

ANSWER KEY - LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

(ENGLISH PAPER -2)

SECTION A

(Attempt all questions from this Section.)

Question 1

[16]

Choose the correct answers to the questions from the given options.

(Do not copy the question, write the correct answers only.)

- (i) Why did Shylock value the turquoise ring?
- (a) It was worth two thousand ducats.
 - (b) It belonged to his daughter.
 - (c) It was the wedding ring he had given his wife.
 - (d) **It was a present that he had received from Leah, when he was a bachelor.**
- (ii) Who, in the play, *The Merchant of Venice*, is described as "...the kindest man, the best-condition'd and unwearied spirit in doing courtesies; and one in whom the ancient Roman honour more appears than any that draws breath in Italy"?
- (a) **Antonio**
 - (b) Bassanio
 - (c) The Duke
 - (d) Bellario
- (iii) How were cowards described by Bassanio, in the casket scene?
- (a) They assume a mark of virtue on their outward parts.
 - (b) They are the guiled shore to a most dangerous sea.
 - (c) **Their hearts are all as false as stairs of sand.**
 - (d) They obscure the show of evil with a gracious voice.
- (iv) Who was sent to Padua by Portia?
- (a) Lorenzo
 - (b) **Balthazar**
 - (c) Bellario
 - (d) Bassanio
- (v) Who was referred to as Daniel at the court of justice in Venice?
- (a) **Portia**
 - (b) The Duke
 - (c) Bellario
 - (d) Shylock
- (vi) Who was the musician who made trees, stones and streams move from place to place by the power of his music?
- (a) Ovid
 - (b) Jason
 - (c) **Orpheus**

(d) Pyramus

- (vii) Choose the option that lists the sequence of events in the correct order in the short story- "All Summer in a Day".
1. "Ready, children?" She glanced at her watch. "Yes!" said everyone. "Are we all here?" "Yes!"
 2. They walked over to the closet door slowly and stood by it. Behind the closet door was only silence. They unlocked the door, even more slowly, and let Margot out.
 3. And then in the midst of their running one of the girls wailed. Everyone stopped. The girl, standing in the open, held out her hand.
 4. The door slid back and the smell of the silent, waiting world came in to them. The sun came out.
- (a) 1, 2, 3, 4
(b) 4, 1, 2, 3
(c) **1, 4 3, 2**
(d) 3, 2, 4, 1
- (viii) What was the world record set by Jesse Owens, for the running broad jump, as a sophomore at Ohio State University, a year prior to the Olympic Games in Berlin?
- (a) 26 feet
(b) **26 feet 8 - 1/4 inches**
(c) 25 feet 5- 5/16 inches
(d) 26 feet 5- 5/16 inches
- (ix) Select the option that shows the correct relationship between statements (1) and (2) from the story "The Blue Bead".
1. Noise frightens crocodiles.
 2. The big mugger did not move, and all the women crossed in safety to the other bank.
- (a) **1 is the cause for 2**
(b) 1 is an example for 2
(c) 1 is independent of 2
(d) 1 is a contradiction of 2
- (x) Who was the only person who had ever been good to the little match girl?
- (a) **Her grandmother who was now dead.**
(b) Her father who wanted her to sell matches.
(c) The rich merchant who lived in a house with glass doors.
(d) The boy who wanted to use her slipper as a cradle.
- (xi) Joe Thompson said to Maggie, "The soft bed feels good." Maggie answered, "O, yes, sir- so good!" Choose the option that combines the feelings that were expressed in Maggie's answer.
1. Satisfaction

2. Patience
3. Joy
4. Gratitude

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) **1 and 4**
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) 1 and 3

(xii) What quality was displayed by the eight other athletes when they turned around and lifted the lad to his feet in the poem “Nine Gold Medals”?

- (a) Competitiveness
- (b) **Compassion**
- (c) Frustration
- (d) Eagerness

(xiii) Where did Abou Ben Adhem find that his name “led all the rest”?

