

# MT EDUCARE LTD.

ICSE X

SUBJECT : **ENGLISH PAPER II**

BOARD PAPER - 2016

ANSWERSHEET

## SECTION A —DRAMA

### *The Merchant of Venice : Shakespeare*

#### Answer 1

- (i) Portia and Bassanio are in a room in Portia's house in Belmont. Bassanio had selected the right casket, the lead one, and had won Portia's hand in marriage. The inscription given in the lead casket was:  
'Who chooseth me must give and hazard all he hath.' [3]
- (ii) From the lines above, it is evident that he is praising her beauty. He looks at the portrait and exclaims, "Fair Portia's counterfeit !", which means, a picture of beautiful Portia ! Using the technique to rhetorics, he wonders what artist captured her likeness so well. He wonders if her eyes are moving or if they seem to move along as his eyes move. He notices that her sweet breath forces her lips open a lovely divider of lovely lips. He then says that the painter was like a spider in creating her hair that look like a golden mesh to trap the hearts of men, like little flies in cobwebs. He furthermore wonders how could the painter keep looking at her eyes for so long while painting them. Bassaino would have expected that when the painter finished one of them, it would have enraptured him and kept him from painting the other. Then he realizes that he is giving only a faint praise to the picture, just as the picture itself, as according to him it is just an imitation of the real woman herself. [3]
- (iii) The news of his friend Antonio's failed ventures saddens Bassanio. Portia asks Bassanio haste to the rescue of Antonio after solemnizing their marriage. She asks him to pay as much gold as possible to nullify the bond and then to bring back Antonio to Belmont after everything is settled. [3]
- (iv) Balthazar is a servant in Portia's household. Portia assigns Balthazar the task of carrying a letter to her cousin, doctor Bellario, in Padua with all haste and to bring back at the earliest whatever the papers and clothes the latter gives him. Finally, he was to meet her at the common ferry that would carry her to Venice. [3]
- (v) Portia really plans to go to Venice. The similarity between Antonio and Portia is that they both love Bassanio unconditionally and can go to any extent to help him whenever he is in distress. Portia is graceful throughout the play with her poise, nobility and elegance. From this scene it reveals that Portia is a very practical and intelligent woman who is also concerned about the well-being of others. We see that she is able to take quick decisions and dares to act in a way which a normal lady would not even think about. She is not ready to sit back and see actions happen around her, rather, she becomes the centre of actions. [3]

**Answer 2**

- (i) The Prince of Morocco  
Golden casket  
He finds an empty human skull holding a scroll in which is written that those who are attracted by the glittering outside of things are always deceived. [3]
- (ii) He promises Portia that he will abide by her father's rules. If he fails to choose the casket containing her portrait, he will never reveal which casket he chose.  
He promises never to court another woman.  
He will leave Belmont immediately. [3]
- (iii) The inscription on the golden casket is, "who chooseth me shall gain what many men desire".  
The chooser of the golden casket will get Portia because many men desire her. In fact the entire world desires her. [3]
- (iv) Silver casket  
He finds the portrait of a blinking idiot - a picture of fool's head.  
Lead basket. [3]
- (v) After the departure of the prince of Arragon, the servant announces that a young venetian has arrived in order to announce the approach of his master who has sent many warm greetings and rich presents to Portia. [4]

**Answer 3.**

- (i) De Levis' room at Charles Winsor's country house.  
When De Levis accuses Dancy of stealing the money, Gen. Canynge threatens him that he will be excluded from the aristocratic society. He will lose all the membership cards of the clubs. This type of exclusion from society was referred to as the social black mail. [3]
- (ii) Dancy's superior officer.  
The scandal being referred to is De Levis accusing Dancy of stealing the money from his room. Dancy has been a Defense Officer and a gentleman and filing a case of theft against him at a respectable country house of Winsor, a gentleman will create a scandal. [3]
- (iii) The race of Jews, De Levis mentions later.  
De Levis being a Jew is attacked by one and all. Dancy, even though committing a crime, is protected by the aristocratic society just because he is a fellow Christian. [3]
- (iv) General Canynge defends Dancy.  
He finds Dancy guilty.  
Canynge puts his hand on Dancy's arm and puts his hand up to his face in surprise. The discovery proves that Dancy was out in the rain when the theft took place, contrary to his statement that he was in the hall writing letters. [3]
- (v) At this point of time, De Levis feels insulted and upset, as he is a victim of racial prejudices, being a Jew. He does not set weakened by challenges. His face is long and disturbed.  
• Later De Levis becomes a thorough gentleman as he donates the whole amount

