

ICSE Solved Paper 2022 Semester-1

English Paper-2 (Literature)

Class-X

(Maximum Marks : 40)

(Time allowed : One and a half hours)

ALL QUESTIONS ARE COMPULSORY

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [].

Select the correct option for each of the following questions.

SECTION A

Attempt all questions.

1. When is Hans Christian Andersen's story, 'The Little Match Girl' set? [1]
 - (a) On a cold, dark, Christmas Eve
 - (b) On a cold, wet, winter's day
 - (c) On a cold, dark New Year's Eve
 - (d) On a snowy day in early December
 2. Which of the following does NOT appear in the visions that the Little Match girl sees? [1]
 - (a) A beautifully decorated Christmas Tree
 - (b) Her kind and loving grandmother
 - (c) An iron stove with brass handles
 - (d) Colourful fireworks display
 3. When Shylock speaks of Jessica's elopement he exclaims, 'My own flesh and blood to rebel!' What feelings do his words convey? [1]
 - (a) Pride
 - (b) Envy
 - (c) Betrayal
 - (d) Remorse
 4. What important character trait of Bassanio's helps him choose the right casket? [1]
 - (a) His honesty and integrity
 - (b) The ability to look beyond outward appearances
 - (c) His love for Portia
 - (d) His dislike of gold and silver
 5. What is the central theme of Maya Angelou's poem, 'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings'? [1]
 - (a) Freedom and oppression
 - (b) Reality and appearance
 - (c) Animal rights
 - (d) Environmental crisis
 6. How does Portia plan to rescue her husband's friend Antonio from Shylock's clutches? [1]
 - (a) She would pay six thousand ducats and deface the bond.
 - (b) She would appear in court disguised as a lawyer and fight the case for Antonio.
 - (c) She would spend some days at a monastery in prayer and meditation accompanied only by Nerissa.
 - (d) She would humiliate Shylock at the trial and win the case for Antonio.
 7. The conversation between Launcelot, Jessica and Lorenzo in Act 3 Scene 5, creates before the highly dramatic Trial Scene that follows. [1]
 - (a) dramatic irony
 - (b) comic relief
 - (c) heightened tension
 - (d) an unpleasant atmosphere
 8. What is the patriot in Browning's poem referring to when he says, 'Thus I entered, and thus I go'? [1]
 - (a) His birth and death.
 - (b) His entry into public life and his decision to quit.
 - (c) His short-lived, dramatic rise and fall in popularity.
 - (d) His career as a soldier.
 9. In the short story, 'The Blue Bead', the highlight to Sibia's day was [1]
 - (a) killing the crocodile.
 - (b) rescuing the Gujar woman.
 - (c) killing the crocodile and rescuing the Gujar woman.
 - (d) finding the blue bead for her necklace.
 10. The author says that the crocodile was 'twice the length of a tall man'. This means that the crocodile was approximately [1]
 - (a) twelve feet long
 - (b) four feet long
 - (c) twenty feet long
 - (d) fifty feet long
- Ans. 1. Option (c) is correct.
Explanation: The story is about a little girl who was sent out to sell matches on New Year's Eve.
2. Option (d) is correct.
Explanation: In the story, the images of the warm iron stove, the lovely roast goose, the great glorious Christmas tree and her lost grandmother appear in the girl's vision.

3. **Option (c) is correct.**

Explanation: Shylock feels betrayed as Jessica had eloped with all his money and jewels.

4. **Option (b) is correct.**

Explanation: Despite his apparent financial impulsiveness, Bassanio chooses shrewdly when faced with the riddle of the caskets. He is not fooled by the superficial beauty of the gold and silver caskets, noting that "the world is still deceived with ornament" (III.ii.76).

5. **Option (a) is correct.**

Explanation: Angelou establishes freedom as the poem's theme by using it multiple times as she describes both of the birds, and the poem's alternating stanzas contrast the "free bird" with the "caged bird."

6. **Option (b) is correct.**

Explanation: Portia plans to rescue her husband's friend Antonio from Shylock's

clutches by disguising herself as a male doctor and cleverly finds a loophole in the law that prevents Shylock from harming Antonio.

7. **Option (b) is correct.**

Explanation: The conversation between Launcelot, Jessica and Lorenzo in Act 3 Scene 5, creates a comic relief before the highly dramatic Trial Scene that follows.