- (a) A Book of Gold
- (b) The names of those who love the Lord
- (c) The names of those who love their fellow men
- (d) **The names of those whom love of God had blest**

(xiv) What is the theme of the song of the caged bird, in “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings”?

- (a) The sighing trees
- (b) The orange sun rays
- (c) **Freedom**
- (d) The distant hill

(xv) Which of the following was NOT experienced by the poet in the poem “Daffodils”?

- (a) Happiness
- (b) Thoughtfulness
- (c) Pleasure
- (d) **Fear**

(xvi) Which of the following lines best matches the literary device in the line “*with myrtle mixed in my path like mad*” from Robert Browning’s “The Patriot”?

- (a) All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players
- (b) Sing to me, Autumn, with the rustle of your leaves.
- (c) Here once the embattled farmers stood and fired the shot heard round the world.
- (d) **The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew, and the furrow followed free.**

SECTION B

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

DRAMA

(The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare)

Question 2

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

Bassanio: *So may the outward shows be least themselves:
The world is still deceived with ornament.*

(i) Where is Bassanio? What made Bassanio say these lines in the extract? [3]

Belmont, in a room in Portia's house.

Portia arranges for a song to be played while Bassanio makes his choice of the caskets. The song seems to give a clue to Bassanio as it is about fancy, a passing affection or interest. The song warns Bassanio not to judge by the eyes alone, and not by outward appearances. Therefore, Bassanio continues the idea about outward appearances being deceptive he picked up from the song when he begins his speech, saying that outward appearances can be misleading, and the world continues to be cheated by outward looks.

(ii) Which Greek hero has Portia compared him to before this extract? Give the details of this comparison. [3]

Alcides/Hercules.

Hercules rescued Hesione from being sacrificed to a sea-monster.

Portia saw herself as Hesione, and Bassanio as Hercules had to face the challenge of choosing the right casket, thus performing the task of saving Portia, but with much more love than Hercules. The rest standing aloof were the Dardanian wives.

(iii) What, according to Bassanio, is "hard food for Midas"? Explain the classical allusion to Midas. Why does Bassanio reject the silver casket? What does he say about the quality of the lead casket that makes him choose it? [3]

Gold, the gold casket.

Midas was a wealthy king in Greek mythology who desired that all things he touched should be turned to gold. This request was granted but he could not eat food as it turned to gold as soon as he touched it. He asked Dionysus to take his favour back.

Silver, used to make coins, was a pale and common drudge exchanged between man and man.

The paleness of the meagre lead casket moves Bassanio more than eloquence.

(iv) What does Bassanio find inside the lead casket? What does the scroll say? [3]

Beautiful Portia's portrait.

"You that choose not by the view, Chance as fair and choose as true! Since this fortune falls to you, Be content and seek no new. If you be well pleased by this, And hold your fortune for your bliss, Turn you where your lady is, and claim her with a loving kiss."

(v) What letter does Bassanio receive about Antonio? What does Portia suggest Bassanio do immediately? What does this tell you about her nature? [4]

Antonio writes that all his ships have miscarried, his creditors grow cruel, his estate was low, his bond to Shylock was forfeit, and in paying it he wouldn't be able to live. All debts would be cleared

between them, if Antonio could see Bassanio before he died. Bassanio could however do what he liked.

Portia asks Bassanio to leave immediately. She offers him money, and just insists that they be married first.

Portia is kind and generous.

Any other relevant answer.

Question 3

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

Shylock: *Ay, his breast:*

So says the bond: doth it not, noble judge?

"Nearest his heart:" those are the very words.

Portia: *It is so. Are there balance here to weigh the flesh?*

- (i) What is the "bond" mentioned by Shylock in the extract? What penalty has Antonio been asked to pay for the forfeit of the bond? Why could Antonio not fulfil the conditions of the "bond" on time? [3]

Shylock mentions the bond which was signed by Antonio who borrowed three thousand ducats for Bassanio's sake.

The penalty for not returning the money on time was that Shylock could cut a pound of flesh from Antonio's body, nearest his heart.

Antonio could not repay the money to fulfil the conditions of the bond as his ships did not return in time.

