

QUESTION BANK 2022 – 23

ENGLISH LITERATURE

STD – IX

FIRST TERM

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

Extracts:

Q 1 Nerissa: You would be, sweet madam but competency lives longer.

(i) Whom Nerissa is addressing as Madam? Where are the characters? To what comment made by the other person does the speaker give this reply?

Portia – a room in Portia's house – in Belmont – gave this reply to the comment made by Portia – her little body is tired with this great world

(ii) According to Nerissa, why is the body of the other person 'weary of this great world'? What is Nerissa's relationship with the other person?

Portia is doubtful about her future – because of strange provisions of her father's will – lady-in-waiting but she is the friend and confidante too – she says some people are tired of their extreme poverty – others due to too much of wealth

(iii) Earlier, in what way did Nerissa try to cheer Portia? What was Portia's reaction to what Nerissa had said?

Comforts Portia by saying that she would have been really weary – if her miseries were in the same abundance as her fortunes – better to be placed in moderate means – those who have too much, age sooner – those who have just enough, live longer – Portia reacted by saying – they were good words – compliments Nerissa – that the speech was well-spoken

(iv) Where does happiness lie, according to the extract? What opinion have you formed of Nerissa, from this extract?

'seated in the mean' – happiness is placed in the middle – poverty and riches – she has a lot of wisdom – is practical

(v) Give the meaning of 'they are sick as that surfeit with so much', and 'superfluity comes sooner by white hairs, but competency lives longer'.

That the people with too much money and good fortune are as unhappy – in fact people having too much of everything age faster – who have just enough live longer

Q 2 Prince of Morocco: Mislike me not for my complexion reddest, his or mine.

(i) Who is the speaker? Where is he? Who else are there in the scene?

Prince of Morocco – Belmont – Portia – Nerissa and other attendants

(ii) Explain the reference to Phoebus. Explain, 'scarce thaws the icicle'.

Sun God – rays in Morocco are strong enough to darken the skin – speaker says – people of European countries – fair – sun rays do not have the heat to melt the icicles

(iii) Why should the incision be made?

To prove that in spite of his dark skin – Portia should not consider him inferior – his blood is as red as that of any European – his love will be as strong as that of any other

(iv) Give the meaning of the last two lines of the extract what does this prove about his character?

Habit of boasting about his own qualities – says that “his appearance has filled many a valiant person with fear” – boasts that he is a man of exceptional strength – even the bravest soldiers have felt his courage

(v) On what condition would he change his hue?

Loves his complexion – will not exchange it – unless it was to gain Portia’s attention

PROSE

A COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES

Q. 3 When our young men grow angry.... Thus it has ever been.

(i) Who is the speaker? Name the place where he delivered his message.

Chief Seattle – in 1854 in Washington.

(ii) How is the youth by nature?

Impulsive – often reckless and rush into rash deeds- grow angry at some real or imaginary wrong- disfigure their faces with black paint.

(iii) What do the young men do when they are angry? What does it denote?

Angry at some real or imaginary wrong-disfigure their faces with black paint- denotes that their hearts are black- are relentless- old men and women unable to control them

(iv)What had made the youth angry? What does the Chief hope for?

When white man began to push them westward – hopes that hostilities between them would never return-it will only bring war and destruction-Chief advocates the path of peace and prosperity

(v) Why does Chief Seattle want to end the hostilities between the two?

That it may never return- he understands that they will have nothing to lose-nothing to gain from hatred-revenge by young men considered as gain-even at cost of their precious lives- old men and mothers who have sons to lose know better-that war is futile- can never bring peace and prosperity.

Q. 4 “What politics have you?” I asked there are trucks up the road where it forks for Tortosa.

(i) Who asked, ”what politics have you” and what did he mean by this?

By the narrator to the old man – the narrator was anxious – he couldn’t refrain himself from asking the old man about his political view – to which the old man replied – “I am without politics” – due to the present chaotic situation

(ii) What advice did the narrator give to the old man?

He was 76 years old – had travelled 12 kilometers on foot – he could move no more – it was not a good place to stop – advised him to go by truck – on the road where it was divided for Tortosa

(iii) Why did he refuse to go to Barcelona?

