

English 2 (Literature in English) [Official]

CISCE

Academic Year: 2023-2024

English Medium)

Date & Time: 23rd February 2024, 11:00am

Duration: 2h

Marks: 80

1. Answers to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.
2. You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes. This time is to be spent reading the question paper.
3. The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.
4. The paper has four Sections.
5. Section A is compulsory - All questions in Section A must be answered.
6. You must attempt one question from each of the sections B, C and D and one other question from any section of your choice.
7. The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [].

SECTION-A (Attempt all questions from this Section.)

Question 1. Choose the correct answers to the questions from the given options. (Do not copy the questions, write the correct answers only).

1.1. Where does Portia say that she and Narissa will stay until their husbands return?

1. In Venice
2. At Balmont
3. At Padua
4. In a Monastery

Solution

In a Monastery

1.2. What aspect of Shylock's nature is revealed in his words, "To bait fish withal; if it will feed nothing else, it will feed any revenge"?

1. Pride
2. Envy
3. Vengefulness
4. Greed

Solution

Vengefulness

1.3. Gratiano explains, "We are the Jasons, we have won the fleeee." In this context the word 'fleeee' refers to _____.

1. Portia and Narissa
2. Wool of the golden ram
3. A warm woollen blanket
4. Bassanio and Gratiano

Solution

Gratiano explains, "We are the Jasons, we have won the fleeee." In this context the word 'fleeee' refers to Portia and Narissa.

1.4. "The quality of mercy is not stained." Who says this to whom?

1. Duke to Shylock
2. Gratiano to Shylock
3. Portia to Shylock
4. Bassanio to Shylock

Solution

Portia to Shylock

1.5. What does Portia ask of Antonio as a remembrance before she leaves the courtroom?

1. his ring
2. the knife

3. the scroll
4. his gloves

Solution

His gloves

1.6. When Lorenzo says, 'Fair ladies, you drop manna in the way/of starved people.' he means that Portia and Nerissa have _____.

1. prepared a banquet for their husbands.
2. brought good news for Lorenzo and Antonis.
3. brought divine food from the monastery.
4. returned the rings to Bassanio and Grantiano.

Solution

When Lorenzo says, 'Fair ladies, you drop manna in the way/of starved people.' he means that Portia and Nerissa have brought good news for Lorenzo and Antonis.

1.7. Which of the following statements is NOT true of Maggie?

1. She was sent to the penthouse.
2. She was bedridden.
3. She had an injured spine.
4. She had suffered a fall.

Solution

She was sent to the penthouse.

1.8. The short story 'The Little Match Girl' can be called a fairy tale because _____.

1. it is set in fairy land.
2. it has elements of magic and fantasy.
3. the little girl meets her fairy godmother.
4. the little girl marries a prince.

Solution

The short story 'The Little Match Girl' can be called a fairy tale because it has elements of magic and fantasy.

1.9. Why did the Gujar women strike the big brass gurrans with stick?

to produce a musical effect.

to quieten the buffaloes.

to see which ones were empty.

to frighten the crocodiles.

Solution

to frighten the crocodiles.

1.10. Choose the option that lists the sequence of events in the correct order.

When the rain stopped, they rushed outdoors, forgetting all about Margot in their eagerness to experience the warmth of the sun.

The children carried the pleading and protesting Margot to the closet and locked her in. It was then that they realised with shame that Margot was still locked in the closet; they had deprived her of what she longed for the most-the sun.

All too soon, the brief summer ended, and the children hurried indoors to escape the heavy rains.

1. 4, 3, 2, 1
2. 3, 1, 2, 4
3. 1, 3, 4, 2
4. 2, 1, 4, 3

Solution

2, 1, 4, 3

Explanation:

1. The children carried the pleading and protesting Margot to the closet and locked her in.
2. When the rain stopped, they rushed outdoors, forgetting all about Margot in their eagerness to experience the warmth of the sun.

3. All too soon, the brief summer ended, and the children hurried indoors to escape the heavy rains.
4. It was then that they realised with shame that Margot was still locked in the closet; they had deprived her of what she longed for the most-the sun.

1.11. In my Greatest Olympic Prize, 'Der Fehrer' refers to _____.

1. **Hitler**
2. A Negro
3. Nazi youth
4. A sophomore

Solution

In my Greatest Olympic Prize, 'Der Fehrer' refers to Hitler.

1.12. Which of the following lines contains the same literary device as the one in 'I wandered lonely as a cloud,' from wordsworth's poem, 'Daffodils'?

1. 'And miles to go before I sleep/And miles to go before I sleep'
2. **'Fresh as a rose in June'**
3. 'Thus Nature spoke-The work was done'
4. 'You're one month on in the middle of May'

Solution

'Fresh as a rose in June'

1.13. Which of the following statements is used by Angelou to describe the caged bird?

1. **He opens his throat to sing**
2. He dares to claim the sky
3. He leaps on the back of the wind
4. He thinks of another breeze

Solution

He opens his throat to sing

1.14. When did the angel appear to Abou Ben Adhem?

1. On a moonless night

2. Three nights in a row
3. **Two nights in succession**
4. Twice the same night

Solution

Two nights in succession

1.15. Select the option that shows the correct relationship between statements (1) and (2) from Borrowing's poem, 'The Patriot'.

Statement (1): The old walls rocked with the crowd and cries.

