

# FIITJEE

## ICSE PART TEST – II 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:

GRATIANO: And it is marvel he outdwells his hour,  
For lovers ever run before the clock.

SALARINO: O, ten times faster Venus' pigeons fly  
To seal love's bonds new-made than they are wont  
To keep obligèd faith unforfeited.

GRATIANO: That ever holds. Who riseth from a feast  
With that keen appetite that he sits down?  
Where is the horse that doth untread again  
His tedious measures with the unbated fire  
That he did pace them first? All things that are,  
Are with more spirit chasèd than enjoyed.

- (i) Where does this scene take place? Who has out-dwelt his hour? Normally what do the lovers do as far as the appointed time is concerned? [2]
- (ii) Who is Venus? How do the Venu's pigeons behave as far as love is concerned? [3]
- (iii) 'All things that are,  
Are with more spirit chasèd than enjoyed'  
How far is this statement brought out by giving the example of a ship? [3]

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

PORTIA [AS BALTHAZAR]  
The quality of mercy is not strained.  
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven  
Upon the place beneath. It is twice blest:  
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes.  
'Tis mightiest in the mightiest; it becomes  
The thronèd monarch better than his crown.  
His scepter shows the force of temporal power,  
The attribute to awe and majesty  
Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings;  
But mercy is above this sceptered sway.  
It is enthronèd in the hearts of kings;  
It is an attribute to God Himself;  
And earthly power doth then show likest God's  
When mercy seasons justice.

- (i) On what occasion does Portia utter these words? What makes her beg for mercy from Shylock ? [1]
- (ii) 'It is twice blest'. What does Portia mean to say? In what sense is mercy a divine quality? [2]
- (iii) What are the three qualities of mercy which the speaker has stated just before the extract? [3]
- (iv) Explain Portia's statement :  
'But mercy is above this sceptred sway'. How does Shylock turn down Portia's plea for mercy ? What does he insist on ? [2]

**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:**

Continuous as the stars that shine  
And twinkle on the milky way,  
They stretched in never-ending line  
Along the margin of a bay:  
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,  
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they  
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:  
A poet could not but be gay,  
In such a jocund company:  
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought  
What wealth the show to me had brought:

- (i) What is being compared to the stars and why ? [2]
- (ii) What were the daffodils doing? Which literary device is used here? [2]
- (iii) Which wealth is referred to by the poet? [2]
- (iv) Which jocund company is the poet referring to ? [2]

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

III  
Alack, it was I who leaped at the sun,  
To give it my loving friends to keep!  
Nought man could do have I left undone:  
And you see my harvest, what I reap  
This very day, now a year is run.

IV  
There's nobody on the house-tops now -  
Just a palsied few at the windows set -  
For the best of the sight is, all allow,  
At the Shambles' Gate—or, better yet,  
By the very scaffold's foot, I trow.

- (i) Comment on the tone of the Patriot in third stanza. [2]
- (ii) Why does Browning say that the palsied watched the execution? [2]
- (iii) Explain what “harvest” the speaker is referring to? [2]
- (iv) What difference is seen in the people’s attitude towards the patriot before and now? [2]

**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:**

After considering the matter, and talking it over with his wife, farmer Jones said that he would take John, and do well by him, now that his mother was out of the way; and Mrs. Ellis, who had been looking out for a bound girl, concluded that it would be charitable in her to make choice of Katy, even though she was too young to be of much use for several years.

“I could do much better, I know,” said Mrs. Ellis; “but as no one seems inclined to take her, I must act from a sense of duty expect to have trouble with the child; for she’s an undisciplined thing—used to having her own way.”

But no one said “I’ll take Maggie.” Pitying glances were cast on her wan and wasted form and thoughts were troubled on her account. Mothers brought cast-off garments and, removing her soiled and ragged clothes, dressed her in clean attire. The sad eyes and patient face of the little one touched many hearts, and even knocked at them for entrance. But none opened to take her in. Who wanted a bed-ridden child?

“Take her to the poorhouse,” said a rough man, of whom the question “What’s to be done with Maggie?” was asked. “Nobody’s going to be bothered with her.”

“The poorhouse is a sad place for a sick and helpless child,” answered one.