8. **Option (c) is correct.**

Explanation: The line tells how the patriot has entered and how he exits from life, position and people's minds in the presence of so many others. This sums up the speaker's life very well.

9. **Option (d) is correct.**

Explanation: While saving the Gujar woman from the crocodile, Sibia found a blue bead for her necklace that made her very happy.

10. **Option (a) is correct.**

SECTION B

11. Read the following extract from *The Merchant of Venice* (Act 3) and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate response from the choices given below:

Shylock: How now, Tubal! What news from Genoa?

Hast thou found my daughter?

Tubal: I often came where I did hear of her, but cannot find her.

(i) **Who is Tubal?** [1]

- (a) Shylock's friend
- (b) Antonio's friend
- (c) The devil
- (d) Shylock's wife

(ii) **What news of Jessica does Tubal bring to Shylock?** [1]

- (a) She was spending Shylock's money extravagantly.
- (b) She had exchanged Shylock's ring for a donkey.
- (c) She had given away Shylock's diamond worth two thousand ducats in Frankfurt.
- (d) She had died and had been buried with jewels in her ears.

(iii) **What news of Antonio's misfortune does Tubal share with Shylock?** [1]

- (a) Antonio's sailors had not survived the shipwreck.
- (b) Antonio's ship had been looted by pirates at Tripolis.
- (c) Antonio's merchant ship had been wrecked on its way from Tripolis.
- (d) The crew on Antonio's ship had mutinied and taken control of the vessel.

(iv) **What does Shylock instruct Tubal to do after**

this exchange? [1]

- (a) Go to the synagogue and arrange for a gaoler
- (b) Hire an officer of the law and meet him afterwards at the synagogue
- (c) Go to Genoa and arrange for Jessica to be brought home
- (d) Have Antonio's creditors swear that he was broken

(v) **Which of these words spoken by Shylock reflect his vengeful nature?** [1]

- (a) My own flesh and blood to rebel!
- (b) What, what, what? Ill luck, ill luck?
- (c) There I have another bad match.
- (d) I will have the heart of him, if he forfeits.

Ans. (i) **Option (a) is correct.**

Explanation: Tubal is a wealthy Jew of Venice and also a close friend of Shylock whom he lends enough to make up the full three thousand ducats, the latter lends to Antonio.

(ii) **Option (a) is correct.**

Explanation: Tubal tells Shylock that Jessica is spending Shylock's money extravagantly and traded her deceased mother's ring for a monkey.

(iii) **Option (c) is correct.**

(iv) **Option (b) is correct.**

Explanation: Shylock instructs Tubal to engage an officer even a fortnight before the expiry of the bond.

(v) **Option (d) is correct.**

12. Read the following extract from Act 3 of 'The Merchant of Venice' and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate response from the choices given below:

Portia: I would detain you here for some month or two
Before you venture for me. I could teach you
How to choose right, but then I am forsworn;
So will I never be: So you may miss me

(i) How would you describe Portia's state of mind based on your understanding of the given extract? [1]

- (a) tense and anxious
- (b) terrified and remorseful
- (c) excited and guilty
- (d) confident and hopeful

(ii) Why does Portia want to detain Bassanio for 'a month or two' before he takes the casket test? [1]

- (a) She wants to spend time with him and get to know him better.
- (b) She is afraid that he might choose the wrong casket and she would never see him again.
- (c) She wants to keep him in Venice and away from the influence of Antonio.
- (d) She is lonely and enjoys his company.

(iii) Why does Portia say she cannot help Bassanio choose the right casket? [1]

- (a) It would be dishonest if she did.
- (b) She would be breaking her promise to her father if she did.
- (c) She believes in justice and fair play.
- (d) She has sworn not to help him.

(iv) "Let me choose: For, as I am, I live upon the rack" says Bassanio in response to Portia's plea. [1]
Give the meaning of the word 'rack' in this context.

- (a) A wooden shelf to hold books
- (b) A framework, for holding or storing things
- (c) A bedlike open frame used as a torture device
- (d) Extreme pain or distress

(v) What does Portia give to Bassanio as a token of her love? [1]

- (a) Her house
- (b) Her servants
- (c) Herself
- (d) A ring

Ans. (i) Option (a) is correct.