Statement (2): There's nobody on the house-tops now.

1. (1) means the same as (2).
2. **(1) is a contrast of (2).**
3. (1) is true and (2) is false.
4. (1) is false and (2) is true.

Solution

(1) is a contrast of (2).

1.16. 'The eight other athletes stopped in their tracks' means that they _____.

1. stood poised to run
2. turned slowly around
3. slowed down gradually
4. **halted quite suddenly**

Solution

'The eight other athletes stopped in their tracks' means that they halted quite suddenly.

SECTION-B (Attempt one or more questions from this Section.) : DRAMA - (The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare)

Question 2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Portia: Away then! I am lock'd in one of them:
If you do love me, you will find me out.

Nerissa and the rest, stand all aloof.
Let music sound while he doth make his choice;
Then, if he lose, he makes a swan-like end,
Fading in music:

- i. Where does the scene take place?
What does Portia mean when she says, If you do love me, you will find me out? [3]
- ii. What TWO words would you use to describe Portia's feelings at this point? Give a reason for your answer. [3]
- iii. Explain Portia's reference to 'swan-like end'. [3]
- iv. Later in the scene, Portia gives Bassanio gift.
What does she give him? What does this gift symbolise? [3]
- v. What is the theme of the song sung in the background when Bassanio makes his choice?
How is the theme reflected in the choice he makes?
What does Bassanio find in the casket that he chooses? [4]

Solution

- i. The scene takes place in Belmont, at Portia's house, specifically in the room where the caskets are kept.
Portia means that if Bassanio truly loves her, he will successfully choose the correct casket containing her portrait, thus "finding her out." This implies that true love will guide him to see beyond the superficial and make the right choice, leading to their union.
- ii. **Anxious:** Portia expresses a sense of suspense and nervousness as she awaits the outcome of Bassanio's choice. Her future and romantic fate are contingent on his decision, highlighting her vulnerability and anxiety during this crucial moment.
Hopeful: Despite her anxiety, Portia is hopeful that Bassanio will choose correctly. Her instructions for music to play and her comments about finding her out if he loves her suggest that she believes in the possibility of a favorable outcome, reflecting her hope and desire for a union with Bassanio.

- iii. Portia's reference to a "swan-like end" in this scene from "The Merchant of Venice" employs a poetic metaphor that alludes to an ancient belief about swans. In this context, Portia employs the metaphor to explain how, should Bassanio choose the incorrect casket and therefore miss the chance to wed her, his failure will be like the last moments of a swan: dignified, graceful, and distinguished by beauty (here symbolised by the fading music). It implies that Bassanio's choice should be moral even in defeat and accompanied by a lyrical form of grief, so reflecting the contradictory moment of a swan's dying song. This picture accentuates Bassanio's choice's dramatic and emotional weight, therefore stressing its relevance not only to their possible marriage but also to the thematic resonance of real love and last sacrifice.
- iv. Later in the scene, after Bassanio successfully chooses the correct casket and thereby wins Portia's hand in marriage, Portia gives him a ring as a gift. This ring is not merely a token of love but also carries significant symbolic weight.

Symbolism of the ring:

- **Commitment and Trust:** The ring symbolizes Portia's commitment and trust in Bassanio. By giving him the ring, she is entrusting him with her love and her future, essentially binding her life to his.
 - **Test of Fidelity:** Portia makes it clear that the ring should never leave Bassanio's finger, warning him that if he were to lose or give it away, it would signify the end of their love. This condition places the ring as a test of Bassanio's fidelity and constancy.
This gesture of giving the ring thus deepens the emotional stakes of their relationship and establishes a recurring motif in the play about the importance of trust and fidelity in marriage.
- v. The theme of the song that plays as Bassanio makes his choice centers on the distinction between outward appearances and inner truth. The song lyrics caution against being deceived by the external allure of things, which can be misleading, and emphasize that true value often resides within what might seem less appealing outwardly. This message aligns with the broader themes of "The Merchant of Venice" concerning the nature of true worth and the dangers of superficiality.

The theme of the song is directly reflected in Bassanio's decision to choose the lead casket. Despite its unattractive and modest appearance compared to the gold and silver caskets, Bassanio chooses it, demonstrating his understanding that true worth is hidden beneath the surface. This choice reflects the song's message that the most valuable treasures are often concealed behind a plain exterior, a lesson about the deeper essence of true value.

In the lead casket, Bassanio finds Portia's portrait and a scroll. The scroll contains a poem celebrating his correct choice and elaborating on the theme of inner value over outward appearance. The portrait symbolizes his success in winning Portia's hand, confirming that his choice, guided by love and a deeper understanding of true worth, was the right one.

Question 3. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Bassanio:

And, I beseech you,
Wrest once the law to your authority.
To do a great right, do a little wrong,
and curb this cruel devil of his will.

