

MT EDUCARE LTD.

ICSE X

SUBJECT : **ENGLISH PAPER II**

BOARD PAPER - 2015

ANSWERSHEET

SECTION A —DRAMA

The Merchant of Venice : Shakespeare

Answer 1

- (i) Portia's father, the Lord of Belmont, devised the schem of the three caskets of gold, silver and lead for her suitors. There were inscription on all the three caskets. The one who chooses the right casket, could marry Portia.
The oath which suitors had to take before making the right choice was that they will not reveal it to anyone, which casket they have-chosen, and they will have to leave Belmont immediately they'll not woo any other woman for the purpose of marriage in their life. [3]
- (ii) Nerissa is Portia's lady-in-waiting.
Nerissa is curious to know whether Portia loves any of the suitors who have already come to see her. Portia replies that Nerissa should tell their names to her and as she names them one after the other, she will comment on them. According to her remarks, Nerissa may infer her love for them. This reply reveals that Portia undergoes a change of mood from sadness to gaiety. [3]
- (iii) Portia disapproves County Palatine by describing him sullen and morose. She further says that he listens to jovial stories without a smile. She is afraid that he will become a sad philosopher like Heraclitus, when he grows old because he is so unusually gloomy in his young age. Also, he has an abrupt manner when he speaks.
Portia would rather be married to a grinning skeleton with a bone in his mouth. [3]
- (iv) Portia tells Nerissa to place a tall goblet of Rhenish wine on the wrong casket, that is, the casket which does not contain her picture. Portia is sure that the German suitor will not be able to resist the temptation of this national drink even if the picture of the Devil himself is within. These suitors ultimately decided to leave Portia and go back home, and not press their courtship further, unless her father's decree concerning the caskets can be. set aside, and they may woo her in an ordinary way. [3]
- (v) Portia will ultimately get married to Bassanio.
The other two suitors who took the test were, the Prince of Morocco and the Prince of Arragon.
The person who she marries is worthy of her because he was a soldier and an educated man, moreover she was already in love with Bassanio. [4]

Answer 2

- (i) The terms of the bond that Antonio has signed were that if Antonio is unable to repay him a certain sum of money specified on the paper, on a certain date, in an agreed place, the forfeit to be paid, will be an exact pond of Antonio's flesh which. Shylock will be at liberty to take from any part of his body which pleases him. [3]

- (ii) Duke calls Shylock 'inhuman' as in spite of Duke's attempt to make Shylock show mercy on Antonio, Shylock intended to keep up this show of severity and hatred until the last stage of the case. Duke expects that Shylock will give a sympathetic reply to his appeal. He makes fun of the Jew and pays him a compliment that he possesses a 'gentle' heart and not a stony heart like the 'stubborn Turks and Tartars'. His object is to pacify him. [3]
- (iii) When Portia tells Shylock that thrice his money has been offered to him, Shylock tells her that he has sworn an oath before God to have nothing but his bond. He cannot commit the sin of breaking oath. Nor for the whole wealth of Venice will break his oath. He further says, he has fancy for the rotten flesh, that should satisfy him. There are some people who cannot tolerate the sight of an open-mouthed roasted pig. Some people get almost frantic by the sight of a cat. Still others feel infuriated to hear the scream of the bag-pipe. These are the things hated by some people. [3]
- (iv) Antonio tells Bassanio that if he is hoping to soften Shylock's heart, he might as well stand on the sea-shore and ask the tide not to rise so high as usual. Further, he may as well ask the wolf why he has made the mother sheep to mourn for the lamb he has devoured. Further more, he may as well expect the tall pines in the hillside not to wave their high tops and not to make a noise when they are disturbed by the gales of Heaven. These three examples clearly prove that Bassanio's pleas are ineffective. [3]
- (v) Antonio distributed Shylock's property by asking if the Court remits the fine in place of one half of Shylock's goods which comes to the state; provided that, Shylock draws up a will leaving this half, which he retains during his lifetime, to Lorenzo and Jessica after his death and that he must convert to Christianity. Antonio will hold the half awarded to him in trust also for the benefit of Lorenzo and Jessica. He will give them money regularly until Shylock dies. Then he will give it all to them. Yes, Shylock deserves the punishment given to him as he was surrounded by so much of malice and hatred that he was ready to take Antonio's life to satisfy himself, Shylock's obsession with revenge breaks down only when his intention to kill Antonio is thwarted and utter destitution threatens him. His sense of reality returns now. He exclaims that there is no point in pardoning his life if the prop that sustains it is taken away. Now his greed for money returns and he asks for his three thousand ducats. [4]

Answer 3.

