

QUESTION BANK 2022 – 23

ENGLISH LITERATURE

STD – X

APRIL TO SEPTEMBER

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

Q. 1 Shylock: I will have my bond at his request.

(i) To whom are these words spoken? When and who else is present in the scene?

Spoken to Antonio – when he requests Shylock to listen to his pleadings – Salarino and the Gaoler are present

(ii) In what state of mind is Shylock now? What has he accused the Gaoler of?

He is excited and keen to take revenge against Antonio – keeps repeating to look to the bond – accuses Gaoler of allowing Antonio to come outside

(iii) Why is Shylock after Antonio's life?

Antonio often rescued the creditors from Shylock's clutches – lent money in gratis – thus hampered Shylock's business

(iv) Explain 'I'll not be made Christian intercessors'.

Will not become soft and foolish – relent to forgive Christian pleaders

(v) Bring out the significance of Act 3 Scene 3.

Ends on a sad note – Antonio losing all hope for his life – wishes to meet Antonio – preparation for the trial scene – for Antonio's tragedy – scene emphasizes theme of friendship – unconditional love and sacrifice of Antonio for Bassanio

Q. 2 Portia: There for prepare the goods are confiscated.

(i) Who are the two people in conversation? The speaker lays down a condition, what is it?

Portia – and Shylock – can take only a pound of flesh – not permit him to take - a single drop of blood – must weigh a pound of flesh – accurately – without shedding even a 'jot' of blood

(ii) Who else applauds the speaker for his judgement? Why does he reacts in this manner?

Gratiano – when Portia allows the Jew to cut a pound of flesh – nearest to Antonio's heart – Shylock elated calls Portia a great judge (Daniel) – as table turns against him Gratiano ridicules

(iii) What would be the penalty if the law is broken?

Shylock's property would be confiscated – would face death sentence – life would be at the mercy of the Duke

(iv) The tables have turned. How? Who is responsible for it?

Turned with Portia's wit and intelligence – Antonio had lost all hope – Shylock would surely take revenge – but Portia's condition of extracting the pound of flesh without shedding single drop of blood – defeats Shylock – not given his principal amount – loses all property – faces humiliation

(v) What impression do you form about the speaker?

A woman of substance – beauty with brains – quick – witty – comes as a rescuer of Antonio to Shylock's malice

POEM

A COLLECTION OF POEMS

Q. 3 But a bird that stalks So he opens his throat to sing.

(i) Bring out the significance of “but’ in the first line of the poem?

It brings out the contrast-between the condition of the free bird- and caged bird.

(ii) Describe the condition of the caged bird as presented in the poem?

Has been imprisoned- walks in the cage-can hardly see through the bars of the cage-is blinded by rage-wings are clipped- feet are tied-opens its throat to sing.

(iii) Explain: can seldom see through his bars of rage.

Bird is blinded with rage-hence cannot see anything-beyond the bars of his cage.

(iv) Describe the song of the caged bird.

Song has fearful trill-sings of things that are unknown to him – but has longings for these unknown things-sings of freedom-song is heard in distant hills- as it sings for freedom

(v) What does the poet say about the free bird in the poem?

It flies with the wind- floats downstream with the air – dips wings in orange glow of the sun- dares to claim the sky-flies with the breezes that blow through trees- feeds on fat worms-declares that sky belongs to him.

Q. 4 There’s nobody on the roof tops now I trow.

(i) Who is the speaker? Where he is being taken? Why?

The Patriot – to the gallows / Shamble’s Gate / scaffold – to be hanged – has lost favour of people

(ii) Describe the scene when he had walked down the same street a year ago.

Roses / myrtle – flowers strewn in his path – large crowd – gathered – roof seemed to sway – church spires ablaze with colourful flags – church bells were rung – old walls rocked

(iii) Where does the speaker think all the people had gathered that day? Why does he think so?

To the gallows / Shamble’s Gate / scaffold – watch him being hanged publicly – no one on the roof tops now – only palsied few

(iv) Describe the speaker’s physical condition.

Drenched in rain – hands tied – rope cuts his wrist – blood trickles from forehead – saddened by reaction of the people – adulation is short lived

(v) What is the central message of the poem?

Adulation is short lived – people are fickle – minded – praise and glory are fleeting – do not last for ever

PROSE

A COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES

Q. 5 “She huddled down in a heap in a corner formed by two houses, one of which projected further out into the street than the other but through she tucked her little legs up under her she felt colder and colder. She did not dare to go home for she had sold no matches and earned not a single penny.”

Q1. How did her hair look?

