

ICSE



CLASS 10

PREVIOUS YEAR SOLVED
QUESTION PAPERS - 2014-2015

ICSE Board
Class X English Literature
Board Paper – 2015
(Two hours)

General Instructions:

Total 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 the paper is the time allotted for writing the answers.*

*Attempt **five** questions in all.
You must attempt One question from each of the **Sections A, B and C**
and any **two** other questions.
The intended marks of questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [].*

SECTION A - DRAMA

The Merchant of Venice: Shakespeare

Question 1.

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

Portia: But this reasoning is not in the fashion to choose me a husband. O me, the word “choose” ! I may neither choose whom I would, nor refuse whom I dislike; so is the will of a living daughter curbed by the will of a dead father. Is it not hard, Nerissa, that I cannot choose one, nor refuse none?

- (i) What test had Portia’s father devised for her suitors? What oath did the suitors have to take before making their choice? [3]
- (ii) Who is Nerissa? What does she say to cheer up Portia? [3]
- (iii) Why does Portia disapprove of the County Palatine? Whom would she rather marry?[3]
- (iv) How, according to Portia, can the Duke of Saxony’s nephew be made to choose the wrong casket? What do these suitors ultimately decide? Why? [3]
- (v) Whom does Portia ultimately marry? Who were the two other suitors who took the test? Why, in your opinion, is the person whom she marries worthy of her? [4]

Question 2.

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

Duke : What, is Antonio here?
Antonio : Ready, so please your grace.
Dyke : I am sorry for thee: thou art come to answer
A stony adversary, an inhuman wretch
Uncapable of pity, void and empty
From any dram of mercy.

- (i) What are the terms of the bond that Antonio has signed? [3]
(ii) Why does the Duke call Shylock 'inhuman' What does the Duke expect Shylock to do? [3]
(iii) What reason does Shylock give for choosing rotten flesh over money? What are the things hated by some people? [3]
(iv) State three examples Antonio gives to illustrate Shylock's stubborn attitude. [3]
(v) How is Shylock's property distributed at the end by Antonio.
Do you think Shylock deserves the punishment given to him?
Give a reason to justify your answer. [4]

Loyalties: John Galsworthy

Question 3.

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

Lady Adela : Oh! Charlie, he did look so exactly as if he'd sold me a carpet when I was paying him
Winsor : [changing into slippers] His father did sell carpets, wholesale, in the City.
Lady Adela : Really? And you say I haven't intuition! [With a finger on her lips] Morison's in there.
Winsor : [Motioning towards the door, which she shuts] Ronny Dancy took a tenner off him, anyway, before dinner.

- (i) How did Dancy take a 'tenner' from De Levis?
How does De Levis later connect this trick with the theft? [3]
(ii) Why, according to Lady Adela, did Dancy leave the army?
Why does she call him reckless? [3]
(iii) Where had De Levis kept the money which was stolen? Where had he gone after keeping the money? How much did he lose? [3]
(iv) Why is Winsor outraged when De Levis says he had locked his door? What was the height of the room from the ground? How do they know that the thief did not use a ladder to climb up to De Levis' room? [3]

- (v) How does General Canynge react when De Levis first accuses Dancy of committing the theft? What is your opinion of De Levis?
Give one reason to justify your answer. [4]

Question 4.

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

Mabel : Oh! Why didn't I face it? But I couldn't – I had to believe.
Dancy : And now you can't. It's the end, Mabel.
Mabel : [Looking up at him] No.
[Dancy goes suddenly on his knees and seizes her hand.]
Dancy : Forgive me!
Mabel : [Putting her hand on his head] Yes; oh, yes! I think I've known a long time, really. Only – why? What made you?

- (i) How does Dancy respond to Mabel's question? [3]
(ii) What makes Dancy say 'that's not in human nature' a little later? [3]
(iii) Why does Inspector Debe arrive at Dancy's house?
How does Mable try to stall him? [3]
(iv) To whom was Dancy's suicide notes addressed? What had he written in it? [3]
(v) What does Margaret mean when she says that keeping faith is 'not enough' and 'we've all done that'?
What, in your opinion, should his friends have done? [4]

SECTION B – POETRY

A Collection of Poems

Question 5.

