

Half-yearly Examination - 2016-2017
ENGLISH LITERATURE

Time : 3 Hrs. 15 min

F. M. : 100

Std. : XII

SECTION A

Arms and the Man - Bernard Shaw

Question-I

Choose two of the passages (a) to (c) and answer briefly the questions that follow : (20)

(a) The Man : Perhaps I'm quite wrong, you know: no doubt I am. Most likely he had got the wind of the cartridge business somehow, and knew it was a safe job.

Riana : That is to say, he was a pretender and a coward! You did not dare say that before.

(i) Who is referred to as 'he' and what is 'it'? (2)

(ii) How does the man describe him just before this extract? (2)

(iii) Why does the man say he might be wrong? (2)

(iv) Why does Riana call 'he' a pretender and a coward? (2)

(v) Give any two examples of allusion which Shaw uses to describe 'he' in Act 1. (2)

(b) Nicola: The Swiss gave me that for backing up the mistress's and Riana's lies about him. He's no fool, he isn't.

(i) Who is Nicola speaking to and what is referred to as 'that'? (2)

(ii) What is the dramatic significance of the old coat? (2)

(iii) How does Nicola compare Sergius with the Swiss? (2)

(iv) What is the point of conflict between Nicola and the person spoken to? (2)

(v) What is your opinion of the person spoken to? (2)

(c) But (with subdued passion) if I were Empress of Russia, above everyone in the world, then!! Ah then, though according to you I could show no courage at all, you should see, you should see.

Sergius : What would you do, most noble Empress?

(i) How does Louka answer to Sergius' question? (2)

(ii) What does she ask him immediately after this? What does she think he would do? (2)

(iii) What opinion do you form of Louka at this point? (2)

(iv) How does Sergius respond to her opinion of him? (2)

(v) Why, according to Sergius, can't he marry Louka? (2)

SECTION B

(Answer four questions from at least three text books)

Arms and the Man - Bernard Shaw (4 x 20 = 80)

Question 2

Female characters play strategic roles in the play, Arms and the Man. Discuss the role of one of the female characters of your choice.

Question 3

Do you feel Shaw intended the play to be a social satire? What is the message he conveys?

ISC Collection of Poems

Question 4

The poem 'The Last Ride Together' depicts the predominance of love over any other emotion. Discuss.

Question 5

In what sense is the poem 'Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night' an acceptance as well as defiance of death?

Question 6

Do you think 'Breaking Out' is a poem that expresses a woman's yearning for freedom? Give reasons to support your answer.

ISC Collection of Short Stories

Question 7

Give a critical estimate of the story 'The Stolen Bacillus'.

Question 8

The story 'One Thousand Dollars' emphasizes on the predominance of love over any other emotion – elucidate with close reference to the story.

Question 9

'The Drover's Wife' is a story of courage and ingenuity.' Validate the statement highlighting the character traits of the protagonist.