- (i) Dancy did a parlor trick by taking a standing jump on to a four feet tall shelf to get a tenner from De Levis. When money disappeared from the locked room of De Levis, he realized the thief could have come through the balcony, but there was no ladder or foot marks on the damp ground. So climbing up the creeper to the balcony was ruled out. So he came to the conclusion that the thief could have jumped across the balcony. Dancy, who is an expert at parlor tricks could be the only person who could. have accomplished the task of covering seven feet. [3]

- (ii) Lady Adela says that Dancy left the army because he was finding it too dull, as no fighting was going on. She calls him reckless as he does things without thinking about their consequences. The fact that he got married in his unemployed state itself is a sign of his impulsive nature. [3]
- (iii) De Levis had kept the money under the pillow. He had gone to take bath straight away. He lost about thousand pounds - nine hundred and seventy to be exact. [3]
- (iv) Winsor is outraged that De Levis actually had taken precaution against theft in his manor house. He considered it as an insult, to suspect such a down market incident in a gentleman's house. The room was twenty three feet high. The ladder was not moved from its original position in the stable, and there were no dragging marks, so the thief could not have used it. [3]
- (v) Canynge at first says that it was an extraordinary insinuation on a soldier and a gentleman. The accusation was so outrageous that it should be instantly withdrawn. He also says it's mad to jump to conclusions like this.
- My opinion is that De Levis is a straight forward character who will not tolerate an injustice.
- He fights for his integrity as everyone suspects him of falsely accusing an English gentleman because of anti-semitism. [4]

Answer 4.

- (i) Dancy admits stealing was a crazy thing to do, but he was only looting a looter. The money was as much his as De Levis. A decent chap would have offered him half. He did what he thought was right. [3]
- (ii) Mabel promises that whatever happens she'll continue to love him. Even if it is prison, she'll wait for him indefinitely. Then Dancy says that anyone else would have left him. It's not possible that a human can be so generous as to forgive his mistakes. [3]
- (iii) It was proved in the court that Dancy was the culprit. Inspector Dede had come to arrest him. Mabel tries to stop him by appealing to his humanity. She tried to emotionally blackmail him by asking him whether he is married and requested him to come half an hour late so that Dancy could escape. [3]
- (iv) Dancy's suicide note was addressed to General Colford. He had written that his death was the decent thing to do for Mabel and himself as she would escape the shame of being the wife of a thief and it would release him from being branded as a criminal. After all it's only another jump. He was thankful to the pistol which was the only thing that kept his faith. He also requests Colford to look after Mabel. [3]
- (v) Margaret means that all friends of Dancy kept loyalty towards him by being with him during the trial, but that was not enough to save him from suicide. She feels that they should have done something more to extricate him from his problem and should have fought tooth and nail to save him. [4]

In our opinion, Dancy's friends are loyal to him but their loyalty is not above the law. They have to retain a sense of justice and are expected to go by law. A gun need not have such considerations, so it did what the user wanted.

Answer 5

- (i) When Sir Ralph the Rover passed the Inchcape Rock for the first time it was a clear day. There was no movement either in the air or in the sea. The ship was completely motionless as there was no wind to power her sail and when Sir Ralph the Rover returned to the place there was a thick haze over the atmosphere. The sun was not visible as the thick layer of smoke hid it. Throughout the day, strong winds were blowing but it became calm in the evening. [3]
- (ii) The Abbot of Aberbrothok was a man of kind and generous nature. He always thought about the welfare of others. He could see no one in distress. He was overwhelmed to see the brave and daring sailor's death by colliding against the Inchcape Rock. So, he caused a buoy to be fastened to the rock. The buoy floated back and forth in the shallow water, whenever there was storm with surging waves and in turn rang the bell as a warning to the sailors. [3]
- (iii) The Abbot had put the bell on the Inchcape Rock to warn the sailors in the storm so that they might sail away from the rock and avoid any collision. Sir Ralph became jealous of the Abbot and wanted to cut off the bell because he did not cherish the praise of the Abbot for placing the bell on the Inchcape Rock. The bell sank down with a gurgling sound. Its sinking indicated that no sailors would get the warning signal in the storm and would have no cause to thank the Abbot. [3]
- (iv) Sir Ralph assured his men that soon there would be a good weather when the moon would rise in the sky and they would be able to see the sea surroundings. One of the sailors said to Ralph that he could hear the roaring waves and it seemed to him that the shore was nearby. They all wished that they could hear the sound of the Inchcape Bell. [3]
- (v) Though the violent winds were no more forceful yet they slowly glided along. Suddenly the ship collided against Inchcape Rock and began to sink. The waves from all sides engulfed the ship. During his last moments Ralph could hear one dreadful sound, which seemed like the sound made by the Inchcape Bell. The devil seemed to ring the death bell for Ralph. The message in the poem is that one ought not to wish evil against anybody for that evil will harm oneself ultimately. [4]