Explanation: Portia is tensed and anxious thinking about what would happen if Bassanio chooses the wrong casket.

(ii) Option (b) is correct.

Explanation: Portia explains the condition if Bassanio fails to choose the right casket. In that

case, he will have a swan-like end. Making the comparison more explicit, Portia says that her eyes with tears will be Bassanio's watery grave as the river is the grave for the dying swan.

(iii) Option (b) is correct.

Explanation: Portia cannot be disloyal to her father's wishes by telling Bassanio which casket to choose. Portia is very loyal by nature.

(iv) Option (c) is correct.

Explanation: Bassanio says that unless he is betrothed to Portia, his life would be a torture as if he was living on a rack which is a torture device.

(v) Option (d) is correct.

Explanation: Portia gives Bassanio a ring as a token of her love and insists that if he loses it or gives it away, their love will be over.

13. Read the following extract from the short story, 'The Little Match Girl' and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate response from the choices given below:

Lights were shining in every window, and there was a glorious smell of
roast goose in the street, for this was New Year's Eve, and she could not think of anything else.

(i) What do the words, 'she could not think of anything else' tell us about the condition of the little girl? [1]

- (a) She was cold and miserable.
- (b) She was reminded of her grandmother's cooking.
- (c) She was very fond of roast goose.
- (d) She was desperately hungry.

(ii) What did the Little Match Girl do when she could no longer bear the cold? [1]

- (a) She started a fire to keep herself warm.
- (b) She tried to find shelter in one of the houses on the street.
- (c) She struck a match to warm her frozen fingers.
- (d) She lay down in the cold and talked to her grandmother.

(iii) When did the little girl's grandmother appear before her? [1]

When she struck the match.

- (a) first
- (b) second
- (c) third
- (d) fourth

(iv) Read the following statement and pick out the one that is NOT true of the Little Match Girl: [1]

- (a) She came from a very poor family.
- (b) She loved her grandmother dearly.
- (c) She was about seventeen years old.
- (d) She had no slippers of her own, so she wore her mother's.

- (v) What happened to the little girl at the end of the story? [1]
- She froze to death.
 - Her father came looking for her.
 - Some kind people gave her food and shelter.
 - An angel appeared and carried her away to her grandmother's house.

Ans. (i) Option (d) is correct.

Explanation: More than the weather, the smell of the roast goose made the little girl feel extremely hungry.

(ii) Option (c) is correct.

Explanation: When the little girl could no longer bear the cold, she struck a match to warm her frozen fingers.

(iii) Option (d) is correct.

Explanation: When the little girl struck the fourth match stick, her old grandmother appeared. She was delighted to see her and asked her to take her along.

(iv) Option (c) is correct.

Explanation: The little match girl was just ten or eleven years in age.

(v) Option (a) is correct.

Explanation: Due to the harsh weather and extreme hunger, the little girl died.

14. Read the following extract from the short story, 'The Blue Bead' and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate response from the choices given below:

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

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

- (i) What was Sibia doing when the Gujar woman came down to the river to collect water? [1]
- She was on her way to the cave to check on her clay cups.
 - She was resting on a boulder in the middle of the river.
 - She was walking home with her mother after a hard day's work.
 - She was cutting paper grass on the mountainside.
- (ii) Why did the Gujar woman not notice the crocodile until it was too late? [1]
- He was well hidden among the drifting logs of timber.
 - She was thinking about the men who had gone to the bazaar.
 - She could not see very well.
 - It was pitch dark as it was late at night.

- (iii) Listed below are some facts about crocodiles. Pick out the one which is NOT true: [1]

- Crocodiles are afraid of noise.
- Crocodiles are herbivores.
- Crocodiles swallow stones to assist with their digestion.
- Crocodiles have thick, impenetrable hides.

- (iv) How did the Gujar woman try to save herself? [1]

- By uttering a shrill, piercing scream
- By dropping her gurrachs into the river
- By driving her hayfork into the creature's eye with all her might
- By clinging desperately to a floating log of wood

- (v) What does Sibia's delight in finding the blue bead tell us about her nature? [1]

- That she is a remarkably courageous young girl.
- That she is an immature child-woman.
- That she is innocent and childlike.
- That she is childish and brave.

Ans. (i) Option (b) is correct.

