

Board
Class IX English Literature
Sample Paper 1 Solution

SECTION A - DRAMA

The Merchant of Venice: Shakespeare

Question 1.

- (i) Shylock was a Jewish money lender living among a majority of Christians. As a money lender, he showed negative characteristics such as greed, jealousy and revenge. He was infamous for charging high interest rates on loans that he used to give people.
- (ii) The bond between Shylock and Antonio stated that if the latter failed to pay off Shylock's loan, Shylock had the right to cut off a pound of flesh from Antonio's body as compensation.
- (iii) Shylock was a Jewish money lender while both Antonio and Bassanio were Christians. Shylock was not very fond of Antonio and treated him as a rival.
- (iv) Shylock despised Antonio as he was a business rival and a Christian. While Shylock used to charge interest on loans, Antonio would give interest-free loans to people, harming Shylock's business.
- (v) Portia is instrumental in saving Antonio when the men have failed financially and legally in front of Shylock's cunningness. She demonstrates spectacular intellect and brilliance while unwitting Shylock when he is about to cut a pound of Antonio's flesh according to the bond signed between the two men.

Question 2.

- (i) Antonio is talking to his friends Salarino and Solanio.
- (ii) According to Salarino, Antonio is worried because his ships are at sea and he is worried that they might sink due to bad weather.
- (iii) According to Solanio, Antonio looks troubled because he is in love.
- (iv) Gartiano thinks that Antonio lives life too seriously, perhaps because he is a businessman who had investments in the market.

- (v) Salarino's ships were carrying spices and silk.

Loyalties: John Galsworthy

Question 3.

- (i) The speakers are Winsor and Lady Adela. They are in the dressing-room of their Meldon Court discussing about the luck of De Levis and how and why he is disliked by other people.
- (ii) Ronny Dancy is a retired military officer. He managed to win ten pounds from De Levis by making a standing jump on to a four feet bookcase.
- (iii) Lady Adela accuses Winsor of being prejudiced against De Levis when he says that the young Jew is disliked by others. This is because of his habit of sneering at others.
- (iv) Winsor tells Lady Adela that he likes Jews. However, De Levis is very aggressive and wants a membership of the Jockey Club.
- (v) Ms. Winsor and Adela discuss about De Levis, a young lucky Jew. They also mention about Ronny Dancy, the retired army officer. Finally, they also talk about General Canynge and St Erth.

Question 4.

- (i) In his statement, Graviter refers to Mabel, the wife of Dancy.
- (ii) Twisden replies that Mabel does not know about the theft. She believes only her husband, Dancy because she loves him so much.
- (iii) Both Twisden and Craviter feel sorry for Mabel as they think she is very innocent and trustworthy. She has a lot of faith in her husband but is ignorant of what her husband has done. Although they both sympathise with her, they cannot do anything to help her because all evidences show that her husband is the culprit.
- (iv) Arguing for Dancy will make Twisden disloyal to his profession. He decides to leave the case as it would break his faith in his profession. It also suggests that the case will break Mabel's faith in her husband, as she blindly trusts her husband.
- (v) Sir Frederic is the counsel defending Dancy in the court. Twisden is going to meet him and present the facts and figures before him. As a lawyer of Dancy, he himself decides to leave the case as it is against his professional ethics.

SECTION B – POETRY***A Collection of Poems*****Question 5.**

- (i) The beating hearts have been compared with muffled drums in the stanza. The word muffled has been used to emphasise that with each passing day, man unknowingly walks towards the twilight of his life.
- (ii) The poet asks us to act wisely with each passing day. He says that there is no point in being only happy or sad, for that is not our destiny. Our destiny is in living a life as each day passes.
- (iii) The rhyme scheme of the stanza is 'abab'.
- (iv) The word 'muffled' means 'muted'.
- (v) According to the poet, with each passing day, we march to our grave. The poet here is trying to explain that as each day passes, we get closer to death.

Question 6.

- (i) The poet has used Repetition predominantly in the last two lines for the purpose of emphasis. It seems as if he intends to remind himself of his responsibilities.
- (ii) The horse seems to be a little worried for his master as he has stopped by in the lonely woods on an evening which is perhaps the darkest one of the year. The horse gives his harness bells a shake to ask the poet if everything is fine.
- (iii) The 'promises' made by the poet are those made to his wife and children, who must be waiting eagerly for him to come home after the day's hard work.
- (iv) I think the snowy, frozen woods have enchanted the poet to such an extent that he seems to have fallen in love with the serenity of their solitude. The atmosphere in the woods comes across as a striking contrast to the poet's village, which is full of hustle-bustle. The poet probably finds peace and solace in the woods.
- (v) Yes, I had once gone to a trip to Leh and Ladakh and I visited the Pangong Tso Lake. The magnificence of the water body left me gaping at how stunningly beautiful nature can be. At that moment, I remembered how congested is the place where I live; a city full of crowded junctions and quarreling people. I really wished I could stay near the lake forever and live a life of solitude and peace.