**Answer 2.**

- (i) The speaker of the above lines is Portia, disguised as a 'doctor of law'.  
Portia appealed to the Jew for mercy in order to save the life of Anto-

nio, her husband's friend. Shylock asks why he must show mercy towards Antonio, to which Portia responds that 'the quality of mercy is not strained' but is a blessing to both; those who provide and those who receive it. She further says that mercy is an attribute of god, and humans approach the divine when they exercise it. Earlier in the play, Antonio had also begged for mercy. [3]

(ii) Just prior to the extract, the three qualities of mercy that Portia speaks of are, that the quality of mercy is not strained; that mercy drops from heaven just like the gentle rain; and that mercy is twice blessed. [3]

(iii) This line means that mercy is much more powerful than the power wielded by the swords of kings and monarchs.

Shylock remains deaf to reason and turns down Portia's plea for mercy by insisting that justice should be given to him by extracting the penalty for the forfeiture of the bond executed by him. [3]

(iv) To save Antonio, Bassanio declares that he would sacrifice all he had to the devil, even his wife.

The disguised Portia snubs Bassanio because with his declaration, he had hurt her feminine sentimentality. [3]

(v) The scene shows that Shylock has an obstinate mindset and is not ready to make any compromises when the question of taking revenge arises. He is, therefore, a vindictive person who is bound to take revenge at any cost. He is pitiless and evil in his thirst for revenge.

In this trial scene, Shylock's cruel mind finds its expression not only in demanding a pound of flesh of Antonio, but also in the way he whets his knife. [4]

### Answer 3.

(i) In response to the inspector's last question, De Levis said that he locked the door and left the key in, put back his sponge and took off his dressing-gown, placing it on the foot-rails of the bed. Finally, De Levis drew the curtains again. [3]

(ii) De Levis checked the contents of the pocket-book when his hand struck it accidentally and it felt thinner.

When he opened the pocket-book, the notes were gone and some shaving papers were kept in their place, instead.

De Levis went to Mr. Winsor upon discovery of the theft. [3]

(iii) Robert was Mr. Winsor's footman and a valet to Mr. De Levis.

Robert's room was on the ground floor, at the other end of the right wing of Meldon Court. Robert took away De Levis boots and clothes at ten o'clock. [3]

(iv) The Inspector's final theory about the theft was that the thief had walked in before the door was locked, probably during dinner and was under the bed. He might have escaped by dropping from the balcony because the creeper at the left corner had been violently wrenched.

(v) De Levis accused Captain Dancy of the theft.

De Levis said that the wrenched creeper was a blind. He argued that their balconies were only seven feet apart and if a man like Dancy could take a standing jump on a narrow bookcase four feet high, balancing properly, then he could easily cover the distance between the two balconies. Also, De Levis pointed out a bit of a broken creeper with its stalk and inner corner crushed, indicating that someone had naturally stood there while taking a jump. [4]

**Answer 4.**

- (i) At this time, Mabel and Dancy are in the latter's sitting room. Just before the conversation, Mabel was sitting alone on the sofa with a newspaper on her lap. She was holding her smelling-salts in her hand and there were other newspapers kept on the arm of the sofa. She continuously dropped one newspaper after the other and then sat staring before her, sniffing at the salts. [3]
- (ii) Mabel said so because she feared that she might be summoned to Court to record her statements once again. In this extract, the word 'spun' means 'being found out'. Dancy has been found out through the notes and so he has been spun or trapped in a web. [3]
- (iii) The notes that Dancy talks about are the hundred and fifty pound notes whose numbers had been published in the newspapers and which were a part of the money that Dancy had stolen from De Levis. After a moment of horrified stillness, Mabel buried her face in the pillow, unable to accept that Dancy had actually committed the crime. [3]
- (iv) Dancy's best friend was Major Colford. In the letter, Dancy admitted that committing suicide was the best thing he could do and trusted his pistol in the act. He also regretted the entire episode being too unfair for his wife and he hoped that Colford would take care of her after his death [3]
- (v) In the end, Dancy commits suicide by shooting himself with his pistol in his bedroom. He takes that ultimate step only to spare himself and his wife the consequences of his arrest for theft. From the play, we learn that Mabel and Dancy, though very young and married only for four months, loved each other deeply and were concerned about each other's reputation. Dancy did what he did because firstly he wanted to save his marriage and secondly he wanted to ensure that she was not humiliated further by his arrest. Mabel, on her part, regretted the fact that she had not gone away with him three months earlier and tried all she could to dissuade the Inspector from arresting her husband. [4]

