

# ICSE Solved Paper, 2022 Semester -2

## English Paper-2 (Literature)

### Class-X

(Maximum Marks : 40)

(Time allowed : One and a half hours)

Attempt all questions from Section A.

You must attempt one question from each of the Section B, C and D.

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

#### SECTION A

(Attempt all questions)

1. Choose the correct answer to the questions from the given options. (Do not copy the question. Write the correct answer only.) [10]
- (i) What did Abou Ben Adhem see in his bedroom when he awoke one night?
- (a) A fairy writing in a book of gold  
(b) An angel sitting on his bed  
(c) A fairy sitting on his bed  
(d) An angel writing in a book of gold
- (ii) Which of the following lines from the poem, 'Nine Gold Medals' tells us that the poem describes an international sporting event?
- (a) The athletes had come from so many countries  
(b) And nine young athletes stood there determined  
(c) The eight other athletes stopped in their tracks  
(d) To run for the gold, for the silver and bronze
- (iii) In the poem that Margot wrote, (in Ray Bradbury's story, 'All Summer in a Day'), she compares the sun to a .....
- (a) penny (b) clock  
(c) flower (d) lemon
- (iv) "Aw, you didn't write that!" Who said these words and to whom?
- (a) Margot to one of the boys  
(b) Margot to William  
(c) The teacher to Margot  
(d) One of the boys to Margot
- (v) Jesse Owens says that Hitler had kept him (Luz Long) 'under wraps'. What does the phrase 'under wraps' mean?
- (a) Wrapped in a blanket  
(b) Gift wrapped  
(c) Carefully concealed  
(d) Beneath a wrapper
- (vi) Which Olympic event was Jesse Owens confident of winning?
- (a) The one hundred metres race  
(b) The four hundred metres race  
(c) The high jump  
(d) The running broad jump
- (vii) The Duke refers to Shylock as a 'stony adversary' in the opening lines of Act 4 of 'The Merchant of Venice'. What does the phrase 'stony adversary' mean?
- (a) An enemy made of rock  
(b) A hard-hearted enemy  
(c) A difficult enemy  
(d) A dangerous enemy
- (viii) "My deeds upon my head! I crave the law, the penalty and forfeit of my bond." Who says these words and to whom?
- (a) Portia to Antonio  
(b) Shylock to Portia  
(c) Bassanio to Portia  
(d) Antonio to Shylock
- (ix) Why does a quarrel break out between Nerissa and Gratiano in the final Act of 'The Merchant of Venice'?
- (a) Gratiano admits that he had given away the ring which Nerissa had given to him.  
(b) Nerissa admits that she had accompanied Portia to Venice disguised as a lawyer's clerk.  
(c) Gratiano is annoyed with Nerissa for giving away his ring to a stranger in Venice.  
(d) Nerissa is angry with Gratiano for leaving for Venice on the very day they were married.
- (x) How does Lorenzo recognize Portia even before he sees her when the two young women return from Venice?
- (a) by the clothes she wears  
(b) by the sound of her voice  
(c) by the perfume she uses  
(d) by her touch
- Ans. (i) Option (d) is correct.
- Explanation: An angel writing in a book of gold.

(ii) Option (a) is correct.

*Explanation:* The athletes had come from so many countries

(iii) Option (a) is correct.

*Explanation:* penny

(iv) Option (d) is correct.

*Explanation:* one of the boys to Margot

(v) Option (c) is correct.

*Explanation:* Carefully concealed

(vi) Option (d) is correct.

*Explanation:* The running broad jump

(vii) Option (b) is correct.

*Explanation:* is the answer as Shylock is a hard-hearted enemy and is unwilling to show even a little mercy.

(viii) Option (b) is correct.

*Explanation:* is the answer as Shylock prefers justice to mercy and is firm with his stance.

(ix) Option (a) is correct.

*Explanation:* is the answer as Gratiano agrees that he had given the ring which Nerissa had given to him.

(x) Option (a) is correct.

*Explanation:* Lorenzo recognises Portia by the sound of her voice.

## SECTION B

*(Attempt any one question from this Section.)*

### DRAMA

(The Merchant of Venice by

William Shakespeare- Acts 4 and 5)

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

*Antonio: Commend me to your honourable 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 not 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) Who was Bassanio's 'honourable wife'? Why were the two men unaware that she was present in the room with them? [2]
- (ii) What did Antonio urge Bassanio to tell his wife? [2]
- (iii) What 'debt' was Antonio referring to in the above extract? [3]
- (iv) What does Bassanio say in response to these words of Antonio's? What do their words tell us of the nature of the relationship between the two men? [3]

- Ans. (i)** The 'honourable wife' mentioned here is Portia, Bassanio's wife. The men are clueless about the presence of the women mainly because they could never imagine women being in court nor could they see through their disguise. They could not recognize their women well and were blinded by their own situation at hand.
- (ii)** Antonio wanted Bassanio to tell his wife about his dear friend who was willing to sacrifice for him and that Bassanio was greatly loved

and only regret for Antonio is that he would be parted from him in case of his death at the hands of Shylock. Antonio wanted Bassanio to talk well of him to his wife.

