

ICSE Board
Class X English II
Specimen paper 2020
(Solved)

Total time : 2hr

Max Marks : 80

General Instructions :

Answer 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 give 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 **SECTION A, B and C** and not more than **two** other questions from the same books you have already compulsorily chosen.*

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

SECTION A - DRAMA

*Answer **one** or **more** questions from only one play, either*
The Merchant of Venice

OR

The Mousetrap

The merchant of venice : Shakespeare

Question 1.

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

Portia : *By my troth, Nerissa, my little body is aweary of this great world.*

Nerissa : *You would be, sweet madam, if your miseries were in the same abundance as your good fortunes are. And yet, for aught I see, they are as sick that surfeit with too much as they that starve with nothing.*

It is no mean happiness therefore, to be seated in the mean.

Superfluity comes sooner by white hairs, but competency lives longer.

Portia : *Good sentences, and well pronounced.*

Nerissa : *They would be better, if well followed.*

- a) "My little body is aweary of this great world." What does Portia mean by these words
am where is the scene taking place ? **[3]**

- b) What is Nerissa referring to When she says, "You would be, sweet madam" ? [3]
- c) "They are as sick that surfeit with too much as they that starve with nothing". How does Nerissa express her stance though she is aide to Portia ? [3]
- d) 'Competency lives longer.' Explain these words. [3]
- e) How do you think that Portia's situation is in truth wearisome ? [4]

Answers

- a) Portia is referring to the long list of suitors she has to meet before anyone of them chooses the right casket with her portrait. This is the great burden she is facing who is otherwise free to enjoy the fortunes. The scene happens in a room in Portia's house, in Belmont.
- b) By saying the given line, Nerissa means that Portia would be tired, if she had bad luck than wealth and good luck. As lady-in-waiting, whose station in society is lower than that of Portia, she explains that Portia's sufferings are not of great magnitude.
- c) Nerissa is considered a close friend of Portia, though her station is lower than that of Portia, she speaks her mind. She states that people with too much wealth and fortune suffer just as much as those Who starve with nothing to eat or have. Nerissa is bold in articulating her thoughts and has wise words for Portia.
- d) The word 'competency' would mean fitness, skill, capability, know-how, or proficiency. All these words state that skill is required to endure in a world full of wearies and burdens Nerissa explains that superfluity or trying to cope with excesses will not live longer, but competency or skills will help one stand longer and stronger. Portia, the rich and famous young woman Who has suitors from all across the lands. But her fate is sealed until one chooses the right casket. Her happiness rests on someone else's choice and not her own, and this is her burden. In addition, she has to meet and entertain all the suitors who come to win her over, whether she desires it or not. In this manner of speaking, one can say that her "little body is aweary of this great world."

Question 2.

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

Bassanio : *O my Antonio, had I but the means
To hold a rival place with one of them,
I have a mind presages me such thrift,*

That I should questionless be fortunate

- a) Who is the Speaker ? Where is he situated ? What is he speaking about ? [3]
- b) What 'means' is the speaker referring to in the extract ? [3]
- c) Explain : (i) Rival place, (ii) Questionless be fortunate. [3]
- d) Why does Bassanio speak about his debts? What can you conclude about the character of Bassanio from this extract? Is his way of living justified according to the Elizabethan standards? [3]
- e) What is the intention of the speaker? Is his intention fulfilled? On what terms ? [4]