“For your child or mine,” said the other, lightly speaking; “but for tis brat it will prove a blessed change, she will be kept clean, have healthy food, and be doctored, which is more than can be said of her past condition.”

- (i) Who offered to take John? Why? [1]
- (ii) Who took Katy? Why? [2]
- (iii) How did the villagers look at Maggie? Why did no one want to take her? [2]
- (iv) What solution did the rough man suggest for Maggie? Why would the poorhouse be a good place for Maggie? [2]
- (v) Who came to mourn the dead woman? Why did no one follow the dead cart? [1]

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

She again rubbed a match on the wall, and the light shone round her; in the brightness stood her old grandmother, clear and shining, yet mild and loving in her appearance. “Grandmother,” cried the little one, “O take me with you; I know you will go away when the match burns out; you will vanish like the warm stove, the roast goose, and the large, glorious Christmas-tree.” And she made haste to light the whole bundle of matches, for she wished to keep her grandmother there. And the matches glowed with a light that was brighter than the noon-day, and her grandmother had never appeared so large or so beautiful. She took the little girl in her arms, and they both flew upwards in brightness and joy far above the earth, where there was neither cold nor hunger nor pain, for they were with God.

In the dawn of morning there lay the poor little one, with pale cheeks and smiling mouth, leaning against the wall; she had been frozen to death on the last evening of the year; and the New-year’s sun rose and shone upon a little corpse! The child still sat, in the stiffness of death, holding the matches in her hand, one bundle of which was burnt. “She tried to warm herself,” said some. No

one imagined what beautiful things she had seen, nor into what glory she had entered with her grandmother, on New-year's day.

- (i) What happened when she lighted another match? [1]
- (ii) What did the girl say to her grandmother? Why? [1]
- (iii) Why did the girl make haste to light the whole bundle of matches? [3]
- (iv) What happened to the little girl? What did the people think? [1]
- (v) Why was there a smile on the girl's lips? Did the people understand? [2]

## HINTS & SOLUTIONS

1. (i) This scene takes place in the street outside Shylock's house. Lorenzo has out-dwelt his hour to meet Gratiano and Salarino for the masque. Lovers generally rush to the meeting place long before the appointed hour.
  - (ii) In Greek mythology, Venus is the goddess of love. Salarino comments that the doves that draw the chariot of Venus, the goddess of love, fly ten times faster when they are journeying to bind new love more firmly, than they do when love is already pledged and certain.
  - (iii) It means that the pursuit of any desired object is more enjoyable a task and gives more joy compared to the pleasure one gets on its attainment. The truth of the statement is brought about by the example of a ship. A ship with its sails spread and flags flying, sails out from the harbour like a high-spirited spendthrift youth in search of pleasure. But after being tossed about and hugged by the rough wind, it comes back to the port with broken planks and torn sails. It looks like the returning of the prodigal son, ruined by the faithless gales.
2. (i) Portia utters these words while defending Antonio in the court. She appeals for mercy in order to persuade Shylock to give up his obdurate stance. She also wants to give him one opportunity.
  - (ii) Portia says that the quality of mercy is doubly blessed. It blesses both the parties, the giver as well as the recipient. One gets the benefit and the other gets the satisfaction of doing good. Mercy is a divine quality in the sense that it is manifest in God himself. God shows us mercy when we seek it sincerely. Mercy is far above any other worldly quality.
  - (iii) The speaker has stated that mercy is shown by human beings as naturally and spontaneously as the gentle drops of rain fall from the sky above down to the ground below. Secondly, mercy is the most powerful feeling in those who have the highest authority. It suits a king more than his crown. Mercy is greater than the worldly authority which is symbolized by the sceptre which he holds. Thirdly, mercy is the essential quality of God who is the supreme power of the universe. Earthly power acquires a divine quality when a man softens the rigours of the demands of justice by showing mercy.
  - (iv) The line "But mercy is above this sceptred sway" means that the king's sceptre is the emblem of his worldly power. It is the symbol of fear which kingship inspires in others. But mercy is higher and greater than the worldly authority which is symbolized by rod. Shylock turns down Portia's plea for mercy asking her to let him face the consequences of his actions. He takes full responsibility for his action. He persists in his demand. He asks Portia to enforce the law and let him have the penalty specified in the bond which Antonio has forfeited.
3. (i) The host of golden daffodils by the side of the lake under the tree are being compared to the stars. A milky way is a cluster of stars which shine brightly across a huge stretch of space. Similarly like the stars in the milky way the poet feels that the daffodils are not only uncountable but also they are dancing with full energy and joy in never ending line along the margin of the lake.
  - (ii) The daffodils were dancing merrily in the breeze. The poet is using personification here when he compares the movement of the daffodils in the breeze to dancing humans.
  - (iii) The wealth which is referred to here by the poet means wealth of joy and happiness; which actually comes from happy and fond memories when the poet saw a host of golden daffodils by the side of the lake beneath the trees.

