**Literature Exam Questions**

**Paper One-Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel (1 hour 30 minutes)**

**The Merchant of Venice (30 marks, spg 4 marks)**

Read the following extract from Act 2 Scene 8 of The Merchant of Venice and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, Salanio and Salarino are discussing Shylock’s reaction to Jessica’s elopement.

**SALANIO**

I never heard a passion so confused,

So strange, outrageous, and so variable,

As the dog Jew did utter in the streets:

'My daughter! O my ducats! O my daughter!

Fled with a Christian! O my Christian ducats!

Justice! the law! my ducats, and my daughter!

A sealed bag, two sealed bags of ducats,

Of double ducats, stolen from me by my daughter!

And jewels, two stones, two rich and precious stones,

Stolen by my daughter! Justice! find the girl;

She hath the stones upon her, and the ducats.'

**SALARINO**

Why, all the boys in Venice follow him,

Crying, his stones, his daughter, and his ducats.

**SALANIO**

Let good Antonio look he keep his day,

Or he shall pay for this.

**Starting with this conversation, explore how Shakespeare presents attitudes towards Shylock in The Merchant of Venice.**

**Write about:**

**• how Shakespeare demonstrates Salanio and Salarino’s attitudes towards**

**Shylock in this conversation**

**• how Shakespeare presents attitudes towards Shylock in the play as a whole.**

**The Merchant of Venice (30 marks, spg 4 marks)**

Read the following extract and then answer the question that follows:

**ANTONIO**

Grieve not that I am fall'n to this for you,

For herein Fortune shows herself more kind

Than is her custom. It is still her use

To let the wretched man outlive his wealth,

To view with hollow eye and wrinkled brow

An age of poverty—from which lingering penance

Of such misery doth she cut me off.

Commend me to your honorable wife.

Tell her the process of Antonio’s end.

Say how I loved you. Speak me fair in death.

And when the tale is told, bid her be judge

Whether Bassanio had not once a love.

**Starting with this speech, explore how Shakespeare presents love and friendship in The Merchant of Venice.**

**Write about:**

**• how Shakespeare demonstrates love and friendship in this conversation**

**• how Shakespeare presents love and friendship in the play as a whole.**

**The Merchant of Venice (30 marks, spg 4 marks)**

Read the following extract from Act Three, Scene Two of *The Merchant of Venice* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play Bassanio is in Belmont and is about to complete the love casket challenge so he can marry Portia.

**BASSANIO**

So may the outward shows be least themselves:

The world is still deceived with ornament.

 In law, what plea so tainted and corrupt,

But, being seasoned with a gracious voice,

Obscures the show of evil? In religion,

What damned error, but some sober brow

Will bless it and approve it with a text,

 Hiding the grossness with fair ornament?

There is no vice so simple but assumes

Some mark of virtue on his outward parts:

How many cowards, whose hearts are all as false

As stairs of sand, wear yet upon their chins

The beards of Hercules and frowning Mars;

Who, inward search'd, have livers white as milk;

And these assume but valour's excrement

To render them redoubted! Look on beauty,

And you shall see 'tis purchased by the weight;

Which therein works a miracle in nature,

Making them lightest that wear most of it:

So are those crisped snaky golden locks

Which make such wanton gambols with the wind,

Upon supposed fairness, often known

To be the dowry of a second head,

The skull that bred them in the sepulchre.

Thus ornament is but the guiled shore

To a most dangerous sea; the beauteous scarf

Veiling an Indian beauty; in a word,

The seeming truth which cunning times put on

To entrap the wisest.

Therefore, thou gaudy gold,

Hard food for Midas, I will none of thee;

Nor none of thee, thou pale and common drudge

'Tween man and man: but thou, thou meagre lead,

Which rather threatenest than dost promise aught,

Thy paleness moves me more than eloquence;

And here choose I; joy be the consequence!