Answers

- a) Bassanio is the speaker. He is a friend of Antonio and is now in Venice. He is speaking about Portia, a rich beautiful girl in Belmont, to whom he feels-attracted. He also says that suitors are coming from different places, to win her hand in marriage. He believes that he would certainly win her, if only he had enough money to compete against those suitors.
- b) The word 'means' refers to money and resources with which Bassanio can travel to Belmont and participate in the contest to win Portia. The 'means' as he believes would certainly aid him in Winning Portia's hand in marriage.
- c) i. Rival place - status and riches equal to the suitors of Portia
ii. Questionless be fortunate undoubtedly lucky.
- d) Bassanio is from a well-to-do family but whatever money he had inherited was spent through his extravagant ways. He has borrowed a lot of money and is now dependent on Antonio. He wants to pay it back, by winning the hand of the rich Portia of Belmont. These words are an introduction to make an appeal to Antonio for more money to succeed in his mission. Although Bassanio is romantic and adventurous there is a streak of irresponsibility in his nature. He takes life as it comes and is optimistic enough to take risks.
But his way of living is not justified according to Elizabethan standards, as prudence was used to be considered as a virtue, while overspending and irresponsible manner were frowned upon.
- e) The intention of the speaker is to get more money from Antonio and go to Belmont, to win the contest and with the money repay him back. Many things go wrong, beginning from Antonio borrowing money from Shylock on the guarantee to pay back within three months, to Shylock taking him to court and demanding a pound of his flesh. Yes,

Bassanio's intention to go to Belmont and get married to Portia is fulfilled but at the expense of a lot of hardship upon his friend.

Question 3.

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

Morocco : *O hell! what have we here?*

“All that glisters is not gold;

Often have you heard that told:

Many a man his life hath sold

But my outside to behold,

Gilded tombs do worms infold:

Had you been as wise as bold

Young in limbs, in judgment old,

Your answer had not been inscroll'd,

Pare you well; your suit is cold.

Cold, indeed' and labour lost:

Then, farewell, heat, and welcome, frost!

- What is in store for the Prince of Morocco when he opens the casket? [3]
- What is the proverb that he reads in the beginning and What does it mean? [3]
- How does Morocco bid farewell to Portia? [3]
- 'Farewell heat, and welcome, frost.' What do these words mean? [3]
- Give the significance of this extract. [4]

Answers

- Morocco is bewildered to find a skull with a scroll in its empty eye socket inside the golden casket. He realizes of his wrong choice of that casket and accordingly will have to lead a cold life of celibacy.
- Having opened the casket, Morocco reads the proverb, “All that glisters is not gold” written in the scroll. It means that outward attractive appearances may sometimes be deceptive. They are unreliable. And consequently, Morocco lost and went back to his kingdom.
- Morocco says that he will have to bid farewell to a warm relationship with Portia as well as stick to the stipulation of not proposing marriage to any lady. According to the rule for the losers, he bids farewell to Portia with a sad heart, which makes him leave abruptly without waiting to bid a formal farewell.

- d) Heat means the warmth of love and frost means the coldness of celibacy. Having made a wrong choice, Morocco has to bid farewell to Portia and go back and never speak to a lady in the matter of marriage.
- e) The song is significant as it helps Bassanio to make the right choice. It is appropriate to the situation as it adds to the entertainment value of the drama. It also shows how clever Portia is as with ensuring to not break the rules her father made, through the song she helps Bassanio to make the right choice. Her sharp brain is at work here which is a prelude to her role as a lawyer in the Trial Scene later.

The Mousetrap : Agatha Christie

Question 4.

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

Mrs. Boyle : *“The taxi wouldn’t risk coming up the drive”. (Giles returns and comes down to the left of Mrs. Boyle).*

“It stopped at the gate. We had to share a taxi from the station - and there was, great difficulty in getting that.(Accusingly) Nothing ordered to meet us, It seems.”

- a) What was Mrs. Boyle trying to convey to the hosts at the guesthouse ? [3]
- b) With whom did she have to share a taxi from the station? Why? [3]
- c) What is Mrs. Boyle’s reaction when she finds that there are no staff to help around the guesthouse. [3]
- d) How did Giles deal With her complaining attitude? [3]
- e) Why did she look at Mollie accusingly ? What can you understand about her from the above passage? [4]

Answers

- a) Mrs. Boyle who had a complaining attitude was trying to convey the trouble she underwent while reaching the guesthouse, as no car had been sent to the station to pick her up. Besides, the taxi she took from the station, dropped her off at the gate as the driver did want to risk getting stuck in the snow piled up on the driveway.
- b) Mrs. Boyle had to share the taxi with another co-passenger, a Major Metcalf, who incidentally happened to be another guest at the Manor. Since there were few taxis

available at the station because of the adverse weather, they had to share a taxi or get stranded at the station. Hence, they decided to travel to the Manor together.

