

**J B PETIT HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS  
PRELIM EXAMINATION 2013**

**Class:** 10  
**Subject:** English Literature

**Time:** 2 Hrs.  
**Marks:** 80

- Note:** 1. Attempt FIVE questions in all  
2. You must attempt one question from each section A, B and C, and any two other questions.

**Section A – Drama**  
**As you like it: Shakespeare**

**Question 1:**

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Duke Frederick: Not see him since? Sir, sir that cannot be:  
But were I not the better part made mercy  
I should not seek an absent argument  
Of my revenge, thou present, But look to it;  
Find out thy brother, whereso'er he is;

- (i) To whom is the duke talking? Where are they? In what tone does he say 'Sir, sir, that cannot be'? [3]
- (ii) Who is the 'brother'? What is he being accused of and why? [3]
- (iii) Explain 'But were I not the better part made mercy I should not seek an absent argument of my revenge, thou present'. [2]
- (iv) How should the 'brother' be brought to the Duke, within what stipulated period or else what should happen to the person spoken to? [4]
- (v) In what ways do Duke Frederick and the person addressed have a similar attitude towards the 'brother'? What are their respective reasons? [4]

**Question 2:**

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Rosalind: [reads]  
"Why thy godhead laid apart,  
Warr'st thou with a woman's heart?"  
Did you ever hear such railing?  
"Whiles the eye of man did woo me,  
That could do no vengeance to me"  
Meaning me a beast.

- (i) Whose letter is Rosalind reading? Who is its bearer? Where is Rosalind presently? [3]
- (ii) How can you tell that the bearer of the letter does not know its contents? How had he initially warned Rosalind towards the possible tone of the letter? What had given him this impression? [3]
- (iii) What was the writer's true intent behind the letter? What does 'railing' mean here? Why does Rosalind consider the contents of the letter to be insulting? [4]
- (iv) Explain "Whiles the eye of man did woo me,  
That could do no vengeance to me" [2]
- (v) Later in this scene, why does Rosalind advise Celia against showing any compassion towards the bearer of this letter? [4]

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Section B: Poetry  
The Golden Lyre

Question 3:

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Laugh and be merry together, like brother akin,  
 Guesting awhile in the rooms of a beautiful inn,  
 Glad till the dancing stops, and the lilt of the music ends.  
 Laugh till the game is played; and be you merry, my friends.

*(Laugh and be Merry: John Masefield)*

- (i) What is meant by the expression 'like brothers akin'? [2]
- (ii) What is the Earth compared to and why? Explain the literary device used in the second line of this extract. [4]
- (iii) What are good guests expected to do? [2]
- (iv) Mention some of the pleasant images presented in this extract and show how they highlight the positive attitude to life? [4]
- (v) What does the poet mean by 'the game'? Briefly state the theme of this poem. [4]

Question 4:

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Day by day the nightingale  
 Grew more sorrowful and pale  
 Night on night her tired song  
 Zipped and trilled and bounced along,  
 Till the birds and beasts grew tired  
 At a voice so uninspired.

*(The Frog and the Nightingale: Vikram Seth)*

- (i) Why did the nightingale become 'sorrowful and pale' day by day? [2]
- (ii) Name some of the creatures of the bog who had applauded the nightingale's first song. Why were they losing interest in her song now? [3]
- (iii) Why did the nightingale take no pleasure in singing? Which words in the extract describe the quality of her singing now? [3]
- (iv) Who was responsible for her downfall? What advice from this creature led to her miserable state? *specific advice kills* [4]
- (v) Briefly describe the character of the nightingale in this poem. [4]

Section C: Prose  
A Treasure Trove of Short Stories

Question 5:

Jim stepped inside the door as immovable as a setter at the scent of a quail. His eyes were fixed upon Della, and there was an expression in them that she could not read, and it terrified her. It was not anger, nor surprise, nor disapproval, nor horror nor any sentiments that she had been prepared for. He simply stared at her fixedly with that peculiar expression on his face.

Della wriggled off the table and went to him.

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