**Starting with this speech, how does Shakespeare present a warning against dangerous desires?**

**Write about:**

* **How Shakespeare presents dangerous desires in this speech.**
* **How Shakespeare presents dangerous desires in the play as a whole.**

**Jekyll and Hyde (30 marks, spg 4 marks)**

Read the following extract from Chapter 1 of *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Utterson and Enfield are out for a walk. This walk has taken them into the area where Mr Hyde lives.

|  |
| --- |
| It chanced on one of these rambles that their way led them down a by-street in a busy quarter of London. The street was small and what is called quiet, but it drove a thriving trade on the weekdays. The inhabitants were all doing well, it seemed and all emulously hoping to do better still, and laying out the surplus of their grains in coquetry; so that the shop fronts stood along that thoroughfare with an air of invitation, like rows of smiling saleswomen. Even on Sunday, when it veiled its more florid charms and lay comparatively empty of passage, the street shone out in contrast to its dingy neighbourhood, like a fire in a forest; and with its freshly painted shutters, well-polished brasses, and general cleanliness and gaiety of note, instantly caught and pleased the eye of the passenger. Two doors from one corner, on the left hand going east the line was broken by the entry of a court; and just at that point a certain sinister block of building thrust forward its gable on the street. It was two storeys high; showed no window, nothing but a door on the lower storey and a blind forehead of discoloured wall on the upper; and bore in every feature, the marks of prolonged and sordid negligence. The door, which was equipped with neither bell nor knocker, was blistered and distained. Tramps slouched into the recess and struck matches on the panels; children kept shop upon the steps; the schoolboy had tried his knife on the mouldings; and for close on a generation, no one had appeared to drive away these random visitors or to repair their ravages.  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |

**Starting with this extract, how does Stevenson use settings to create mystery and fear?**

**Write about:**

**• how Stevenson describes the setting in this extract**

**• how Stevenson uses settings to create mystery and fear in the novel as a whole.**

**Jekyll and Hyde (30 marks, spg 4 marks)**

Read the following extract from Chapter 7 and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Utterson and Enfield are disturbed by a terrified look on Jekyll’s face.

|  |
| --- |
| [Utterson sees Jekyll at his window]."What! Jekyll!" he cried. "I trust you are better.""I am very low, Utterson," replied the doctor, drearily, "very low. It will not last long, thank God.""You stay too much indoors," said the lawyer. "You should be out, whipping up the circulation like Mr. Enfield and me. (This is my cousin—Mr. Enfield—Dr. Jekyll.) Come, now; get your hat and take a quick turn with us.""You are very good," sighed the other. "I should like to very much; but no, no, no, it is quite impossible; I dare not. But indeed, Utterson, I am very glad to see you; this is really a great pleasure; I would ask you and Mr. Enfield up, but the place is really not fit.""Why then," said the lawyer, good-naturedly, "the best thing we can do is to stay down here and speak with you from where we are.""That is just what I was about to venture to propose," returned the doctor with a smile. But the words were hardly uttered, before the smile was struck out of his face and succeeded by an expression of such abject terror and despair, as froze the very blood of the two gentlemen below. They saw it but for a glimpse, for the window was instantly thrust down; but that glimpse had been sufficient, and they turned and left the court without a word. In silence, too, they traversed the by-street; and it was not until they had come into a neighbouring thoroughfare, where even upon a Sunday there were still some stirrings of life, that Mr. Utterson at last turned and looked at his companion. They were both pale; and there was an answering horror in their eyes."God forgive us, God forgive us," said Mr. Utterson. But Mr. Enfield only nodded his head very seriously and walked on once more in silence. |

**Starting with this extract, how does Stevenson create a sense of horror?**

**Write about:**

* **How does Stevenson create a sense of horror in the extract?**
* **How does Stevenson create a sense of horror in the novel as a whole?**

**Jekyll and Hyde (30 marks, spg 4 marks)**

Read the following extract from Chapter 10 and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Jekyll describes the preparations he made to ensure he could assume the identity of Mr Hyde without suspicion.

|  |
| --- |
| Even at that time, I had not yet conquered my aversion to the dryness of a life of study. I would still be merrily disposed at times; and as my pleasures were (to say the least) undignified, and I was not only well known and highly considered, but growing toward the elderly man, this incoherency of my life was daily growing more unwelcome. It was on this side that my new power tempted me until I fell in slavery. I had but to drink the cup, to doff at once the body of the noted professor, and to assume, like a thick cloak, that of Edward Hyde. I smiled at the notion; it seemed to me at the time to be humorous; and I made my preparations with the most studious care. [...] I announced to my servants that a Mr. Hyde (whom I described) was to have full libertyand power about my house in the square; and to parrymishaps, I even called and made myself a familiar object, in my second character. I next drew up that will to which you so much objected; so that if anything befell me in the person of Dr. Jekyll, I could enter on that of Edward Hyde without pecuniary loss. And thus fortified, as I supposed, on every side, I began to profit by the strange immunities**)** of my position.Men have before hired bravos to transact their crimes, while their own person and reputation sat under shelter. I was the first that ever did so for his pleasures. I was the first that could thus plod in the public eye with a load of genial respectability, and in a moment, like a schoolboy, strip off these lendings and spring headlong into the sea of liberty**.** But for me, in my impenetrable mantle, the safety was complete. Think of it—I did not even exist! Let me but escape into my laboratory door, give me but a second or two to mix and swallow the draught that I had always standing ready; and whatever he had done, Edward Hyde would pass away like the stain of breath upon a mirror; and there in his stead, quietly at home, trimming the midnight lamp in his study, a man who could afford to laugh at suspicion, would be Henry Jekyll. |

