Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**FIRST TERM EXAM**

**Std: IX-VIBGYOR Duration: 2 hrs Marks: 80**

**Attempt five questions in all.**

**You must attempt at least one question from each of the Sections A, B and C**

**SECTION A- DRAMA**

**Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

***Question 1: 16 “Not in love neither? Then let us say that you are sad as you are not merry.”***

1. Who is the speaker of these lines? Whom are the spoken to? Where is the scene happening? 3

Ans: The speaker of these lines is Salerio (Salerio). They are spoken to Antonio. The scene is taking place in a street in Venice.

1. Whose swear is the speaker taking? What is the swear? Why is the swear of that entity taken?

Ans: The speaker Salerio is swearing by Janus. The swear is that nature hath framed strange fellows in her time. The swear of Janus is taken as just as Janus is looking in opposite directions with his two heads, these people show opposite behaviour.

1. What kinds of people are there in the world according to the speaker? 3

Ans: The people made by nature are strange according to the speaker. Some people forever peep through their eyes and laugh like a parrot even at a bagpiper playing bagpipe. Other people are of such vinegar aspect that they will not show their teeth in the way of smile though Nestor swear that the jest is laughable.

1. Who enters the scene at this juncture? How is he described? What else is spoken by the person describing the entrant? 3

Ans. Bassanio, Lorenzo and Gratiano enter the scene at this time. Bassanio is described as the most noble kinsman of Antonio. The person says that he would leave Antonio now in better company.

1. What role does Gratiano want to play in the world? 4

Ans. Gratiano want to play the role of a fool. He wants the old wrinkles to come with mirth and laugher. He would rather have his liver heat with wine than his heart being cold with mortifying groans. He does not want to be like his grandsire’s alabaster statue, sleep when he wakes and creep into the jaundice by being peevish

***Question 2:*  *“Your father was ever virtuous, and holy men at their death have good inspirations” 16***

1. What pointed question is asked just before this speech? Who asks the question? 3

Ans. The pointed question is asked to Nerissa by Portia. The question is whether it was not hard that she could not choose one for her husband nor refuse none.

1. How does the speaker justify the actions of the ‘father’? 3

Ans. Nerissa says that Portia’s father was ever virtuous and such holy men at their death have good inspirations. This made Nerissa believe that lottery of the three caskets would be chosen correctly only by the one whom Portia shall rightly love.

1. What question is asked by the speaker at the end of the speech? 3

Ans. Nerissa asks Portia What warmth was there in her affection towards any of the suitors that had already come. She was trying to know what Portia felt about the suitors who had already arrived at Belmont.

1. Name the suitors mentioned in the scene. 3

Ans. The Neapolitan prince, County Palatine, the French Lord Monsieur Le Bon, The English Baron Falconbridge, the Scottish lord and the duke of Saxony’s nephew.

1. What does scene tell you about the character of Portia? Substantiate. 4

Ans. In the scene Portia seems to be in an irritated mood ad calls herself aweary of this great world. She thinks it is unfair that she cannot chose or refuse anyone. She seems to be philosophical in her speech about the difficulty in doing the right thing. She ridicules the suitors mentioned by Nerissa and seems to think low about them. But we see that in spite of being unhappy about the casket test she would abide by the conditions set by her father as she is an obedient daughter. Finally, we also see that she seems to be having a soft corner for Bassanio.

***Question 3: “You call me misbeliever, cut throat dog, and spit upon my Jewish gabardine.” 16***

1. What things done by Antonio had annoyed Shylock? 3

Ans. Antonio had rated Shylock frequently in the Rialto about his money and his usance which shylock had borne with a patient shrug. Antonio had called Shylock misbeliever cut throat dog and spat upon his Jewish gabardine for using his own money. He had void his rheum upon Shylock’s beard and foot him as one would spurn a stranger cur from the threshold.

1. In what way does Shylock use sarcasm in this speech? 3

Ans. Shylock reminds Antonio that in the past he was called as a cur by him. He asks Antonio if a cur can lend him three thousand ducats. He also asks that does Antonio expect him to bend low and in a bondman’s key with bated breath say that as he was spat upon last Wednesday, spurned on a particular day and called a dog, for these courtesies he was ready lend this much money.

1. What does not go according to the expectation of Shylock? 3

Ans. Shylock had expected after a critical speech attacking Antonio that he would apologise to him. On the contrary he flares up and says that he was likely to spit n him again, call him cur and spurn him. If the money had to be given to him Shylock should not give it as a friend but as an enemy.

1. How does Shylock display his shrewdness after the argument with Antonio? Why does he do it? 3

Ans. Antonio flares up even more and says that he is likely to call Shylock a dog, spit on him and spurn him again. If he would lend him a loan he should give it as an enemy not as a friend.

1. Summarise the contents of the bond 4

Ans. The bond mentioned that a sum of three thousand ducats was being given by Shylock to Antonio for a period of three months. This bond was a single bond in the name of Antonio. There was no interest that was being charged .But in merry sport it was written that if Antonio fails to repay the bond on the decided day and place the forfeit would be nominated by one pound of fair flesh in whatever part of the body that pleased Shylock.