- c) Mrs. Boyle was used to living in style. When she arrived at the guesthouse, she was expecting to find it manned by staff who would be available at her beck and call. However, when she arrived at the Manor and found that there were no staff and that Mollie was doing all the work by herself, she was very derisive and made snide comments. She did not have patience with the inexperience of the Ralstons in running a guesthouse.
- d) Giles understood her bullying nature very soon. When Mrs. Boyle commented that at her age she was more interested in the amenities provided at the guesthouse and thought that it was fully equipped, Giles very respectfully told her that she need not feel obliged to stay and that she was free to leave. He offered to call back the taxi as the roads were not yet blocked. Giles went on to tell her that they had many requests for accommodation-in- waiting and they would be able to fill in the vacancy in her room very easily. Mrs. Boyle realising that she had overstepped, decided that she would like to stay on and try out the place.
- e) Mrs. Boyle felt that the advertisement of the hotel was misleading as she thought that the guesthouse was fully functional and in running order. She was unhappy at the fact that no vehicle was sent to meet them at the station. She was of the opinion that Mollie was too young to run the guesthouse as she did not look like she had enough experience, besides she felt that the Manor needed a fresh coat of paint and hoped that there was no wood rot in the building. All these complaints right at the time of her arrival shows that she was a woman who did not hesitate voice her opinion. She spoke with authority. She expected to be waited on hand and foot and was disappointed to see that there were no staff around the place other than the hosts. She also complained that her room was cold.

Question 5.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follows.

Miss Casewell : *No hurry. (She takes off her overcoat). Got to get myself thawed out. Looks as though you're going to get snowed up here. (Taking a newspaper from her overcoat pocket) Weather forecast says heavy fall expected. Motorists warned, etcetera. Hope you've got plenty of provisions in?*

- Giles :** *Oh yes. My wife's an excellent manager. Anyway we can always eat our hens.*
- Miss Casewell :** *Before we start eating each other eh ?
(She laughs stridently and throws the overcoat at Giles, who catches She Sits in the armchair centre).*
- Christopher :** *(rising and crossing to the fire) Any news in the paper - apart from the weather.*
- Miss Casewell :** *Usual political crisis. Oh yes! a rather juicy murder!"*

- Who were Miss Casewell, Christopher and Giles mentioned in the above extract ? when did this discussion take place ? **[3]**
- What do you gather from the casual conversation that has been extracted? **[3]**
- What was the reaction of the characters to the news of a 'juicy murder' in the newspaper? **[3]**
- Give a brief description of Miss Casewell. **[3]**
- Describe the friendship that seems to grow between Mollie and Christopher and Giles's reaction to it. **[4]**

Answers

- Miss Casewell and Christopher were two of the guests staying at the Monkswell Manor. Christopher had arrived some time earlier and had already settled into his room. Miss Casewell had just arrived into the guesthouse. Giles is the husband of Mollie and the co-owner of the guesthouse; he was in the process of helping the guests settle down into their rooms. This conversation takes place when Miss Casewell arrives at the guesthouse.
- The conversation shows that though Miss Casewell has just arrived, she and Giles hit it off and can even joke with each other even about mundane things like the weather and stocked food for emergency. Miss Casewell appears very confident as she laughs loudly and throws her coat at Giles Who catches it and she settles herself into the armchair. Miss Casewell also seems very comfortable with Christopher who strikes up a conversation with her about news in the paper. This shows that both Miss Casewell and Christopher are not shy at getting to know new people and can strike a conversation without too much formality.
- Miss Casewell seems quite comfortable in discussing the details of the case given in the newspaper and in the process she happens to look at Giles, who moves away from

them, pretending to be busy in another part of the room. Christopher seems interested in the murder and reads aloud the description of the suspect from the newspaper. Miss Casewell laughs at it and comments that the description could fit anyone as most people dressed in that manner in cold weather, so it was easy to confuse one with the other. At this stage, Giles decides to show some interest in the news of the murder and enquires about who was murdered.

