

# FIITJEE

## ICSE PART TEST – I PART – II

### ENGLISH

Time: 1:30 Hours

Max Marks: 40

**Instructions:**

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

*Attempt **five** questions in all.*

*You must attempt at least **one** question from each of the **Sections A, B and C.***

*You may attempt the remaining **two** questions from any section(s) of your choice.*

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

1. **Section – A:** Drama (2 questions, 8 marks each)
2. **Section – B:** Poetry (2 questions, 8 marks each)
3. **Section – C:** Prose (2 questions, 8 marks each)

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**Name of the Candidate** : .....

**Enroll Number** : .....

**Date of Examination** : .....

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## SECTION-A (DRAMA)

### *The Merchant of Venice: Shakespeare*

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

SHYLOCK: Three thousand ducats for three months, and Antonio bound.  
BASSANIO: Your answer to that?  
SHYLOCK: Antonio is a good man.  
BASSANIO: Have you heard any imputation to the contrary?  
SHYLOCK: Ho, no, no, no, no! My meaning in saying he is a good man is to have you understand me that he is sufficient. Yet his means are in supposition: he hath an argosy bound to Tripolis, another to the Indies. I understand, moreover, upon the Rialto, he hath a third at Mexico, a fourth for England, and other ventures he hath squandered abroad. But ships are but boards, sailors but men; there be land rats and water rats, water thieves and land thieves—I mean pirates—and then there is the peril of waters, winds, and rocks. The man is, notwithstanding, sufficient. Three thousand ducats. I think I may take his bond

- (i) What is the occasion for the dialogue quoted above? [2]
- (ii) What does Shylock mean by saying that “his means are in supposition”, and how does he substantiate his view? [3]
- (iii) What inference can you draw from this dialogue about Shylock’s character? [3]

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

BASSANIO: The seeming truth which cunning times put on  
To entrap the wisest. Therefore, then, thou gaudy  
gold,  
Hard food for Midas, I will none of thee.  
Nor none of thee, thou pale and common drudge  
'Tween man and man. But thou, thou meager lead,  
Which rather threaten'st than dost promise aught,  
Thy paleness moves me more than eloquence,  
And here choose I. Joy be the consequence!  
[Bassanio is given a key]

PORTIA [aside]:  
How all the other passions fleet to air,  
As doubtful thoughts and rash embraced despair,  
And shudd'ring fear, and green-eyed jealousy!  
O love, be moderate, allay thy ecstasy,  
In measure rain thy joy, scant this excess!  
I feel too much thy blessing. Make it less,  
For fear I surfeit.

- (i) Who is 'Midas'. Why is gold said to be hard food for Midas? [2]
- (ii) Why is gold referred to as 'gaudy'? Explain why Bassanio rejects the gold casket. [3]
- (iii) Why Bassanio choose the lead casket? [3]

## SECTION B – POETRY

Answer at least **one** question from this Section.

### A Collection of Poems

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

The next man looking 'cross the way  
Saw one not of his church  
And couldn't bring himself to give  
The fire his stick of birch.

The third one sat in tattered clothes.  
He gave his coat a hitch.  
Why should his log be put to use  
To warm the idle rich?

The rich man just sat back and thought  
Of the wealth he had in store  
And how to keep what he had earned  
From the lazy shiftless poor.

(i) Why did "the third one" refuse to use his stick of wood? Why did the rich man refuse to use his stick of wood? [2]

(ii) Mention the kind of prejudice implied through the lines "the next man....stick of birch". How is it implied? [3]

(iii) Based on your reading, briefly describe the character of the man referred to as 'the next man' in this stanza. [3]

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

What does he plant who plants a tree?  
He plants a friend of sun and sky;  
He plants the flag of breezes free;  
The shaft of beauty, towering high;  
He plants a home to heaven anigh;  
For song and mother-croon of bird  
In hushed and happy twilight heard—  
The treble of heaven's harmony—  
These things he plants who plants a tree.

(i) What does the poet suggest when he says that a person who plants a tree, plants 'a friend of sun and sky' and 'the flag of breezes free'? [3]

(ii) What is the phrase 'The shaft of beauty, towering high' used for? [2]

(iii) What does the phrase 'The treble of heaven's harmony' signify here? [3]

## SECTION C – PROSE

Answer at least one question from this Section.