The narrator urged the old man to leave the place – fear of enemy’s approach – old man was exhausted – he preferred to stay back for some more time – he refused, as he didn’t know anyone there

(iv) Why was the old man not willing to cross the bridge and escape to a safer place?

His native town ‘San Carlos’ brought a smile on the old man’s face in such a tensed atmosphere – he had to leave the town and his animals forcibly due to the artillery – narrator advised him to cross the bridge – he seemed to be least concerned about his life – he didn’t want to part with his animals

(v) What does it reveal about the mental situation of the old man when he said “Thank you” again and again to the narrator?

He warned him against the upcoming danger – the old man was too much attached with his town and animals – refused to go – was a lonely – when the narrator showed his concern for him – he felt happy and grateful that he talked to him – felt that there was someone who cared for him too

Q. 5 Long Essay type question and Answer

Answer the following questions with reference to R.K.Narayan’s “A Horse and Two Goats”.

(i) Which gestures made by Muni excited the American and how did they remind him of his hobby?

Chopping the thief who had stolen the cattle-Redman watched his hands-guessed that Muni was talking of chopping wood- enquired about his axe-he also revealed his hobby and he enjoyed his work-told Muni that on Sundays he chopped wood – which he got along his backyard

(ii) How did the American concluded that the horse statue belonged to Muni?

The way Muni was sitting on its pedestal –as other souvenir sellers in the country- preside over their wares-concluded without doubt that Muni was its owner

(iii) Finally realizing that too much time was wasted in conversation how did the American introduce the topic of money?

He was now too tired of conversation- asked Muni whether he would accept hundred rupees for statue-also wished to take the whiskered soldier but had no place-he would cancel his air tickets-take a boat-his wife would go by air-he would travel with horse boat- placed hundred rupees note in Muni’s hand

POEM

A COLLECTION OF POEMS

Q. 6 The third one in tattered clothes....To warm the idle rich?

(i) Who is referred to as the third one? Where was he sitting? Why was he there?

Is one of the six humans- mentioned in the poem-sitting near the fire-was there as he had been trapped- by chance in bitter cold along with the others.

(ii) Who is the first person? What did the person see? What does this tell us about the person?

A white woman-saw a black man among the faces around the fire-she harboured racial prejudice

(iii) What opinion do you form of the third person from the description in the poem? What was his reason for not giving his log?

Was a poor man – he wore tattered clothes – restricted in putting his log-to warm the rich- was jealous of the rich

(iv) What were the thoughts of the rich man?

Thought of all his wealth-he had in store-how he could keep it away from the shiftless poor

(v) What happened to all these people in the end? Who was responsible for their downfall?

They died – they were themselves responsible for their end- as their prejudice prevented them from sharing the logs-were frozen to death-as they did not want their logs to warm the others

Q.7 What does he plan Unborn eyes shall see.

(i) What benefits of planting a tree are mentioned in the extract?

Provides shade and gentle rain – trees bear fruit – we help in conserving the earth with natural vegetation

(ii) How do trees help in providing rain?

The process of transpiration – evaporation of water into atmosphere – comes down again in the form of rain

(iii) Explain: He plants the Coming age;

The planter helps in conserving forest – our natural heritage – plants so that future generation – reap benefits of his labour

(iv) How are the passing years compared to the trees?

Just as one year comes to an end – is replaced by another – similarly new leaves blossom on trees – old trees are replaced by new ones

(v) What according to the poet is the joy that unborn eyes shall see?

Tree planted today grows tall and strong in future – gives benefit to the earth – provides joy to the future generation

SECOND TERM

MERCHANT OF VENICE

EXTRACTS

Q.1 Portia: There take it prince; and if my form lie there,

Then I am yours ...

Morocco: O hell! What have we here?

(i) Where are Portia and Morocco? Why has Morocco travelled to this place?

Portia's house in Belmont-travelled there as a suitor-wanted to marry Portia

(ii) Morocco chooses then golden casket. What message does the scroll inside it contain?

