

G. D. SOMANI MEMORIAL SCHOOL

PRELIM EXAMS

SUB: ENGLISH LITERATURE

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MARKS:80

DATE: 9/1/08

TIME: 2HRS

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.

Attempt five questions in all.

*You must attempt one question from each of the Section A, B and C and any two other question.
The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets []*

Section: A - Drama

Question: 1

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

Anthony: O Pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth,
That I am meek and gentle with these butchers.
Thou art the ruins of the noblest man.
That ever lived in the tide of times,
Woe to the hand the shed this costly blood;

Questions:

- 1] To whom is the speaker speaking to? Why is he asking for pardon? [3]
- 2] Who had given permission to Anthony to speak? What condition had he laid down while giving permission? [3]
- 3] Who is referred to as 'these butchers'? What is meant by 'tide of times'? [2]
- 4] How does Anthony praise Caesar? Describe the mood of Anthony at this stage? [3]
- 5] What prophesy does Anthony make after this? [5]

Question: 2

Read the extract given below and answer the question that following:

Cassius: O look, Titinius, look the villains fly
Myself have to mine own turn'd enemy,
This ensign here of mine was turning back,
I slew the coward, and did take it from him.

Questions:

- 1] Where and when does Cassius speak these words? [3]
- 2] To whom is Cassius speaking? What reply does the person spoken to give Cassius? [3]
- 3] What answer had Brutus given earlier when Cassius asked him what he would do if they lost the battle? Which philosophy did he believe in when he gave his answer? Mention the action of Brutus, later in the play; which proved that he did not live up to his philosophy. [4]
- 4] Discuss briefly the chain of events which led Cassius to commit suicide? [4]
- 5] What is the reaction of Titinius when he sees Cassius lying dead? [2]

SECTION B - POETRY

Question: 3

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

'My caste; Know thou there is a caste
Above my caste or thine,
Brahmin and Rajput are but dust
To that immortal line:
'Wide as the world, free as the air,
Pure as the pool of death -
The caste of all Earth's noble hearts
Is the right soldier's faith.

Questions:

- 1] What had the priest said to the King in the earlier stanza? [2]
- 2] What did the king tell the priest in reply? [3]
- 3] Who is referred to as the earth's noble hearts? What is a soldier's caste? [2]
- 4] Explain : 'Wide as the World, free as the air
Pure as the pool of death'. [3]
- 5] Mention a figure of speech used in the following lines. [2]
- 6] Give three examples from the poem to show that the poet knew of the social customs of the time. [3]
- 7] What type of a person was Pertab Singh. [3]

Questions: 4

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

Stern Law giver! Yet thou dost wear
The God heads most benignant grace
Nor know we anything so fair
As is the smile upon thy face:
Flowers laugh before thee on their beds
And fragrance in thy footing treads,
Thou dost preserve the stars from wrong,
And the most ancient Heavens, through thee
Are free and strong.

Questions:

- 1] How does the poet personify Duty? Explain. [3]
- 2] How does Duty 'preserve the stars from wrong'? What would happen if the stars did not do their duty? [3]
- 3] What does the poet say about flowers? Which figure of speech is contained in this poetic image? [3]
- 4] What appeal does the poet make at the end of the poem? [3]
- 5] Do you agree that absolute freedom can prove dangerous for men? Give your reasons for why you agree or disagree with the poet. [4]

Section C - Prose

Question:5

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

When I went up to the University, I was given a room of my own. The common link of friendship was snapped. My grandmother accepted her seclusion with resignation. She rarely left her spinning wheel to talk to anyone. From sunrise to sunset she sat by her wheel spinning and reciting prayers. Only in the afternoon she relaxed for a while to feed the sparrows. While she sat in the verandah breaking the bread into little bits, hundreds of little bird collected round her creating a veritable bedlam of chirruping. Some came and perched on her legs, others on her shoulders. Some even sat on her head. She smiled but never shooed them away. It used to be the happiest half-hour of the day for her.

Questions:

- 1] Who is the author of 'The Portrait of a Lady'? How was the link of friendship snapped between the author and his grandmother? What was grandmother's reaction to this?[4]
- 2] How did the grandmother occupy herself then? [3]
- 3] What was the happiest half-hour of the day for grandmother? [3]
- 4] After university the author went to study abroad. How did grandmother react to the situation? [3]
- 5] How did the author find his grandmother when he returned home from abroad? Mention the tragedy which took place soon after this? [3]

Question: 6

The story 'The Thief' is an in-depth study of human psyche. Discuss with reference to the story. [16]