Ans. Snowflakes fell – her long golden hair – curled prettily about her neck - she did not think – her appearance now

Q2. How were people celebrating New Year’s Eve?

Ans. lights were shining in every window – there was a glorious smell – roast goose – for it was New Year’s Eve

Q3. Where did she huddle down? Did it help her feel warm?

Ans. Huddled down in a heap of corner formed by two houses – which projected further out into the street – but through she tucked her little legs up under her – felt colder and colder

Q4. Why was it cold at home?

Ans. home was very cold – they had nothing – roof above them – wind whistled through that, even though the largest crack were stuffed – with straw and rags

Q5. Why did she not dare to home?

Ans. Not dare to go home – sold no matches – earned not a single penny – her father – beat her and besides, it was very cold at home – nothing but the roof above – wind whistled through that – largest cracks were stuffed with straw and rags

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Q. 6

(i) Luz long and Jesse Owens sat in Long’s quarter and talked for ____ hours.

- (a) 4
- (b) 3
- (c) 2
- (d) 1

Ans – c

(ii) How can you conclude from the passage that the girl was poor?

- (a) She was shivering with cold
- (b) She was huddled in a corner in the market
- (c) She was out bareheaded and barefoot in the cold
- (d) She was selling packets

Ans – c

(iii) The most important thing in Olympics is

- (a) winning a medals
- (b) taking part
- (c) giving trails
- (d) losing the game

Ans – b

(iv) The motto of the Olympic is

- (a) participation is more important than winning
- (b) honesty is the best policy
- (c) winning is more important than participation
- (d) slow and steady wins the race

Ans – a

(v) The story “The Little Match Girl” belongs to which category?

- (a) endurance and patience
- (b) didactic story
- (c) folklore
- (d) love for family

Ans – b

(vi) The German broad jumper had

- (a) green eyes, blonde hair, muscular frame
- (b) blue eyes, blonde hair, muscular frame
- (c) blue eyes, brown hair, muscular frame
- (d) blue eyes, blonde hair, lean frame

Ans – b

(vii) Fill in the blanks. The little match girl crept along, ---- and ----- .

- (a) slowly and silently
- (b) hurrying and shivering
- (c) shivering and hungry
- (d) happily and heartily

Ans – c

(viii) Jesse Owens anger and frustration

- (a) made a fool of himself
- (b) made him fail to qualify in the first two final jumps
- (c) made him foul in the first trial jump
- (d) made him qualify in the final jump

Ans – b

(ix) The irony in the story” The Little Match Girl” states

- (a) The girl meeting her grandmother
- (b) The fulfillment of her visions
- (c) The girl finding her slippers
- (d) The girl’s wish was fulfilled but only after her death

Ans – d

(x) Andersen refers to the little match girl as

- (a) the picture of misery
- (b) a victim of war
- (c) the replica of her mother
- (d) a little fairy

Ans – a

(xi) Why does Portia ask Bassanio to wait before taking the casket test?

- (a) wants to spend time with him
- (b) so that she can teach him to choose the right casket
- (c) its a condition put forth to all suitors
- (d) wanted to play music

Ans - a

(xii) What does Portia compare Bassanio to while going to take the casket test?

- (a) king of Troy
- (b) Apollo
- (c) Poseidon
- (d) Alcides

Ans -d

(xiii) Who warns the others that Shylock will refuse to accept anything less than a pound of flesh?

- (a) Nerissa
- (b) Jessica
- (c) Lorenzo
- (d) Duke

Ans - b

(xiv) When the Duke welcomes Shylock into the court, to which of Shylock's traits does he refer?

- (a) Shylock's greed
- (b) Shylock's cruelty
- (c) Shylock's religion
- (d) Shylock's avarice

Ans - b

(xv) To what is Shylock referring when he calls Portia a "Daniel"?

- (a) the New Testament
- (b) the Old Testament
- (c) a wise Jewish judge
- (d) the prodigal son

Ans - c

(xvi) Where does Act 3 Scene 3 take place?

- (a) Act 3 Scene 3 takes place in the synagogue.
- (b) Act 3 Scene 3 takes place in Portia's house.
- (c) Act 3 Scene 3 takes place in Belmont.
- (d) Act 3 Scene 3 takes place in a street in Venice.

Ans - d

FROM OCTOBER TO DECEMBER

Q. 1 Bassanio: We should hold day with the Antipodes in absence of the sun.

Portia: Let me give light You are welcome home, my lord.

(i) What is meant by 'Antipodes'? State in your own words the compliment given to Portia by Bassanio before the extract.