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

The buoy of the Inchcape Bell was seen
A darker speck on the ocean green;
Sir Ralph the Rover walk'd his deck,
And fix'd his eye on the darker speck.

(The Inchcape Rock: Robert Southey)

- (i) Contrast the weather when Sir Ralph the Rover passed the Inchcape Rock the first time with the weather when he returned to the place. [3]
(ii) Why had the Abbot of Aberbrothok hung a bell on the Inchcape Rock? [3]
(iii) Why did Sir Ralph cut the bell from the Inchcape Rock? Describe the manner in which it sank underwater. [3]
(iv) What did Sir Ralph say to reassure his men when it became very dark? What opinion did one of the sailors have about their location? What did they all wish for? [3]

- (v) How did the ship sink? What sound did Sir Ralph imagine he could hear in his dying moments? What is the message of the poem? [4]

Question 6.

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

What do you call, O ye pedlars?
Chessmen and ivory dice.
What do you make, O ye goldsmiths?
Wristlet and anklet and ring,

(In the Bazaars of Hyderabad: Sarojini Naidu)

- (i) What all were being sold by the merchants? [3]
(ii) What is being ground by the maidens? Which items are the vendors weighing? [3]
(iii) Describe the bells that the goldsmiths are crafting for blue pigeons?
What do the goldsmiths make for the dancers and the king? [3]
(iv) Which instruments are the musicians playing? What are the magicians doing? [3]
(v) Mention the happy as well as the sad occasions for which the flower girls are weaving flowers. Write one reason why the poem has appealed to you. [4]

SECTION C – PROSE

Collection of Short Stories

Question 7.

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

Baldeo, the watchman, was awake. He stretched himself, slowly unwinding the heavy shawl that covered him like a shroud. It was close on midnight and the chill air made him shiver. The station, a small shack backed by heavy jungle, was a station in name only; for trains only stopped there, if at all, for a few seconds before entering the deep cutting that led to the tunnel. Most trains only slowed down before taking the sharp curve before the cutting.

- (i) What were Baldeo's duties as a watchman?
What question did his son ask him before he left for his nightly errand? [3]
(ii) Describe the axe that Baldeo carried with him. Who had made the axe? [3]
(iii) Which sound made Baldeo realise that the tiger was close by?
Why was he worried that the tiger may be going in the opposite direction?
Why didn't the tiger fear the man? [3]
(iv) Give an account of the encounter between Baldeo and the tiger. [3]
(iv) How did the tiger die? Point out a similarity in the characters of Baldeo and his son Tembu. Give an example for each to justify your answer. [4]

Question 8.

With close reference to the story 'The Bet' by Anton Chekhov, mention the clauses of the bet as laid down between the young lawyer and the old banker. Give an account of the events that follow the bet. [16]

Animal Farm: George Orwell**Question 9.**

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

..... Once again Clover and Benjamin warned him to take care of his health, but Boxer paid no attention. His twelfth birthday was approaching. He did not care what happened so long as a good store of store of stone was accumulated before he went on pension.

Late one evening, in the summer, a sudden rumour ran round the farm that something had happened to Boxer. He had gone out alone to drag a load of stone down to the windmill. And sure enough, the rumour was true..... .

- (i) In what condition did the animals find Boxer? [3]
- (ii) Why did the animals feel uneasy when Squealer told them that Boxer would be sent to a hospital at Willingdon for treatment?
How did Squealer reassure them? [3]
- (iii) How much longer did Boxer expect to live?
How did he plan to spend his remaining days?
- (iv) What was written on the van that took Boxer away? What did Boxer do when he heard the screams of the animals? [3]
- (v) What was the new name given to Animal Farm by Napoleon?
What strange transformation did the animals notice on the faces of the pigs?
What is the significance of this transformation? [4]

Question 10.

