper-2 (Literature)

### Class-X

(Maximum Marks : 80)

(Time allowed : Two hours)

Attempt *five* questions in all from only *three* textbooks.  
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

Answer one or more questions from only *ONE* of the following plays

#### DRAMA

*The Merchant of Venice*

or

*\*The Mousetrap*

*The Merchant of Venice: Shakespeare*

#### 1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

BASSANIO : To you, Antonio,  
I owe the most, in money and in love;  
And form your love, I have a warranty  
To unburden all my plots and purposes  
How to get clear of all the debts I owe.

ANTONIO : I pray you, good Bassanio, let  
me know it;

- (i) Describe Antonio's mood at the beginning of this scene. [3]  
State any two reasons that Antonio's friends, who were present, gave to explain his mood.
- (ii) What promise did Antonio make to Bassanio immediately after this conversation? [3]
- (iii) What did Bassanio say to Antonio about 'a lady richly left' in Belmont? [3]
- (iv) Why was Antonio unable to lend Bassanio the money that he needed? [3]  
How did he propose to help his friend?
- (v) What does the above extract reveal of the relationship between Antonio and Bassanio? [4]  
Mention one way in which this relationship was put to the test later in the play.

**Ans. (i)** Antonio is in a depressed and melancholy mood. The depression makes him feel tired and he feels worried, in the beginning of this scene.  
Antonio's friends Salerio and Solanio believe that his heavy investments at sea must be his cause of worry. But when Antonio says that

it doesn't bother him, since his wealth isn't invested in just one ship, then they claim that Antonio must be in love.

- (ii) After this conversation, Antonio requests Bassanio, to let him know his plans. In case his schemes were as honourable and worthy as Bassanio, then Antonio assures him that all his wealth, all his means and Antonio himself will be at his disposal, so that Bassanio could use them as he liked to achieve his purpose.
- (iii) Bassanio told Antonio that there is a lady in Belmont who has inherited great wealth. She is more beautiful than the word describes. She has the wonderful wealth and beauty of moral and intellectual virtues. Her name is Portia. Eminent suitors from all directions and from all countries come and pay visit to Belmont in the hope of winning beautiful Portia's hand. If only Bassanio had enough money, even he would go to Belmont and try his luck in winning Portia's hand, as a suitor.
- (iv) Antonio was unable to lend Bassanio the money that he needed because he had invested all his capital in the trade by sea. At present, he did not have ready cash or any such thing which could be pawned or mortgaged to raise the desired amount. He proposes Bassanio to approach the moneylenders and obtain loan on his credit. He could use Antonio's credit to the farthest limit to make the desired amount available to him so that he may go to Belmont to present his love suit to beautiful Portia.
- (v) Antonio and Bassanio were very close and good friends. Throughout the drama, the two friends were more dear than life to each other. Their love and trust for each other is evident at every stage of the drama. Each one of them was ready to go to any extent to serve and help the other. It was visible that Bassanio was less a friend and more a brother to Antonio.

At the end of the play when the bond of Antonio fails, and he is unable to repay the amount back to Shylock, as per condition of the bond, Antonio is ready to give one pound of flesh cut from his bosom to pay back to Shylock for the sake of Bassanio's friendship happily.

**2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :**

BASSANIO : A gentle scroll. – Fair lady, by your leave; [Kissing her]

I come by not, to give and to receive.

Like one of two contending in a prize,

That thinks he hath done well in people's eyes

Hearing applause and universal shout

Giddy in spirit, still gazing, in a doubt

Whether those peals of praise be his or no;

(i) Where did Bassanio find the 'gentle scroll'? [3]  
What 'prize' had Bassanio just won?

(ii) Explain why Bassanio said he felt 'Giddy in spirit, still gazing, in a doubt'. [3]

(iii) Shortly after this exchange, Portia gave Bassanio a ring as a token of her affection. What did the gift symbolise? [3]

(iv) What assurance did Bassanio give Portia when he accepted the ring? [3]

(v) What did Portia urge Bassanio to do when she learnt that his friend Antonio was in trouble? [4]

What aspect of her character is revealed through her words?

