

ICSE 2023 Examination

Sample Question Paper-1

English Paper-2 (Literature)

Class-10

SOLVED

Time Allowed: 2 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

Answers to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.

*You will **not** be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.*

This time is to be spent in reading the Question Paper.

The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.

*The paper has **four** Sections*

Section A is compulsory – All questions in Section A must be answered.

*You must attempt **one** question from each of the Sections B, C and D and **one** other question from any Section of your choice*

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

Section-A

(Attempt all questions from this section)

Question 1.

Read the following questions and choose the most appropriate response from the choices given below (Please do not copy the question - simply write out in correct serial order the appropriate word or phrase.)

[16]

- (i) What did the Little Match girl see when she struck the second match?
(A) A beautiful candle lit Christmas Tree (B) Her grandmother who loved her dearly
(C) Bright stars shooting across the sky (D) A stuffed goose waddling towards her
- (ii) What is the caged bird in Maya Angelou's poem blinded by?
(A) Her narrow cage (B) Her rage
(C) The sun's orange rays (D) Her fears of the unknown
- (iii) In the poem that Margot wrote, (in Bradbury's story, 'All Summer in a Day'), she compares the sun to a _____
(A) penny (B) clock
(C) flower (D) lemon
- (iv) Which of the following statements is NOT true of Sibia?
(A) She had long golden hair (B) She had to work hard from her early years
(C) She was twelve years old (D) She had no money to buy glass beads at the bazaar
- (v) 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
- (vi) 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) A carefully concealed secret (D) Beneath a wrapper

- (vii) What makes the central character in Browning's poem, 'The Patriot' feel sad and bitter?
 (A) The welcome he received (B) The fickle mindedness of his followers
 (C) Getting wet in the rain (D) The flags on the church spire
- (viii) Joe Thompson was a _____ .
 (A) barber (B) carpenter
 (C) gardener (D) wheelwright
- (ix) What did About 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
- (x) What sight fills the poet Wordsworth's heart with joy?
 (A) A field of daffodils (B) The stars in the Milky Way
 (C) The dancing waves (D) The lonely cloud
- (xi) When Shylock speaks of Jessica's elopement he exclaims, 'My own flesh and blood to rebel!' What feeling do his words convey?
 (A) pride (B) envy
 (C) betrayal (D) remorse
- (xii) What rare quality of Bassanio's helps him choose the right casket?
 (A) His honesty and integrity (B) His desperate need for money
 (C) His dislike of gold and silver (D) His ability to look beyond outward appearances
- (xiii) "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
- (xiv) Which of the following words best describes Antonio's attitude during the trial?
 (A) jealous (B) angry
 (C) generous (D) resigned
- (xv) 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.
- (xvi) 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.

Section 'B'-Drama

(Answer *one or more* questions from this section)

The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare

Question 2

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

SHYLOCK: *To bait fish withal. If it will feed nothing else, it will feed my revenge. He hath disgraced me and hindered me half a million; laughed at my losses, mocked at my gains, scorned my nation, thwarted my bargains, cooled my friends, heated mine enemies- and what's his reason? I am a Jew.*

- (i) Who is 'He'?
 What does Shylock want from him?
 What does Shylock mean by 'to bait fish withal'? [3]
- (ii) Explain in your own words any three ways in which 'He' had wronged Shylock.
- (iii) According to Shylock, in what ways did Jews resemble Christians? [3]

- (iv) How does Shylock use Christian example to justify his desire for revenge? [3]
 (v) The given extract reveals two distinct emotions that Shylock experiences. What are they? Give one reason to justify each of these emotions. [4]

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

Portia: *The quality of mercy is not strained;
 It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
 Upon the place beneath : it is twice blessed :
 It blesseth him that gives and him that takes .
 Tis mightiest in the mightiest ; it becomes
 The throned monarch better than his crown :*