Give an account of how lies were spread against Snowball after his expulsion, in order to paint him as a traitor. [16]

To Sir, With Love: E.R. Braithwaite

Question 11.

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

Each Friday morning the whole school spent the pre-recess period in writing their Weekly Review. This was one of the Old Man's pet schemes; and one about which he would brook no interference. Each child would review the events of his school week in his own words, in his own way; he was free to comment, to criticize, to agree or disagree, with any person, subject or method, as long as it was in some way associated with the school

- (i) Why did Mr. Florian feel that the weekly review was of advantage to both pupil and teacher? [3]
- (ii) Why did Braithwaite feel both relief and disappointment at the first weekly review his students had written since he joined the school? [3]
- (iii) How was he given the silent treatment by his students? [3]
- (iv) What does Braithwaite term the second and more annoying phase of his relationship with his students? What did some students do to disrupt his class? [3]
- (v) Mention *two* qualities in Braithwaite's character which help him to become a model teacher. Give suitable examples to illustrate your choice. [4]

Question 12.

Which courtesies did Braithwaite ask his class to observe and how did the students react to these 'new rules'? Describe the incident that brought about a change in Denham's hostile attitude towards Braithwaite. [16]

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Class X English Literature
Board Paper – 2015 Solution

SECTION A –Drama
The Merchant of Venice: Shakespeare

Question 1

- (i) Portia's father devised a test to choose a suitor for her. Accordingly, he laid out three chests, of gold, silver, and lead. The suitors were required to pick one of the chests to solve the riddle and prove their worth for Portia. Furthermore, each suitor had to take an oath to not reveal which box they chose. Secondly, if they chose the wrong box, they could never ever propose for marriage again in their life. Finally, if they chose the wrong box, they would leave immediately.
- (ii) Nerissa was Portia's maid. She asked Portia to count her blessings; as she was rich and lucky instead of being poor. She told Portia that people with too much also suffer as much as people with nothing and that when you have too much you get old sooner, but having just about enough makes you live longer.
- (iii) Portia disapproved of County Palatine because she found him very gloomy with his refusal to smile or laugh at humorous stories. She felt that that he wore a very proud expression as if to say that if he doesn't win Portia's hand, then she would be the loser. Portia's opinion about County Palatine was that she would rather marry a skull with a bone in its mouth than him.
- (iv) The Duke of Saxony's nephew was rumoured to be wicked when sober and terrible when drunk. Even when he was sober, he was a beast, and hence, Portia disapproved of him and wanted him to choose the wrong casket. So she asked Nerissa to place a glass of wine on the wrong casket. The Duke's nephew would be tempted by the wine, and would open the wrong casket. The suitors decide not to choose a casket because if they choose the wrong one, they would not be able to ever get married in life.
- (v) The three suitors who took the test are the Prince of Morocco, the Prince of Arragon and Bassanio. Portia marries Bassanio because he doesn't appear to be full of self-importance like the other two suitors. In addition, Portia is also shown to be interested in him. However, Portia's wealth appears to be one of the reasons why Bassanio wants to get married to Portia. Hence, one can say that he was not fully worthy of Portia.

Question 2

- (i) Antonio signed a bond with Shylock which required him repay Shylock 3,000 ducats in three months. Shylock didn't charge an interest on the loan. However, he said that if Antonio failed to repay the money on time, he would give a pound of his Christian flesh to the Jewish money lender.
- (ii) The Duke expressed great sympathy for Antonio. He tries to persuade Shylock to show some mercy on Antonio. The Duke further tries to pressurise Shylock to waive the penalty of a pound of flesh, and even forgive some of the loan principal. However, Shylock refused to show mercy on Antonio since he hates him. Hence, the Duke calls him inhuman.
- (iii) Shylock doesn't give a clear reason as to why he chose flesh over money and says that he just felt like doing so. He also says that some things are hated by people based on their likes and dislikes. In reality, he has chosen a pound of flesh over money because he hates Antonio as a Christian.
- (iv) Antonio was of the opinion that it was pointless arguing with Shylock. He says that it is possible to do the impossible rather than try to soften his Jewish heart. Antonio further illustrates Shylock's stubborn attitude by using the following examples: It is easier to stand on the beach and ask the ocean to get smaller. It is possible to question why the wolf killed the lamb and made its mother cry. It is even easy to tell the pine trees on the mountain to stop waving their treetops when the storms blow through them.
- (v) Antonio asks the court to pardon Shylock of his debt to the state. Half of Shylock's wealth which was to go to Antonio would be passed on to Lorenzo at Shylock's death. The Jew must also leave all his possessions in his will to Lorenzo and Jessica. Antonio's final condition was that Shylock must become a Christian. One feels sympathetic towards Shylock when he is asked to convert to Christianity. It only elevates his hatred for Christians. However, Shylock has also shown open disregard for Antonio only because he is a Christian. Therefore, it is difficult to comment on the fairness of the punishment meted out to Shylock for his ruthlessness towards Antonio.