- d) Miss Casewell appears to be in her early twenties. She is a bit mannish in her appearance and her voice also sounds deep like that of a man. She enjoys light conversations and seems to be a friendly person. She says she had stayed away from England for many years, but does not disclose, who she is or where she was staying all these years.
- e) When all the guests had settled in their rooms, Mollie and Giles were discussing the menu for dinner; Christopher enters and suggests a simple menu and also offers to help in cooking dinner. He accompanies Mollie to the kitchen and sends her away once he gets to know where the ingredients were and asks her not to disturb him for half an hour; Mollie seemed happy with this arrangement as it saved her some work. Giles apparently does not like Christopher and makes it very apparent when he asks Mollie why she gave him the room with the four poster bed. At this stage Giles also mentions his suspicion about Christopher as he says that his suitcase was very light and looked like there were no clothes in it at all. So he doubts Christopher's true intentions of coming to the guesthouse. However, Mollie seems to have taken a liking for him and says so openly.

Question 6.

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

When the curtain rises, Mrs. Boyle's body has been removed and everyone is assembled in the room. Trotter is in charge and is sitting on the upstage side of the refectory table. Mollie is standing at the right end of the refectory table. The others are all sitting; Major Metcalf in the large armchair right, Christopher in the right desk chair, Giles on the stairs left, Miss Casewell at the right end of the sofa, and Paravinci at the left end.

- a) Give an account of the events that led to Mrs. Boyle's murder. [3]
- b) Why do you think Mrs. Boyle was murdered? [3]
- c) Where were each of the characters of the play just before the murder took place? [3]
- d) Who do you suspect is the murderer? Justify. [3]

e) Why does Trotter get upset with their responses? [4]

Answers

- a) All the characters in the play moved away on different errands. Mrs. Boyle entered the room from the library, shut the open window, and put a log into the fire. She then turned on the radio, picked up a magazine and looked at it. The door on the right opened. The tune of the Three Blind Mice being whistled was heard. Mrs. Boyle turned to see who entered the room and was relieved that it was someone she knew and complained about not finding the right program to listen on the radio. Suddenly, the light was switched off and Mrs. Boyle demanded that the light be turned on! Through the full volume of the radio, 'were'heard gurgles and a scuffle and suddenly Mrs. Boyle's body fell to the floor. Mollie walked in and wondered why it was dark and what the noise was about. She switched on the light and walked towards the radio and screamed on seeing Mrs. Boyle lying strangled on the floor.
- b) Mrs. Boyle happened to be the magistrate at the time when the case of the Corrigan children came up for hearing. She was influenced by the opinion of the welfare workers who gave a good report about the Stannings who were childless and wanted to have children. Under the impression that they would be looked after well, the Corrigan children were sent to their foster parents, the Stannings, who ill-treated them and made them work hard and also starved them. This resulted in the death of the youngest child. This trauma remained in the mind of the eldest of the Corrigan children and he held her responsible for his brother's death.
- c) Just before Mrs. Boyle was murdered, Trotter left to take a tour of the Manor along with Giles. Christopher exited the scene through the archway. Mr. Paravinci went towards the drawing room. Major Metcalf went outside to fetch more wood for the fire. Mrs. Boyle went upstairs to fetch her pen. Miss Casewell moved to the drawing room and a while later When Trotter and Giles return Mollie left to bring some vegetables. Giles went up to check if the telephone line in the bedroom was working. Trotter followed the telephone wire from the room and jumped out of the window. Mrs. Boyle then re-entered the room and a few minutes later she was murdered!
- d) Observing the situation and all the characters, I feel, 'Christopher Wren' can be the murderer, because from the point he entered the manor, he acts in a very peculiar manner. He admit that he is running away from something but refuses to say what.
- e) When Trotter starts his enquiry into the whereabouts of the remaining residents of the

guesthouse, he finds that none of their responses could be depended on. They are nervous and fumble a lot while responding which makes it appear as if they are trying to cover up something. In their fright they are incoherent. The worst part according to Trotter was that each one was alone at the time of the murder and they did not have an alibi to vouch for what they were saying was true.

