Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**FIRST TERM EXAM**

**Std VIII-JK Duration: 2 hours Marks 80**

**ANSWER KEY**

***Question 1:***

***“We should cut down the trees”***

1. Who says the above-mentioned lines? Where does the person stay? Why does the person say so? 3

Ans. The lines are said by a lady who lives on the third floor. She says so because she can’t sleep due to the ‘noise’ made by the birds.

1. How are the spring and the trees described? Why? 3

Ans. The spring and the trees are described as translucent. It is because in the spring season new leaves are born and they are fresh and young and they look translucent.

1. What cannot be differentiated from one another? Why is it so? 3

Ans. One can hardly differentiate between the parrot from the leaf, the berries and the parrot’s beak and the red splash on wing and veins of the fresh leaves that tingle. One cannot differentiate as it is the spring season and the leaves and flowers on the tree are blooming.

1. Mention the other birds in the poem. What happens to the garden city due to their addition? 3

Ans. The other birds mentioned by the poet are sparrows, crows and mynahs. As these birds come, the common garden city becomes complete with pandemonium at dawn.

1. How is the person, who has said the above lines, described by the poet? What is the poet trying to say? Do you think the person’s reason for saying so is relevant? Why? 4

Ans. The lady is described as a fingernail scratching a blackboard. The poet is saying to describe her as irritating. No, the lady’s reason for cutting down the tree is irrelevant. She says so as she cannot sleep because of the ‘noise’ made by the birds. The birds’ voice is not a voice but a bliss. Moreover, the tree adds to the beauty of nature.

***Question 2:***

***“Charge for the guns”, he said***

1. Who is the ‘he’ mentioned here? Whom are the lines spoken to? Where are they going? 3

Ans. ‘He’ mentioned here is the commander. The lines are spoken to the six hundred soldiers going into the valley of death.

1. How are the soldiers described in the second stanza? What has ‘someone’ done? 3

Ans. The poet says that there wasn’t any soldier who had been dismayed. They cannot reply nor they can ask the reason behind the attack knowing that it was someone who blundered. They were willing to do what was told and die. Such was their bravery and loyalty.

1. Though someone has blundered, what did the soldiers not do? 3

Ans. Though it was a blunder to attack the enemies, they did not disobey the orders of their commander. They did not reply anything, not did they ask the reason why so, but had the only option to do and die.

1. Which war has been described about in the poem? Who is fighting the battle? 3

Ans. The poem describes the Crimean War when the Britain and its Allies were fighting against the Russian Empire. Cossacks and Russians were fighting the battle against a common enemy.

1. What is spoken about the Light Brigade’s glory in the last stanza?

It is mentioned that their glory can never fade. The world will continue to wonder the wild charge they made and everyone will honour the charge and the Light brigade and the Noble six hundred.

***Question 3:***

***“I heard a thousand blended notes”***

1. Where was the poet sitting? How was he sitting there? 3

And. The poet was sitting in a grove. He was sitting there satisfied, in a reclined position.

1. What ‘work’ has been done by the nature? How does the poet feel about the same? 3

Ans. The nature has done the fair work of linking herself to the human soul and the poet feels linked to it. The poet’s heart grieved on thinking what man has made of man.

1. Which three figures of speech have been used in the second stanza of the poem? Explain. 3

Ans. a. Personification - Nature has been given the human quality of doing her fair work.

b. Repetition - In the line, ‘What man has made of man’ man word is repeated

c. Alliteration – ‘m’ sound is repeated in the words ‘man’ and made’.

4. What did the budding twigs do? Why? What does the poet say about them? 3

Ans. The budding twigs spread out their fan to catch the breezy air. The poet says that he must think, do all he could, that there was pleasure there.

5. Which rhetorical question does the poem ask at the end of the poem? How does he justify his reason to do so? 4

Ans. The poet asks the rhetorical question that does he not have a reason to lament. The poet says that if this is the belief sent from Heaven and such be Nature’s holy plan then he does have the reason to lament, ‘What man has made of man?’

***Question 4:***

***“In the meantime you should try and put up with me”***

1. Who is the speaker of these lines? How old is the speaker? Who is the speaker talking to? 3

Ans. The speaker of these lines is Vera, Mrs. Sappleton’s niece. She is fifteen years old. She is talking to Framton Nuttel.

2. What had the narrator’s sister done for him? Why? 3

Ans: Framton’s sister had once stayed in the country at the rectory and knew many people there. She gave letters of introduction to her brother so that he could get acquainted with people there. She believed that if Framton would bury himself in the new place and not speak to anyone, his nerves would be worse than ever from moping.

3. Mention the tragedy narrated by Vera. 3

Ans. Three years ago, Mrs Sappleton’s husband and her two young brothers along with their little brown spaniel had gone off for their day’s shooting. They never came back. In crossing the moor to their favourite snipe-shooting ground they were all engulfed in a treacherous piece of bog. Their bodies were never recovered. According to Vera, aunt always thought that they would come back some day and walk in through the window.