- (iii) Antonio does not regret paying the debt that he took on behalf of Bassanio. Bassanio had sought Antonio's help when he wanted to woo Portia.
- (iv) Bassanio responds by saying that he loves Antonio a lot that he would be willing to sacrifice all for him and that he values Antonio's life more. Bassanio says that his wife is as dear to him as his life and that he would still willingly step in Antonio's place to pay the debt.

It shows us that Antonio and Bassanio have a quite close relationship. The two men clearly care very deeply for one another.

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

*Lorenzo: How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank!  
Here will I sit, and let the sounds of music  
Creep in our ears:*

- (i) To whom are these words addressed? What message has just been delivered to Lorenzo? [2]
- (ii) Where is this scene set? Why are Lorenzo and his companion at this place? [2]
- (iii) How does Lorenzo describe the powerful effect of music on wild animals to his companion? [3]
- (iv) Portia and Nerissa arrive on the scene shortly after this. What reason does Portia give for their absence from home? What does she instruct Nerissa to do immediately after their arrival? [3]

- Ans. (i)** These lines are addressed to Jessica but in general to the situation he is in just after hearing about the good news about his friends Antonio and Bassanio and that Portia is returning. He

- is glad and would like to enjoy the news and instead of writing such poetic lines, the proper meaning should be explained.
- (ii) The speakers, Lorenzo and Jessica are in a grove before Partia's house in Belmont. It is a moonlight and the two lovers are in a joyful romantic mood.
- (iii) Lorenzo tells his companion that music has enough power to tame the wildest and uncontrollable animals. These animals succumb to music the moment they hear it and

become modest and quiet.

- (iv) Portia tells Lorenzo that they had gone to pray for the welfare of their husbands and asks Lorenzo and Jessica to keep quiet about what she has just shared. Portia tells Nerissa to tell the servants to behave as though they had never left and all of them to be normal. Portia wants to keep the act of being someone who belongs to house and as someone who had rescued her husband and his friend. She goes back to play the role she is expected to.

### SECTION C

*(Attempt any one question from this Section.)*

#### PROSE-SHORT STORIES

(Treasure Trove-A Collection of  
ICSE Poems and Short Stories)

4. Read the extract from Ray Bradbury's short story, 'All Summer in a Day' given below and answer the questions that follow:

*The girl standing in the open, held out her hand*

*"Oh look, look," she said, trembling.*

*They came slowly to look at her opened palm.*

*In the center of it, cupped and huge, was a single raindrop, she began to cry.*

*looking at it. They glanced quietly at the sun.*

*"Oh, Oh"*

- (i) How old were 'they'? What had they been doing until the girl called their attention to the raindrop? [2]
- (ii) Why does the girl begin to cry when she looks at the raindrop? [2]
- (iii) Describe the dramatic change in the weather immediately after the raindrop fell. [3]
- (iv) What feeling do 'they' experience at the end of the story? What had they done earlier that made them feel this way? [3]

**Ans. (i)** They, the children of Venus, were nine years old. They were revelling in the light and warmth of the sun, playing, dancing, going round and round. They ran among the trees, they slipped and fell, they pushed each other, they played hide and seek and tag, but most of all they squinted at the sun till their eyes hurt; they breathed the fresh air, savoring all they saw. They ran for an hour or more until the girl called their attention to the raindrop.

(ii) The girl begins to cry as the rain drop fell. It meant the end of the glorious hours of the sun. They would now have to wait for the Sun for seven years meanwhile, it would continue raining heavily in the darkness on Venus for the next seven years.

(iii) Soon after the first drop of rain, a dramatic change occurred. The sun faded behind a mist. A cold wind blew around and a startling boom of thunder could be heard. Lightning struck ten miles away, five miles away, then a

mile, and then, ever so near! In a flash, the sky darkened into midnight. The gigantic sound of the rain could be heard, 'falling in tons and avalanches, everywhere and forever.'

- (iv) The children felt miserable; saddened by their behavior, and their insensitivity towards Margot. They understood that Margot was speaking truth about the Sun. They also understood the unique situation Margot was in and how she felt different from them all. The two hours in the Sun taught them the lesson of mutual tolerance. They had locked up Margot in the closet earlier, because they felt she did not belong to their group; she was acting superior because she had actually seen the Sun before she came to Venus.