Denotes the point on the Earth's surface – exactly opposite of the place – where one happens to be at point of time – should have daylight at the same time – as the people on the opposite side – Portia moved about in the sun's absence – in the evening time

(ii) Which orders were to be given to Portia's servants through Lorenzo, before the arrival of Bassanio? State why the orders were to be given.

Given orders through Lorenzo – they must not reveal Portia and Nerissa's absence from Belmont – this order applied – Lorenzo and Jessica as well – she did not want Bassanio to know – that she had been away from Belmont during his absence – this may arouse suspicion in Bassanio – may foil her plan of teasing him regarding the ring

(iii) How did Lorenzo know of the arrival of Bassanio? What did Portia say about the night then?

By hearing his trumpet – the night is but the daylight sick – look a little paler yet it’s a day – just as a day is when the sun is hid

(iv) Give the meaning of the following lines:

“Let me give light, but let me not be light;

For a light wife doth make a heavy husband.”

Portia puns on the word light – that she may always give forth light – yet never become a light (unchaste) wife – a light wife makes a husband sorrowful – she hoped that Bassanio should never be sorrowful on her account

(v) How does Bassanio introduce Antonio to Portia? What does Portia say welcoming Antonio to her house?

Saying that he was the man whom he owed a lot – whom I am so infinitely bound – Portia said – you should in all sense be much bound to him – for, as I hear, he much bound for you

Q. 2 Shylock: There I have another bad match: Let him look to his bond!

(i) What is Shylock calling another ‘bad match’? Why is it a bad match?

News that Antonio has lost a ship – is the bad match – Shylock has already lost his daughter – incurred much expense – now he has made another bad bargain as Antonio has lost his ship – won’t be able to pay back the debt

(ii) Who is bankrupt prodigal? What difference has come into his life?

Antonio – according to Shylock – Antonio like other Christian – does not know how to save money – Antonio used to visit the stock market – with a self-satisfied expression – but now he is like a beggar

(iii) Explain, ‘let him look to his bond! He was wont to lend money for a Christian courtesy’.

Antonio should take care to redeem his bond – pay back the borrowed money in time – otherwise, he will have to pay with his life – he used to lend money to the people without charging any interest – because of his Christian sympathy – but now it’s time for him to pay attention to the bond

(iv) What is Salerio asking at the moment and what’s the reply of Shylock?

Asks Shylock whether he is serious about taking the flesh of Antonio as per the stipulation in the bond – be of no use to Shylock – the Jew replies – he’ll bait fish with the flesh – it’ll gratify his revenge – he’ll be able to avenge all the insults against him – his nation and loss in business

PROSE

A COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES

Q. 3 Barefoot, of course, and often a handful of blown glass beads from that stall in the bazar.

(i) On which things did crocodile feed?

Fed mostly on fish – also on deer and monkey’s that came to drink water – sometimes the ducks – at the ford, it fed on pi-dog full of parasites – skeleton cow – went down to the burning Ghats – found the half burnt bodies

(ii) Which objects were found near crocodile in the river?

Had strange objects around – in the shoals – lay a glimmered blue gem – actually a sand worn glass – had been rolling about in the river for a long time

(iii) Throw the light on Sibia's lifestyle?

Lived in a mud house in a village above the ford – was thin starving child – had no proper clothes – her body was covered with rags – skin was of oiled brown cream color – rags were also torn to make a skirt and a saree – ate chapatti wrapped round green chili – rancid butter – hair was black – she had great eyes

(iv) Why is Sibia called as 'child woman' and how was she born to toil?

The protagonist of the story – happy immature child woman – at the age of only twelve years – was marked for work since her childhood – had to carry the household duties – in them also she found the objects of happiness – was immature in the sense that in spite of doing all the work – she had not lost her childishness

(v) What was Sibia's economic background?

Belonged to a poor family – lived in a mud house – did not even possess one anna – a pice or a pi even to buy a handful of blown glass beads – or one of the thin glass bangles – had been living with her parents and brothers

Q. 4 Mrs. Thompson did not reply and felt that it would be best to leave her alone with the child.

(i) How did Mr. Thompson manage to touch the soft nerve of his wife?

Mrs. Thompson was – anger and astonishment when she saw Maggie in her husband's arms – Mr. Thompson noticed this and said, 'I think women's heart are sometimes very hard' – usually he got out of her sight – in such situations or kept silent to avoid further arguments – but this time he faced an entirely different person – encountered countenance and well determined eyes

(ii) Why did Mrs. Thompson enquire about the two other children of the dead woman?

Mrs. Thompson who was a bitter lady – got angry when she saw Maggie – was keen to know – where they would have been when Maggie was brought there – wanted her to go to the poorhouse

(iii) On the pretext of Bible, how did Mr. Thompson presented his views before his wife?