SECTION B POETRY

Answer **one** or **more** questions from this Section.

A Collection of Poems

Question 7.

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

*I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
fluttering and dancing in the breeze.*

(Daffodils, William Wordsworth)

- What was the poet doing? What did he spot ? [3]
- What all places did the poet find the daffodils in? [3]
- How has the poet expressed the beauty and grandness of the daffodils? [3]
- What according to the poet, did the daffodils seem to be doing ? [3]
- What must have been the inspiration behind this poem ? [4]

Answers

- The poet narrates that he was wandering lonely like a solitary cloud in the sky. Though the purpose of the poet's touring is not mentioned, the result of his wandering is given in beautiful detail. The poet says he was wandering over valleys and hills when he saw a beautiful crowd of golden daffodils.
- The poet describes how he saw daffodils in large numbers when he was roaming around. He first mentions them dancing beside the lake. Then he also finds them beneath the trees. Further, he finds them decorative along the margin of the bay.
- The experience of watching the daffodils in their full bloom has been an exciting

and pleasurable experience for the poet. He says that they grew along the corners of the bay and though there were glorious waves of the bay that were sparkling, they could not overshadow the beauty of the flowers.

- d) Flowers and plants sway and dance when strong winds blow. While describing the beauty of the flower, the poet says that in their full splendour the daffodils seem to be rejoicing and dancing. They flutter and dance in all directions as the breeze touches them playfully. The flowers seem excited and joyous and it appears as if they are tossing their heads while they energetically dance by the bay.
- e) The poem 'Daffodils' is one of the most loved among the great number of poems by Wordsworth. In this poem, the poet has dealt with the simple and universal themes of nature, beauty and remembrance. Wordsworth was once on an outing with his sister when he came across a field of beautiful daffodil flowers by a lake. The scenery stimulated his senses and he was inspired by the visual. He wrote the poem describing the details of the flowers' beauty while he also mentions that even when he is at home lying on his couch in a gloomy mood, he remembers the field of daffodils and their beauty.

Question 8.

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

*Some are meet for a maiden's wrist,
Silver and blue as the mountain mist,
Some are flushed like the buds that dream
On the tranquil brow of a woodland stream,
Some are aglow with the bloom that cleaves
To the limpid glory of new born leaves*

(The Bangle Sellers, Sarojini Naidu)

- a) What is meaning of the word 'meet' in the poem? [3]
- b) What natural phenomenon has the poetess used to describe the bangles in the lines above? [3]
- c) Who in the poem is said to be dreaming? Why has the poetess them 'dreaming' for them? Are they actually dreaming? [3]
- d) What has the glow of some bangles been compared with? [3]
- e) What importance do bangles have for women? What do you think is the most attractive quality of bangles? [4]

Answers

- a) The poetess narrates how the bangle sellers are calling out to the people in the market and selling their merchandise. The bangle sellers are introducing their bangles to the crowd of buyers near their shops. They suggest different bangles for different women and recommend the silver and blue bangles for a young maiden. The word 'meet' is used to say that the bangles are suitable for a young woman.
- b) The poetess has made use of many attributes to describe the bangle sellers' wares. She describes the colours of the bangles using imagery of nature. She talks about the silver and blue bangles for maidens using the example of mountain mist. She also makes use of the words blooming buds and new born leaves for the description of bangles.
- c) While using natural imagery to describe colourful bangles, the poetess at one instance mentions blooming buds. The poetess says that the buds are dreaming peacefully near the stream in the woods. She uses the word 'dream' to define the action of the buds because they have not yet bloomed and their future is unclear yet. The buds are still and calm so it seems that they are having a beautiful dream.
- d) The bangle sellers are praising their merchandise so as to attract the buyers in the market. The poetess talks about some bangles that are bright green in colour. In order to describe them, she uses the similitude of fresh green leaves. The poetess says the bangles are brightly shining the way newly born leaves glow.
- e) Bangles are worn by women in many cultures as an adornment and accessory. Indian women enjoy a very close relationship with bangles and they give a lot of importance to it. They relish the shiny rings of glass and metals on their hands as they enhance their beauty and make their hands look more attractive. The most attractive quality of bangles is their lustre and bright colours; they beautify the wrists of the wearer.

