

Unit 15

Pleasure and Purpose-2



Objectives:

After the completion of this unit, you should be able to –

- get familiarized with a particular form of literature – fiction.
- interpret, evaluate, paraphrase and summarize English fiction in their own language.
- read, understand and enjoy English fiction.
- be able answer different kinds of questions related to English fiction.

Overview

Lesson 1: A Pound of Flesh

Lesson 2: The three caskets

Lesson 3: The trial

Answer key

Lesson One: A Pound of Flesh

A. Look at the picture, ask and answer questions.

1. What do you see in the picture?
2. What do you think they are doing?
3. What other things do you find in the pictures apart from the two persons?
4. Where do we find these things?
5. What is the meaning of 'flesh'?
6. What can you predict from the picture?



B. Now read the text.

Once upon a time in Venice, there was a very rich merchant named Antonio. He had many ships that sailed in the sea. His ships carried different types of merchandise to other countries. He sold those goods in foreign countries. He bought spices and other valuables with the money and sold them in Venice.

Antonio was a good and kind man. He always helped the poor. The people of Venice loved him very much for his honesty and kindness.

Antonio had a close friend named Bassanio. He was a handsome young man and was born in a noble family. Bassanio liked to live a very luxurious life. He loved grandeur and style. He spent more money than his earning. As a result, he was very often short of money. In such situations, Bassanio would go to his best friend Antonio for help. Antonio would, on the other hand, help him with cash.

It so happened that, Bassanio fell in love with a wealthy lady named Portia. Portia was known not only for her beauty but also for her wisdom. Portia, on the other hand, had

softness towards Bassanio too. He wanted to visit Portia in a grand manner but he did not have any money. So he went to Antonio.



Bassanio said, “Dear friend Antonio, I am in great need of some money. I would like to visit Portia at Belmont, grandly dressed and with many servants. But I don’t have any money right now. Please help me to fulfill my intention.”

Antonio said, “This is not a problem my friend, how much do you need?”

“Three thousand ducats (Venetian currency) will do.”

“I don’t have that much money with me now as all my ships have gone out in the sea with merchandise. But don’t worry my friend, I’ll arrange three thousand ducats for you.”

So he decided to borrow the sum from a moneylender named Shylock. Shylock was a very crooked man. Antonio and Shylock hated each other. Shylock sued to lend money with high interest. He would even send the debtor to prison if he failed to pay his debt. On the contrary, Antonio used to lend money to help those who need it and would not charge any interest.

Shylock agreed to lend him money but on one condition. If he failed to repay the money in three months’ time then he has to pay a penalty. Shylock would cut a pound of flesh from any part of Antonio’s body.

Antonio willingly agreed thinking that his ships would soon return with all the rich merchandise and he can easily return the money to Shylock by selling them. Shylock made Antonio sign a bond before giving him the money. Antonio took the money and gave it to Bassanio.



C. Write if the following statements are True or false, If false, give the correct information.

1. Antonio and Bassanio were very fond of each other.
2. Bassanio and Antonio were rich merchants.
3. Shylock went to Antonio to borrow money.
4. Shylock happily gave Antonio the money he asked for.
5. Antonio needed the money to buy merchandise.

D. Read the text in B again and answer the following questions.

1. Why was Bassanio short of money all the time?
2. Why did he go to Antonio?
3. Why did Antonio go to Shylock?
4. What kind of person was Shylock?
5. Why did Shylock bring forward the bond?
6. What could be written on the bond?

E. Match the meaning of words in Column A with that of Column B.

Column A	Column B
Merchant	A building where people are kept as punishment
Luxurious	To take legal action
Wisdom	Just the opposite
Crooked	Disadvantage
Sue	To give money to some as loan
Debtor	Very comfortable and expensive
Lend	A person who owes money
On the contrary	Someone who buys and sells goods for profit
Prison	Dishonest
Penalty	Knowledge that is gained by having many experiences in life

Lesson Two : The three caskets

A. Look at the picture and answer the following questions:

1. Do you know what a 'casket' is?
2. What do people do with such thing?
3. Have you ever seen a casket?



B. Read the text and answer the following questions.

Bassanio went to Belmont to visit Portia grandly dressed, with many servants. Portia's father had died lately. Before his death he had thought of an unusual plan to find a good husband for his daughter. He wanted a man to marry Portia for herself and not for her wealth. He had three caskets made, one of gold, one of silver and one of lead. One of the caskets had Portia's portrait in it. The suitor, who would first choose the casket with the portrait would marry her. Many suitors went away when they heard about such a strange condition.