- (i) Where does this scene take place? Why is Portia here? Why does Bassanio not recognise her? [3]
 (ii) To what is mercy compared in these lines? Why is mercy said to be 'twice blessed'? [3]
 (iii) Explain the lines: *'Tis mightiest in the mightiest: it becomes
 The throned monarch better than his crown: '* [3]
 (iv) Later in her speech Portia mentions a sceptre. What is a sceptre? How, according to Portia, is mercy above the 'sceptred sway'? [3]
 (v) To whom are these words addressed? What does the person say in response to Portia's words? Portia is seen as the dramatic heroine of the play. Using references from the text mention any two aspects of her character that appeal to you most. [4]

Section 'C'-Prose-Short Stories

(Answer one or more questions from this section)

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

Question 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'? Where were they living? What had they been doing until the girl called their attention to the raindrop? [3]
 (ii) Mention any three ways in which their lives on this planet differed from life on earth. [3]
 (iii) Why does the girl begin to cry when she looks at the raindrop? [3]
 (iv) Describe the dramatic change in the weather immediately after the raindrop fell. [3]
 (v) What feelings do 'they' experience at the end of the story? What had they done earlier that made them feel this way? [4]

Question 5

Read the following extract from Hans Christian Anderson's story, 'The Little Match Girl' and answer the questions given below:

So the little girl walked about the streets on her naked feet, which were red and blue with cold. In her old apron she carried a great many matches and she had a packet of them in her hand as well.

- (i) Who was 'she'? What can you conclude about her condition from the above description? [3]
 (ii) What time of the year was it? Why did she not want to go home? [3]
 (iii) What did she use the matches for? What happened when she lit the first match? [3]
 (iv) Whom did she love dearly? What did she say when this person appeared before her? [3]
 (v) What happened to the little girl at the end of the story? Would you consider this a happy ending or a sad one? Give one reason for your answer. [4]

Section 'D'-Poetry

(Answer *one or more* questions from this section)

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

Question 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 did Abou Ben Adhem see when woke from a deep sleep one night? [3]
- (ii) What did Abou Ben Adhem ask the angel? What was the angel's response? [3]
- (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? [3]
- (iv) When and how did the angel appear to Abou Ben Adhem again? What did the angel show Abou this time? [3]
- (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? [4]

Question 7

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

*And the banner above and nine smiling faces
Said more than these words ever will
Said more than these words ever will.*

- (i) What was 'special' about the athletes who were participating in this Sports Meet? What special quality of theirs does the poem celebrate? [3]
- (ii) Which race was the highlight of the day? What was the signal that the athletes waited for? How many athletes participated in this race? [3]
- (iii) How does the poet describe the state of mind of the athletes as they lined up for the race? Who won the race? [3]
- (iv) If you had to give this poem an alternate title, what would you call it? Give reasons for your answer. [3]
- (v) Give a brief account of what happened after the youngest athlete fell to the ground. Why do you think the author use the word 'strange' to describe the behaviour of the athletes? [4]

□□□

SOLUTIONS

Sample Question Paper-1

English Paper-2 (Literature)