- (ii) How did the letter from Bellario introduce Portia to the Duke of Venice in his letter? [3]

Portia was introduced as Balthazar, a young doctor of Rome. Bellario and the young doctor looked through many books together regarding Shylock's case. Bellario gave the young doctor his opinion and the doctor's own learning which was great, improved it. Bellario requested the Duke that the young doctor be allowed in court instead of him, to argue in his place. Bellario wrote that though the doctor Balthazar was young, he was wise beyond his years and the way he would conduct the trial would prove his worth.

- (iii) How did Portia try to persuade Shylock to show mercy? [3]

Portia said that the quality of mercy cannot be forced, it drops gently like rain from heaven. It is twice blessed, it blesses the one who shows mercy and the one who receives mercy.

It is the mightiest of the mightiest and is a nobler quality in a king than the crown he wears and sceptre he holds. The sceptre shows the earthly power that kings have and makes a king command respect and instil fear in people's hearts.

Mercy is above this earthly power, it is deep-seated in the heart of kings.

Earthly power becomes similar to God's power when mercy is shown while dispensing justice.

If everybody were to be judged strictly by God, none would be saved.

People pray for mercy, and that same prayer should teach them to be merciful.

- (iv) What answer does Portia receive to her question in the extract? What suggestions does she make to Shylock after this, for charity's sake? What is Shylock's response to her suggestions? [3]

Shylock says that he has the balance ready to weigh Antonio's flesh.

Portia asks Shylock to have a surgeon, at his cost, nearby, to stop Antonio from bleeding to death.

Shylock replies that it is not mentioned in the bond.

Portia says that even if it is not mentioned, Shylock could do that for charity or kindness.

Shylock refuses, saying that he cannot find it in the bond.

- (v) How did Portia then use the very words of the bond against Shylock, to save Antonio? What impression do you form of Portia in this scene? Give examples from the scene to support your analysis. [4]

Shylock refuses to take thrice the money offered, saying he will tear the bond only if it is paid according to the tenour, the actual words and meaning of the terms of the bond.

He constantly refers to the precise words of the bond.

For example, when Portia asks Antonio to prepare his chest for the penalty, Shylock says, 'Ay, his breast: So says the bond: doth it not, noble judge? "Nearest his heart" those are the very words.'

He lays emphasis on the exact words of the bond. Another example is when Portia asks him if he has a surgeon nearby to stop Antonio from bleeding to death, he says it is not mentioned in the bond.

Shylock gives importance to the specific words of the bond which Portia uses to prevent him from harming Antonio.

When all seems to end for Antonio, Portia stops Shylock and tells him that he can take a pound of flesh, but not a single drop of blood should be shed as it is not mentioned in the bond.

Moreover, she tells him that he should cut precisely one pound of flesh, neither more, nor less, even in the tiniest measure, as only one pound of flesh has been mentioned in the bond.

Portia shows herself to be a resourceful, intelligent and bold woman, able to argue convincingly in court, and speak eloquently about the quality of mercy. She is decisive and determined in the way she pins Shylock down to his own words and thwarts his plans for revenge.

Any suitable answer.

SECTION C

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)

PROSE - SHORT STORIES

(Treasure Trove — A Collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories)

Question 4

Read the extract from "The Little Match Girl" by Hans Christian Andersen given below and answer the questions that follow:

So the little girl walked about the streets on her naked feet, which were red and blue with the cold. In her old apron she carried a great many matches, and she had a packet of them in her hand as well. Nobody had bought any from her, and nobody had given her a single penny all day. She crept along, shivering and hungry, the picture of misery, poor little thing!

- (i) Describe the weather when the little girl walked about the streets. What day was it? What festive scenes marked this occasion? [3]

It was bitterly cold and snow was falling.

It was the last evening of the old year. It was New Year's Eve.

From all the windows lights were shining, and it smelt so deliciously of roast goose.

- (ii) Why was the little girl barefoot? [3]

The poor little girl had been wearing slippers when she left home, but they were very large slippers, which belonged to her mother.