The first one to try was the prince of Morocco. He thought that silver and lead are poor metals. It is the casket made of precious metal that can hold the precious picture. So he chose the gold casket. But all he found was a picture of a skull with a message that said, "All that glitters is not gold." The prince was very sad and went back home.



Then came the prince of Spain. He looked at the silver casket for a long time. On it was written, “He who chooses me will get what he deserves.” The prince had a very high opinion about himself. He thought that he deserved the best. He therefore chose the silver casket and opened it. Inside the casket he found the picture of a blinking fool. He was very disappointed and offended. He immediately rode away.

Then it was Bassanio’s turn. He looked at the caskets for a long time. He thought, “Appearances are often misleading. Bad men appear good and they hide their inner ugliness under fine clothes.” So he chose the plain looking lead casket. On opening the casket, he found the portrait of Portia inside.



Bassanio and Portia got married. There was great joy at Belmont and the newly married couple was spending their time happily.



But soon their happiness turned into sorrow by a piece of news. A messenger came with a letter from Antonio. The letter said, “Dear friend Bassanio, all my ships have been lost at sea. I cannot pay the money I owe to Shylock. So I have to pay the penalty. Dear friend, come and see me if possible. I would like to see you once before I die.” Bassanio quickly left for Venice.



C. Write if the following statements are True or false, If false, give the correct information.

1. Portia’s father wanted a man who had plenty of wealth to marry Portia.
2. Portia’s father had two caskets made of gold.
3. The first one to try to caskets was the prince of Spain.
4. The prince of Spain chose the gold casket.
5. Bassanio chose the plain looking lead casket because “appearances are often misleading...”

D. Answer the questions that follow:

1. Why did Portia’s father make such a strange plan?
2. Which metals are used in making the three caskets?
3. How many people attempted to choose the right casket?
4. Who succeeded to marry Portia?
5. Why did the joyous mood at Belmont turn into sadness?

E. Identify the word-class of the following words and make sentences with them. One is done for you.

Grandly (adv.) – He was grandly dressed.

Grandly
Unusual
Herself
Strange
Immediately

Opinion
Portrait
Deserve
Messenger
Happiness

Lesson Three : The trial

A. Look at the picture and answer the questions that follows:

1. What do you see in the picture?
2. What do you think they are doing?
3. What types of clothes they are wearing?
4. Who usually wears such clothes?
5. Is there any relationship between the title and the picture?



B. Read the text and answer the following questions.

When Bassanio reached Venice, Antonio was already in the court of justice. They were waiting for the trial to begin. The Duke entered the courtroom, took his seat and the trial began. The Duke requested Shylock to be merciful and not to claim his pound of flesh. But Shylock would not listen to him. Bassanio offered him twice the amount of money that Shylock lent Antonio but Shylock did not accept it. He said, “I claim my pound of flesh. The law is on my side. Antonio must pay the penalty written in the bond.”

The Duke was extremely sorry that he could do nothing to help Antonio. The law was on Shylock's side and the law must be abided. The Duke feared that though the wisest lawyer in Venice was coming to speak in defense of Antonio, even he would not be able to save the merchant. Soon a young clerk entered the courtroom with a letter from the wise lawyer. The lawyer was ill and would not be able to come to the court. He requested the Duke to let his young friend, Doctor Balthazar, defend Antonio. The Duke gave his permission, and Doctor Balthazar entered the courtroom. He looked very young, and the Duke doubted if the wisdom of the young lawyer could save Antonio. This young lawyer was no other than Portia in disguise and the young clerk was her friend, who was also in disguise.



Portia begged Shylock to be merciful and told him how God bestows mercy to those who are merciful themselves.

“Mercy” Portia said, “brings a blessing to him who shows it and to him who receives it. All of us pray to God for mercy. But God will only have mercy on us if we have mercy on others.”

Shylock paid no heed to Portia. All he wanted was his pound of flesh.

Portia asked, “Can't Antonio pay the debt?”

Bassanio cried, “Yes, he can pay it, and even more. ... Even I can pay ten times the sum my friend borrowed from Shylock.

“Won't you take the money, Shylock?” Portia asked.

“No, I demand the lawful penalty. Give me my pound of flesh.”

“Let me see the bond Shylock”, said Portia.



Shylock handed the bond to her. She read it with great attention and then said, “You are right Shylock. The law is on your side. You can claim the flesh. But I would request you one more time to accept the sum Bassanio is offering you, and let me tear up the bond.”