### A Collection of Short Stories

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

“My dear Miss Fairchild,” said Easton, calmly, “I had to do something. Money has a way of taking wings unto itself, and you know it takes money to keep step with our crowd in Washington. I saw this opening in the West, and—well, a marshalship isn’t quite as high a position as that of ambassador, but—”

(i) Where does this conversation take place? [1]

(ii) Give the meaning of: [2]

a) ‘Money has a way of taking wings unto itself’

b) ‘To keep step with our crowd’

(iii) What discussion is happening about marshal and ambassador in the passage? [2]

(iv) What is the role of the Marshal in the story? [3]

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

“If you are rested I would go,” I urged. “Get up and try to walk now.”

“Thank you,” he said and got to his feet, swayed from side to side and then sat down backwards in the dust.

“I was taking care of animals,” he said dully, but no longer to me. “I was only taking care of animals.”

There was nothing to do about him. It was Easter Sunday and the Fascists were advancing toward the Ebro. It was a grey overcast day with a low ceiling so their planes were not up. That and the fact that cats know how to look after themselves was all the good luck that the old man would ever have.

(i) When the narrator spoke to the old man about the pigeon cage, what does this reveal about him? [1]

(ii) Why might the old man need good luck at the end of the story? [1]

(iii) What is the theme of the story? [2]

(iv) Explain the line, ‘There was nothing to do about him.’ [2]

(v) How does the narrator try to relieve the old man of his worries? [2]

## HINTS & SOLUTIONS

1. (i) The occasion for this dialogue is Antonio's request to Shylock for a loan of three thousand ducats. Antonio's request has been conveyed to Shylock by Bassanio who had been authorized by Antonio to borrow the required amount of money in Antonio's name from somebody or the other in Venice. It is in that connection that the present dialogue takes place between Shylock and Bassanio.

(ii) Shylock means to say that Antonio's present wealth is in some doubt. Shylock tries to prove his point by saying that all Antonio's wealth at present consists of the ships and the merchandise which those ships are carrying to different destinations. Antonio has no cash in hand. If Antonio did have any cash, he would not be seeking a loan from a money-lender. Ships sailing upon the seas face many dangers. Ships may get wrecked in a storm or by colliding against rocks. Or sea-robbers may attack ships and take away all the merchandise. Thus Antonio might suffer heavy losses and find it impossible to repay the loan within a period of three months.

(iii) Shylock here appears to be a worldly kind of man possessing a lot of practical experience of life and a lot of practical sense. He is aware of all the dangers which ships sailing upon the seas had to face. He is also aware of the fact that sometimes a debtor finds it impossible to repay a debt. Thus Shylock here gives evidence of his shrewdness and his capacity to talk in a plausible and convincing manner. He gives us the impression of being a seasoned money-lender, and a money lender who knows how to transact his business. He is a very calculating kind of man who tries to peer into the future and assess the prospects of a bargain into which he is entering.

2. (i) Midas was a king who got the power of turning whatever he touched, into gold. As a result, even the food, which he touched, changed into gold, thus making it impossible to eat. It became hard ' for that greedy king who wanted to have all gold in his life.

This legendary king touched his own daughter, and she turned into gold. Then he repented, and his power of turning things into gold was taken back from him. He learnt the lesson that other things in life were far more important than gold.

(ii) Gold is referred to as 'gaudy' which means that it is showy with no real worth of its own. On the strength of arguments he has so far advanced against the falsity of outward appearance, Bassanio rejects gold with its glittering look. It is the hard food which Midas, the greedy king got as punishment for his greed. Bassanio would not have anything to do with it. That's why he rejects the golden casket.

(iii) Bassanio chooses the lead casket with its unassuming appearance which does not make attractive promises. Lead threatens rather than promises anything. So it has the intrinsic unassuming worth. Its paleness proves more attractive, finally, than the bright appearance of other two metals.

It may be said that the inscription on the leaden casket appeals to Bassanio's gambling and adventurous spirit. He is prepared to risk all for love. For this he could put his friend's life into danger.

3. (i) The third one was a poor man in torn clothes and he did not want to give his stick as he envied the rich man his wealth and did not want to save the idle rich.

The rich man thought of hoarding his wealth and wanted to keep his great amount of money away from the undeserving, lazy poor people.