**Answer 5.**

- (i) The 'I' in this poem is the narrator who is actually a poetic creation of the poet's own self. From the poem, it is evident that it is Winter. This observation is substantiated by references to the 'woods' being filled up with 'snow' in the first stanza, to the 'frozen lake' in the second stanza and the 'downy flake' in the third stanza. [3]
- (ii) The horse had made him aware of his mistake by shaking its 'harness bells'. The horse seems to say that since it is the Christmas season, it is time to be merry and not to be despondent. [3]
- (iii) The three sounds that are heard are the ringing of the 'harness bells' of the horse, the sound of the 'easy wind' and the sound of the 'downy snow-flakes'. [3]
- (iv) Earlier the poet had said that maybe he knows the owner of the woods although the latter's house is not in the village. So the owner of the woods will not be able to see him stopping in those woods. [3]
- (v) These words suggest that the 'woods' have been untouched by human

civilization and, consequently, left with their pristine glory intact. The repetition of the last two lines has multiple connotations: firstly, it might mean that rather than feeling despondent, the speaker should proceed with the things that are still left to be done; secondly, it might literally mean that he has miles to go before reaching his destination; thirdly, it might also mean that after looking at the 'woods', the poet realizes that he has not yet seen the world fully. He needs to explore all its beauties before actually taking rest. The moral tag that the poet attaches in these lines is that one should not give up and feel despondent at any cost. [4]

**Answer 6.**

- (i) The incidents described in the poem occurred in Japan. The flashes were caused by the explosion of nuclear bombs. Soon after this the roof and walls of his house collapsed and the debris was scattered all over. [3]
- (ii) The Doctor's clothes were burnt, a splinter ripped through his thigh, his right side bled and his cheek was torn. [3]
- (iii) The narrator's wife's name was Yecko-san. The house that was standing before them suddenly tilted, swayed, toppled and finally crashed. [3]
- (iv) The narrator tells us that some of the people he met on the way were mere shadows, whereas others looked like ghosts or scarecrows. Still others were walking about with arms stretched out or with either a shoulder or a hand dangling loose from their bodies. They were marching towards the hospital without any clothes on their bodies and seemed to have come out straight from a bath. [3]
- (v) People were walking with their hands away from their bodies because either they had a shoulder or a hand dangling loose. The common thing was that they all were marching towards the hospital without any clothes on. The poem conveys the message that when nations fight each other, the ultimate sufferers are common human beings. [4]

**Answer 7.**

- (i) The king changed the names of his daughters so many times because he was a methodical man and followed patterns so as to easily remember the names of his daughters. First he named them after the times of the day, then the seasons of the year, then the days of a week and lastly, the months of a year. In this way, it would be possible for both, him and his Queen, to remember the names of all their daughters. [3]
- (ii) Princess September was different from her sisters because she never had her name changed as she was the last daughter of the King and the Queen. Consequently, her temperament was also different from them because they were embittered by the frequent name changes and she was not. [3]
- (iii) The unusual birthday tradition that the King of Siam followed was to give away gifts instead of receiving them. Every year he gave away different gifts but one particular year he gave away a green parrot in a golden cage to each of his nine daughters. [3]
- (iv) Princess September put the Nightingale in the cage because she was apprehensive that he might fly away once again and never return.

- She reasoned that as her mother's cats were prowling about at night, it was safer for the Nightingale to be inside the cage than outside it. [3]
- (v) Upon being locked up in the cage, the bird stopped singing and gradually stopped eating as well. In the end, the bird was almost on the verge of death. The story conveys two messages. Firstly, it tells us that creativity is stifled in confinement and, secondly, it tells us that if we love someone or something very much, then we should let go of that person or object because they will return to us only if they belong to us. [4]

**Answer 8.**

O. Henry's 'The Last Leaf' is a beautiful expression of the themes of Friendship and Self-Sacrifice. The story explores human bonding closely and reminds us that in spite of all the evil around us, human beings are able to survive because of these emotions.