She asked her husband to go at once to the poorhouse – getting permit to send Maggie – he gave the reference of Bible – in which much is written about children – the savior rebuked – the disciples who would not receive them – but took them in his arms and blessed them – kindness goes in a circle – and comes back in one way or the other – hearing this – soft feeling crept into her heart

(iv) Why did Mr. Thompson avoid the chamber where Maggie was kept when he returned back home?

He was not sure whether his wife's temperament would be normal by evening or not – the first thing that caught his attention – after reaching home – was light shining through the little chamber – his wife sitting by the bed in the chamber – talking to her – but entering the house – he did not go immediately to the little chamber – Joe thought it best – not to discuss about the child – or show any concern for the child

(v) What expression did Mr. Thompson find on the little girl's face after he returned home?

He observed the light shining in the chamber – considered it a good omen – Maggie was lying on the bed with her head little raised on the pillow – wife was sitting beside her – talking to her – every now and then few words came as if in answers from her lips – there was sadness – and tenderness in her expression – but no pain or bitterness

Q. 5

(i) What was the impact of the rain?

Very severe under which thousand forests has been crushed – many more grown thousand times to be crushed again – this was the way – life on the planet Venus forever – heavy concussion of storms led the tidal waves to come over the islands – continuous downpour changed the air – atmosphere that made everybody look dull and pale

(ii) The ecstatic joy felt by the children is very well depicted in the story. Describe.

The joy on the faces of the children – on seeing the yellow sun is indescribable – when the sun came out all of them rushed out yelling into the springtime – even after teacher’s instruction and warning – started running and turning their faces up to the sky – feeling the sun on their cheeks like a warm iron – took off their jackets – so that the sun could burn their arms – they found it better than the sun lamps

(iii) How did the children feel about Margot when the sun was gone?

It started raining again – one of the children reminded of Margot – that she was still in the closet – they stood as if someone had driven them – looked at each other – they glanced at the world that was raining – couldn’t meet each other’s glances – faces were solemn and pale – felt ashamed of their action – realized how much Margot sacrificed – when she moved from earth to Venus

POEM

A COLLECTION OF POEMS

Q. 6

(i) What did Abou Ben Adhem see when woke from a deep sleep one night?

Saw his room flooded by moon light – room was brightened by the presence of an angel – was writing something in a golden book

(ii) What did Abou Ben Adhem ask the angel? What was the angel’s response?

Ask the angel what it was writing – he says –“what writest thou?” – rose its head and look at his sweetly – list of those who love the Lord – “the names of those who love the Lord”

(iii) What did Abou request the angel to do when he learnt that his name did not appear among the names of those who loved the Lord? What does this reveal to us of Abou Ben Adhem’s character?

Enquired if his name too was mentioned in the list of those who loved the Lord – the angel denied in a subdued yet cheerful voice – Abou implores the angel to add his name among those who loved other fellow beings – shows that Ben Adhem’s peaceful and loving life – had made him fearless – confident and unworried

(iv) When and how did the angel appear to Abou Ben Adhem again? What did the angel show Abou this time?

Next night the angel appeared again – such light around him which made Abou wake up again – showed him the names of those who were lucky enough to be blessed by God’s love – to Abou’s joy and surprise – his name was on the top of the list

(v) What does the poet mean by ‘May his tribe increase!’? Why do you think he says this? What is the central message of the poem?

Poet wishes that there should be more people like Abou Ben Adhem who may love other humans and spread love, fraternity and peace – he admires and respects Abou – in our pursuit of life – all of us forget the essential goal of life – our journey of life is nothing but a sojourn into this world from the Almighty – after our death, we go back to the Almighty God – one takes care and loves one’s fellow things – God loves those who love their fellow men – love for fellowmen is the best way of worship

Q.7 The athletes had come from The last race was about to begin.

(i) Who had come and from where? What was the event for which they had come?

The athletes – from various countries – in the Special Olympics for the differently-abled contestants

(ii) Explain: ‘To run for the gold, for the silver and bronze’

Athletes had come to participate – in the games – so that they can win gold, silver or bronze medals

(iii) How do you know that the participants were well trained?

Participants had spent many weeks and months in training – right up to the day the games began – suggests that the participants were well-trained

(iv) Where were the spectators? What were they doing? What was about to begin?

Gathered all around the field – cheering on all the young women and men who were going to participate in the upcoming event – final event of the day – the last race, was about to begin

(v) What was the final event? How many contestants were there for this event? What sad incident happened during this event?