Question 9.

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

*It was roses, roses, all the way,
With myrtle mixed in my path like mad :
The house-roofs seemed to heave and sway,
The church-spires flamed, such flags they had,
A year ago on this very day.
The air broke into a mist with bells,
The old walls rocked with the crowd and cries.
Had I said, Good folk, mere noise repels ----*

But give me your sun from yonder skies!"

They had answered, "And afterward, what else?"

(The Patriot, Robert Browning)

- a) What is the speaker in the poem recollecting ? **[3]**
- b) What was the attitude of people towards the speaker in the past? **[3]**
- c) Is there a sort of sadness when the speaker says 'A year ago on this very day' while remembering the past ? Why ? **[3]**
- d) How does the speaker differentiate between the crowd one year ago and the present crowd? **[3]**
- e) What is the purpose of, 'And afterward, what else ?' **[4]**

Answers

- a) The speaker is recollecting his past. He remembers how only a year ago there was a crowd of people to congratulate him and praise him. People used to climb over the rooftops to have a look at him and cheer him. There used to be noise and cheering when people saw him. He says "it was roses all the way", by which he means that he was showered with so much love by people.
- b) The speaker of the poem is a person who is experiencing sharp contrast between his past and present. He is reminiscing about the situation where only a year ago the people were showering their love and praise on him. He was celebrated by the crowd and they used to be happy on seeing him. They climbed on to their rooftops to catch a glimpse of him.
- c) In the poem, the speaker is a person who has seen extreme change in the way people treat him. He remembers how people used to love him greatly and now were full of hatred for him and the change has taken place over a year. The little gap in time makes him all the more sad and remorseful. He therefore, says that things were so nice and sweet only a year ago on the same day.
- d) In the poem the speaker has described the changes that came in the way the crowd treated him over the past year. The people who had loved and cherished him were now full of contempt for him. He expressed with a sigh, how things were so different only a year ago. One year ago, the rooftops seemed to swell with the crowd just to have a look at him. While now, the rooftops are empty and there is no one to love or cherish him.
- e) The speaker of the poem compares his past and present and the way things have changed drastically for him in a year. He mentions how people cheered him and sang his praises a year ago and were now cursing him and hating him. The use of 'And

afterward, what else' shows that the speaker was not merely exaggerating when he defined the love people gave him a year before his execution. When the speaker asked them to give him their Sun in appreciation, they were ready to present him even that. Furthermore, they even asked him about what else they could do for him.

SECTION C - PROSE

Answer **one** or **more** questions from only **ONE** of the following books that you have studied :

A Collection of Short Stories

or

'Animal Farm'

or

The Call of the Wild

A Collection of Short Stories

Question 10.

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

Out of black water, curved with whirlpools, and into the frill of gold shallows by the stepping-stones.

He was twice the length of a tall man; and inside him, among the stones which he had swallowed to aid digestion, rolled a silver bracelet.