**Ans. (i)** Bassanio found the 'gentle scroll' in the lead casket which contained picture of beautiful Portia. Bassanio had chosen the perfect right casket made out of lead which had Portia's picture inside. By choosing the right casket he won Portia's hand in marrying her. Portia was the 'prize' which Bassanio had just won.

(ii) Through the permission of the document when he gave and received kiss from Portia, he felt that he was standing there like one of two fighters in a duel, who thinks he has won and still when he hears the public applause and shouting of all the audience feels doubtful; whether all this commotion is to greet his success or for something else.

He was so overwhelmed by joy and his good fortune that he was very much in doubt whether all this was real and true. He would believe it only when Portia would confirm and endorse it.

(iii) Shortly after this exchange, Portia gave Bassanio a ring as a token of her affection. It was not just a piece of jewellery it was a token of her love, trust and affection, which she handed to Bassanio. She expected Bassanio to keep it as a trust. If at all Bassanio parted from that ring, lost it through negligence or gave it to somebody else knowingly, it would mean

the loss of love between both of them, and in that case it will give right to Portia to accuse Bassanio of faithlessness.

(iv) When Bassanio accepted Portia's ring, he assured her that the ring will part from him only when he dies and not before that under any circumstances and then Portia could safely say that Bassanio was dead.

(v) Portia urged Bassanio to leave all other works and immediately go to Venice to save Antonio, who was in distress. She asked Bassanio to pay three times the amount of twelve thousand ducats to the Jew and get the bond cancelled. Antonio should be saved at any cost for this and Bassanio should take enough gold with him so that he may repay twenty times the amount of the debt. After rescuing Antonio, he should bring Antonio along with him to Belmont, but before leaving for Venice, first he should go to the church with her and get their marriage solemnized.

By character Portia is very kind, humble and appreciating. She appreciates and respects Antonio for helping Bassanio in getting married to her. She is very grateful and wants to repay her gratitude by saving Antonio's life in return.

**3. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :**

Duke : You hear the learn'd Bellario, what he writes:

And here, I take it, is the doctor come.

[Enter Portia, dressed like a Doctor of Laws]

Give me your hand. Come you from old Bellario?

Portia : I did, my lord.

Duke : You are welcome : take your place.

Are you acquainted with the difference

That holds this present question in the court?

(i) Where is this scene set? Why was Portia there? [3]

(ii) What reason had Bellario given for his absence? Whom had he sent in his stead? [3]

(iii) Bellario's letter stated that he had taken some measures to prepare the 'young and learned doctor' to deal with the case. What were they? [3]

(iv) What was the 'difference' between Shylock, the Jew and Antonio, the merchant that the Duke was unable to resolve? [3]

(v) How does Portia succeed in saving Antonio? What does this reveal of her character? [4]

**Ans. (i)** The scene is set in a Court of Justice in Venice. Portia dressed as a Doctor of Law comes here to rescue Antonio from the clutches of Shylock the Jew, who was very cunning and wanted to kill Antonio by asking him one pound of

flesh from his (Antonio's) body. And Portia came here to prove her wit, intelligence and generosity in saving Antonio.

- (ii) Bellario was very ill when Duke's messenger went to him. Bellario had sent a young and learned doctor Balthazar in his stead, who came to Bellario that time.
- (iii) Bellario's letter stated that he had taken some measures to prepare the 'young and learned doctor' to deal with the case. He had informed him the cause of dispute between the Jew and Antonio, the merchant. They both discussed the matter and consulted many books together. Bellario had given his opinion in this matter, young doctor better his opinion with his own learned opinion. And he had good wisdom and scholarship. The young doctor would exhibit his abilities in the conduct of the trial.
- (iv) The difference between Shylock, the Jew and Antonio, the merchant was that Shylock was very cruel, hateful and pitiless man, who rejects multiple offers of money and demanded a pound of flesh from Antonio's body because he hated Antonio and wanted to see him suffer. The Duke was unable to pursue and convince Shylock to accept big amount as compensation against failing of the bond, from Antonio and forgive his demand of one pound of Antonio's flesh. But Shylock was so cunning that he demanded only a pound of flesh.
- (v) When Shylock insisted and settled on one pound of flesh from Antonio's body, the Duke and Portia tried to convince him to have mercy on Antonio, but he didn't agree to that and was about to cut pound of flesh from Antonio's breast. At that time, Portia warns him by saying that the law permits it and court gives him the permission to do so. But according to the bond, not a drop of blood of Christian merchant will be given to him. But in cutting the flesh, if Shylock causes even a drop of blood to fall off from Antonio's body, then Shylock's property movable and immovable will be confiscated to the State of Venice.