Explanation: Sibia was resting on a boulder in the middle of the river when the Gujar woman came down to the river to collect water.

(ii) Option (a) is correct.

Explanation: The crocodile was well hidden among the drifting logs of timber and since it was already dark, the Gujar woman did not notice it.

(iii) Option (b) is correct.

(iv) Option (d) is correct.

Explanation: The Gujar woman screamed, dropped both brass pots with a clatter on a boulder. She clutched one of the timber logs to save herself.

(v) Option (c) is correct.

Explanation: Sibia was delighted on finding the blue bead and just forgot about the whole crocodile incident. This portrays her innocent and childlike personality.

15. Read the following extract from the poem, 'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings' and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate response from the choices given below:

*But a bird that stalks
down his narrow cage
can seldom see through
his bars of rage*

- (i) The word 'stalks' in the above extract can best be replaced with [1]

- plant stems.
- paces to and fro.
- hides in a corner.
- crowds.

- (ii) What is the caged bird blinded by? [1]
 (a) The bars of his cage
 (b) His tears
 (c) His anger
 (d) His fears
- (iii) Why have the bird's wings been clipped and his feet tied? [1]
 (a) To punish him
 (b) To lease him
 (c) To control him
 (d) To make him fit into the cage
- (iv) Which of the following action is associated with the caged bird? [1]
 (a) soaring high on the wind
 (b) floating down with the current
 (c) claiming the open skies
 (d) pouring his heart out in song
- (v) What is the mood conveyed in the above extract? [1]
 (a) Frustration (b) Guilt
 (c) Loneliness (d) Joy

Ans. (i) Option (b) is correct.

Explanation: The word 'stalks' in the above extract can best be replaced with paces to and fro. The bird stalks around in that cage which connotes anger and frustration.

- (ii) Option (c) is correct.
Explanation: The caged bird is blinded by anger as it rarely gets a glimpse of the sky.
- (iii) Option (c) is correct.
Explanation: The bird's wings had been clipped and its feet were tied to control and restrict it from enjoying freedom.
- (iv) Option (d) is correct.
Explanation: The caged bird is pouring his heart out in the song as it is longing for freedom.
- (v) Option (a) is correct.

16. Read the following extract from the poem, 'The Patriot' and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate response from the choices given below:

*Alack, it was I who leaped at the sun
 To give my loving friends to keep!
 Nought man could do, have I left undone;
 Ans you see my harvest, what I reap
 This very day, a year is run.*

- (i) What do the words 'leaped at the sun' imply? [1]
 (a) Space travel
 (b) Jumped towards the sun
 (c) Tried to touch the sun

- (d) Attempted the impossible
- (ii) Which of the following statements does NOT describe the present condition of the speaker? [1]
 (a) Drenched in the rain
 (b) Both wrists tied tightly behind his back
 (c) Forehead bleeding from the stones thrown at him
 (d) Greeted and cheered by loyal crowds
- (iii) 'Nought man could do have I left undone' in the above extract means: [1]
 (a) I have undone all that a person can do.
 (b) I have done everything that was humanly possible.
 (c) I have done nothing that a person could do.
 (d) I have done what any man would do.
- (iv) Why had the people gathered in large numbers exactly a year ago? [1]
 (a) To greet and welcome the Patriot
 (b) To watch the Patriot being hanged
 (c) To give him the sun from the skies
 (d) To set the church spires aflame with flags
- (v) The tone of the speaker in the above lines is [1]
 (a) Sarcastic (b) Bitter
 (c) Joyous (d) Hopeful

Ans. (i) Option (d) is correct.

Explanation: Lead at the sun implies that the patriot has done the impossible for the people.

- (ii) Option (d) is correct.
Explanation: 'Greeted and cheered by loyal crowds' is the statement that doesn't go with the present condition of the speaker. All the sacrifices that he made for his countrymen has gone in vain.
- (iii) Option (b) is correct.
Explanation: The speaker wants to say that no other man was as patriotic as he was because he achieved tasks that were considered impossible by other people.
- (iv) Option (a) is correct.
Explanation: The people gathered in large numbers exactly a year ago to greet and welcome the patriot. He was shown a lot of respect, honour and concern by the people.
- (v) Option (b) is correct.
Explanation: The tone of the speaker in above lines is bitter as he is feeling for being called a traitor even after great works for the people.