Answer 6

- (i) The merchants were selling crimson and silver turbans, purple brocade tunics, mirrors framed in amber, daggers with handles of jade. [3]
- (ii) The maidens were grinding sandalwood, henna and spice. The vendors were weighing saffron, lentil and rice. [3]
- (iii) The poetess has compared the bells for the feet of blue pigeons with delicate wings of a dragon fly. The bells point out the craftsmanship of

- the goldsmiths. The goldsmiths were making girdles for the dancers and scabbards for the king. [3]
- (iv) The musicians are playing on the Indian musical instruments like sitar, sarangi and drum. They produce the music which is based on Indian tradition, culture and custom. Magicians are performing their tricks to tempt the customers towards them. The musicians 'melody and the magicians' spell provide the bazaar a charm which is a typical feature of Indian bazaar. [3]
- (v) The flowers have a special place in Indian culture. For happy occasions the flowers were weaved as tassels of azure and red, crowns for bridegroom, chaplets for the bridegroom's bed. The fresh white flowers are also used for sad occasions. Flowers are gathered for placing on the dead bodies or on the graves so that the dead may feel relaxed through their eternal sleep. The poem celebrates the life depicted in the bazaars of Hyderabad, the occupation of common folk, their joys and sorrows of everyday life. [4]

SECTION C - PROSE
Collection of Short Stories

Answer 7.

- (i) Baldeo was a watchman at a railway station. His duty was to see that the lamp at the entrance of the tunnel was burning. It was a manually operated signal and he was responsible for signaling whether or not the tunnel was clear of obstruction so that the overland mail passed through safely. His son, Tembu was concerned about his father as he had to go alone at night. Therefore he offered to go along with him. [3]
- (ii) The axe that Baldeo carried with him was made of pure steel and it was very thin. It was made by Baldeo's father over a charcoal fire. [3]
- (iii) Baldeo heard the grunt of the tiger. As Baldeo heard the tiger jump into the cutting. He wondered if he was moving towards the hut or the tunnel. He was worried about the safety of his son. It is rightly said that the tiger was used to the ways of men because it had been preying on them for years. Hence, the tiger did not fear the man. [3]
- (iv) When the tiger was walking towards Baldeo, he thought of running as fast as he could but he realized that it would be unsuccessful. The tiger would be faster in the darkness and would catch him from behind. Baldeo stood motionless with his back towards the signal post staring at the animal. He was ready with his axe in one hand. He avoided the paw of the tiger with an agile leap and brought down the axe upon his shoulder. The animal in pain pounced on him and Baldeo struck with his axe again but could not pull it out because it got stuck in the bone of the animal and he was without a weapon to defend again. The tiger attacked Baldeo. He was aware of a severe pain in his back for a little while and in no time he lost his life. The tiger was in great pain and it sat down and licked its wounds. [3]

- (v) When the train arrived, the tiger did not notice the faint rumble of the train as he was in great pain. When the tiger heard the whistle of the engine he got up and found that the train had reached so close to him that it was difficult to escape. The train overtook the limping tiger and cut him into two halves.

The similarity in Baldeo and his son Tembu was that both of them were courageous.

The axe in Tembu's hand in the end of the story becomes a symbol—a symbol of commitment to duty, a symbol of man's lasting war against forces of nature and a pride towards his ancestors.

[4]

Answer 8.

The story begins with a banker remembering a lively argument at a party, over which is more moral—capital punishment or life imprisonment. The banker believes that capital punishment is more moral because the death sentence kills the victim quicker rather than dragging out the process. The lawyer in the party responds, by saying that both are equally immoral but he would choose the life sentence if he had to because any life is better than no life at all. This response causes the banker to bet the lawyer two million that the latter would not be able to last five years in solitary confinement.

The lawyer accepts the bet and to his own pushes it to fifteen years to prove a point. The terms of the bet were that the lawyer is to live in solitary confinement without any human interaction for fifteen years. He is granted books, music, wine or anything that he wants on demand. As the long fifteen years pass, the lawyer discovers the significance of human life.