SECTION C – PROSE
Collection of Short Stories**Question 7.**

- (i) One of the narrator's neighbours owed Rahaman money but denied giving it to him. The two men had an argument and in the heat of the moment Rahaman stabbed the neighbour with a knife, for which, he was put in jail.
- (ii) The narrator was not able to recognize Rahaman because he did not have his customary sack with him. He didn't have long hair or the hefty look.
- (iii) When Rahaman was being escorted by the police, Mini asked her dear Kabuliwala if he was going to his in-laws' house. Rahaman, who had been hurling abuses until he saw Mini immediately changed his expression and told her that he was indeed going to his in-laws.
- (iv) The Kabuliwala had a little daughter like Mini back in Afghanistan. He was sad to be away from her. He carried with him the impression of her tiny hand on a small piece of paper. Talking with Mini somehow kept his huge, lonely heart fed with love and happiness.
- (v) When the Kabuliwala saw Mini in the bridal attire, it dawned upon him that his daughter too must have grown up and would soon get married. He was not sure what must have happened to his daughter in the last eight years while he was away from her.

Question 8.

Baldeo's life as a watchman was ordinary and dull. His family lived in a tribal village on the outskirts of the forest their small rice fields did not provide them with more than a bare living, which is why Baldeo had to get the job of a khalasi at the small wayside signal stop. He was responsible for signaling whether the tunnel was clear of obstruction. His hand-worked signal stood before the entrance. It was his duty at night to see that the lamp was burning, and that the overland mail passed through safely.

On such a mundane night when Baldeo was waiting for the mail train, he heard a frightened cry of a barking deer followed by a crashing sound in the undergrowth. Baldeo had realised that it was the tiger. He stood motionless with his back to the signal post, staring at the great brute rapidly moving towards him. He knew that the beast had been preying on humans for years. As the tiger came on fearlessly and struck out with its right paw, Baldeo brought his axe down on the beast's shoulder. The tiger roared and came down again on Baldeo for the second time. This time when Baldeo tried to strike his axe, it remained stuck in the bone, leaving him without a weapon. The tiger, now mad with pain, sprang on Baldeo bringing him down and then tearing at his broken body. The tiger, licking his wounded leg, was trapped when the train entered the cutting. The beast entered the tunnel running as fast as he could with his wounded leg. However, he was ultimately killed as the train run over him in the darkness of the tunnel.

Although Baldeo dies while fighting the beast, he tried his best to overpower the animal and protect his little boy. Thus, an ordinary watchman made an extraordinary attempt to kill the tiger in the tunnel.

Animal Farm: George Orwell**Question 9.**

- (i) On looking out of her window, Mrs Jones saw that her husband and the other men of the farm were being kicked by the animals. The animals had broken into the store shed and had started eating from the bins. When they saw Mr Jones and the other four men lashing out in all directions with whips in their hands, they grew more rebellious and charged at their 'masters'.
- (ii) The Rebellion was planned as such. However, the animals were hungry since the last evening and Mr Jones' men didn't bother to feed them in his absence. The immediate cause of the rebellion was perhaps the fact that the animals were unfed and to add to it Mr Jones and his men started whipping the animals.
- (iii) The first act after the animals drove the humans out of the farm was to gallop in a body right round the boundaries of the farm, as though to make quite sure that no

human being was hiding anywhere upon it; then they raced back to the farm buildings to wipe out the last traces of Jones's hated reign.

(iv) When the animals entered the farmhouse, they tiptoed from room to room, afraid to speak above a whisper. They were gazing with a kind of awe at the unbelievable luxury at the beds with their feather mattresses, the looking-glasses, the horsehair sofa, the Brussels carpet, the lithograph of Queen Victoria over the drawing-room mantelpiece. They found Mollie admiring herself in the glass in a very foolish manner and reproached her sharply before going outside. A unanimous resolution was passed that the farmhouse should be preserved as a museum.

(v) The animals were in charge of the farm soon after the human 'masters' were driven out. They changed the farm's name from Manor Farm to Animal farm. Squealer, with the help of Snowball, wrote the Seven Commandments on the tarred wall in great white letters that could be read thirty yards away. These Seven Commandments would now be inscribed on the wall; they would form an unalterable law by which all the animals on Animal Farm must live for ever after. The first commandment read: Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy. This was symbolic of the fact that the animals hated human beings and would never allow a human to come to the farm or tame them.

Question 10.

Napoleon was engaged in complicated negotiations with Frederick and Pilkington through the agency of Whymper. Of the two, Frederick was the more anxious to get hold of the pile of unsold timber, but he would not offer a reasonable price. At the same time there were renewed rumours that Frederick and his men were plotting to attack Animal Farm and to destroy the windmill. The animals distrusted both Frederick and Pilkington, but greatly preferred Pilkington to Frederick.

However, the deal was struck with Fredrick. The timber was carted away at high speed. Napoleon had demanded payment in real five-pound notes, which were to be handed over before the timber was removed. Three days later, it was discovered that the banknotes were forgeries. The very next morning, Fredrick and fifteen of his men, came through the five-barred gate.