It contained Death's head (skull with scroll within hollow eye-socket) – with message- "All that glitters is not gold". - not necessary that a golden chest shining from outside –might contain portrait of Portia

(iii) Who had designed the casket test? What were the rules of the test?

Designed by Portia's father before his death- three caskets – gold, silver and lead-each with an inscription and a scroll-one contains her portrait-if suitor chooses that casket- could marry her-if he chooses wrong casket-has to leave the place immediately-not to reveal to others which one he chose-never woo any other lady for marriage.

(iv) How many other caskets were there in the room? State what was inscribed on each of them.

There were two more caskets in the room – the silver read, "Who chooseth me shall get as much as he deserves" – the lead casket read, "Who chooseth me must give and hazard all the hath"

(v) What does Portia say after Morocco leaves? What aspect of her character is revealed by her words?

Gentle way of getting rid of Morocco – said that all the princes of his complexion choose the casket in the same way as was done by Morocco – racial discrimination – dislikes his complexion

Q.2 Portia: To these injunctions everyone for my worthless self.

Arragon: And so have I address'd me Gold, silver and lead base.

(i) Who had tried his luck in trying to choose the correct casket before the Prince of Arragon? Which casket had that suitor chosen? What did he find inside the casket?

Prince of Morocco – the golden casket – a carrion death (skull) – there was a scroll – in its hollow eye

(ii) What were the three things Arragon was obliged by oath to obey?

He must never tell anyone which casket he has chosen – if he failed in choosing the right casket – he would never woo a maiden in way of marriage – if he failed to make the right choice he would leave immediately

(iii) What was the inscription of the golden casket? How do the actions of the marlet illustrate this inscription?

Who chooses me shall gain what many men desire – the marlet is like the many men who choose by outward show – appearance are deceptive – many means the fool multitude – they do not see the inner worth of things – they are like the marlet that builds its nest on the outward wall – the nest faces dangers and storms

(iv) Which casket does Arragon finally choose? Whose portrait does he find inside? Which casket actually contains Portia's portrait?

Silver – a blinking idiot – the lead casket

(v) Who enters soon after? What does he say about the young Venetian who has just arrived? What gifts has the Venetian brought with him?

A messenger - the young Venetian (Gratiano) has come to announce that his lord (Bassanio) is going to arrive – he is a suitable ambassador of love – has brought gifts – comes before his lord – greetings – compliments - gifts of rich value from Bassanio – courteous regards

POETRY

A COLLECTION OF POEM

Q. 3 And then the old man the great victory.”

(i) Who is the old man? What causes him to sigh?

Old Kaspar – as his grandson had found the skull of soldier – had been killed in Battle of Blenheim

(ii) What incident prompted the old man to give an account of the battle?

As his grandson had found the skull of soldier he said it was a common occurrence – but the children wanted to know more about the battle – he described the occurrence

(iii) How did the battle affect the old man's family?

Kaspar's father lived in Blenheim during the battle – soldiers burnt his dwelling – had to flee with his family

(iv) Name the two countries that fought each other in the battle. Which army won? What reason does the old man give for the victory?

England and France – English army won – dead bodies of soldiers lay rotting in the sun – destruction of life and property of innocent people – he gave reason behind the great victory

(v) Point out the refrain I the poem. What effect does it have on the readers? What do you think is the poet's attitude to war?

The phrase “famous victory” or “great victory” – it emphasises the irony of the phrase – Kaspar keeps on saying famous or great victory – fails to comprehend how something which cause deaths and destruction can be termed as great victory – poet denounces war – considers it futile – wasteful and terrible – should not be encouraged

Q.4 The most important thing The idiotic thing at all.