Portia:

It must not be. There is no power in Venice
Can alter a decree established:
"I will be recorded for a precedent,

- i. Who is on trial?
Why is this person on trial? [3]
- ii. Explain in your own words Bassanio's request to portia in the given extract.
What reason does he give for his request? [3]
- iii. How does Portia respond to Bassanio's request? What TWO reasons does she give for her response? [3]
- iv. Who does Bassanio refer to as 'this cruel devil'? What is this person's response to Portia's words in the given extract? [3]

- v. How is the 'cruel devil' punished at the end of the trial?
How fair, in your opinion, is this punishment? Justify your response. [4]

Solution

- i. The person on trial in this extract from William Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice" is Antonio.
Antonio is on trial because he failed to repay a loan he had secured from Shylock, a Jewish moneylender. In their agreement, Shylock stipulated a harsh penalty in case of default: Antonio would have to give Shylock a pound of his own flesh. Because Antonio was unable to fulfill the terms of the bond, due to his ships, believed to be lost at sea, not returning with goods and profits, Shylock demands that the terms of the bond be enforced, leading to this trial to determine whether Shylock is legally entitled to claim his gruesome repayment.
- ii. In the extract from "The Merchant of Venice," Bassanio is appealing to Portia, who is disguised as a lawyer, to bend the law slightly in order to achieve a greater moral good. His plea, "To do a great right, do a little wrong," suggests that he is asking Portia to slightly overstep the strict boundaries of the law to prevent a grave injustice, which in this context is allowing Shylock to take a pound of Antonio's flesh as per their bond.

Reason for Bassanio's request: Bassanio's reason for this request is his desperate desire to save his friend Antonio from a lethal penalty. He argues that the law, while technically on Shylock's side, morally supports Antonio. Thus, he believes that committing a small legal wrong (altering the enforcement of the law) would serve a greater justice by saving Antonio's life and curbing Shylock's malicious intent, whom he refers to as "this cruel devil of his will." This reflects the tension in the play between rigid adherence to the law and the need for compassionate justice.

- iii. In the given extract from "The Merchant of Venice," Portia responds to Bassanio's plea by firmly stating that it is not possible to alter the law to fit their needs. Her response is clear and unequivocal: the law cannot be twisted or bent, even for a seemingly good cause.

Two reasons Portia gives for her response:

- a. **Legal Integrity:** Portia asserts that there is no power in Venice that can change a decree once it has been established. This emphasizes the importance of the rule of law and the integrity of the legal system, which must remain consistent and unaltered to maintain its authority and fairness.
- b. **Precedent:** Portia mentions that any deviation from the law would be recorded as a precedent. This highlights her concern about the long-term consequences of bending the law. If they make an exception in this case, it could set a dangerous precedent, potentially leading to future abuses of legal authority where the law could be similarly manipulated for personal or emotional reasons.

Together, these reasons underline Portia's commitment to upholding the law as it is written, emphasizing the principles of justice and legal consistency over emotional appeals, even in situations where the outcome may seem morally harsh.

- iv. In the given extract from "The Merchant of Venice," Bassanio refers to Shylock as "this cruel devil." He uses this phrase to express his view of Shylock's harsh and unforgiving insistence on claiming a pound of Antonio's flesh as repayment for the defaulted loan, which Bassanio sees as malevolent and merciless.

As for the response to Portia's words in this specific extract, the response of Shylock is not included. However, throughout the trial scene, Shylock consistently asserts his rights under the bond and demands the law be followed to the letter, showing no willingness to compromise or show mercy. His stance is rigid and unyielding, focused solely on obtaining what he believes is legally his due, regardless of the moral implications or the potential for human suffering it entails.

- v. In "The Merchant of Venice," the 'cruel devil' that Bassanio refers to is Shylock, the Jewish moneylender. By the end of the trial, Shylock is subjected to significant punishment:

a.

1. **Forfeiture of Wealth:** Initially, Shylock insists on extracting a pound of flesh from Antonio as per their bond, but Portia, disguised as the young lawyer Balthazar, turns the law against him. She points out that while the bond allows Shylock to remove the flesh, it does not permit him to shed any of Antonio's blood. Realizing that it is impossible to take the flesh without shedding blood, Shylock attempts to settle for the repayment of the loan instead. However, Portia further reveals that Shylock has attempted to take the life of a Venetian citizen, which under Venetian law allows the state to confiscate half of Shylock's wealth, giving it to Antonio, and the other half to the state.
2. **Conversion Requirement:** Moreover, as part of his punishment and as a condition of not losing his entire wealth and facing execution, Shylock is forced to convert to Christianity, a deeply humiliating and identity-stripping requirement for him, given his strong adherence to his Jewish faith.
3. **Legal Perspective:** From a strictly legal standpoint, the punishment adheres to the laws of Venice, which protect its citizens and prescribe penalties for those who threaten their lives. Shylock, by insisting on a literal interpretation of the bond, puts himself at risk of these laws.
4. **Moral and Ethical Perspective:** Morally and ethically, the punishment can be seen as harsh and excessive. Forcing Shylock to convert to Christianity is particularly severe, as it directly assaults his identity and dignity. This aspect of his punishment reflects the religious prejudices of the time and is arguably unfair and inhumane, showing a lack of respect for personal beliefs and religious freedom.
5. **Thematic Perspective:** Thematically, the punishment serves to underscore themes of mercy, justice, and revenge within the play.

Shakespeare may be using these outcomes to highlight the dangers of both mercy that is too rigid (Shylock's refusal to forgive the debt) and justice that turns into vengeance (the Christians' treatment of Shylock).

SECTION-C (Attempt one or more questions from this Section.) : PROSE-SHORT STORIES - (Treasure Trove-A Collection of Poems and Short Stories)

Question 4. Read the following extract from Norah Burke's short story, 'The Blue Bead' and answer the questions that follow:

On the way back, she met her mother, out of breath, come to look for her, and scolding.