Here we come across three different individuals who are completely selfless and are bound to each other through their common love for painting. Johnsy and Sue are two young girls living in a studio apartment in Greenwich Village, New York, pursuing their dreams. Sue draws pictures for stories in magazines and Johnsy wants to paint the Bay of Naples someday. They are best friends. Behrman was an old artist who lived just below the two girls. He was always on the verge of drawing his masterpiece but for sixty years had not drawn anything substantial. He made his living by posing as a model for the girls and other young artists.

Johnsy falls ill because of pneumonia and she is convinced that she would die once the last leaf of the vine on the opposite wall to their bedroom window falls off. This conviction makes the doctor surrender and admit that the girl can only be saved if her desire to live is again rekindled in her heart. This news makes Sue cry secretly but she makes a pretension of being happy because she wants her friend to be in cheerful spirits. Any sign of depression in her own self would hasten Johnsy towards her death.

When Sue tells Behrman about Johnsy's condition, he decides that the sick girl was too young to die, and in a final effort to save her, goes out in the rain and snow to draw the last leaf on the vine so that Johnsy might see it in the morning and regain her will power and strength to live. Johnsy does survive, but in the process, Behrman contracts pneumonia and dies in hospital.

Behrman sacrificed himself for someone who was not in any way related to him. He loved the two young ladies for whom he was like a guardian angel. Sue made Johnsy realize and appreciate Behrman's masterpiece, the last leaf because it really enabled someone to live. [16]

**Answer 9.**

- (i) Snowball, Napoleon and Squealer had elaborated on Old Major's teachings. [3]
- (ii) They held their secret meetings in the barn several nights a week, when Mr. Jones was asleep. The meetings always ended with the two cart-horses, Boxer and Clover, leading others in the singing of 'Beasts of England'. [3]
- (iii) The Old Major had said that the nature of the life of animals was

miserable, laborious and short. He pointed out that animals were born, given so much food that would be sufficient to keep them alive, and those that were capable of it, were forced to work till the last atom of strength in their bodies. The instant their usefulness was over, the animals were slaughtered with hideous cruelty. The Old Major further added that no animal in England knew the meaning of happiness or leisure after it was a year old; no animal in England was free. The plain truth was that the life of an animal was one of misery and slavery.

(iv) The most faithful disciples were the two cart-horses, Boxer and Clover. Once they accepted the pigs as their teachers, the two of them absorbed everything that they were told, and passed it on to the other animals by simple arguments. They were unfailing attendants to the secret meetings and led the other animals in to singing 'Beasts of England' during the conclusion of the meetings.

(v) The day after the rebellion, the animals woke up early as usual and rushed into the pasture together. Then they climbed to the top of a knoll, a little way down and gazed around in the clear morning light. In ecstasy, the animals gamboled round and round, and leaped into the air in excitement.

[3]

[3]

[4]

#### **Answer 10.**

There is a well-known saying that goes, "Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely". This statement has been beautifully conveyed through George Orwell's 'Animal Farm'. After driving away the humans, the pigs assumed the administration of the farm and were supported by the dogs, but both of these animals did not do any actual productive work. The leadership of the animals was shared by Napoleon and Snowball. While Snowball was intent upon improving the conditions of the animals in the farm and to that end, was eager to construct a windmill. Napoleon was more intent on educating the animals. However, soon there was a struggle for power and Napoleon successfully managed to oust Snowball and grab the windmill project for himself. This led to the deterioration of conditions in the farm. The pigs, under Napoleon, reserve the best of the farm-produce for themselves and justified their actions because they were the ruling class. Thus, Napoleon actually backtracked from the original principles of equality and not only deprived the others of their fair shares, but also ally exploited them. Moreover, for everything wrong that happened at the farm, they blamed Snowball and gradually, that name became a tool for frightening other animals. So, Napoleon's diabolical side is gradually revealed in the story. As time passed, the pigs developed more and more human traits and started living in similar luxury. Their interactions with humans increase and trade relations were established. Thus, the original principles of the revolution were soon forgotten and re-written. At the same time, all those who tried to raise their voices against Napoleon, were executed on the pretext of cooperating with

Snowball. Even, Boxer, the cart-horse was taken to the knacker's because he realized that the other animals were nothing more than slaves of the pigs. As a final nail on the coffin of the revolution, the pigs began to walk erect, dressed as human beings and carry whips and

radios to communicate with each other in order to make sure that the other animals are in strict obedience. Napoleon now changes from a revolutionary leader to a dictator, hailed as a national hero, and is merely interested in business transactions and the increase of his and his comrades' wealth. In the final scene, the pigs invite humans for dinner and it is difficult for the other animals to distinguish between humans and pigs. Also, the name of Animal Farm is erased and the older name, Manor Farm is restored.