She lost them as she ran across the street, to escape the two carriages that were being driven terribly fast.

One slipper was nowhere to be found.

The other had been taken away by a boy, who thought it would serve for a cradle when some day he would have children of his own.

- (iii) What do you know about the little girl's home? Why could she not go home? [3]

It was cold at home, for they had nothing but the roof above them and the wind whistled through that, even though the largest cracks were stuffed with straw and rags.

She could not go home, for she had not sold any matches and didn't earn a single penny.

Her father would surely beat her if she returned home without any money.

- (iv) Where did the little girl take shelter? What did she then do to try to keep warm? Describe what she saw first after that. [3]

The little girl huddled in a corner formed by two houses, one of which projected into the street more than the other.

She tucked her little feet up under her, but she grew colder and colder, and her hands were almost numb with cold.

She thought that the warmth of a match might comfort her, and she would feel warm, so she took a single one out of the packet, struck it against the wall, and warmed her fingers.

It spluttered, and burnt, with a warm, bright flame, like a candle, as she held her hands over it. It was a strange light.

It seemed to the little girl as if she were sitting before a large iron stove, with polished brass knobs and brass ornaments. The fire burned beautifully and gave out a lovely warmth.

The little girl already stretched out her feet to warm them too; but--the small flame went out, and the stove vanished.

- (v) Narrate the final vision of the little girl. What did people see in the morning? Do you think the end of the story was good? Give a reason for your opinion. [4]

The final vision the little girl had was that of her old grandmother, so bright and shining, looking so gentle, kind and loving.

“Granny!” exclaimed the little girl, and requested her grandmother to take her away with her for she would disappear when the match went out, like all the other lovely sights had disappeared.

She quickly struck the rest of the matches, she had in her packet, for she wanted to keep her grandmother with her. The matches burned so brightly that it was more radiant than broad daylight. Her grandmother seemed so beautiful, tall and stately. She took the little girl, in her arms, and flew high up towards glory and joy.

There was neither cold, nor hunger, nor fear, as they were with God.

In the cold dawn, the poor girl sat still, in the corner, with rosy cheeks and smiling lips, frozen to death on the last evening of the old year.

She was still holding the matches, and half a packet had been burnt.

The ending of the story- Good/not good- Opinion to be justified with a suitable reason.

For instance- good/suitable ending- The little match girl had nobody to take care of her, society ignored her plight, in death she was united with her grandmother...Any suitable answer.

Ending is not good- The little girl did not deserve to die. What had she seen in life? Nobody deserves to die this way- alone and out in the cold, especially when there were people around. People could have/should have helped her. It is a shame that she died in the middle of civilization, in the midst of people... Any suitable answer.

Question 5

Read the extract from “The Blue Bead” by Norah Burke given below and answer the questions that follow:

There was no end to the wonders of the world.

But Sibia, in all her life from birth to death, was marked for work.

(i) Describe the sweetmeat stall and cloth stall in the bazaar. [3]

The sweetmeat stall had brilliant honey confections, abuzz with dust and flies.

The sweets smelled wonderful, and were green and magenta.

The cloth stall was stacked with great rolls of new cotton cloth that was stamped at the edge with the maker’s sign of a tiger’s head, and smelt so wonderful of its dressing, straight from the mills.

(ii) Describe the *other* “wonders of the world” seen by Sibia. [3]

Sibia looked at satin sewn with real silver thread, tin trays from Birmingham, and a saree with chips of looking glass embroidered into the border.

She joined the crowd around a Kashmiri travelling merchant on his way to the bungalows and looked at his wares. He showed dawn-coloured silks that poured like cream. He also had a locked chest with turquoises and opals in it.

Best of all she was fascinated by a box which, when you pressed it, a bell tinkled and a yellow chicken jumped out.

(iii) What work had Sibia been doing, ever since she could walk? [3]

Since she could toddle, Sibia had husked corn, and gathered sticks, and put dung to dry, and cooked and weeded, and carried, and fetched water, and cut grass for fodder.