"I did not see till I was home that you were not there. I thought something must have happened to you."

And Sibia, bursting with her story, cried, "Something did!"

- i. What are the tasks that Sibia was required to perform from a very young age? [3]
- ii. What had delayed Sibia and separated her from the other village women on her way home that day?
What was Sibia doing when she heard the Gujar woman's cry for help? [3]
- iii. What were the dangers that the crocodile had to overcome before it could grow into the ferocious creature that Sibia encountered? [3]
- iv. How does Sibia's knowledge of the ways of the jungle help her fight the crocodile? [3]
- v. Compare and contrast the mother's mood with Sibia's in the given extract. Give one reason to explain why each one of them was feeling this way. [4]

Solution

- i. In Norah Burke's short story "The Blue Bead," Sibia, the young protagonist, is required to perform various tasks that are typical for children in her rural, impoverished setting from a very young age. These tasks include:

1. **Gathering Water:** Sibia is involved in collecting water, a common chore that requires walking to a river or a well, which can be physically demanding and time-consuming.
2. **Fetching Firewood:** Like many girls in similar socio-economic environments, Sibia is also responsible for gathering firewood. This task involves searching for and collecting suitable wood, which is essential for cooking and heating in her home.
3. **Taking Care of Younger Siblings:** Although not explicitly detailed in the brief extract, in many similar stories and real-life scenarios, young girls like Sibia often help in taking care of their younger siblings, assisting with feeding, bathing, and overseeing them while parents are occupied with other work.

These chores are indicative of the responsibilities often shouldered by children in less affluent, rural communities. They contribute to the household from a young age, learning skills and duties that are essential for their family's daily survival.

- ii. In Norah Burke's short story "The Blue Bead," Sibia's delay and separation from the other village women on her way home are caused by an encounter with a crocodile. Sibia, after slipping into the river and collecting water, spots a beautiful blue bead lying at the bottom of the river. She is captivated by the bead and dives to retrieve it, which leads to her being separated from the group.

When Sibia hears the Gujar woman's cry for help, she is near the river, having just retrieved the blue bead. The cry alerts her to the presence of danger, and she realizes that the Gujar woman is being attacked by a crocodile. Sibia's quick thinking and brave actions become central to the unfolding events as she decides to intervene in an attempt to save the woman.

- iii. In Norah Burke's "The Blue Bead," the crocodile's early life and the dangers it faced before growing into the ferocious creature encountered by Sibia are vividly depicted. The story details a few specific challenges that the crocodile had to overcome to survive and mature:
 1. **Survival from Predators:** When the crocodile was still an egg, it was vulnerable to being eaten by predators. Larger animals, including birds and

other carnivores, could have easily preyed upon the crocodile eggs. Survival from such predators was the first major hurdle.

2. **Harsh Environmental Conditions:** After hatching, the young crocodile had to contend with the harsh realities of its environment, including competing for food and navigating the dangerous waters filled with other predators. It needed to avoid larger predators that could have seen it as an easy meal.
3. **Competing with Siblings and Other Species:** As a hatchling and throughout its development into a juvenile, the crocodile had to compete not just with its siblings for food and space but also with other species inhabiting the same ecological niche. This competition was crucial for its growth and development.
4. **Learning to Hunt:** Developing the skills to hunt effectively was essential for the crocodile to obtain enough food to support its growth into a large adult. This involved honing its instincts, improving its stealth and attack strategies, and selecting appropriate prey.

These early life challenges shaped the crocodile into a formidable predator by the time Sibia encounters it, highlighting the struggle for survival that defines the life of such creatures in the wild. The story uses these elements to enhance the sense of danger and the primal fear associated with the crocodile.

- iv. In Norah Burke's short story "The Blue Bead," Sibia's familiarity with the jungle and its ways plays a crucial role in her encounter with the crocodile. Her knowledge of the jungle environment and its inhabitants is pivotal in several ways:
 1. **Understanding of Crocodile Behavior:** Sibia's experience in the jungle has likely given her insights into the behavior of crocodiles and other dangerous animals. She understands how they move, attack, and react, which gives her a strategic advantage in anticipating the crocodile's actions during the attack.
 2. **Quick Thinking and Bravery:** Sibia's comfort and familiarity with the jungle environment enable her to react quickly and with a level of bravery that might not be typical of someone less accustomed to such settings. Her

immediate decision to intervene and help the Gujar woman indicates a deep-seated courage and a practical understanding of the immediate danger.

3. **Use of Available Resources:** Sibia utilizes what is available to her in the jungle to fight the crocodile. For instance, she uses a bamboo stick as a weapon. This shows her ability to adapt quickly and use the natural resources around her effectively, a skill honed by spending much time in such an environment.
4. **Physical Skills:** Growing up in a jungle environment, Sibia would have developed considerable physical skills such as swimming, climbing, and running, which are essential for navigating the terrain and dealing with wildlife. These skills are crucial during her physical struggle with the crocodile.

Through these aspects, Sibia's deep knowledge and understanding of the jungle environment empower her to face the life-threatening situation courageously and effectively. Her actions demonstrate not just physical bravery but also an intuitive grasp of survival tactics in the wild.