This character of Portia shows her wittiness and intelligence. She was very clever to tackle such a big situation wisely and saving Antonio's life tactfully.

*\*The Mousetrap : Agatha Christie*

**\*4. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :**

GILES : I beg your pardon. Did you say something?

TROTTER : Yes, Mr. Ralston, I said 'Is there an extension?' (He crosses to Centre.)

GILES : Yes, up in our bedroom.

TROTTER : Go and try it up there for me, will you?

(Giles exits to the stairs, carrying the glove and bus ticket and looking dazed. Trotter continues to trace the wire to the window. He pulls back the curtain and opens the window, trying to follow the wire. He crosses to the arch up Right, goes out and returns with a torch. He moves to the window, jumps out and bends down, looking, then disappears out of sight. It is practically dark. Mrs. Boyle enters from the library up Left, shivers and notices the open window.)

Mrs. Boyle : (Moving to the window) Who has left this window open?

- (i) Why did Giles fail to hear what Trotter had said earlier? [3]  
Why did Giles look 'dazed'?
- (ii) What was Trotter attempting to do? Why? [3]
- (iii) Why did Mrs. Boyle close the window? What did the voice on the radio say about the 'mechanics of fear'? [3]
- (iv) How did the murderer mask the sounds of the killing? Who entered the room immediately after the murder? What did this person see? [3]
- (v) Who was the victim? Why was the victim murdered? What was the 'signature tune' that the murderer whistled? What is the significance of this tune in the context of the play? [4]

**\*5. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

Trotter : (Leaning on the refectory table) Those simple actions took you rather a long time, didn't they, Mr. Ralston?

Giles : I don't think so. (He moves away to the stairs)

Trotter : I should say you definitely – took your time over them.

Giles : I was thinking about something.

Trotter : Very well. Now then, Mr. Wren, I'll have your account of where you were.

- (i) What 'simple actions' of Giles was Trotter referring to? [3]  
What had Giles been? Who had sent him there?
- (ii) How did Christopher Wren account for his whereabouts at the time of the murder? [3]
- (iii) Where was Paravicini at that time? What was he doing? [3]
- (iv) Whom did Giles accuse of having committed the murder? [3]  
On what did he base this accusation?
- (v) Mollie shared her suspicions regarding the identity of the murderer with Trotter, later in this scene. [4]  
Whom did she suspect of being the murderer?  
What reasons did she give for her suspicion?

**\*6. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :**

Trotter : Yes. You've been extraordinarily foolish, you know. You've run a very good chance of being killed by holding out on me. As a result, you've been in serious danger more than once.

Mollie : I don't know what you mean.

Trotter : (moving slowly above the sofa table to the Right of the sofa; still

quite natural and friendly) Come now, Mrs. Ralston. We, policemen, aren't quite so dumb as you think. All along I've realized that you had first-hand knowledge of the Longridge Farm affair. You know, Mrs. Boyle was the magistrate concerned. In fact, you knew all about it. Why didn't you speak up and say so?

Mollie : (Very much affected) I don't understand. I wanted to forget-forget.

(She sits at the Left end of the sofa.)