**Starting with this extract, how does Stevenson create the duality between Jekyll and Hyde?**

**Write about:**

* **How Stevenson presents the duality between Jekyll and Hyde in this extract.**
* **How Stevenson presents the duality between Jekyll and Hyde in the novel as a whole.**

**Jekyll and Hyde (30 marks, spg 4 marks)**

Read the following extract from Chapter 3 and then answer the question that follows.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A FORTNIGHT later, by excellent good fortune, the doctor gave one of his pleasant dinners to some five or six old cronies, all intelligent, reputable men and all judges of good wine; and Mr. Utterson so contrived that he remained behind after the others had departed. This was no new arrangement, but a thing that had befallen many scores of times. Where Utterson was liked, he was liked well. Hosts loved to detain the dry lawyer, when the light-hearted and the loose-tongued had already their foot on the threshold; they liked to sit a while in his unobtrusive company, practising for solitude, sobering their minds in the man’s rich silence after the expense and strain of gaiety. To this rule, Dr. Jekyll was no exception; and as he now sat on the opposite side of the fire—a large, well-made, smooth-faced man of fifty, with something of a slyish cast perhaps, but every mark of capacity and kindness—you could see by his looks that he cherished for Mr. Utterson a sincere and warm affection. |  |
|   “I have been wanting to speak to you, Jekyll,” began the latter. “You know that will of yours?”  [...] “My good Utterson,” said the doctor, “this is very good of you, this is downright good of you, and I cannot find words to thank you in. I believe you fully; I would trust you before any man alive, ay, before myself, if I could make the choice; but indeed it isn’t what you fancy; it is not so bad as that; and just to put your good heart at rest, I will tell you one thing: the moment I choose, I can be rid of Mr. Hyde. I give you my hand upon that; and I thank you again and again; and I will just add one little word, Utterson, that I’m sure you’ll take in good part: this is a private matter, and I beg of you to let it sleep.” |  |

 |

**Starting with this extract, how does Stevenson Present Dr Jekyll?**

**Write about:**

**• how Stevenson presents Jekyll in this extract**

**• how Stevenson presents Jekyll in the novel as a whole.**

**Paper Two- Modern Texts and Poetry (2 hours 15 minutes)**

**Modern Texts-You will have a choice of two questions.**

**Lord of the Flies (30 marks, spg 4 marks)**

* ‘Lord of the Flies is a terrifying novel.’ How far do you agree with this statement? What methods does Golding use to lead you to your view?
* How does Golding present violence in *Lord of the Flies*?
* How does Golding present Piggy as ‘a true, wise friend’?
* What do you think is the importance of Simon in *Lord of the Flies* and what methods does Golding use to present him?
* How does Golding present death in *Lord of the Flies*?
* How does Golding use the setting of the island to explore some of his ideas in *Lord of the Flies*?
* At the start of *Lord of the Flies*, Piggy asks Ralph: ‘Aren’t there any grown-ups at all?’ How does Golding present ideas about being a ‘grown-up’ in Lord of the Flies?

**Poetry (30 marks)**

* Compare the ways poets present the power of the natural world in ‘Storm on the Island’ and in one other poem from ‘Power and Conflict’.
* Compare the ways poets present loss in ‘Poppies’ and one other poem from ‘Power and Conflict’.
* Compare the ways poets present strong feelings in ‘Checkin’ Out Me History’ and one other poem from ‘Power and Conflict’.
* Compare the ways the poets present the reality of war in ‘Bayonet Charge’ and one other poem from ‘Power and Conflict’.