- (iv) The poet is referring to the jocund company of the host of golden daffodils dancing in joy by the side of the lake under the trees. Along with them the waves in the lake too were dancing by the side of the daffodils. A poet was bound to be happy in such a joyful company of the daffodils and the waves.
4. (i) Throughout the whole of stanza, the patriot is reflecting and thinking. He states, 'Nought man could do, have I left undone'. He feels he did everything he could have possibly done. We gather he also has power, 'what I reap' illustrating how he has collected his rewards from the work he has done.
- (ii) Browning described the people watching the execution as 'palsied'. Only the old and riddled with disease could be bothered enough to watch the hanging. This contrasts with the importance of the man: a man of power would have many watch his death. It's all gone wrong as nobody is on the roof tops.
- (iii) In this stanza, the speaker uses the word "harvest" satirically. His "harvest" is what he has reaped, whereas what he had sown was bringing glory, power and honour to the people. He feels that for all the outstanding things he did for his people, he has got a reward that is extremely disgracing. As he is going to die at the gallows, he has realised that his own people who once worshipped him have misunderstood him and are responsible for his tragic end.
- (iv) One year ago, he was a hero loved, adored and honoured by his people. At that time, people's attitude mirrored the prime of his popularity. Today, the same people hate him and he finds himself disgraced, discarded and deprived of honour and pride. The way people treat him now reflects the lowest ebb of his career from which death alone will bring in the ultimate liberation and relief.
5. (i) Farmer Jones offered to take the boy John with him as John was stout and the farmer could make him work in his fields.
- (ii) Mrs Ellis took Katy as she had been looking for a bound girl to work in her house. However, Mrs Ellis pretended that she was doing charity as she said the girl would be of no use for several years and would surely cause trouble as she seemed headstrong.
- (iii) The villagers looked at Maggie with pity because she was thin and diseased. They showed concern for the poor child and many mothers even brought cast-off garments and, removed her soiled and ragged clothes and dressed her in clean attire. They felt sympathy and concern for the sad eyes and patient face of the little but none of them wanted to take her with them as she was disabled and of no use to them.
- (iv) The rough man suggested that Maggie be taken to a poorhouse which was meant for destitute and orphans like Maggie who had no one to take care of them. It was felt that it would be the best place for her because she would be kept clean, have healthy food, and be doctored, which was more than could be said of her past condition or her life with her alcoholic mother.
- (v) A few neighbours came to mourn the dead woman but none followed the dead cart because they did not feel she deserved any respect or sympathy.
6. (i) When she lighted another match the light shone round her and in the brightness stood her old grandmother, clear and shining, yet mild and loving in her appearance.
- (ii) The girl pleaded with her grandmother to take her along with her because she was the only one in the world who loved her.
- (iii) The girl made haste to light the whole bundle of matches, for she wished to keep her grandmother there. And the matches glowed with a light that was brighter than the noon day,

and her grandmother had never appeared so large or so beautiful. She took the little girl in her arms, and they both flew upwards in brightness and joy far above the earth, where there was neither cold nor hunger nor pain, for they were with God.

- (iv) The little girl died and the people saw that one bundle of matches was burnt. They said she had tried to warm herself.
- (v) The girl had a smile on her face when she died because she was relinquishing a world of pain and suffering and was reunited with the person she loved the most, her grandmother and God. No one imagined what beautiful things she had seen, nor into what glory she had entered with her grandmother, on New-year's day. They had no idea about the beautiful pictures she had seen.