**Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)**

**Std: VIII-Euro Duration: 1 hour Marks: 40**

**ANSWER KEY**

**Section A (13 Marks)**

1. ***Week in, week out, from morn till night***

***You can hear his bellows blow***

1. Who is he? What can you hear him doing?    (3)

Ans. ‘He’ here is the blacksmith. One can hear him swing his heavy sledge with measured beat and slow, like a sexton ringing the village bell.

2. Which tool is mentioned in the next line? As a result of his action, whom is he compared to? How?

(3)

Ans. The tool mentioned is a heavy sledge. He is compared to a sexton as when the blacksmith swings the sledge it makes slow measured sounds which are compared to the ringing of the bell.

1. ***Singing in the village choir***

***And it makes his heart rejoice...***

1. What is his activity on Sunday? (3)

Ans. The blacksmith goes to Church on Sundays and sits with his boys. He hears the parson pray and preach. This tells us that he is not just involved in his work but also leads a normal life. He spends time with his family and also takes out time for religious activity.

2. Who sings in the village choir? Why does his heart rejoice? How does he go onward through his life (4)

Ans. The Smith’s wife sings in the village choir. She sounds like her dead mother’s voice. The daughter’s voice makes him emotional and he remembers his wife. This nostalgic feeling makes his heart rejoice. He goes onward through his life toiling, rejoicing and sorrowing.

**Section B (13 Marks)**

1. ***A sister of his dead mother lived in the village.***

***She had done what was needful for him as a baby...***

1. What did the mother give the child before dying? Who many siblings did he have? (3)

Ans. Before dying, the mother only gave birth and a name to the child, Duny. He had six siblings.

2. What did the siblings do? What did the father do? (3)

Ans. The siblings went one by one from home to farm, to the land or sail the sea or work as Smith in other towns of the Northheard vale. Duny’s father was a bronzesmith.

3. Describe what happened when the boy shouted the rhyme the second time. (4)

Ans. When Duny shouted the rhyme the second time, the rhyme gave him power over the goats. They came closer, crowding and pushing round him. All at once he felt afraid of their thick, ridged horns and their strange eyes and their strange silence. He tried to get free of them and to run away. The goats ran with Duny keeping in a knot around him, and so they came charging down into the village at last, all the goats going huddled together as if a rope were pulled tight round them and the boy in the midst of them weeping and bellowing.

4. Why was there nothing that could be got of this boy? What would he do instead? (3)

Ans. There was not much work to be got of Duny because he was always off and away; he would keep roaming deep in the forest, swimming in the pools of the River Ar or climbing by cliff and scarp to the heights above the forest from which he could see the sea.

**Section C (14 Marks)**

1. ***I moved easily along the berth and felt for the window ledge…***

1. How is October according to the narrator? Give details. (4)

Ans. According to the narrator, October is the best time to go to Mussoorie. He says that the hills are covered with wild dalihas, the sun is delicious and at night, one can sit in front of a logfire and a little brandy. He also mentions that most of the tourists had gone and the roads are quiet and almost deserted.

2. The narrator says that his co-passenger has an interesting face. Justify why he says so. (3)

Ans. : The narrator complimented the girl by saying that her face was interesting as he knew that girls can resist flattery. When the girl told him that she was often told she has a pretty face he then said that interesting faces can be pretty. The narrator thus kept fearlessly flattering the girl.

1. ***He was eating a sandwich hungrily. He had eaten nothing since morning.***

1. Why did he eat hungrily? What else did he have? (3)

Ans. He ate hungrily as he had eaten nothing since morning and had been too excited to eat. After he finished the sandwich, he took a flash of whiskey from his pocket and took a short draught. He then took a smoke too.

2. Who came around the corner of the side street? What was she doing there? (2)

Ans. An old woman went to the car from round the corner of a side street. She was an informer. She began to talk to the man in the turret of the car. She was pointing to the roof where the sniper lay.

3. What did the sniper do next? (2)

Ans. When the turret opened, a man’s head and shoulders appeared looking toward the sniper. The sniper raised his rifle and fired. The head fell heavily on the turret wall. The woman darted toward the side street. The sniper then fired at the woman who whirled round and fell with a shriek into the gutter.