(iv) What was the “blue bead”? Where was it found by Sibia? What did Sibia feel when she held it in her palm? Why did she feel that way? [3]

The blue bead was not a gem, it was sand-worn glass that had been rolling about in the river for a long time. By chance it was perforated, maybe it was the neck of a bottle.

After Sibia got help for the Gujar woman, she went back to the river for her things. The fork was lying in the river, not carried away, luckily, and as she bent to pick it up out of the water, she saw the blue bead.

She took it, and her heart went up in flames of joy. She was overjoyed because she had always longed for jewellery and wanted to make a necklace for herself, but couldn't as the family needle was broken and they had to wait to buy another one. This blue bead was pretty and could be used immediately as it was perforated.

(v) Give an example each, from the text, to justify the following statements about Sibia. [4]

a) Sibia was creative and artistic.

She loved making seed necklaces.

She had made and stored some little bowls moulded of clay in the cavelets.

She also thought that if she had anything that could be used for colouring, they would look fine, painted with marigolds and elephants.

Any suitable answer.

b) Sibia was brave and courageous.

Sibia was brave, as she sprang to the rescue of a Gujar woman when she was attacked by the crocodile. She aimed at the reptile's eyes with her hayfork.

Any suitable answer.

c) Sibia was practical in nature.

She stopped the woman's wounds with sand, and bound them with a rag, showing great presence of mind.

She helped her to the encampment and then went back to get her grass, sickle and fork, showing a sense of responsibility.

She thought “Oh, the two good vessels gone,” when the woman's brass pots bobbed away in the current of the river.

Any suitable answer.

d) Sibia and her family were poor.

In all her life, Sibia had never owned anything but a rag.

She had never owned even one anna—not a pice, not a pi.

The family needle was broken and they had to wait to buy another one.

Sibia was dressed in an earth-coloured rag that had been torn in two to make a skirt and sari.

She wandered barefoot and toiled for a living.

Any suitable answer.

SECTION D

(Answer one or more questions from this Section.)

POETRY

(Treasure Trove — A Collection of ICSE Poems and Short Stories)

Question 6

Read the extract from “Abou Ben Adhem” by Leigh Hunt given below and answer the questions that follow:

Abou Ben Adhem (may his tribe increase!)
Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace,

- (i) What sight met Abou on waking up? What was the atmosphere in his room like? What other words are used in this poem for what he saw? [3]

Abou Ben Adhem was sleeping peacefully one night when he awoke from a deep dream of peace, and saw, within the moonlight in his room, an angel who made the room brighter, like a lily in bloom.

The angel was writing in a book of gold.

The atmosphere was exceedingly peaceful.

The angel is referred to as “presence” and “vision”.

- (ii) What did Abou say? What gave him courage to speak? What was the reply? [3]

Ben Adhem boldly asked the presence in the room, “What writest thou?”

The exceeding peace in the room made him bold.

The vision raised its head, and with a look made of all sweet accord, answered, “The names of those who love the Lord.”

- (iii) What did Ben Adhem say in response to the answer he had got? What answer did he get then? What was Abou’s suggestion to the answer? What does this interaction tell you about Abou’s character? [3]

Abou asked the angel if his name was there in the list of those who love the Lord.

The angel replied in the negative, saying no.

Abou spoke in a lower tone, but cheerfully still. He said, “I pray thee, then, write me as one that loves his fellow men.”

The angel wrote, and vanished.

Abou was human enough to have expectations, but it didn’t really matter as he recovered soon from the angel’s response and focussed on what was important- service to humanity.

Abou Ben Adhem was a person who did good deeds and cared about his fellow men, He was humble. He was happy and content to love mankind. He showed no resentment at all. He was a person who loved peace.

Any suitable answer.

- (iv) Write what happened the following night. What change do you observe about the quality of light? What does this kind of light signify? [3]

The next night the angel came again with a great wakening light, and showed Abou the names of the people who were blessed with the love of God, “whom love of God had blest”.

“And lo!” A marvellous thing was revealed and Ben Adhem’s name led all the rest.