Materialism has blinded the lawyer to such an extent that he sacrifices his freedom and youth just to claim a sum of two million at the end of his self-imposed fifteen year term in solitary confinement. It was during this fifteen year period that he realizes that knowledge is true wealth. He reads different types of books and becomes a man of profound wisdom. On the other hand the banker after having lost a fortune on the stock exchange is prepared to murder the lawyer in cold blood to save himself from paying the amount of two million to him. This tells us that money drives man to commit the most heinous of all crimes.

The author also touches upon dark subjects like loneliness and death. What Loneliness can do to a person is clearly visible in this extract, "...seeing his emancipated aged looking face, no one would have believed that he was only forty."

This signifies that in the absence of fellow human beings, world's greatest luxury can seem worthless. The author also emphasizes the need to have a balanced view while taking major decisions and not be swayed away in a fit of excitement otherwise one may end up like the fate of the banker or the lawyer.

Answer 9.

- (i) Boxer was in a pathetic condition. The animals found him lying with his neck

- stretched out, unable even to raise his head. There was a glazed expression in his eyes, and his sides were matted with sweat. A thin stream of blood had trickled out of his mouth. [3]
- (ii) The animals felt a little uneasy at Squealer's decision to send their comrade to hospital. They did not like to think of their sick friend in the hands of human beings. However, Squealer reassured them that the veterinary surgeon in Wellington could treat Boxer's case more satisfactorily than could be done on the farm. [3]
- (iii) If Boxer made a good recovery, he was expected to live another three years, and he looked forward to the peaceful days that he would spend in the corner of the big pasture. It would be the first time that he would get leisure to study and improve his mind. He intended to devote the rest of his life to learning the remaining twenty-two letters of the alphabet. [3]
- (iv) The words written on the sides of the van were 'Alfred Simmonds, Horse Slaughterer and Glue Boiler, Willingdon, Dealer in Hides and Bone-Meal. Kennels Supplied'. They were taking Boxer to the knacker's. When Boxer heard the uproar outside, his face appeared at the small window at the back of the van. When the animals cried out, there was the sound of a tremendous drumming of hoofs inside the van. He was trying to kick his way out. [3]
- (v) The farm was renamed as Manor Farm, its original name showing that story of the animals ended where it started. Some of the pigs developed five chins, some four, some three. But the amazing thing was their faces seemed to be melting and changing. They seemed to be changing into humans. The very same humans against whose atrocities they had revolted. [4]

Answer 10.

Snowball is an important character in George Orwell's novel 'Animal Farm'. He is a genuine pig who sticks to the ideology of revolution; in fact he believes in a continued revolution. He argues that in order to defend Animal Farm he must strengthen the reality of Old Major's dream of a life without humans, they must stir up rebellions in other farms throughout England. Napoleon doesn't want Snowball to lead Animal Farm and gain more popularity than him.

Snowball is eventually chased out of the farm. After that he is blamed for all the problems on the farm. He is suspected of secretly visiting the farm by night and performing all kinds of mischief. The animals are so disturbed that they can hardly sleep in their stalls. Every night, it is said he steals the corn, he upset the milk-pails, he breaks the eggs, he tramples the seedbeds, he gnaws the bark off the fruit trees. Whenever things go wrong it becomes usual to attribute it to Snowball. If a window is broken or a drain is blocked up, someone is certain to say that Snowball had come in the night and did it, and when the key of the store-shed is lost, the whole farm is convinced that Snowball had thrown it down the well. Curiously enough, they go on believing this even after the mislaid key is found under a sack of meal. The cows declare unanimously that Snowball crept into their stalls and milked them in their sleep.

Napoleon orders a full investigation into Snowball's activities. Squealer is in charge of the propaganda. He says, "a most terrible thing has

been discovered. Snowball has sold himself to Frederick of Pinchfield Farm, who is even now plotting to attack us and take our farm away from us! Snowball is to act as his guide when the attack begins". It is not his vanity and ambition but treacherous intention that is at the back of his rebellion. "Snowball was in league with Jones from the very start! He was Jones's secret agent all the time." It has all been proved by documents that he worked for their defeat and destruction at the Battle of the Cowshed.