Section-A

Answer 1

- (i) **Option (D) is correct.**
Explanation: Option (a) is the third vision. Option (b) happens when the girl strikes the match the fourth and last time. Option (c) is not mentioned in the story. Option (d) happens when the girl strikes the match the second time when she sees a well laid table with a roasted goose stood with apples. Her feverish imagination makes her see the goose waddling towards her with carving knife and fork in its back.
- (ii) **Option (B) is correct.**
Explanation: Although the narrow cage (a) restricts her view making the bird stalk in it, it is the rage that follows that blinds him. Option (b) is right as the poet makes it clear in the third and fourth line of the second stanza, he 'can seldom see through his bars of rage'. Besides, 'blinded by rage' is a widely used metaphor to denote the frustration and anger of the suppressed. Options (c) and (d) do not match.
- (iii) **Option (C) is correct.**
Explanation: (c) (flower) is the right option, because Margot has written in her poem, 'I think the sun is a flower/ That blooms for just one hour'. Option (d) shows what they read about sun in the class and how like a lemon it was. Options (a) and (b) are not relevant in the context.
- (iv) **Option (A) is correct.**
Explanation: The question requires an answer that is not true of Sibia. Option (a) says that Sibia had golden hair while actually her hair was as black as ebony. All the other three options are true in her case.
- (v) **Option (A) is correct.**
Explanation: The poem begins with the line 'The athletes have come from so many countries /To run for the gold, for the silver and bronze' which proves that it is an international sporting event. The other options can happen in any sporting event.
- (vi) **Option (C) is correct.**
Explanation: Under wraps is figurative expression to denote a well guarded secret. By revealing at the last moment about his star candidate, Hitler wanted to spring a surprise to unnerve other athletes. The other options seem ridiculous as no one needs to wrap an athlete in blanket, gift wrapped or underneath a wrap.
- (vii) **Option (B) is correct.**
Explanation: The patriot got a rousing welcome when he came victorious after the war. So option (a) cannot be right. Getting wet in the rain cannot make a soldier sad. He church spires flamed with flags in honour of the soldier, So that cannot make him sad. It is how the attitude of the fans changed the next year branding him as a traitor that gripped him with sadness. Option (b) shows the fickle attitude of the fans, so is the correct answer.
- (viii) **Option (D) is correct.**
Explanation: The writer introduces Thompson as the wheelright who takes care of the crippled child. The other answers are not correct.
- (ix) **Option (D) is correct.**
Explanation: Abou Ben saw not a fairy but an angel from heaven writing in a book of gold. So (d) is the right answer. (b) and (c) are wrong because the angel was not sitting on the bed.
- (x) **Option (A) is correct.**
Explanation: The poem is titled Daffodils as it is all about the lingering joy the poet felt in seeing a field of daffodils. (b) is not correct as he compares the daffodils to stars. The waves were outdone by the flowers; so option (c) is also not correct.
- (xi) **Option (C) is correct.**
Explanation: Shylock feels betrayed by his daughter who ran away with a Christian. He does not feel proud, nor envy and is not at all filled with remorse. He feels his own flesh betrayed him; so option (c) is right.
- (xii) **Option (D) is correct.**
Explanation: Bassanio interpreted the messages on the caskets in the right manner. He was not enamoured by appearance; nor was he greedy for money. So (d) is right.
- (xiii) **Option (B) is correct.**
Explanation: This was said by Shylock to the lawyer Portia. He feels law is on his side as he is justified in making the demand. The other character do not say these words.
- (xiv) **Option (D) is correct.**
Explanation: Antonio is not scared, angry or jealous. He accepts his fate. The word resigned is the best way to describe his mentality. So option (d) is correct.

(xv) Option (A) is correct.

Explanation: It is clear from the conversation that Nerissa is angry with Gratia no for giving the ring she gifted him to someone else. It is not the other way round. She is not angry because he left her on the day of marriage. Gratiano has no problem with her going with Portia. So, option (a) is right.

(xvi) Option (B) is correct.

Explanation: Lorenzo clearly says he recognised her by the sound of her voice. The other options are not correct.

Section-B

Answer 2

(i) He is Antonio, the Merchant of Venice.

Shylock wants a pound of flesh from Antonio.