- Who is 'He' mentioned? Where is he and how-old is he? Describe his appearance. **[3]**
- What did 'He' eat on a regular basis? What were the other items in his menu? What lay beside him in the shoals? What is the significance of this object? **[3]**
- What did 'He' do When he saw a lone Gujar woman? Who saw this act? What did the person do? **[3]**
- Describe the end of the fight between the 'He' and the person. **[3]**
- What are the appealing factors of the story? Comment on the ending of the story. **[4]**

Answers

- The 'he' mentioned is a huge crocodile. He is inside a waterbody near a forest. He may be more than hundred years old. He is blackish-brown on the upper part of his body and yellowish-white underneath. He is a vast force in the water, ferocious and

formidable with a huge tail. His mouth running almost the whole length of his head is closed and fixed in an evil bony smile.

- b) The big crocodile mostly ate fish, but also deer, monkeys and ducks. At times he ate pi-dog full of parasites or skeleton of cows, and dead bodies cast in the stream. A blue bead laid beside him which plays a significant role in the story as it fulfilled the desire of a young girl to have a new necklace for the season.
- c) The crocodile lunged at the lone woman, and slashed at her leg with its sharp teeth. He bit her hard and tried to pull her down into the pool. Sibia, a young girl of fourteen saw this, and leaping like a rock goat, she came near the ferocious creature and drove a hayfork in his eyes.
- d) One prong of the hayfork went inside the eye of the crocodile, the other prong scratched past on its cheek. The animal reared up in convulsion, half of its body was out of the water and then it crashed back and in an uproar of bloody foam disappeared into the water. He would die with pus in his eyes.
- e) The vivid picture of the huge predator, and the fight between him and the young girl leaves the readers steeped in excitement and thrill
- The story has an ironic ending. At the end of the courageous display against a huge and ferocious crocodile, the young girl calmly picks up a blue glass bead, happy at the prospect of making a necklace for herself. She is totally unaware of her heroic deed; perhaps no one would know how she fought the giant beast but we feel awed at her courage and presence of mind and her concern for a fellow being.

Question 11.

Answer the following questions with reference to, 'Chief Seattle's Speech' :

Your time of decay may be distant, but it will surely come, for even the White Man whose God walked and talked with him as friend to friend, cannot be exempt from the common destiny. We may be brothers after all. We will see.

- a) Who is the speaker? Whose time of decay is referred to? What is the occasion? [3]
- b) What earlier words of Chief show that he is not happy about the fate of his people? [3]
- c) Explain, 'We may be brothers after all.' [3]
- d) A little later the speaker talks about a proposition. What does he say about it? [3]
- e) What is the order of Nature referred to just before this extract? What happens according to this order? What profound truth of human destiny is conveyed through these words? [4]

Answers

- a) The speaker is Chief Seattle of the Red Indian Tribe. The decay of the White people, the European settlers in America is referred to here in the extract. The occasion is when the President of the United States demanded for many acres of land from the native Americans.
- b) The Chief feels not a single star of hope to hover above the horizon of the natives. Sad voiced winds moan and grim fate follows them. Their situation is similar to a wounded doe .that is being hunted down. Moreover he feels that in a few more years, their race will disappear. This reflects that he is unhappy about the fate of his people.
- c) Seattle believes that White settlers too will have their decay one day. Then they would realise that all are equal and have equal rights on environment and land. That day, the White men and the Red men would share a common destiny. In other words, they would be brothers only when the Whites would be able to empathise with the Red men.
- d) The Chief alludes to the proposition made by USA, which demanded the Red Indians to leave a vast expanse of land to the,White settlers and retire to the reservation offered to them. He says he would accept it on the condition that he should be allowed to visit the tombs of their ancestors, friends and children.
- e) Tribe follows tribe, and nation follows nation, like the waves of the sea. It is the order of Nature and regret is futile; so there is no need to mourn, though the fate has struck a bit early. The fact is that every person, tribe, or culture that is risen to great glory would definitely meet its downfall one day and that would surely be the day of justice. Seattle believes that time will come When the Whites would also be moving towards their inevitable doom. The philosophical words suggest that there is a common fate awaiting all, irrespective of race, class or religion; Some, in their arrogance, believe in conquering and colonising the less powerful ones, but the day they realise that power and glory are transient and eve person shares the same rights to live, they will be able to see each other as brothers and move towards a harmonious existence.