The animals are stupefied. They all remember, how they had seen Snowball charging ahead of them at the Battle of the Cowshed, how he had encouraged them, and how he had not paused for an instant even when the pellets from Jones's gun had wounded his back. When it is pointed out that they gave him 'Animal Hero, first Class,' it is admitted, that is our mistake. When Boxer remarks "We all saw him running with blood", Squealer says that was part of the arrangement! "Jones's shot only grazed him". The plot is for Snowball, at the critical moment, to give the signal for flight and leave the field to the enemy. He convinces the animals that , just at the moment when Jones and his men had got inside the yard, Snowball suddenly turned and fled, and many animals follow him. Finally, he says that Napoleon is sure of snowball's treachery, Boxer speaks for all the animals,. "If Comrade Napoleon says it, it must be right."

Orwell shows how clever propaganda can sully the character of even a very inventive pig that influenced others to his side with intelligence and compassion. The character is largely based on Leon Trotsky and describes how he led the opposition against Joseph Stalin (Napoleon), though he also includes elements of Vladimir Lenin.

[16]

Answer 11.

- (i) Head Master Florian encouraged the students to write in journals about the weekly occurrences and their feelings. He uses these writings as a therapeutic exercise for the students as well as for keeping the teachers aware of students' concerns. [3]
- (ii) Braithwaite was first commented upon the weekly journal as Blackie'. It was a mixture of relief and disappointment that very little attention was given to Mr. Braithwaite, so he was happy. [3]
- (iii) Braithwaite was given the silent treatment; his pupils did everything that was asked of them, but without enthusiasm or interest. [3]
- (iv) The second and more annoying phase of his student in the class was 'noise' treatment. During a lesson someone would lift the lid of a desk and then let it fall with a loud bang to disrupt his class. [3]
- (v) Braithwaite was an intelligent, sensitive man who is able to motivate his students with his encouraging words who never tolerated indiscipline. His understanding nature wins him the love of his students; even the rebel Denham undergoes a transformation due to his tactful approach. He is also an innovative teacher who encourages reward for good behavior and takes them for field trips- and allows them to choose their topics of studies. [4]

Answer 12.

To Sir, With Love is an autobiographical novel by E.R. Braithwaite set in the East End of London. The novel is based on true events concerned with Braithwaite taking up a teaching post in a school there. Mr.

Braithwaite fails to make much of an impression on his class when he first arrives. In their weekly review all that is mentioned is a new 'blackie' teacher. Mr. Braithwaite realized that his class went through phases with him. The first one being the silent treatment, where his pupils do everything that is asked of them, but without enthusiasm or interest. The second phase is the 'noisy' treatment, where lessons get interrupted and there is general unruliness. The first incident in the book, which changes the behavior and attitude of the class, is in the noisy treatment phase, he tells them his feelings about the incident, how he is "sickened by their general conduct, crude language, sluttish behavior and of their free and easy familiarity with the boys. After this Mr. Braithwaite speaks to his class the next morning. He tells them of his teaching intentions and what they can expect and also what he expects of them. He tells them of certain courtesies which he would expect. Even though Mr. Braithwaite has made the first breakthrough with his class, some of them are still unwilling to accept him. One, Denham, who is one of the leaders of the children, is always there to 'take the Mickey'. Denham wants to cause trouble and prove that Mr. Braithwaite isn't good. On one Thursday afternoon after a day when the class seems to have been distracted by something, Denham challenges Mr. Braithwaite to box him in a PT lesson. It is an engineered incident, planned by Denham. Mr. Braithwaite doesn't really fight back, thinking he can dodge the blows and then stop the fight. But it was obvious that this wouldn't happen so he hit him and Denham collapses on the floor. There is a stunned silence throughout the class. Mr. Braithwaite helps Denham to sit against the wall, but he is only winded. After this Denham's attitude changes and so do his followers', he is no longer rebellious. Denham's respect, has now made it possible for the class to interact and work even better with Mr. Braithwaite. Now he has his pupils attention, obedience and respect and the lessons are much improved. They talk about everything, the pupils open up to Mr. Braithwaite and he learns much about them- what it is like to live their lives. The class' general behavior and appearance improves, so much so that Mr. Braithwaite is able to take them on a successful school trip to the Victoria and Albert Museum. Braithwaite decides to try a new approach, and sets some ground rules. The students will be leaving school soon, and will enter an adult society, so he will treat them as adults, and allow them to decide what topics they wish to study. In return, he demands their respect as their teacher. They will call him Sir, and the boys will call the girls 'Miss'. The approach is initially rejected, but within a few weeks, the class is largely won over. He suggests out-of-school activities, including visits to museums, which the kids have never thought about before. The trip is a success and more are approved by the initially sceptical Head. The teachers and the Student Council openly discuss all matters affecting the school and what is being taught. The general feeling is that Braithwaite's approach is working,

[16]

