

West Bengal State University
B.A./B.Sc./B.Com. (Honours, Major, General) Examinations, 2012
PART-II

ENGLISH — General

Paper-III

Duration : 3 Hours

Full Marks : 100

Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

GROUP - A

1. Answer any six of the following questions : 6 × 2 = 12
- a) 'I have never heard a passion so confused,
So strange, outrageous, and so variable.'
Who is the speaker ? Who is he referring to ?
 - b) Who was Daniel ? Who is compared to Daniel in 'The Merchant of Venice' and why ?
 - c) 'Notwithstanding, use your pleasure; if your love do not persuade you to come, let not my letter.' Whose letter is referred to here ? What news does the letter contain ?
 - d) What does Portia compare mercy to ? Why does she call mercy 'twice blest' ?
 - e) Mention some of the supernatural things seen on the night before the murder of Caesar.
 - f) 'Et tu, Brute ! Then fall, Caesar !' What is the meaning of 'Et tu' ? Why does the speaker say so ?
 - g) Why do the citizens of Rome observe a holiday in the opening scene of *Julius Caesar* ?

- 12
- h) 'Here wast thou bayed, brave hart.' Who is the speaker ? Explain the significance of the expression.
- i) Who is Don Quixote ? Why does Bluntschli compare Sergius to Don Quixote ?
- j) 'You have the soul of a servant.' Who says this and of whom ? What is your impression of the speaker ?
- k) What did Raina do with the portrait of Sergius ?
- l) 'It was the cradle and grave of my military reputation.'
- Who says this ? What is the meaning of this statement ?

GROUP - B

2. Answer the following questions : 2 × 16 = 32

- a) i) Give an estimate of the character of Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*. Do you think that his punishment is justified ? Give reasons for your answer.

OR

- ii) Comment on the theme of love as portrayed by Shakespeare in *The Merchant of Venice*.

OR

- iii) Comment on the role played by the Roman mob in *Julius Caesar*.

OR

- iv) Attempt a character sketch of Mark Antony and with close reference to the text compare Brutus and Mark Antony as orators.

- b) i) 'Bluntschli is the figure through whom Shaw expresses his ideas of war and love.' Discuss.

OR

- ii) Write a note on Shaw's wit and humour illustrating your answer from *Arms and the Man*.

3. Explain with reference to the context any *two* of the following : 2 × 8 = 16
- a) Your wife would give you little thanks for that
If she were by, to hear you make the offer.
 - b) The man that hath no music in himself,
nor is not moved with concord of sweet sounds,
Is fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoils.
 - c) Caesar's spirit, ranging for revenge,
With Ate by his side come hot from hell,
Shall in these confines with a monarch's voice
Cry havoc ! and let slip the dogs of war ...
 - d) 'These growing features pluck'd from Caesar's wing,
Will make him fly an ordinary pitch.
 - e) I have gone through the war like a Knight in a tournament with his lady looking
down at him.
 - f) I can't help it. When you strike that noble attitude and speak in that thrilling
voice, I admire you; but I find it impossible to believe a single word you say.

GROUP - C

4. Write an essay on any *one* of the following topics : 1 × 20 = 20
- a) Science and religion.
 - b) The position of women in India today.
 - c) Indian cinema and its social responsibility.
 - d) Reading literature.
5. Write notes on any *five* of the following : 5 × 4 = 20
- a) Epic
 - b) Tragedy
 - c) Soliloquy
 - d) Imagery
 - e) Lyric
 - f) Comedy
 - g) Symbol
 - h) Dramatic monologue.
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