They opened fire as soon as they got within fifty yards. The animals could not face the terrible explosions and the stinging pellets, and in spite of the efforts of Napoleon and Boxer to rally them, they were soon driven back. A number of them were already wounded. They took refuge in the farm buildings and peeped cautiously out from chinks and knot-holes. The whole of the big pasture, including the windmill, was in the hands of the enemy. The men brought down the windmill in a moment with a blast. This made the animals rise in unison against the men. The fear and despair they had felt a moment earlier

was drowned in their rage against this vile, contemptible act. A mighty cry for vengeance went up, and without waiting for further orders they charged forth in a body and made straight for the enemy. Frederick shouted to his men to get out while the going was good, and the next moment the cowardly enemy was running for dear life. The animals chased them right down to the bottom of the field, and got in some last kicks at them as they forced their way through the thorn hedge.

The animals were congratulated by Napoleon on their conduct. The animals slain in the battle were given a solemn funeral. Boxer and Clover pulled the wagon which served as a hearse, and Napoleon himself walked at the head of the procession. Two whole days were given over to celebrations. There were songs, speeches, and more firing of the gun, and a special gift of an apple was bestowed on every animal, with two ounces of corn for each bird and three biscuits for each dog. It was announced that the battle would be called the Battle of the Windmill, and that Napoleon had created a new decoration, the Order of the Green Banner, which he had conferred upon himself. In the general rejoicings the unfortunate affair of the banknotes was forgotten.

To Sir, With Love: E.R. Braithwaite

Question 11.

- (i) The receptionist was very polite to Braithwaite initially. As he approached her desk she smiled pleasantly at him. However, after she learnt that he was here for an interview all her politeness suddenly wavered and disappeared.
- (ii) Braithwaite visited the Appointments Office after his two-week holiday. Two courteous men interviewed him, questioning him closely on his academic background, service career, and experience in industry. He applied for a job in the field of engineering.
- (iii) Mr Symonds was informed by the receptionist that the person they were going to interview was black. After an elaborate interview session, Mr Symonds told Braithwaite that they were happy with his performance and that he was abundantly suited for the specific position they had called him for. However, he said that employing him (a Black person) would mean placing him in a position of authority over a number of his 'English' employees. He was actually disguising his dislike for coloured people and this is what drained Braithwaite of his strength and thought.
- (iv) Immediately after his first interview, Braithwaite understood that he being Black was something that he hadn't accounted for while searching for a job. He called up the remaining two firms and told that he was a Negro and asked them it would be a problem to hire him.

- (v) Once, Braithwaite was sitting idly beside the lake in St James Park. Near him was seated a thin, bespectacled old man who was randomly commenting on whatever he saw. He happened to notice Braithwaite and started talking to him casually. Braithwaite was not interested in talking to him but gradually they both started talking. The old man suggested that Braithwaite should consider teaching as a profession as there was a dire need for teachers. It was such a rewarding discussion that Braithwaite was actually invited to the Ministry of Education for an interview and later he received a letter confirming his appointment as a teacher to Greenslade School in east London.

Question 12.

Braithwaite wanted to take his class to the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. The Headmaster, Mr Florian, advised against it as he thought one teacher wouldn't be able to supervise forty-six children alone. Eventually, the Headmaster agreed on a condition that Braithwaite would be accompanied by another teacher, as per the rules of the Council.

Miss Blanchard had agreed to accompany him to the museum. The children had been told about the museum in a class one day when they were studying Geography. Braithwaite informed the students that they could go to an exhibition illustrating the changes in clothing over the ages at the Victoria and Albert Museum. The children had asked him if he could take them, and so Braithwaite had taken the Headmaster's permission for the trip on the other side of London.

Before the children underwent a transition under Braithwaite, they were ill-mannered and stubborn. Most of them despised him, a 'black' man, and were too spoilt to be taught manners and etiquettes. Each of the students seemed to have problems accepting their new teacher, and in their tender age, it was inappropriate to force them to obey or follow rules. However, Braithwaite worked hard at winning the hearts of the students and began by teaching them basic etiquettes. He explained them how important it was for the boys and the girls to address each other with respect, and how important it was to command respect than demand it by bullying. He was open to all questions they asked, and was prepared to tackle all the comments that they passed.

The change in the behaviour was shown by the children during their trip to the museum. All the students were neatly dressed and looked their best. When they were travelling, two women happened to sneer at the girls and a black man accompanying them. To Braithwaite's surprise, one of the girls, snapped back at the woman telling her that he was their teacher and asked them if they had a problem with that. At the museum, the children exhibited polished mannerisms, taking notes and drawing sketches to make the trip more meaningful. After the trip was over, Denham and Potter had volunteered to lead all class to the subway on their way back to school.

The following morning, Braithwaite was late for school. However, much to his surprise, the whole class unanimously greeted him 'good morning' before he could and when he walked

towards to his table, he saw a flower vase in the centre of his table full of flowers which the children had brought from their homes. It was indeed a moment of triumph for him, as he had succeeded in transforming the ill-mannered children into civilised citizens of tomorrow.