4. Whom did the other person coming from the direction of the window? 3

Ans. Framton looked in the direction of the window, he saw three figures walking across the lawn towards the window. They all carried guns under their arms and one of them carried a white coat over his shoulders. A tired brown spaniel kept close at their heels. Noiselessly they neared the house and then a hoarse young voice chanted out of the dusk ‘I said Bertie why do you bound?

5. Do you agree that romance at short notice was the speaker’s specialty? Justify. 4

Ans. Yes, romance at short notice was the speaker’s specialty. Vera was quick to make up stories (or lies), and had an incredible knack of telling them in a way that people believed her. Vera made up two stories. One was the lie she told Framton related to the tragedy of her aunt Mrs Sappleton. The other story was the one she told Mr Sappleton about Framton running away as he was afraid of the spaniel due to a horrible experience with dogs in the past. She gave minute details to make people believe her story. She gave details like Mr Sappleton had carried a white coat and the brother used to sing a tune while entering. She even took advantage of the fact that Framton was already a nervous wreck and made up a spooky story. Thus, the writer says that ‘Romance at short notice’ was her speciality.

***Question 5:***

***“There was no sound of his calling from the mosque”***

1. Who is being spoken about in the above lines? How has he been described? 3

Ans. Bakri’s grandfather is being spoke about in the above lines. He sang out the call to the village every morning. He had a strong, powerful voice that seemed to fill the heavens and he was very diligent about his duties and never missed a single morning.

2. What did Bakri decide when he heard no voice that morning? What did he do instead? Why? 3

Ans. Bakri decided to go to his grandfather’s house to see what the matter was, instead of going to the mosque to pray. But he did not want to start the day without going to prayers at dawn. Hence he decided to go to the mosque first as someone at the mosque might know what had happened to his grandfather.

3. Why had Bakri gone up the hill? 3

Ans. Bakri had gone up the hill as the finest muncangs grew there. He had gone there to collect the muncangs, a kind of nut, because his grandfather liked them a lot. His grandfather also used the shells to make rings. Bakri thought if he collected enough muncangs, his grandfather would make a lot of money selling those rings.

4. What were Bakri’s thoughts when he heard someone coming up the hill?

Ans. Bakri thought that it must be the boys from the other village. He thought that if they would find out that he had come so early, without even asking them to come with him, and also know that he had already gathered all the fallen nuts, then they would be angry and probably take all the nuts away from him. He’d be lucky if they would not beat him for being so greedy.

5. Why did Bakri apologize to the boys? How did he apologize? What did all the boys do at the end?

4

Ans. After hearing the words of one of the boys, who said that Bakri deserved all the nuts as he was the who had gotten up early and collected the nuts, Bakri stood up from where he was hiding and gave a loud yell to the boys. Bakri apologized to them and gave them their part of the nuts. He said that they were all good friends and should share and share alike. The boys decided to give all the nuts to Bakri’s grandfather, who, after having them would get well and strong again.

***Question 6:***

***“All learned men came to the king but they all answered his questions differently”***

1. Which questions did the King have? 3

Ans. The questions that the King had were, if he always knew the right time to begin everything, who were the right people to listen to and whom to avoid, and above all, if he always knew what was the important thing to do then he would never fail at anything he might undertake.

2. What did the King decide after hearing the different answers? Why? 3

Ans. The King did not agree with any of the answers and gave reward to none. But he still decided to consult a hermit, who was widely renowned for his wisdom.

3. Where did the Hermit live? How did the King go there? 3

Ans. The hermit lived in a wood which he never quitted, and he received nothing but common folk. Hence, the King went to meet him in simple clothes.

4. Who was the bearded man? Why did he ask for forgiveness from the King? 3

Ans. The bearded man was an enemy of the King and had asked for forgiveness from the King. He told the King that he was an enemy of his who swore to revenge on him because the King had executed his brother and seized his property. He told the King that he was aware that King had gone alone to meet the hermit and he resolved to kill him on his way back but the King hadn’t returned so he came to the ambush to find him. But, the King’s bodyguard recognized and wounded him. The King had helped him and had he not done so, he would have bled to death.

5. In what way were the King’s questions answered? 4

Ans. The hermit told the King that if the King had not pitied his weakness the previous day and would have left without helping him, then the man would have attacked the King and then would have repented not staying with the hermit. Here, the most important time was when the King was digging the beds and the most important man was the hermit, and doing good to him was the King’s most important business. Later, when the man came to them, the most important time was when the King was attending him, because had he not done so, he would’ve died without making peace with the King. Here the most important person was the man, and what King did for him was the most important business.The Hermit says, that the only time that is important is- “Now!” because, it is the only time when one has power. The most necessary man is the one with whom he is as no one knows whether he will ever have dealings with anyone else, and the most important affair is to do him good because for that purpose alone was man sent into this life.

***Question 7:***

1. How did the Gods create the world? 3

The Gods decided first to bring about some kind of order. They picked up the lightest substance from the jumbled mass and made it in the sky. They chose the next lightest substance and created the created the gently blowing breeze. The heavier particles sank to the bottom and formed the earth while the rest turned into water and became the sea, on which the earth floated.