- (i) What was the 'Longridge Farm affair'? [3]
- (ii) Trotter revealed to Mollie some facts that he had uncovered about her past. [3]  
What were they?
- (iii) What did Mollie want to forget? [3]  
How was she linked with the 'Longridge Farm affair'?
- (iv) How did Trotter manage to pass himself off as a policeman? [3]  
How had he reached Monkswell Manor?
- (v) What did Trotter reveal to Mollie about his true identity? [4]  
How was Mollie saved at the end of the play?

## SECTION B

*Answer one or more questions from this Section.*

### POETRY

#### *A Collection of Poems*

**7. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

\*"Now tell us what it was all about"

*Young Peterkin, he cries.*

*And little Wilhelmine looks up*

*With wonder — waiting eyes,*

*"Now tell us all about the war,*

*And what they fought each other for."*

— *After Blenheim*, Robert Southey

- (i) Who are Peterkin and Wilhelmine?  
How does the poet describe the scene at the beginning of the poem? [3]
- (ii) What did Young Peterkin find and where? Describe it. [3]
- (iii) Who is referred to as "each other"? What did they fight for? [3]
- (iv) To whom are the words in the extract addressed? How was this person's family affected by the war? [3]
- (v) What, according to the poet, are the consequences that are often associated with great and famous victories? What message does the poet want to convey to the readers? [4]

**8. Read the extract 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 sight is, all allow,*

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

*By the very scaffold's foot, I trow.*

— *The Patriot*, **Robert Browning**

- (i) Who is the speaker? Where is he being taken? Why? [3]
- (ii) Describe the scene when the speaker had walked down the same street a year ago. [3]
- (iii) Where does the speaker think all the people had gathered that day? Why does he think so? [3]
- (iv) Describe the speaker's physical condition. [3]
- (v) What is the central message of the poem?  
Does the poem end on a note of hope or despair? Give one reason for your answer. [4]
- Ans. (i)** Speaker is a political leader who was once regarded and glorified as a hero by the people but later misunderstood and killed by some people considering him a traitor. He is taken to the slaughterhouse for his execution, because the same people consider him as a criminal

and traitor after one year.

- (ii) It was a festive environment one year ago, when the air was filled with resounding of the bells and the old walls swayed due to the loud cries of people who had gathered to watch their great leader who had brought laurels to their nation. He was once welcomed with open hearts and hands. The house-tops were overcrowded with overwhelming excitement to get his glimpse. The political leader received a grand public welcome when he came into power a year ago.
- (iii) The speaker thinks that all the people had gathered at the slaughterhouse for the best sight, where the Patriot will be hanged to death. He thinks so because the house-tops which were once overcrowded with overwhelming excitement to watch him, were now empty. Only a few paralysed people were standing at the windows watching him march towards death, because he was considered traitor by same people now.
- (iv) The speaker patriot, now a convict, walks in the rain towards the scaffold. His hands are tied at the back with the tight rope making wounds in his wrists. He suffers injuries as the people hit him with stones. He feels the blood dripping down his forehead, because people are pelting stones at him for his misdeeds.
- (v) The central message of the poem revolves around the rise and fall of one's fortunes. The world is a dynamic, fickle and transient place. Here, the opinions of people change rapidly, without lending much thought to justice and truth. The patriot is firstly worshipped as the hero, people celebrate a festivity on his arrival, but within a year he is misunderstood and killed by the same people considering him a criminal. Justice is not meted out to him and he believes that real justice can only be delivered by God. By this, he also creates a contrast between the fickle nature of the public and the divine nature of God.

The poem ends on a note of hope. The Patriot thinks that the punishment he got in the mortal world has purged him, and that he hopes to go to heaven instead of hell. He feels safer knowing that God knows he stood for what he thought was right and thus he will be safe under Him.