- v. In the extract from Norah Burke's "The Blue Bead," the moods of Sibia and her mother contrast sharply:

1. **Mother's Mood:** The mother is anxious and upset, as indicated by her being out of breath and scolding. She is worried because she did not realize until she got home that Sibia was not there. Her anxiety stems from a fear that something might have happened to Sibia, reflecting the natural concern of a parent for the safety of their child, especially in a setting that could be fraught with danger.
2. **Sibia's Mood:** In contrast, Sibia is excited and eager to share her experience. Her mood is almost jubilant as she exclaims, "Something did!" This excitement is because she has just had a significant adventure where she faced and overcame a dangerous challenge. Sibia's reaction is typical of someone who has successfully navigated a risky situation and feels a rush of adrenaline and achievement.

Reason for the Mother's Anxiety: Her anxiety is primarily due to her maternal instinct and concern for her daughter's well-being. Given the environment they live in, where physical dangers such as wild animals (like the crocodile Sibia encountered) are real, her worry is heightened until she knows her daughter is safe.

Reason for Sibia's Excitement: Sibia's excitement is driven by her recent encounter and triumph over the crocodile, which not only tested her courage and skills but also proved her capability in handling dangerous situations. This incident likely gave her a sense of pride and a thrilling story to share, contrasting sharply with her mother's fear and relief.

Question 5. Read the following extract from Jesse Owens's short story, 'My Greatest Olympic Prize' and answer the question that follows:

I wasn't too worried about all this. I'd trained, sweated and disciplined myself for six years with the Games in mind. While I was going over on the boat, all I could think about was taking home one or two of those gold medals. I had my eye especially on the running broad jump.

- i. What does Owens mean by 'all this'? What games does he refer to? [3]
- ii. What made Owens confident of winning a gold medal or two? [3]
- iii. What was the 'surprise' that Hitler had kept hidden from the world? How did Owens feel when he came face to face with the 'surprise'? [3]
- iv. Describe Owens' performance in the broad jump trials. What doubts filled his mind at this time? [3]
- v. What makes Luz Long's behaviour at the 'Games' truly remarkable in the context of the times?
Identify a theme that is common to the short story 'My Greatest Olympic Prize' and the poem 'Nine Gold Medals'. [4]

Solution

- i. In the context of Jesse Owens's quote from "My Greatest Olympic Prize," 'all this' refers to the various pressures, expectations, and perhaps controversies surrounding his participation in the Olympic Games. This could include the intense training, media attention, the political climate of the time (especially the

1936 Berlin Olympics held under Nazi Germany), and the personal challenges of being an African-American athlete representing the United States during a period of significant racial tension and discrimination.

Jesse Owens refers to the Olympic Games, specifically the 1936 Summer Olympics held in Berlin, Germany. These games are particularly historic due to the political context of Nazi Germany and Owens's remarkable achievements, where he won four gold medals, effectively challenging the racial superiority touted by the Nazi regime.

- ii. Jesse Owens's confidence in winning one or two gold medals at the Olympic Games, as expressed in his short story "My Greatest Olympic Prize," stemmed from several factors:
 1. **Extensive Training:** Owens mentions having "trained, sweated and disciplined myself for six years with the Games in mind." This long-term, rigorous preparation honed his athletic skills and built his physical capabilities to peak condition, crucial for excelling in highly competitive events.
 2. **Focused Preparation:** Owens had a specific focus on the events he was targeting, particularly the running broad jump (long jump). This specialized preparation allowed him to master the techniques and nuances required to excel in this event.
 3. **Mental Readiness:** His mental preparation and focus are evident in his anticipation and excitement about competing for the gold medals. Being mentally prepared is as important as physical readiness in achieving success in sports.
 4. **Previous Achievements:** Prior to the Olympics, Owens had already demonstrated his prowess in track and field during his college years, setting records and winning multiple titles, which would naturally build his confidence in his ability to perform at an international level.
- These factors combined made Jesse Owens confident in his ability to achieve his goal of winning gold medals at the Olympics, showcasing not

just his physical readiness but also his mental fortitude and dedication to his sport.

- iii. In Jesse Owens's short story, "My Greatest Olympic Prize," the "surprise" that Hitler had kept hidden from the world was the formidable German athlete Luz Long. Luz Long was not widely known internationally before the 1936 Olympics but was a talented long jumper who was expected to challenge Jesse Owens in the event.

When Jesse Owens first encountered Luz Long, he likely felt a mix of surprise and admiration, coupled with a competitive spirit. Initially, Owens may have been taken aback by the unexpected challenge posed by such a strong competitor. However, the story famously highlights not just the rivalry but also the emerging friendship and mutual respect between Owens and Long. Long's sportsmanship and guidance, particularly during the qualifications where he advised Owens on how to adjust his approach to avoid fouling, left a profound impact on Owens. This interaction transformed his initial feelings of competition into a deep respect and camaraderie, which Owens cherished as his greatest Olympic prize, even more so than the medals he won. This relationship also symbolized a powerful and enduring message against the racial and ideological propaganda of the Nazi regime at the time.

- iv. In Jesse Owens's short story "My Greatest Olympic Prize," he describes his performance during the broad jump (long jump) trials at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Despite being a strong favorite, Owens encountered difficulties during the qualifying rounds:

1. **Fouls:** Owens fouled on his first two attempts in the qualifying round. The rules allowed each jumper three attempts to reach a qualifying distance, and failing to meet this requirement would disqualify them from the final competition.
2. **Doubts and Pressure:** These initial fouls filled Owens's mind with doubts and pressure. He was at risk of not qualifying for the finals, a shocking prospect for a top contender expected to win gold. The pressure was

immense, not just because of his personal and national expectations but also due to the politically charged atmosphere of the Berlin Games.