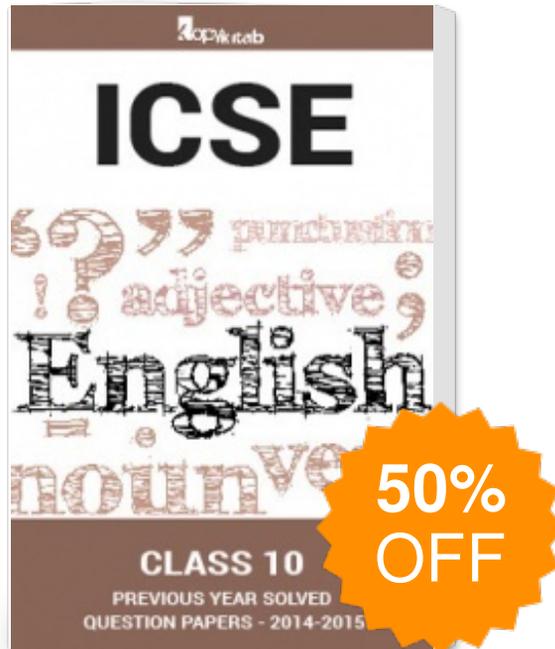
Question 3

- (i) Ronny Dancy wins a bet worth ten pounds from De Levis by making a standing jump onto a four feet bookcase. De Levis later connects this trick with the theft because he knows that Dancy is upset over him selling Rosemary to someone else for ten thousand pounds.
- (ii) According to Lady Adela, Dancy left the army as he found it too dull without any wars. She calls him reckless because she has seen him to do the maddest things for no reason except the risk.
- (iii) De Levis had kept the money under his pillow and gone to the bathroom when the money was stolen. Nearly a thousand pounds were stolen.
- (iv) De Levis was Winsor's guest and hence, didn't have the authority to lock the room which didn't actually belong to him. Winsor was outraged perhaps because De Levis said that he had locked his door. The height of the room was twenty-three feet from the terrace. They assumed that the thief did not use a ladder to climb up to De Levis' room as one of the ladders was very heavy and the other two were not close to the balcony.
- (v) When De Levis accuses Dancy of committing the theft, General Canynge does not approve of it since Dancy is a retired army officer and not likely to engage in burglary. De Levis comes across as an outspoken individual. This is because he accuses Dancy openly of stealing his money.

Question 4

- (i) Mabel asked Dancy why he stole the money. Dancy replied that the money which De Levis got from selling the horse was as much his as it was De Levis'. Since the horse originally belonged to Dancy, he had expected De Levis to offer him half the money from the sale.
- (ii) Mabel tells Dancy that she is going to stand by him no matter what happens. Even if he has to go to the prison, Mabel says that she will wait for him and not change. This behaviour of Mabel, Dancy thinks, is not typical of human nature.
- (iii) Inspector Dede arrives at Dancy's house to arrest him. Mabel tries to emotionally blackmail the inspector to stall him.
- (iv) Dancy's suicide note was addressed to his best friend Major Colford. In the note Dancy explains the reason for committing suicide. He wants Major Colford to take care of Mabel after his death.

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