**9. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :**

*All round the field spectators were gathered  
Cheering on all the young women and men  
Then the final event of the day was approaching  
The last race about to begin.*

— *Nine Gold Medals*, David Roth

- (i) Where had the 'young women and men' come from? What had brought them together? How had they prepared themselves for the event? [3]
- (ii) What was the last event of the day? How many athletes were participating in this event? What signal were they waiting for? [3]
- (iii) What happened to the youngest athlete halfway through the race? How did he respond? [3]
- (iv) What 'strange' turn did the story take at this point? [3]
- (v) Why does the poet say that the banner – 'Special Olympics' could not have been nearer the mark? What human quality does the poem celebrate? [4]
- Ans. (i)** The young women and men had come from different countries of the world. They had come to participate in various events which were to be held at the Olympics and also to win prizes, awards and medals. They had spent hours of vigorous training hoping to win gold, silver or bronze medals.
- (ii) The last event of the day was one hundred metres race. Nine special athletes were participating in this one hundred metres race. They waited for the pistol to be fired as the signal in order to begin the race.
- (iii) When the signal came, the runners began the race immediately, but unfortunately the youngest of the athlete stumbled and lost his balance and fell with his knees on the ground just halfway through the race. He cried with pain helplessly, because he had trained himself hard but missed an opportunity to show his talent.
- (iv) Following the young athlete's fall, the other eight athletes, who had already begun their race, stopped in their tracks. One by one they turned around, they returned to help the fallen boy and lifted him up. This sudden change of mind was quite unexpected. All the lone runners then held each other's hand and resumed the competition. But this race turned out to be a special one because all the participants were now walking together and one hundred metre race changed into a walk.
- (v) All the nine runners held each other's hand and resumed the competition, but this turned out to be a special one because all the participants were now walking together and the hundred metre race changed into a walk. Thus, the title on the banner matched with their act and could not have been a better one. The nine athletes reached the finishing line together hand in hand. They stood beneath the banner with smiling faces. No words

would suffice to praise this act. Their act of cooperation towards their competitor actually won them nine gold medals. They won the

gold medals for their outstanding display of cooperation and human kindness. It is an exemplary example of empathy.

### SECTION C

*Answer one or more questions from only ONE of the following books that you have studied:*

#### PROSE

*A Collection of Short Stories*

or

*Animal Farm*

or

*The Call of the Wild*

*A Collection of Short Stories*

**\*10. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :**

If had no eyes, ears, nose or mouth. It was just a round smooth head – with a school cap on top of it! And that's where the story should end. But for Mr. Oliver, it did not end here. The torch fell from his trembling hand. He turned and scrambled down the path, running blindly through the trees and calling for help. He was still running towards the school buildings when he saw a lantern swinging in the middle of the path.

(i) Who was Mr. Oliver? Where did he encounter 'It'? [3]

(ii) Where did Mr. Oliver work?  
Why did *Life* magazine describe this place as the 'Eton of the East'? [3]

(iii) Why had Mr. Oliver approached 'It' in the first place? [3]

What had he mistaken it for?  
(iv) What is a lantern? Who was holding the lantern?

Why did Mr. Oliver feel relieved at the sight of the lantern? [3]

(v) Briefly describe the meeting between the lantern-bearer and Mr. Oliver.

State one reason why 'A Face in the Dark' could be considered a horror story. [4]

**\*11. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :**

An angry athlete is an athlete who will make mistakes, as any coach will tell you. I was no exception. On the first of my three qualifying jumps, I leaped from several inches beyond the take-off board for a foul.

(i) When and where is this story set? [3]

What reason does the narrator Jesse Owens give for the heightened nationalistic feelings at this time?

(ii) In which event had Owens been confident of winning a gold medal? Why? [3]

(iii) What had made Owens angry enough to make mistakes? [3]

(iv) Name Owens' rival who approached him at this point. [3]

What advice did this athlete give Owens?

(v) How did the two athletes perform in the finals? [4]

What does Jesse Owens consider his 'Greatest Olympic Prize'? Why?

**\*12. Answer the following questions with reference to Ray Douglas Bradbury's short story, 'All Summer in a Day' :**

(i) Name the planet on which this story is set. [4]  
Describe everyday life on this planet.

(ii) Why was there so much excitement in the schoolroom that morning? [4]

What set Margot apart from the other children?