During this stressful time, Luz Long, the German athlete and Owens's main rival, provided unexpected support. Long suggested that Owens adjust his approach by taking off well before the foul line to ensure a valid jump. This advice proved crucial, helping Owens qualify for the final, where he ultimately won the gold medal. Owens's story emphasizes not only the athletic challenge but also the personal interactions that profoundly impacted his Olympic experience, particularly his friendship with Long amidst the intense competition.

- v. Luz Long's behavior during the 1936 Berlin Olympics is truly remarkable given the historical and political context:
1. **Political and Racial Tensions:** The 1936 Olympics were held in Nazi Germany, a regime that promoted racial superiority and anti-Semitic policies. Jesse Owens, as an African-American, was not the favored athlete in the eyes of the Nazi propaganda machine, which used the Games to showcase Aryan supremacy.
 2. **Sportsmanship and Humanity:** Despite the prevailing racial ideologies promoted by his country's leadership, Luz Long, a German athlete, displayed exceptional sportsmanship and camaraderie. He openly befriended Owens, providing him with critical advice during the long jump trials, which helped Owens avoid disqualification after two fouls. This act of kindness and bravery was against the backdrop of a hostile environment, making it a profound gesture of humanity and defiance against the discriminatory policies of the time.
 3. **Public Acknowledgment:** Long's behavior was not only supportive but also public. He congratulated Owens openly after his jumps, and they took a victory lap together, which was a significant display of unity and respect across racial lines during a period of intense racial discrimination.

Common Theme with 'Nine Gold Medals': A theme common to Jesse

Owens's "My Greatest Olympic Prize" and the poem "Nine Gold Medals" by David Roth is the theme of sportsmanship and the unifying power of sports. Both works highlight how, despite competitive settings, athletes can exhibit profound kindness and solidarity. In "Nine Gold Medals," the athletes assist a fellow competitor who falls during the race, demonstrating that empathy and unity can transcend the desire for personal achievement. Similarly, in Owens's story, Luz Long's actions exemplify how sports can bring individuals together, transcending societal barriers and prejudices to celebrate common humanity and shared values. These narratives promote the idea that true victory in sports lies not in the medals won but in the friendships forged and the dignity upheld.

**SECTION -D (Attempt one or more questions from this Section.) : POETRY -
(Treasure Trove-A Collection of Poems and Short Stories)**

Question 6. Read the following extract from Leigh Hunt's poem, 'Abou Ben Adhem' and answer the question that follows:

Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem bold,
And to the presence in the room he said,

- i. The poem begins with a blessing. What is this blessing? Explain its significance. [3]
- ii. Explain in your own words the following lines and phrases from the poem: [3]
 - a. 'Making it rich and like a lily in bloom,'
 - b. A look made of all sweet accord
 - c. A great wakening light
- iii. What was the angel doing in Abou Ben Adhem's room? What did Abou ask the angel? [3]
- iv. Why did Abou say to the angel, "Write me as one that loves his fellow men"? (Give the context) [3]

- v. Explain the last line of the poem: 'And lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest.' If you had to give the poem a different title, what would you call it? Give a reason for your answer. [4]

Solution

- i. In Leigh Hunt's poem, "Abou Ben Adhem," the blessing referred to at the beginning is the "exceeding peace" that Abou Ben Adhem experiences upon waking and finding an angel writing in a book of gold. This profound sense of peace emboldens him to speak directly to the angel, an act that signifies his comfort and fearlessness in the presence of a divine entity.

Significance of the Blessing:

1. **Spiritual Serenity:** The "exceeding peace" highlights Abou Ben Adhem's inner tranquility and contentment, suggesting a life lived in harmony with his values and beliefs. This peace is so profound that it empowers him to interact confidently with the supernatural, reflecting his spiritual maturity and depth.
2. **Catalyst for Interaction:** This peace serves as a catalyst for the interaction between Abou Ben Adhem and the angel. It is this calm and serene state that allows him to engage meaningfully with the angel, leading to significant spiritual revelations and further blessings as the poem progresses.
3. **Contrast to Fear:** Typically, encounters with supernatural beings in literature are marked by fear or awe. However, in this poem, the blessing of peace removes any such fear, allowing a dialogue that is both bold and curious, setting the tone for a positive and enlightening interaction.
4. **Indicator of Virtue:** The peace might also signify the purity of Abou Ben Adhem's character. It suggests that he is a virtuous and righteous man, which is later confirmed by the angel's revelations about those who love God and are loved by God.
Overall, this initial blessing of peace is crucial for setting the thematic tone of the poem, emphasizing the virtues of peace, love, and divine favor, which are central to its message.

ii.

- a. In Leigh Hunt's poem "Abou Ben Adhem," the angel is found writing in a book when Abou Ben Adhem wakes up. This book, described as being golden, signifies its importance and divine nature, often interpreted as a ledger of those who love God.

Upon seeing the angel, Abou Ben Adhem's curiosity and boldness, prompted by his peaceful state of mind, led him to engage directly with the celestial being. He asks the angel what it is writing. The angel replies that it is listing the names of those who love the Lord. Intrigued by this response, Abou further inquires if his own name is included in the list. The angel tells him that his name is not on that list. Subsequently, Abou Ben Adhem requests that the angel write his name as one who loves his fellow men. This exchange highlights Abou's selfless character and his priority of humanistic values over direct divine adoration.