Shylock wants Antonio's flesh just to take revenge by inflicting pain on him. He has no use for the flesh, so he intends to feed the fish with it; revenge is his aim and he would feed his ego by hurting the person who had insulted him at Rialto

(ii) According to Shylock, Antonio had insulted him and prevented him from making profit through usury; by not taking interest for the money lent, he had instigated people to withdraw their friendship towards the Jew, and increased the number of his enemies by talking against him. More importantly, Shylock claims Antonio had wounded his pride by scorning his Nation.**(iii) Shylock furnishes many points to prove the similarity between a Jew and a Christian. They are similar in makeup, senses and emotions. They eat alike, are hurt by the same weapons, feel the impacts of the seasons in the same way. Both bleed when they are wounded, die when they are poisoned. They are prone to be affected by same diseases, and healed in the same way.****(iv) Shylock argues when a Jew offends a Christian, the Christian's reaction is revenge. So, if a Christian offends a Jew, he will follow this example of the Christian by taking revenge.****(v) The two distinct emotions Shylock feels is a thirst for revenge and anger. He appears as the most callous and revengeful person when he demands a pound of Antonio's flesh. We hate him when he suggests he does not want the forfeit in money but in the form of Antonio's life. However, in some ways, his anger is justified because he has been wronged in many ways; insult against his self, his nation, betrayal by his own daughter, all these make him angry which in turn, whets his outrage which can be satisfied only by harming Antonio, a Christian.**

Answer 3

(i) Portia is in a Court of Justice at Venice. She is here to save her husband's friend Antonio by defending him from Shylock's unfair demand. Bassanio does not recognise his wife because she is dressed in the male attire of doctor of law.**(ii) The quality of mercy is compared to the gentle rain from heaven. This should rain naturally from human heart suffusing the world with its divine quality. It comes as a blessing to the one who receives it as well as the one who shows it as there is plenty of joy and satisfaction in forgiveness.****(iii) Mercy is the mightiest of the mightiest because its power is mightier than all the other powers that a king can boast of. The throne, the crown and the scepter are all symbols of power of the king. Mercy looks better in a king than his crown. Portia says that the person who grants mercy is equally blessed as the one who receives it. This is because mercy is a divine attribute, and the person who grants it is embodying godliness.****(iv) Sceptre is insignia of the kingly power, a symbolic rod of kingship. It represents authority and fear that a king generates in others. However, mercy is higher and most divine as it is a godly quality which is superior to any worldly authority. It suits the monarch more than a crown or any other sign of power.****(v) These words are addressed to Shylock the Jew, who makes unfair demand of Antonio's flesh. Shylock is surprised at Portia's plea for mercy. According to him the law is on his side; Antonio failed to return the borrowed amount in time and is entitled to the agreed punishment. However, Portia cleverly beats him at his own game, and we admire her ingenuity with which she brings up the clause of not shedding any blood. Another quality of hers worthy of a heroine is her deep love for her husband and commitment to justice, which makes her come all the way to save his bosom friend.**

Section-C

Answer 4

(i) They were nine years old. They were living in the Planet of Venus. They had been revelling in the sunlight, running, playing hide and seek and gazing at the Orb (Sun) till tears ran down their cheeks.**(ii) Unlike on the earth, continuous rain pelted the planet of Venus. The Sun appeared once in seven years and it was a wondrous phenomenon for the children of the planet. They never got a chance to walk or play in the garden like those on earth did, and never felt its golden warmth.****(iii) The falling of the raindrop means the precious hours of sunshine is coming to a stop. There is sure to be continuous rain for seven years until the Sun would appear again. It is a heart-breaking thought because all the warmth and the pleasure they have been experiencing for two hours will remain a memory for them. Thinking of this, tears well up in the eyes of the girl.**

- (iv) The lone raindrop was followed more and more even as the Sun faded and mist descended. There was a dramatic change in weather. Cold wind blew around them accompanied by lightning and thunder. The sky darkened and there was the "gigantic sound of the rain falling in tons and avalanches everywhere and forever."
- (v) The little hearts turned heavy with sadness and disappointment. One moment they were basking in the glory of the Sun and then the rain descended. Their smiles faded. All the revelry gone, they braced themselves to brave another spell of rain and gloom. At that time, they remembered Margot whom they had shut up in a closet, just because she seemed different from them. Now, all she said about the sun proved true. Remorse struck as they moved towards the closet to set Margot free. They were ashamed of themselves and could not look at each other.