[16]

**Answer 11.**

- (i) The 'I' in the above lines is the author, Ricky Braithwaite, an engineer from British Guyana who has worked in an oil refinery in Aruba and served in the RAF during W.W.II as an air crew. He was teaching English at Greenslade School, a secondary school in London's East End. When he entered the class, Braithwaite was in a speculative mood. [3]
- (ii) The narrator Ricky Braithwaite expected that his students would interrupt his speech and not cooperate with him. So, he watched them eagerly, ready to drop the idea as fast as possible, at the slightest hint of disinterest among the students. [3]
- (iii) Soon after this, Pamela Dare rushed into the class. She rushed in somewhat breathlessly and occupied her seat without even being courteous enough to seek permission to enter the class. This angered the teacher. Braithwaite challenged her to demonstrate how to enter a class in a controlled and dignified manner. [3]
- (iv) Pamela took up the challenge and did demonstrate how to enter the class in a dignified manner. Regarding the conduct of the ladies, Braithwaite planned that they should be addressed as 'Miss' and the boys by their surnames. Also, they should conduct themselves in such a manner that their friends feel proud of them. For this, he sought the help of Mrs. Grace Dale-Evans who would discuss with the girls, in their Domestic Science class, about some finer details that needed to be attended by them. [3]
- (v) The narrator expected that the boys would be neat and clean with washed hands and faces, and polished shoes. Initially, there was some dissent among the children, especially regarding the appearance of Mr. Weston, but when the narrator declared that the children were open to criticize him for any laxity in his appearance, then the hostility seemed to be invisible and Braithwaite was sure that he had at least managed some breathing space for himself. Consequently, the day passed on pleasantly and he was able to apply himself enthusiastically in whatever subject he took up to teach. [4]

**Answer 12.**

E. R. Braithwaite's *To Sir, With Love* is an iconic novel because it provides glaring examples of racial discriminations in a society that has otherwise projected itself as civilized, progressive and burdened with the task of civilizing the rest of the world. It is an autobiographical novel about the author's personal experiences in the post-war England. Although possessing educational qualifications that are higher or - equivalent to most of the white-skinned Englishmen as well as of having served in the RAF during WWII, the narrator did experience racism in



all forms in his adopted country, after the War. Ricky Braithwaite, the narrator, was an engineer from British Guyana with experience of having worked in an oil refinery in Aruba and then as an air crew for the RAF just before the War. However, after being demobbed, he was unable to find work despite his qualifications and experience because of prevailing anti-black attitudes. This is one of the very first examples of racism that has been described and discussed in the novel. It is only after a chance meeting and discussion of his position with a stranger that Braithwaite was able to apply for the position of a teacher in a secondary school in London's East End. Although the head-master of the school was kind to the young man, it was with great difficulty that the students accepted him as their teacher because of his black skin-color. Moreover, these children hailed from the lower strata of British society and, therefore, were neither motivated to learn nor were they able to articulate themselves properly. Also, it would probably have been easier for him to hold his attention in the class if he were white and not black. But Braithwaite was a person who did not give up and soon won over most of the students with his innovative approach. This gained him the love and respect of his students. His approaches were initially opposed by other teachers and the headmaster too was skeptical about them but as soon as the field-trip to the museum proved successful, Braithwaite's colleagues realized the effectiveness of the method, and permissions for future trips were easily granted. During these trips, Gillian Blanchard, a young teacher volunteered to assist him and soon a budding relationship developed between them. In fact, the duo decided to get married. In this context, Braithwaite faced another potent example of racism when Gillian's parents expressed their disapproval to a mixed-race marriage. However, things sorted out later as her parents realized that both Braithwaite and Gillian were intelligent and could be trusted enough to make the right decision. [16]

