

ENGLISH ADVANCE / ELECTIVE HSSC-II

SECTION – A (Marks 20)

Time allowed: 25 Minutes

NOTE: Section-A is compulsory and comprises pages 1-2. All parts of this section are to be answered on the question paper itself. It should be completed in the first 25 minutes and handed over to the Centre Superintendent. Deleting/overwriting is not allowed. Do not use lead pencil.

Q. 1 Circle the correct option i.e. A / B / C / D. Each part carries one mark.

- (i) For how long did Henchard take an oath to avoid liquor?
- A. Nine years B. Twenty years
C. Eighteen years D. Twenty-one years
- (ii) Where did Henchard go after unsuccessfully searching for Susan and Elizabeth?
- A. Port Bredy B. Casterbridge
C. Weydon Priors D. Canada
- (iii) The amphitheatre of Casterbridge is usually a place where _____ meet.
- A. City councilmen B. Boys playing cricket
C. People with secrets D. Lovers
- (iv) To whom did Henchard entrust Lucetta's letters?
- A. Dr. Chalkfield B. Elizabeth-Jane
C. Joshua Jopp D. Nance Mockridge
- (v) To what Biblical figure did Henchard compare himself in his sufferings?
- A. Cain B. Jesus
C. Job D. Moses
- (vi) Who cared for Henchard in his dying days?
- A. Abel Whittle B. Dr. Chalkfield
C. Joshua Jopp D. No one cared
- (vii) Bassanio needs to borrow money from Antonio to _____
- A. Court Portia B. Pay for his daughter's wedding
C. Pay off his debts D. Set his ships out to sea
- (viii) Who says the following:
"..... all things that are,
Are with more spirit chased than enjoy'd."
- A. Salarino B. Gratiano
C. Jessica D. Shylock
- (ix) Why does the Prince of Morocco fear that Portia will dislike him?
- A. He is a braggart B. He has dark complexion
C. He recently proved a coward in battle D. His clothes are flamboyant
- (x) Where does Portia instruct her servant Balthazar to hurry?
- A. To an apothecary B. To Padua
C. To visit Dr. Bellario D. To Shylock's house
- (xi) What words does Shylock utter after accepting the court's sentence?
- A. A pox upon Venice B. These are most unlawful laws
C. Forgive my sins D. I am not well

- (xii) Which ceremony did the town people perform to shame Lucetta?
- A. A hariots parade B. Swoon Bumble
C. Skimmity Ride D. Smutting
- (xiii) How does Shylock react to losing Launcelot as a servant?
- A. He weeps in private
B. He tells Launcelot that Bassanio will be a hard master
C. He beats Launcelot with a stick
D. He refuses to pay Launcelot the wages he owes him
- (xiv) In 'The Merchant of Venice', how many women appear in masculine disguise?
- A. One B. Two
C. All D. None of these
- (xv) Choose the **CORRECT** spelling:
- A. Strategems B. Strategams
C. Stratagems D. Stretegeems
- (xvi) "A bystander informed Elizabeth, with some surprise at her ignorance, that it was a meeting of the commissioners under Mr. Henchard's bankruptcy". What does the underlined word mean?
- A. Ruin B. Richness
C. Unemployment D. None of these
- (xvii) "He is a good student and understands hidden meaning".
Replace the underlined part of the above sentence with a suitable idiom.
- A. Pocket an insult B. Burn the candle at both ends
C. Read between the lines D. Burn the mid-night oil
- (xviii) "The new S.H.O made everyone act according to the rules".
Replace the underlined part of the above sentence with a suitable idiom.
- A. Rough and ready B. Do away with
C. Walk away with D. Toe the line
- (xix) Join the sentences by using a Participle. "He was tired of play. He sat down to rest".
- A. Being tired of play, he sat down to rest.
B. As he was tired of play, so he was sitting down to rest.
C. He was tired of play so he sat down to rest.
D. He was tired of play and sat down to rest.
- (xx) "He is the boy _____ broke the window". Choose the correct Relative Pronoun.
- A. Which B. That
C. Who D. Whom

For Examiner's use only:

Total Marks:

20

Marks Obtained:

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ENGLISH ADVANCE / ELECTIVE HSSC-II

6

Time allowed: 2:35 Hours

Total Marks Sections B and C: 80

NOTE: Sections B and C comprise pages 1-2. Answer all the questions from Section 'B' and Section 'C' on the separately provided answer book. Use supplementary answer sheet i.e. Sheet-B if required. Write your answers neatly and legibly.