But Shylock would not give up his claim. Portia then turned towards Antonio and said, “Get ready Antonio for Shylock to cut his pound of flesh. The law gives it to him.”

Shylock was filled with joy on hearing what Portia said. He began to praise Portia in disguise, for her wisdom and righteousness. He cried out, “Oh noble judge! Oh excellent young man, you are a second Daniel, who has come to this earth.”

Portia urged Shylock to cut the pound of flesh he demanded. Delighted, Shylock walked towards Antonio with a knife in hand. He told Antonio to uncover his chest.



The Trial Scene

But as he was about to cut Antonio's flesh, Portia stopped him. She cried out, "Wait Shylock! Never forget - there is no mention of blood in the bond. Therefore, you cannot shed a single drop of blood while you cut your pound of flesh; or else you pay the penalty. And the penalty is, the state will take your property from you. You lose everything that you have now, Shylock."



Shylock understood it was not possible for him to cut a pound of flesh without shedding blood. He was defeated by the wise lawyer. He hung his head and without another word left the courtroom. Thus Antonio's life was saved.

Adapted from *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare



C. Answer the following questions:

1. Who first requested Shylock to show mercy?
2. Who was Portia? What do you know about her?
3. What did Portia say regarding mercy?
4. How did Portia save Antonio's life?
5. How many characters are there in these three lessons?
6. How do you evaluate the character of Shylock?

D. There are some grammatical mistakes in the following excerpt. Rewrite it correctly.

After the Duke entered the court room and took seat, the trial begins. Shylock claimed his pound of flesh to be cutting from Antonio's body. The Duke request Shylock to show mercy. But Shylock would not listened to him. In such a critical condition, Doctor Balthazar, the young lawyer who was no other than Portia in disguise entering into the court room. The young lawyer (Portia in disguise) also beg Shylock to be merciful. But Shylock pay no heed to Portia and demanding his pound of flesh.



E. Write a short summary of the whole story in your own language and supply a title of that.

Marks and Test Items distribution

English	Marks	Marks and Test Items distribution				
English First Paper	100	Skills/Area	Marks	Test Item	Item Marks	
		Reading	50	MCQ		07
				Answering questions (open ended and close ended)		10
				Matching		05
				Gap filling without clues		05
				Information Transfer		05
				Rearranging		08
				Summarizing		10
				Writing	50	Writing paragraph answering questions
		Completing a story				10
		Writing informal letters				10
		Describing graphs/charts				10
		Dialogue writing				10

Model Question

Subject: English **First** Paper

Time: 3Hours

Full Marks: 100

[N.B.:--- Answer all the questions. The figures in the right margin indicate full marks.]

Part A: Reading Test (50 Marks)

Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

A freedom fighter is honored **in all lands** and in all times, because he fights for a noble cause which is the freedom of the motherland. Freedom is birthright of man, but sometimes this right is denied to a nation by foreign rulers. As a result, armed conflict takes place between the freedom-loving people and the occupation forces. Sometimes the war continues for years and if the people are united and determined then the freedom fighters win and the country achieves independence.

The people of Bangladesh fought a glorious war of independence against the Pakistani occupation forces in 1971. In this Great War the Bengali members of the armed forces, the students and the people from all walks of life took part. They fought for long nine months and defeated the well trained Pakistani forces. Bangladesh became a free country. The people who fought against the Pakistani army and the people who took part in the war are called the freedom fighters. Many of the **freedom fighters** sacrificed their lives for the cause of the motherland. We are indebted to these noble freedom fighters for our freedom. The freedom fighters are the golden sons of Bangladesh and her pride. The people will cherish the memory of the valiant sons till the end of Bangladesh or the world.

1. Choose the correct answer from the alternatives.

1×7=7

(a) Which of the following has the nearest meaning of the word, 'freedom' used in the first sentence?

- (i) Independence (ii) War (iii) Battle (iv) Fight

(b) What does the expression "in all lands" in line 1 mean?

- (i) Most of the countries (ii) All countries in the world
(iii) Only the developed countries (iv) Only the undeveloped countries.

- (c) The word ‘birth right’ refers to -----
 (i) freedom (ii) privilege (iii) failure (iv) suggestion
- (d) Which one is defeated in the War of Independence?
 (i) Police (ii) Army (iii) Freedom fighters (iv) Occupation forces
- (e) Not only Bangladesh but also the world will remember ----- forever.
 (i) B.G.B (ii) armed forces (iii) police (iv) valiant sons
- (f) The War of Liberation ---- in 1971.
 (i) take place (ii) held (iii) took place (iv) occur
- (g) ----- participated in the War of Liberation.
 (i) Students (ii) Women (iii) Porters (iv) People of all walks of life.