The one-hundred-meter race – nine contestants – as the athletes began to run – the youngest among them stumbled – fell on his knees to the ground

Q. 8 Continuous as the star that shine tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

(i) Who is the ‘I’ referred to in the extract? What did he see? Where?

Poet, William Wordsworth – saw a host of golden daffodils – beside the lake under the tree

(ii) What is the Milky Way? Why does the poet refer to the Milky Way?

Our galaxy – compares the daffodils to the stars in the Milky Way – just as the stars in the Milky Way – stretch in a never-ending line across the sky – similarly the daffodils seemed to stretch – a never-ending line along the banks of the lake

(iii) Explain: Ten thousand saw I at a glance,

Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

An exaggeration – he saw innumerable daffodils at a glance – flowers were tossing their heads in the breeze – seemed to be dancing in a spirited manner

(iv) To what does the poet compare himself in the beginning of the poem? Explain the comparison.

Himself to a cloud in the sky – just as a solitary cloud moves about in the sky – without any particular destination – similarly the poet was wandering along – alone in the place – where the daffodils were blooming

(v) Describe in detail what happens when the poet is in a pensive mood.

In a pensive mood – the vision of the daffodils flashes in his mind’s eye – his heart fills with pleasure – begins to dance as spiritedly as the daffodils

Q. 9

(i) Beside him in the shoals as he lay waiting glimmered a blue gem. 1. Who is ‘he’?

- a. Sibia’s father
- b. Her brother
- c. The man-eater tiger
- d. The crocodile

Ans. d

(ii) What was he waiting for?

- a. Any creature that he could catch unawares and feed on.
- b. Sibia and her mother.
- c. To sun himself on the warm rocks.
- d. A shoal of fish to come swimming by.

Ans. a

(iii) The word closest in meaning to, 'glimmered' in the above line is:

- a. glimpsed
- b. glittered
- c. gazed
- d. gripped

Ans. b

(iv) What exactly was, the 'blue bead'?

- a. a blue diamond
- b. a shiny blue pebble
- c. a piece of sand-worn blue glass
- d. an enormous sapphire

Ans. c

(v) The only parts of 'him' that were soft and vulnerable were _____ .

- a. his eyes and nose.
- b. his nose and mouth.
- c. the undersides of his arms and tail
- d. his eyes and the undersides of his arms

Ans. d

(vi) Who are the first people to arrive back in Belmont?

- a. Nerissa and Gratiano
- b. Chus and Tubal
- c. Portia and Nerissa
- d. Bassanio and Gratiano

Ans. c

(vii) How does Portia “find out” in Act V that Bassanio gave his ring away?

- a. She sees his empty ring finger.
- b. Gratiano tells her.
- c. Bassanio confesses the truth immediately.
- d. Nerissa tells her.

Ans. b

(viii) What news does Portia give Antonio at the end of Act V?

- a. he may have his own room in Belmont
- b. the deed to Shylock’s house now belongs to him now
- c. he can take the 3,000 ducats that Bassanio had borrowed
- d. three of his ships have arrived safely in port

Ans. d

(ix) What does Nerissa give to Lorenzo and Jessica?

- a. another monkey
- b. the 3,000 ducats borrowed from Shylock
- c. double ducats
- d. a deed for all of Shylock’s possessions after he dies

Ans. d

(x) Who is the author of this poem?

- a. Leigh Hunt
- b. James Kinney
- c. Leigh Hunter
- d. Roald Dahl

Ans. a

(xi) Hunt’s poem ‘Abu Ben Adhem’ has a

- a. supernatural tone
- b. ironic tone
- c. humorous tone
- d. satirical tone

Ans. a

(xii) The poet refers to the angel as

- a. lily
- b. the presence
- c. the creature
- d. a golden book

Ans. b

(xiii) Which line from Ray Bradbury's story uses a simile?

- a. she was an old photograph dusted from an album
- b. she looked like a flower
- c. she was thundering and roaring
- d. she was screaming and laughing

Ans. a

(xiv) Why did the other children dislike Margot?

- a. she did not play with them
- b. she wrote poems on Venus
- c. she was born in Venus
- d. she claims to have seen the sun

Ans. d

(xv) Where did the young athlete in the poem 'Nine Gold Medals' fall?

- a. on the rocks
- b. in the field
- c. to the ground
- d. into the river

Ans. c

(xvi) What is the poetic device used in 'Death touches the spring of our common humanity' in the story *Angel in Disguise*

- a. oxymoron
- b. allusion
- c. personification
- d. metaphor

Ans. c

(xvii) 'I wondered lonely as a cloud' is a line taken from

- a. Abu Ben Adhem
- b. After Blenheim
- c. Nine Gold Medals
- d. Daffodils

Ans. d

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