SECTION – B (Marks 45)

Note: Attempt ALL the questions.

Q. 2 Explain with reference to the context any TWO of the following extracts from the play, 'The Merchant of Venice':

(2 x 5 = 10)

(i) Why should a man whose blood is warm within,
Sit like his grandsire, cut in alabaster?
Sleep when he wakes? and creep into the jaundice
By being peevish? I tell thee what Antonio,
(I love thee, and 'tis my love that speaks):

(ii) I will not choose what many men desire,
Because I will not jump with common spirits.
And rank me with the barbarous multitudes.

(iii) ----- take thou thy pound of flesh,
But in the cutting it, if thou dost shed
One drop of Christian blood, thy lands and goods
Are (by the law of Venice) confiscate
Unto the state of Venice.

Q. 3 a. Answer any TWO of the following parts from the play, 'The Merchant of Venice' in about 65 – 75 words each:

(2 x 7 = 14)

- 'The Merchant of Venice' is a tragic-comedy by William Shakespeare believed to have been written between 1596 and 1598. Discuss.
- Write down the character sketch of Shylock.
- Themes and symbols are fundamental and often universal ideas explored in a literary work. Explain and describe the themes and symbols used by Shakespeare in 'The Merchant of Venice'.

b. Answer any THREE of the following parts from the novel, 'The Mayor of Casterbridge' in about 65 – 75 words each:

(3 x 7 = 21)

- Do words like Pessimism, Fatalism, Determinism freely used by critics, describe Hardy's philosophy of life? Elaborate with reference to 'The Mayor of Casterbridge'
- Shed light on the plot structure of the novel 'The Mayor of Casterbridge'.
- Is Donald Farfrae an opposite of Michael Henchard in nearly every way? Explain.
- Write a note on the role of Joshua Jopp in the plot of 'The Mayor of Casterbridge'.

SECTION – C (Marks 35)

Note: Attempt ALL the questions.

Q. 4 Write an essay of about 300 – 350 words on any ONE of the following topics: (15)

- (i) Moral Courage
- (ii) Patriotism

Q. 5 Use each of the following idioms to make sentences of your own: (05)

- (i) To play truant (ii) Yeoman's service (iii) To flog a dead horse
- (iv) To carry weight (v) By hook or by crook

Q. 6 Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions appended at the end:

Hilary Mantel is the first British author to have won the Booker Prize twice in a row; her first one came in 2011 for 'Wolf Hall' and she won in 2012 award for 'Bring up the Bodies'.

The chair for the Booker Prize Peter Stothard called, "the pure power of prose" and "vividly defined values" as the deciding factor in short listing the finalists.

The fact that Hilary Mantel's work eventually won the Booker Prize not once but twice establishes her as a novelist; it also points to her massively creative use of language and imagination in coming up with a work that is historical in nature but totally her own in its execution.

Henry James wrote in 'The Art of Novel' that for a novel to be a good organism, it also had to be a page-turner of sorts. What he had meant was that the reader must be curious enough to find out what happens in the end. Going by this definition of the novel, it will not be possible to explain the phenomenon called the historical novel because the historical turn of events is not going to hold any surprise. History has already happened; so maintaining gripping suspense in a historical novel would be a tall order for a writer. They do manage it and especially so in 'Bring up the Bodies' which holds you hostage till the very end.

In the absence of a surprising plot twist that a writer springs on the reader, what else is there that keeps the reader hooked till the very last page. Mantel's answer: a fascinating study in human character and an alternate history of events where a different phenomenon is explained for the same plot twist. In other words, a new cause for the old historical effect.

On a more serious note, Mantel gives a brilliant psychological study of her characters in a writing style that is fluid and contemporary.

Finding the right voice for a historical novel has to be a real challenge. If it follows the historical period too strictly, it becomes an obstacle for the contemporary reader, because the prose sounds supernatural and dinosaurian.

Questions:

- (i) What characteristic of art establishes Mantel as a novelist? (02)
- (ii) How can a novelist make a historical novel a page-turner? (02)
- (iii) Why is it a tall order for a novelist to write a historical novel? (02)
- (iv) Make a précis (or summary of the passage in about 1/3 of its length) and give a suitable title. (09)

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