2. What were the Gods who belonged to the race of supernatural beings called? Who was given the responsibility to create a human? 3 Ans. The Gods who belonged to the race of supernatural beings were called Titans and among them were two brothers Prometheus and Epimetheus. The Gods entrusted the job of creating humans to these brothers. They were also told that the human beings should be given the necessary qualities to look after themselves.

3. Which special quality was given to the human? By whom was it given? Where was it found? 3

Ans. The special quality that was given to human beings was the gift of fire. Prometheus decided to give the humans this gift. This gift only belonged to the Gods and no one else was allowed to have it. The Gods, who lived on Mount Olympus kept fires burning all the time in special vessels, which they guarded carefully.

4. Describe the box that Pandora was going to open. 3

The box was made up of dark wood with beautiful carvings all over and it was securely tied up with a golden cord fastened with an elaborate knot. Although Pandora was confident that she would be able to undo the knot if she tried and proud of her deft fingers and her ability to weave, for a long time she couldn’t succeed. The knot was very intricate that no matter how hard she tried, she just could not undo it.

5. What happened as soon as Pandora opened the lid?

As soon as Pandora opened the lid, they came fluttering out and filled up the whole place. They stung Pandora and Epimetheus who had come in to see what Pandora was doing. The wasps flew out through the door and windows and stung the people who were dancing and making merry in the garden. Their shouts of joy soon turned into cries of pain.

***Question 8:***

1. Who was Acricius? How many children he had? What did the Oracle tell him? 3

Ans. King Acricius ruled over the kingdom of Argolis in Ancient Greece. He had a daughter whose name was Danae, but he had no sons to succeed him to the throne. The Oracle told King Acricius that he would never have any sons. Furthermore, his end would come at the hands of his grandson, the son of Danae.

2. Describe the person who save Danae and her child. How did he save her? 3

Ans. Dictys save Danae and her child. He was a simple and honest fisherman who lived on the island of Seriphos. One morning, as he was walking along the shore, he heard the crying of a baby. He was astonished to see a drooping young girl with a tiny baby in her arms, and he immediately went to their help.

3. Describe young Perseus. 3

Ans. Perseus was a strong lad, a head taller than all the other boys on the island. He was brave and truthful, gentle and courteous, and highly skilled in sports and music. The good Dictys had trained him well. Perseus was loved by everyone in Seriphos.

4. Mention what happened when Perseus went to the Grey Ladies. 3

Ans. Perseus went to them and asked them politely where Medusa lived. The Grey Ladies were foolish and quarrelsome and did not want to help him. So Perseus snatched the eye and tooth from them and threatened to throw both into the sea unless they helped him. In a frightened voice, they instantly told him where he could find the Gorgons. Perseus returned the eye and the tooth to them and flew off to find Medusa.

5. In the end, what happened in Argolis? 4

Ans. Danae wanted to return to her old home in Argolis. Perseus went to Argolis with his mother and Andromeda. When they reached there, they found that special games and competitions were being held in that country. King Acricius was there too, watching the events. Perseus decided to take part in the discus-throwing competition. He threw the discus as hard as he could. But unfortunately, the discuss struck King Acricius in the foot, killing him instantly. The prophecy of the Oracle was thus fulfilled.

***Question 9:***

1. What were the names of Aeson’s wife and their child? What did the wife realise? 3

Ans. The name of Aeson’s wife was Alcimede and their son’s name was Jason. His wife, Alcimede realized that if Pelius came to hear of the baby’s birth, he would have him killed at once.

2. Who was Chiron? 3

Ans. Chiron was a Centaur. A Centaur is a supernatural creature who is almost a god, with the head of a man and the body of a horse. Chiron was the wisest of the centaurs and was a teacher to many of the princes of Greece.

3. What did Jason learn from Chiron? 3

Ans. Jason learnt all about forests, trees, birds and beasts from Chiron. Under the care, Jason grew up to be strong and fearless, able to wrestle and run and hunt with the best of the young princes. Chiron also taught him the use of different weapons and all the other arts that a prince should learn.

4. Which kind of threat’s would Jason’s ship have to face? 3

Ans. Jason’s ship would have to pass through the dangerous Bosphorous Strait, where the Black sea became so narrow that it was difficult for a ship to pass through it. At the entrance to this narrow channel, on either side of it, stood two huge, jagged rocks called the Clashing islands. Whenever a ship tried to sail through the channel they came together with a clash and smashed the ship into tiny pieces.

5. How did Medea help Jason the second time? 4

Ans. Medea got to know of her father, King Aietes, and her brother Prince Apsyrtus’ plan and went to warm Jason. She told him that she will lead him to the sacred grove where the Golden Fleece was hanging. The Argonauts rowed silently until they reached the sacred grove. They pulled up their ship and waited quietly. Medea and Jason stepped onto the shore. The Golden Fleece, hung from the bough of a tree, gleaming in the moonlight like a shower of gold. But at the foot of the tree was the huge fire-breathing dragon which guarded the Fleece. Medea went close to the dragon and started tossing a magic lullaby which put the animal to sleep. Jason grabbed the Golden Fleece and ran back to the ship with Medea.