(iii) Describe how the planet was transformed when the sun came out and shone briefly over it. [8]

Why was Margot not able to witness this phenomenon?

What emotion do you suppose the other children experienced when Margot emerged at the end of the story?

*\*Animal Farm: George Orwell*

**\*13. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :**

One Sunday morning, when the animals assembled to receive their orders, Napoleon announced that he had decided upon a new policy. "From now onwards Animal Farm would engage in trade with the neighbouring farms: not, of course, for any commercial purpose, but simply in order to obtain certain materials which were urgently necessary."

(i) Why did the animals need 'certain materials'? [3]

What arrangements had Napoleon made to engage in trade with the neighbouring farms?

(ii) Why did Napoleon's announcement make the animals uneasy? [3]

(iii) What did Squealer say to the animals to ease their doubts and fears? [3]

(iv) Who was Mr. Whymper? What had he agreed to do? [3]

Why had he entered into this agreement with Napoleon?

(v) There was a change in the attitude of the humans towards Animal Farm. [4]

Comment on this change. What were the signs and symptoms of this change?

**\*14. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :**

One Sunday morning Squealer announced that the hens, who just come in to lay again, must surrender their eggs.

- (i) Why were the hens required to surrender their eggs? [3]
- (ii) How did the hens react on receiving this information? [3]
- (iii) The three young Black Minorca pullets led the other hens in 'something resembling a rebellion'. How exactly did they do this? [3]
- (iv) What steps did Napoleon take to put down this 'rebellion'? [3]
- (v) How long did the rebellion last? Describe the consequences of the rebellion. [4]

What do you learn of Napoleon's character from the way in which he dealt with the rebellion?

**\*15. With reference to George Orwell's "The Animal Farm", answer the following questions :**

- (i) Who wrote the poem 'Comrade Napoleon'? How did Napoleon show his approval of the poem? [4]
  - (ii) What precautions were taken to ensure Napoleon's safety? [4]
  - (iii) What single commandment replaced the seven commandments on Animal Farm? [8]
- Mention some of the changes that the animals noticed in the behaviour of the pigs after the new commandment had been put up.

**\*16. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

The breaking down of discipline likewise affected the dogs in their relations with one another. They quarrelled and bickered more than ever among themselves, till at times the camp was a howling bedlam: Dave and Sol-leks alone were unaltered, though they were made irritable by the unending squabbling.

- (i) What led to the breakdown of discipline in the dog team? How did it affect the relationship among the dogs? [3]
- (ii) What other acts of indiscipline did Buck's

encouragement lead to? [3]

- (iii) What started the dogs off on a chase after supper one night at the mouth of the River Tahkeena? [3]
  - (iv) Who led the dogs in the chase? [3]
- What primitive urge did Buck experience during the chase?
- (v) How did Spitz use the chase to try and outwit Buck? What does this reveal of Spitz's nature? [4]

**\*17. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :**

With the dogs falling, Mercedes weeping and riding, Hal swearing innocuously, and Charles's eyes wistfully watering, they staggered into John Thornton's camp at the mouth of White River. When they halted, the dogs dropped down as though they had all been struck dead.

- (i) Who were Mercedes, Hal and Charles? How were they related to each other? [3]
  - (ii) What was John Thornton doing when they arrived at his camp? [3]
- Describe his responses to Hal's questions. Give one reason for his manner.
- (iii) What did Thornton warn them against? What reason did he give for his warning? How did Hal respond to Thornton's advice? [3]
  - (iv) How did Hal manage to get his dogs back on their feet? Why did Buck not respond to Hal's blows? [3]
  - (v) Describe how Thornton saved Buck's life. [4]

**\*18. Answer the following questions with reference to Jack London's, 'The Call of the Wild'.**

- (i) How was Thornton talked into a wager that involved Buck, during a conversation in the Eldorado Saloon? [4]
- (ii) How did Thornton feel after he had committed Buck to the wager? [4]
- (iii) Give a brief description of how Buck managed to win the wager for Thornton. [8]