Question 12.

Answer the following questions with reference to Hans Christian Andersen's short story, **'The Little Match Girl'** :

- a) How does the writer create sympathy for the little match girl in the story. [4]
- b) What are the four visions seen by the girl and what do they signify ? [4]
- c) What are your feelings after reading the story ? [8]

Answers

- a) The title itself captures our attention and the little girls' situation evokes unending sympathy for her.

Secondly, the writer draws our attention to the bitter cold and darkness of the night and the sight of a delicate and helpless child exposed to its bitterness on the last evening of the year, chokes our throat with pain.

Thirdly, how unequipped the girl is to face the terrible cold, is emphasised by describing her pathetic condition. She is walking in the street barehead and barefoot. The oversized slippers she is wearing belonged to her mother one of which she loses while escaping from a speeding carriage and the other is taken away by a boy for his would-be child. Such is the callousness with which the world treats the poor hapless child.

Further, we are told that her feet are red and blue due to walking long distance, trying to sell matchsticks which nobody buys. "She crept along, shivering and hungry, the picture of misery, poor little thing." This very description creates an empathy for the lovely little child with golden hair.

- b) Huddled in the corner of two houses, the little girl lights a match for warmth. She sees the Vision of a great iron stove with polished brass knobs and brass ornaments. She stretches her feet to feel its lovely warmth, but sadly the warmth vanishes leaving her cold.

Next, the girl strikes another match, and she sees the mouthwatering Vision of a dinner table spread with a white cloth, with a steaming roast goose in the centre, stuffed with prunes and apples. Her hunger makes her imagine the goose hopping towards her but this also disappears.

Thirdly, she sees the Vision of a Christmas tree, with a thousand candles lighting up its green branches and gaily-coloured balls. When she stretches her hands to touch them, they rise higher and higher to become bright stars.

Finally, she sees the beautiful Vision of her grandmother smiling lovingly at her. She implores her granny to take her along with her. Little does she know that she is imploring for her death.

The four Visions symbolise the wishes of every child in this world, for warmth, food, the cheer of sitting under a Christmas tree decorated with candles and baubles, and most importantly, for love and kindness. The child does not get these in this world; so she longs to go to the other world.

c) In one sentence, if I can summarise my feelings, I will simply say, the story makes me. It touches the depth of my heart. In fact, it still haunts me in my lonely hours; before I la" asleep or when I see small, sweet children. It makes me angry with myself and the callous world around me, that is so insensitive about our fellow creatures. A world which makes a little girl wish for her death, is a world not worth living. On New Year eve, when the well-to-do are getting ready for their cosy dinner, a little girl walks in the cold, dark night trying to sell matches. Nobody buys them, no one notices the hungry, shivering girl, her feet red and blue after walking barefoot. She cannot go back to her house as there even, no love, warmth or food awaits her. She is scared of her father who may beat her for not bringing any money home. So, she sits in the comer made by two houses from which the glow of fire and the smell of roast goose tempts her taste buds. Everywhere around her, there IS festivity, but not for her. Her simple wishes are manifested each time she lights a matchstick. She wishes for warmth and food, for beautiful things of life, for love and protection. All these, she achieves but in her dreams. She begs her grandmother in the vision to take her along which is her ultimate fulfilled wish. She rises in all her glory to the world of God, where no misery will touch her, where no hunger or chilly winds will trouble her. The vision of the frozen child with rosy cheeks and a happy smile, sitting huddled in the corner, never leaves our memory. However, we also feel happy that she leaves this world with a blissful smile after fulfilling her long cherished wishes, in those last moments just before she is lifted by her grandmother to be near to God.

Animal Farm : George Orwell

Question 13.

The question from this book is not incorporated.

Question 14.

The question from this book is not incorporated.

Question 15.

The question from this book is not incorporated.

The Call of the Wild : lack London

Question 16.

The question from this book is not incorporated;

Question 17.

The question from this book is not incorporated.

Question 18.

The question from this book is not incorporated.



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