2. Answer the following questions.

2×5=10

- From your reading of the passage, give one of the reasons of armed conflict between two countries.
- “Freedom is the birthright of man.” Who says this? Why does s/he say this? Explain in 2/3 sentences.
- What do you know about the War of Independence?
- Describe the heroism of our freedom fighters.
- Do you support the idea that the people of this soil will cherish the memory of the valiant sons forever? Why / Why not? Explain in 2/3 sentences.

3. Write a summary of the passage in no more than 65 to 75 words.

10

4. Read the passage on the history of Nobel Prize. Complete the table below with information from the passage.

1×5=5

The Nobel Prize is the world’s most prestigious and important prize. It has been given since 1909. This prize is given to persons with outstanding contributions to physics, chemistry, literature medicine, peace and economics. Economics was added to the list in 1969 for the first time. The Nobel Prize was instituted by a man who was the inventor of dynamite. This scientist was Alfred Bernard Nobel. He was born in Stockholm, Sweden on October 21, 1833 and he died in 1896. Though he was a citizen of Sweden, he was educated in Russia. He earned a huge sum of money by selling dynamite. At the time of his death in 1896. Nobel left behind a huge amount of money. He also left a will indicating that the interest on this money should be given as prizes to persons for their outstanding contributions to physics, chemistry, medicine, literature and peace. This prize was named as Nobel Prize. The first Nobel Prize was given to Rontgen on 10th December 1901 for his inventing X-rays.

Name of events	Place	Year/Time	Achievement
Alfred Nobel born	i. --		
Nobel Prize instituted		ii. -----	
Economics added to the list		iii. -----	
Alfred educated	iv. --		
		In 1901	v. -----

5. From your reading of the above passage, fill in the blanks with suitable words. Use one word only in each blank.

1×5=5

Alfred Bernard Nobel, the (a)---- of dynamite was born in Sweden. He (b) ---- the whole amount of money he (c) ---- by selling dynamite as prizes to persons for their outstanding contribution to six fields. The Nobel Prize was (d) ---- after his name. The prize (e) ---- his name.

6. Match the parts of sentences given in column 'A' and column and 'B' to write five complete sentences. There are more parts of sentences in column 'B' than required. 1×5=5

Column A	Column B
a. Nowadays most of the students are	i. using face book
b. As a result, they cannot	ii. worried about the matter
c. Their parents are	iii. satisfied with the matter
d. They pass their time	iv. indifferent to their studies
e. This is how they waste	v. their most valuable time
	vi. cut a good figure in the exam as per expectation
	vii. can play an important role in this regarded.

7. Put the following parts of the story in correct order to rewrite the whole story. 1×8=8

- He graduated from the govt. school of Art in Kolkata.
- He recognized as the most valuable painter of Bangladesh.
- He died of lungs cancer.
- Zainul Abedin was born in 1914 in Kishoregonj.
- Still now he is referred with great respect as Shilpacharya in Bangladesh.
- He is also the pioneer of Bangladeshi Modern art.
- He was also appointed as a teacher there.
- He is highly admired for this "Bengal Femine Sketches".
-

Part B: Writing Test (50 Marks)

8. Answer the following questions to write a paragraph on "Your School Magazine". 10

- What is a school magazine?
- What is the name of your school magazine?
- How is the magazine committee for made?
- What does it contain?
- What is the importance of a school magazine?

9. Read the beginning of a story. Write ten new sentences to complete the story. 10

Once there was an old farmer in a village. He had four sons. They were illiterate. Every day they used to quarrel among themselves. This made the farmer very anxious. He wanted to teach them a lesson. So, one day he asked his sons to -----

10. The table below shows 'The Number of People Living below the Poverty Line' from the year 1995 to 2014. Now, describe the table in about 150 words. 10

Years	Percentage of people living under poverty line
1995	35.6%
2004	45%
2008	36.3%
2010	31.5%

11. Imagine, you are Asif/Fatema living at Mirpur. You have a pen friend Alice who lives at 10 Park Street, U.S. A. He wants to know about Bangladesh. Now, write a letter to your friend describing you country. 10

12. Mobile phone is one of the wonders modern sciences. It has added a new dimension to our way of life and to the communication system. But it can be misused by someone. Now, write a dialogue between you and your friend Farid / Farida on merits and demerits of using mobile phone. 10