- b. In Leigh Hunt's poem "Abou Ben Adhem," the below phrase enriches the narrative with vivid imagery and deep symbolism.

This line refers to the profound and enlightening realization or insight that comes to Abou Ben Adhem, possibly through his interaction with the angel. The "great wakening light" metaphorically represents a sudden clarity or understanding, akin to an epiphany that illuminates his mind and soul. It signifies a transformative moment of spiritual awakening, possibly guiding Abou to a higher level of consciousness or a deeper spiritual path.

These descriptions not only enhance the poem's aesthetic and emotional depth but also contribute to its spiritual and moral undertones, depicting moments of divine interaction, enlightenment, and the beauty of spiritual purity.

- c. In Leigh Hunt's poem "Abou Ben Adhem," the below phrase enriches the narrative with vivid imagery and deep symbolism.

This phrase describes the angel's expression when interacting with Abou Ben Adhem. The term "sweet accord" conveys a sense of harmony and pleasant agreement. It suggests that the angel's look is gentle, peaceful, and full of benevolence, reflecting a deep understanding and a serene connection between the angel and Abou Ben Adhem. This look might also symbolize the angel's approval and support of Abou's curious and bold approach, highlighting a bond of mutual respect and kindness.

iii. Abou Ben Adhem's request to the angel, "Write me as one that loves his fellow men," reflects a fundamental aspect of his character and philosophical outlook. When he learns from the angel that his name is not included in the list of those who love God, instead of showing despair or pleading for his name to be added, he asks to be recorded as someone who loves humanity. This request highlights several key points about his personality and values:

1. **Humanism:** Abou Ben Adhem prioritizes human love and compassion over direct devotion to God. His request suggests that he believes loving and serving his fellow humans is a form of spiritual expression and perhaps even a way to show love for God indirectly.
2. **Self-Identity:** His request reflects a self-awareness of his role and what he values most. Abou is confident in his identity as a lover of humanity, which he views as his most significant contribution and legacy.
3. **Inclusivity:** By asking to be written as one who loves his fellow men, Abou is emphasizing an inclusive and universal approach to goodness and virtue, which transcends religious or sectarian lines. This approach is welcoming and open, focusing on the universal value of kindness and brotherhood.
4. **Spiritual Insight:** This moment also underscores a spiritual insight that true devotion and righteousness might be measured by how one treats others, an idea that resonates with many religious and moral teachings around the world.

Abou Ben Adhem's interaction with the angel, therefore, serves as a profound statement on the importance of humanistic values in religious and spiritual life, suggesting that love for one's fellow humans can be as sacred as love for God.

iv.

1. The last line of Leigh Hunt's poem, "Abou Ben Adhem," which reads "And lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest," reveals a significant and uplifting twist. This line comes after Abou Ben Adhem asks the angel to write his name as one who loves his fellow men, rather than as one who loves God directly.

2. The angel returns the following night and shows Abou that his name now not only appears in the book of those who love God but actually leads all the others. This suggests that his genuine love for humanity, his altruism, and his selflessness have elevated him to the highest place in the divine ledger, even above those who might focus solely on their devotion to God. It underscores the idea that loving and caring for one's fellow humans is deeply valued in the eyes of the divine, perhaps even considered the highest form of love.
 3. If I had to give the poem a different title, I might call it "The Highest Love." This title reflects the poem's central message that love for fellow human beings is perhaps the highest form of love and devotion, transcending even direct worship or adoration of God.
 4. It encapsulates the theme of universal love and its divine recognition, which is eloquently conveyed through the story of Abou Ben Adhem and his interaction with the angel. This title would highlight the moral that true greatness and spiritual leadership come from selfless love and benevolence towards others, aligning with the poem's emphasis on the impact and value of humanistic virtues.
- v. In Leigh Hunt's poem "Abou Ben Adhem," the below phrase enriches the narrative with vivid imagery and deep symbolism.

This line describes the book that the angel is writing in, presumably a holy or divine ledger. The metaphor of a lily in bloom suggests purity, beauty, and a flourishing state, implying that the book is not only filled with sacred content but is also blossoming with goodness and spiritual wealth. It indicates that the names recorded in the book are thriving in their spiritual journey, much like a lily reaching its full and beautiful bloom.

Question 7. Read the following extract from Robert Browning's poem, "The Patriot" and answer the question that follows.

| |
|---|
| Alack, it was I who leaped at he sun To give it my loving friends to keep! |
|---|

Nought man could do, have I left undone:

And you see my harvest, what I reap

This very day, now a year is run.