Answer 5

- (i) She was the little match girl of the story by the same name. That she was poor was evident as she walked bareheaded and barefoot in that freezing cold night. She was a picture of misery as she crept along shivering and hungry with unsold packets of matches.
- (ii) It was the coldest evening of the dying year-the New Year's Eve. She did not dare to go home as she would be cuffed by her father for not being able to sell the matches and earn any money. Moreover, it would not have made any difference as the wind whistling through the broken roof of their home made it so cold and unwelcome.
- (iii) The little girl lighted the matches to warm her numb fingers. Later, she could see pleasant visions in their warm glow. When she lit the first match, it seemed to spread a strange light. She felt she was sitting in front of a great iron stove with polished brass knobs and ornaments. She felt warm and cosy.
- (iv) The little girl loved her late grandmother so dearly. When the vision of this beloved person appeared, the girl requested her to take her away to the place where she lived.
- (v) The little match girl was frozen to death. On the one hand, it can be considered a happy ending to the misery of the girl. It is preferable to leave this world which is callous and indifferent to a lone, poor girl who dies of bitter cold and hunger and lack of shelter on a New Year's Eve. On the other hand, it is sad that people in the midst of their celebration are not aware or bothered about the misery of the have-nots. The plight of the girl haunts our memory long after we finish reading the account.

Section-D**Answer 6**

- (i) Abou Ben Adam woke up to the sight of moonlight filling his room with glorious glow and looking like a lily in bloom, an angel writing in a book of gold.
 - (ii) Abou asked what the angel was writing in the golden book. He got the reply that the names of those who love the Lord were being written.
 - (iii) When he came to know that his name did not appear in the list of those who loved the Lord, Abou was not overly disappointed as he was calm by nature and had equanimity of mind. He was bold and straightforward as he conversed with the angel. He humbly asked the angel to write his name as one who loved his fellowmen and this portrays him as a selfless being whose heart resonated with love for his fellow beings. In other words, he considered serving humanity equal to serving God.
 - (iv) The angel appeared to him in the following night with a 'great awakening light'. He showed the names of those whom God had blessed, and leading the list was the name of Abou.
 - (v) The poet believes more people like Abou are the need of the hour. The world requires those who selflessly work for the betterment of society; they rank above those who just worship God. God himself is happy with people like Abou and considers them superior. The central message of the poem is love of fellow beings is the real love of God; without it, loving God is just a show.
7. (i) As the banner said, they were special children who were participating in 'Special Olympiad'. They might have been physically or mentally challenged in some way or the other, but they were high on the emotional and ethical quotient. The consideration and concern for their fellow mate stands them out from the rest. True sportsman spirit triumphed over the spirit of winning over others. It was a true display of human compassion.
- (ii) The last race, one hundred meters run by the special children, was the highlight of the event. They waited for the sound of gun signalling the start. Nine athletes participated in the race.
 - (iii) As they waited on the start line, each of them was determined to win the race and focused on the sound of the gun. Ultimately, all the nine won. They were awarded for the rare display of compassion and care and for upholding the true spirit of competition.
 - (iv) I would give the title 'Nine Golden Hearts' as it is the quality of the hearts of the special children that was awarded. Each of them was determined to win, poised to outwit others at the sound of the signal; however, when one of them fell, the others resonated with their team mate and forsook their intention to seek individual glory. The nine golden hearts moved together to finish the race; a rare display of humanity and solidarity.
 - (v) The youngest athlete fell to the ground and gave out a cry of frustration and anguish. The other eight stopped in their tracks, turned round and came back to render a helping hand. They lifted him to his feet. Then, all nine of them joined their hands and walked to the finishing line. With smiling faces they received the awards. The poet uses the word strange, because such behaviour is rare in the world of international competitions, where winning is of paramount importance as the fame and name of the individual and the country is at stake.