5. Read the extract from 'My Greatest Olympic prize' by Jesse Owens given below and answer the questions that follow:

*Suddenly all the tension seemed to ebb out of my body as the truth of what he said hit me. Confidently, I drew a line a full foot in back of the board and proceeded to jump from there. I qualified with almost a foot to spare.*

- (i) What was the 'truth' that Luz Long had just pointed out to Owens? [2]
- (ii) Earlier in the narrative, Owens admits to feeling angry. What had caused him to feel this way? [2]
- (iii) How did the two athletes spend their time together that night? [3]
- (iv) What action of Luz Long's at the finals proved that he was a true sportsman? What made his behaviour remarkable? [3]

**Ans. (i)** When the angry Jesse Owens leaped from several inches beyond the take-off board for a foul, Luz Long suggested he should draw a line a few inches back, and take-off from there. What mattered was he should jump far enough to qualify. The truth of his words struck Owens that it did not matter if he was not first in the trials; the competition next day was what counted.

- (ii) Hitler had proclaimed that his performers were members of a "master race," and would

outperform others. Jesse was a Negro and felt annoyed with this Aryan supremacy feelings. The sight of Luz Long, the German boy performing well at the pit further aggravated his anger, and he was determined to beat him and indirectly, by beating him, he would beat Hitler.

- (iii) Jesse Owens went to Luz Long's room in the Olympic set up, to thank him for his excellent tip that enabled him to qualify for the final. Both of them sat in the German's quarters and talked for two hours — about track and field, themselves, the world situation, and many more things. Both of them knew that they had

formed a truly long-lasting friendship due to the tournament.

- (iv) Despite knowing fully well that Owens might beat him, Luz Long helped the black American to qualify for the final. And when Owen won the jump – the one which set the Olympic record of 26 feet 5-5/16 inches– Luz was at his side, genuinely congratulating him, and shaking his hand firmly in spite of Hitler glaring from the gallery. This was a true sign of sportsman. It was remarkable as it was the triumph of sportsmanship over narrow racist feelings.

**SECTION D**

(Attempt any one question from this Section.)

**POETRY**

(Treasure Trove-A Collection  
of ICSE Poems and Short Stories)

6. Read the following extract from the poem 'Abou Ben Adhem' by Leigh Hunt and answer the questions that follow:

*Abou Ben Adhem (may his tribe increase!)*

*Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace.*

- (i) What does the poet mean by the words, 'may his tribe increase!?' [2]
- (ii) Mention any two words which the poet uses in this poem that are no longer in common use. [2]
- (iii) Three different name lists are mentioned in the poem. The Angel speaks of two and Abou Ben Adhem mentions the third. What are they? [3]
- (iv) What important lesson did Abou Ben Adhem learn during his second encounter with the Angel? What message does the poet convey to us through this? [3]

**Ans. (i)** By the words, 'may his tribe increase', the poet means to imply that good, kind, and benevolent people like Abou Ben Adhem should increase in number in this selfish and unkind world. There should be more number of selfless people like him.

- (ii) The two archaic words used in the poem that are no longer in common use are 'writers' and 'thou'.

(iii) The three different lists are the names of those who love the Lord, the names of those that love his fellow men, and the names of whom love of God had blessed.

(iv) The important lesson that Abou learns after the second meeting is the value of living with his fellow men. God had blessed him for his compassionate nature and kind behaviour

towards others. The poet conveys the value of selflessness through this. Instead of just praying to God, one should devote himself towards helping others in need. Only then we can we earn the love and blessing of God.

7. Read the extract from David Roth's Poem, 'Nine Gold Medals' given below and answer the questions that follow:

*That's how the race ended, with nine gold medals*

*They came to the finish line holding hands still*

*And the banner above and nine smiling faces*

*Said more than these words ever will.*

*Said more than these words ever will.*

- (i) How exactly did the race end? [2]
- (ii) Who were 'they'? How do we know that they had put in a great deal of effort to qualify for the games? [2]
- (iii) Why were they holding hands and smiling when they reached the finishing line? [3]
- (iv) What did the banner over them say? Why does the poet consider these words an appropriate description of this particular event? [3]

**Ans. (i)** The race ended with nine gold medals being awarded to the nine athletes. They came to the finishing line holding hands still. There were nine smiling faces and the banner above said more than these words ever will.

(ii) They are the nine athletes here. The athletes had come from so many countries to run for the first, second and third positions. They had spent many weeks and months in training, for the Olympic games.

(iii) The athletes were holding hands and smiling which shows their friendly disposition and cooperative behavior. Though they were competing against each other, they ended up helping the youngest one in distress. This shows their sportsman spirit.

(iv) The banner over them said 'Special Olympics'. The poet considers these words as an appropriate description of this particular event since whatever happened was not ordinary; it was definitely special. The athletes, without caring about their medals, out of compassion

and kindness, came forward to help the youngest one and lifted him to his feet. They were all awarded nine gold medals. Hence, the exemplary incident made the banner true to its name.

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