- i. What can you conclude of the Patriot's mood from the given lines? Quote the line from the given extract which tells us that the Patriot did his utmost to satisfy his people? [3]
- ii. The last line of the extract suggests that a year has gone by. How had the speaker been treated a year ago? [3]
- iii. How did the situation change a year later? Give details of his present state. [3]
- iv. Why were only a 'palsied few" onlookers seated at the windows? 'Where had the other townspeople gone?' Why had they gone there? [3]
- v. How is the speaker's faith in God revealed at the end of the poem? Do you think the poem ends on a note of hope or despair? Justify your answer. [4]

Solution

- i. From the given lines in Robert Browning's poem "The Patriot," it can be concluded that the Patriot's mood is one of disappointment and disillusionment. He reflects on his past actions, where he ambitiously attempted to achieve great feats ("leaped at the sun") for the benefit of his people, only to find himself facing a dire outcome a year later. The tone suggests a somber realization that despite his efforts and sacrifices, the reward or "harvest" he receives is not what he had hoped for, indicating a sense of betrayal or failure.
The line that explicitly states that the Patriot did his utmost to satisfy his people is: "Nought man could do, have I left undone:" This line conveys that he did everything within his power, leaving no effort untried, to fulfill his duties or achieve his goals for the benefit of his people. It underscores his commitment and dedication, contrasting sharply with the lack of appreciation or reward he perceives he has received in return.

- ii. In Robert Browning's poem "The Patriot," the last line of the extract, "This very day, now a year is run," indicates that a year has passed since a significant event. A year ago, the speaker, the Patriot, was treated as a hero by his people. The beginning of the poem describes how he was welcomed with enthusiasm and celebration; roofs were adorned for him, and the path was strewn with roses as he was cheered by the crowds. This jubilant reception reflects how highly he was esteemed and loved by the public at that time.

This stark contrast with his current state, where he faces disappointment and a grim outcome, underscores a drastic change in his fortune and public perception within the span of just one year. The poem captures the fleeting nature of fame and public favor, showing how quickly and dramatically a hero can fall from grace, moving from adoration to condemnation.

- iii. A year after the initial celebrations and adoration, the situation for the Patriot in Robert Browning's poem "The Patriot" has drastically changed for the worse. His present state is one of despair and downfall. The poem details how the once-celebrated hero is now facing extreme public and possibly legal retribution.

Details of his present state include:

1. **Lack of Public Support:** From being lauded and celebrated, the Patriot now faces a complete reversal in public opinion. There is no longer any sign of the earlier admiration or support.
2. **Facing Punishment:** As the poem progresses beyond the provided extract, it becomes clear that he is being led to his execution. The crowds that once cheered for him are now silent or hostile, and the path that was once strewn with flowers for him to walk on in glory is likely the path he walks toward his execution.
3. **Moral and Spiritual Insights:** Although he faces a grim fate, there is a deeper undercurrent of spiritual insight and possibly redemption as he contemplates his relationship with God in the closing lines of the poem, suggesting that he seeks a higher judgment beyond human justice. This shift from being a beloved hero to a condemned traitor within a year

underscores the central theme of the poem: the precariousness of political and public life, where acclaim can quickly turn to blame and where one's fate can be dramatically reversed by the changing tides of public and political opinion.

- iv. In Robert Browning's poem "The Patriot," the reference to only a "palsied few" onlookers being seated at the windows reflects the drastic shift in public interest and sentiment from the previous year. Initially, the Patriot was celebrated by the masses with great enthusiasm, but a year later, the situation is starkly different.
 1. The term "palsied few" suggests that only a small number of feeble or less significant onlookers remain to witness the Patriot's current state, contrasting sharply with the large crowds that had once celebrated him. This limited presence of onlookers could imply that they are either indifferent, unable to participate more actively due to their physical condition, or possibly they are the only ones left who retain any interest in his fate, albeit perhaps out of morbid curiosity rather than support.
 2. The majority of the townspeople are likely gathered elsewhere along the route that the Patriot is being taken. This is common in public executions or significant public punishments, where the main events and actions draw the largest crowds.
 3. The townspeople had likely gone to witness the Patriot's punishment or execution. In the context of the poem, this shift from adoration to attending his downfall highlights the fickleness of public opinion and the harsh realities of political life. The people who once celebrated him might now be participating in or witnessing his ultimate disgrace, possibly driven by a sense of betrayal, a shift in political winds, or simply the human tendency to be drawn to dramatic and conclusive events.
- v. In Robert Browning's poem "The Patriot," the speaker's faith in God is revealed in the final lines where he expresses hope for ultimate justice and redemption in the afterlife, despite his current dire circumstances. The poem arguably ends on a note of hope, despite the overt tone of despair throughout. This suggestion of hope is based on the following justifications:

1. **Spiritual Resolution:** The speaker reflects on his earthly tribulations and concludes that while he may have been repaid by the world with betrayal and punishment, it is ultimately God's judgment that matters. He implies that God's understanding and repayment will be just and true, suggesting a belief in a higher form of justice that transcends human judgment.
2. **Faith in Divine Justice:** His statement "I am safer so" reveals a deep-seated faith in divine justice and providence. This demonstrates his mental shift from seeking validation and safety from worldly acclaim to finding peace and safety in God's hands, indicating a spiritual transcendence over his worldly fate.
3. **Contrast between Earthly and Heavenly Judgments:** The Patriot contrasts his dire physical reality with the spiritual safety he feels in placing his fate in God's hands. This contrast not only highlights his faith but also suggests a hopeful outlook on the eternal state of his soul beyond the immediate suffering.

Although the physical and societal circumstances suggest despair, the Patriot's personal resolution and spiritual insight at the poem's conclusion offer a poignant glimpse of hope, grounded in his unwavering faith in a just and merciful divine judgment. This spiritual dimension adds a layer of complexity to the poem, showing how personal faith can provide solace and redemption even in the darkest moments.