- (i) What according to the poet is the most important thing that he has learnt about children? What is referred to as ‘idiotic thing’ in the extract? What shouldn’t we do with this?**

Should never allow children to come near the television set – the television set – should not install the television set in homes

- (ii) What is the effect of the television set on children?**

The children focus their total attention on the images displayed on the television screen – when they sit in front of the television set – they loll and slop and lounge about and stare – so intently at the set – their eyes seem to pop out

- (iii) How do television programmes affect the children?**

Mesmerised by the moving images as they sit and stare at the television set – programmes that are shown on the screen seem to have an intoxicating effect on them – they seem to be absolutely drunk

- (iv) Why do parents allow children to watch television in spite of its negative effect on them?**

Keeps them occupied – children do not indulge in mischief or quarrel amongst themselves – parents to complete their household chores in peace

- (v) What according to you is the poet trying to teach the readers through the poem?**

Trying to educate his readers about the ill effects of television – watching television for long hours makes the children lethargic and dull – throttles their imaginative powers – lower their IQ level – poet emphasises on the importance of developing a reading habit in the children – will open the doors of a varied world for them – they will experience real pleasure and happiness

PROSE

A COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES

Q. 5 “You will excuse me for speaking miss, but, “So that is what you are doing out here? A marshal!”

- (i) What explanation was given by the other man to the young woman about Mr. Easton?**

When the other man saw that young lady was acquainted with the handsome man – seeing him handcuffed – sensed Easton’s embarrassment – the pretty woman was in a state of bewilderment – So he called Easton as marshal – taking him to the Leavenworth prison – seven years of imprisonment – in the case of counterfeiting

- (ii) What reason was given by Mr. Easton for not going to Washington?**

He wanted to do something – to live in Washington – lot of money required – saw the opportunities in the west as well

- (iii) Why did Miss Fairchild call Mr. Easton ‘Dashing Western Hero’?**

In the course of conversation – the glum-faced man told Miss Fairchild that he was being taken to Leavenworth prison for seven years of imprisonment – for the case of counterfeiting – the woman was surprised to learn that Easton had given up the life in Washington – to become a Marshal in West – she was impressed with this – called ‘Dashing Western Hero’ who rides and shoots – face all kinds of danger

- (iv) “My butterfly days are over”. What kind of irony is there?**

Verbal irony here as Mr. Easton was not talking of his good days – rather he was talking about being locked up and not being free like a butterfly – his freedom had been snatched away – because of his wrong act – But Miss Fairchild thought – he was talking about his social days – he had taken up a job of responsibility – won’t be able to move freely as he was earlier

(v) Why were Miss Fairchild's eyes rested upon the glittering handcuffs and what did the other man explain her?

Miss Fairchild encountered Mr. Easton – in the same coach on the train to Denver – was surprised to see him handcuffed – the other man guessed her embarrassment – gave her an explanation – but her eyes were still on handcuffs – that she should not worry – as all the marshals handcuffed themselves to their prisoners

Q. 6 Answer the following questions with reference to Ruskin Bond's short story 'A Face in the Dark'.

(i) Who was Mr. Oliver? Describe what you get to know about him in the beginning of the story.

Anglo-Indian teacher – bachelor – taught in a school – was run in the manner of English public school – life magazine had called it the 'Eton of the East' – usually, in the evening, he would stroll to the Simla Bazar – about three miles from the school

(ii) Describe the atmosphere when Mr. Oliver was returning to school on that particular night. What did Mr. Oliver see as he moved down the narrow forest path?

Wind was blowing strongly – making strange eerie sounds – Mr. Oliver carried a torch – the light was poor – the batteries were running low – saw a boy sitting alone on a rock – boy's head was hung – held his face in his hands – seemed to be crying and sobbing soundlessly

(iii) Describe in detail how the ending of the story *The Face in the Dark* helps to create an atmosphere to feed humanity's collective fascination with the dark.

Mr. Oliver – was returning to his school – he saw a boy, who seemed to be of his school, sitting on a rock – seemed to be crying – head was bowed, he held his face in his hands – his body shook convulsively – worried and angry – went up to him and asked him – he was doing outside so late in the night – the boy did not reply – the boy raised his head – the boy had no eyes, ears, nose or mouth – just a round smooth head – frightened and agitated – ran blindly through the path – calling for help – saw a lantern swinging in the middle of the path – rushed up to the watchman – told him his experience – watchman held up the lantern – to his own face and asked Oliver if the boy's face was like his – Oliver saw that the watchman's face too had no eyes, ears, nose or mouth – the wind blows the lantern out – everything plunged into darkness – leaves the readers to their own interpretations – the story – succeeds in creating an atmosphere to feed humanity's collective fascination with the dark

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