The light of the previous night was soft and radiant, the moonlight making the room bright and ethereal, like a lily in bloom. The light now, which is a great wakening light is like a

strong flash that draws complete attention and it signifies a great and dramatic revelation of the truth.

Any suitable answer.

(v) The poet's personal opinion is interjected into the lines of the poem twice. Mention them.

What is the message that the poem conveys? [4]

About Ben Adhem (may his tribe increase!) The words within the brackets express the poet's personal thoughts. He means that there should be more saintly people like Abou Ben Adhem, who renounce the world and walk away from riches in search of spirituality, treading the path of righteousness, and do great service to humanity by taking care of their fellow human beings.

"And lo!" is also the poet's amazement and wonder as a marvellous thing is revealed as Ben Adhem's name led all the rest in the list of those whom love of God has blessed.

This poem conveys the beautiful message that God blesses those who love their fellow beings. Service to other people in need, feeling empathy for people, and showing kindness and charity is the need of the hour.

Any suitable answer.

Question 7

Read the extract from "The Patriot" by Robert Browning given below and answer the questions that follow.

Thus I entered, and thus I go!
In triumphs, people have dropped down dead.

(i) Describe the scene of the narrator's entry. [3]

The speaker was welcomed with roses all the way and myrtle mixed in his path like mad. The house-roofs seemed to heave and sway, with the people who had gathered to welcome him. The church-spires flamed, bright flags decorated the church spires. The air broke into a mist with bells and the old walls rocked with the crowd and cries. It was very festive.

(ii) Where is the narrator going? Why is he being taken there? What is said about the scene at the house-tops and the windows now? [3]

The narrator was being led to Shambles' Gate, to the scaffold. He is to be hanged to death for his year's "misdeeds". There was nobody on the house-tops now, just a palsied few at the windows. Most people had assembled at the Shambles' Gate, by the foot of the scaffold.

(iii) Describe the physical condition of the narrator as he is being led there. How do people treat him on the way? [3]

The narrator's hands are tied at his back and the rope cuts into both his wrists behind. He is numb to physical pain now, for he says, he thinks, by the feel, that his forehead bleeds, as the people are flinging stones at him, at will, for all the misdeeds of the year.

(iv) How long has it taken for the narrator's fortune to change? How does the weather seem to reflect both the rise and fall of the narrator's fortune? [3]

A year.

It was bright and sunny that day, a year ago, when he was being welcomed with great enthusiasm. A year later, he goes in the rain. The atmosphere is bleak and it is raining. The weather seems to reflect what the narrator is going through.

(v) How does the poem end? What is the relevance of the title of the poem? [4]

The poem ends by the poet feeling safe in God's hands. He thinks that God may ask him what else he needs as he has already received his due from the world. The speaker is now free from the fickle-mindedness of the crowd, and feels he has done his duty by the world, and ultimately will find peace in God. He feels God will take care of him, since God knows he did no wrong. This comforting knowledge makes him free and feel safe. After all, where can one feel safer than in the arms of the all-knowing Almighty?

The title of the poem, 'The Patriot' is indicative of how a leader being patriotic, ambitious and idealistic, has a meteoric rise to power, and is overwhelmed by the admiration and warmth of the crowd. He is aware of having done what was expected of a patriotic leader, and there is a hint of how he probably was too ambitious and reached for the sun, and gave it to his "loving friends" to keep. This might be a hint of misplaced trust in his friends. Something went wrong along the way and the overwhelming feeling that the patriot has in his mind now is that he has taken accountability and has done what was possible to make things alright, "Nought man could do, have I left undone". He worked with zeal and enthusiasm, like a true patriot, for the country and the people, yet it has all come down to this unfortunate state and he is being executed for his "misdeeds". Such a stark contrast after a year, as it took only a year for adulation to turn into hate.

The patriot indulges in a dramatic monologue about the harsh reality he faces even in the line of duty, being punished for his ambition and 'misdeeds', and being largely misunderstood by the common crowd. Public opinion is fickle, and life is uncertain.

Any suitable answer.