(ii) The kind of prejudice that this stanza speaks of is religious. This is evident from the use of the word 'church'. Usually, religion serves as a binding force that brings people together. However, as this stanza indicates, there may be inherent differences in a faith that comes in critical situations when a sense of selfless cooperation is required. Here, the difference is so pronounced that it

prevents a man from offering his stick to fire, as he thinks this will benefit another man who is of a different church.

(iii) The 'next man' in this stanza is bigoted and biased despite being religious. As his attitude suggests, he is not the one who follows his faith with a broad mind and big heart. Instead his attitude is that of a selfish and opportunistic character who hates his neighbour for following a different faith. Thus, he is least concerned about practically adopting one of the greatest of all ideals that every faith instructs its followers to cherish, i.e. love for one's neighbour. Moreover, his obsession with his own 'church' also suggests that he is too dogmatic and orthodox in his belief.

4. (i) The poet uses these phrases for a tree planted by someone. Here, the poet wants to say that a tree is usually high enough to appear to be talking to the sky in all its brightness. The tree also directly receives the warmth and heat of the sunrays falling on it. Similarly, when the breezes or winds blow, we can notice their impact on the tree in the movement of its leaves and branches. This indirectly suggests the feelings of excitement and joy which we experience ourselves when we meet our friends after long time. Thus, the poet tries to establish an indirect connection between a tree planted by someone and some of the most significant components of Nature.

(ii) In the stanza given here, this phrase denotes the stem of a tree that is beautiful and goes up vertically showing its height. The stem becomes longer and denser as a tree grows up and matures. Moreover, it's on the stem that twigs and branches grow with a lot of leaves, fruits and flowers. Thus, as the poet aptly observes, the stem not only accounts for the beauty of a tree, but also its height that makes it a veritable representative of vast and bounteous nature.

(iii) In this stanza, the poet speaks of three major advantages of planting a tree, which connect it to nature in a unique way. Firstly, it acts as a friend of sun and sky, due to its height and exposure to sunrays falling on it. Secondly, it acts as though it were a flag of the winds touching and stirring it occasionally. Thirdly, it offers shelter to birds that sing and croon in its lap with their families reflecting a sense of security and joy. Due to this, the tree appears to be a perfect messenger of 'heaven' as it is instrumental in bringing harmony on earth. The phrase 'The treble of heaven's harmony' precisely suggests the great significance of all that the tree does for the humankind.

5. (i) This conversation took place on a train journey, in a coach on the B & M Express while it was travelling from Denver.

(ii)

a) Answer: Money has the ability to make one feel respected and dignified. Money can make one fly and soar high.

b) Answer: To compete with the crowd or to feel one with the high class society in Washington.

(iii) Miss Fairchild was friendly with the ambassador in Washington and Mr. Easton wanted to know the status of their relationship. Therefore, he says that the post of the ambassador is better than that of a marshal as he feels Miss Fairchild is beginning to show an interest in him and he wants to discourage her.

(iv) The Marshal is described to be a grim looking man who is taking a convict, Mr. Easton to Leavenworth prison. As Mr. Easton meets Miss Fairchild, and she shows her interest in him but gets discouraged and horrified looking at the handcuff. The Marshal lies to her saying that he himself is the convict and Mr. Easton is the Marshal. A marshal takes the convicts to prison and punishes them. But he knows that criminals are also human beings and therefore he has his compassion for Mr. Easton which makes him lie and then further saves him by telling another lie that he needs to smoke and therefore needs to leave the coach. He does this to prevent them from further embarrassment. The human side of the marshal is presented in the story. He may look to be a grim looking man, but he has a golden heart, he feels for others and does his own bit to help others.

6. (i) When the narrator speaks to the old man about the pigeon cage it reveals that he cares for the old man.

(ii) The old man needs good luck at the end of the story because he is not moving away from the war zone and could die from artillery.

(iii) The theme of the story is that we should make sacrifices for those things we love and that war is destructive and dangerous.

(iv) This line expresses the sadness and pity that the soldier feels for the old man as he realises that if the old man sits on the bridge he would surely die. He is loyal to the military system and has to obey orders and do his duty. He can do nothing for the old man and knows that inevitable death is in his fate.

(v) The narrator tries to convince the old man that the animals would probably be alright. The cat would take care of itself; the dove would fly away since the old man had left the cage unlocked. He advises him not to worry about others and urges him to go to a safer place.