**SECTION B- POEMS**

**Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

***Question 4: 16 When all at once I saw a crowd,***

***A host of golden daffodils;***

1. Where and when does the poet find daffodils? Mention the figure of speech used in the last line of the same stanza. [3]

The poet was wandering lonely as a cloud when he saw a crowd, a host of golden daffodils. These daffodils were beside the lake, beneath the trees. The figure of the speech mentioned in the last line of the same stanza is Onomatopoeia: (fluttering is the sound created by the word), Tautology (fluttering and dancing mean the same that is to move)

1. How does the poet describe the movement of the daffodils? To what does the poet compare the daffodils to show that the flowers grow over a continuous stretch? [3]

The movement of the daffodils is said to be fluttering and dancing in the breeze. The poet compares the daffodils to the continuity of the twinkling and the shining stars that are there on the Milky Way.

1. Did the experience of seeing the daffodils have a long-lasting effect on the poet? How? [3]

Yes, the experience of seeing the daffodils did have a long lasting effect on the poet as the poet in the beginning was upset and depressed. He compares his wandering to the floating of a cloud in the beginning. However, he mentions in the last stanza that very often when he is lying on his couch in a vacant or in pensive mood, the daffodils flash on his inward eye which is the bliss of solitude.

1. What attracts the poet to the daffodils and makes him gaze at them? How does he feel when he sees this sight? [3]

The thought that what wealth the show of the daffodils bring to him makes him gaze at him. He feels attracted to the daffodils as he believes that in such a jocund company any poet can only feel happy.

1. Is William Wordsworth a lover of nature? Discuss this by referring to the theme of the poem. [4]

Yes William Wordsworth is a lover of nature. The readers can see a transition in his mood. In the beginning he is upset and depressed. On encountering the golden daffodils; ten thousand of them in a glance.

***Question 5: 16***

***“Bangle sellers are we who bear Our shining loads to the temple fair”***

1. Who is the narrator of the poem? Where does he go? Why does he go there? 3
2. Who are the prospective customers of the bangle seller? What terms does the poet use for them? Why? 3
3. How does the poet describe the red bangles? 3
4. How do the emotions of the bride connect to the bangles she wears? 3
5. Which women are referred to in the last stanza? What does the poet say about them? 4

Ans. The narrator of the poem is one of the bangle sellers. He goes to temple fair to sell his wares. A temple is visited by the Indian women regularly. When there is a temple fair, there is a consistent crowd thronging the place. Thus, he chooses the temple fair so that he can make a good profit in a single day.

Ans. It is young girls and women who are the prospective customers of the bangle seller. According to the Indian tradition, colourful bangles are worn by young unmarried girls or wives. These women are happy and content. Thus, the poet has used the terms, ‘happy daughters’ and ‘happy wives.

Ans. Some brides wear red bangles on the day of their marriage. In the Indian traditional marriage ceremony, the bride and the groom take seven vows around a fire. The bright red bangles of the bride are like the amber coloured frame of the marriage fire.

Ans. The bride’s heart is full of emotions on the day of her wedding, she is very happy to enter into a new world of her spouse and her heart is filled with passion and desire. On the other hand, she is also sad that she has to leave the comfort and protection of her parents’ house and the company of her siblings and her friends. The tinkling sound made by the bangles and their lustre are like her laughter soothing. Whereas, the tender and clear texture of her bangles is like tears.

Ans. The poet refers to women who have reached that stage of their lives where they have become the matriarchs of the family. They have fulfilled all their commitments. They have given birth and nurtured their children and accomplished all their duties towards their household and their family. Such women feel satisfies having met all expectations in life. They have now earned a position of respect and can stand by their husband’s side while performing all religious duties.

***Question 6: 16***

***It was a summer evening***

***Old Kaspar’s work was done…***

1. Mention the names of Kaspar’s grandchildren. What were they doing in the beginning of the poem [3]

Wilhelmine and Peterkin. Wilhelmine was sporting on the green near her grandfather. Peterkin was playing beside the rivulet where he had found something that so large, smooth and round.

1. How is the skull described by the poet and by the grandfather? [3]

The skull described by the poet is large, smooth and round. The grandfather says that it belonged to some poor fellow’s skull who fell in the great victory.

1. How did the battle cause damage to the property around? [3]

The enemies had burnt Old Kaspar’s father’s dwelling to the ground and he was forced to fly. The country everywhere was wasted far and wide. This damage was done with fire and sword. After the field was won, it was a shocking sight for many thousand bodies lay rotting in the sun.

1. What does the grandfather keep quoting in the poem? Why? What does it show? [3]

The grandfather keeps quoting in the poem that it was a great victory or it was a famous victory. These lines signify the fact that the generation to which the old man belonged never challenged the futility of war. They easily accepted that it was a necessary evil in spite of all the harm it caused to humanity.

1. Bring out the theme of the poem by justifying the title. [4]

The title of the poem ‘After Blenheim’ suggests what happens after the battle of Blenheim. It focuses on the destruction caused to the property as well as humanity. The old man vividly describes the consequences of the battle highlighting how many thousands were killed including soldiers and the commoners. The grandfather keeps repeating that it was a famous or a great victory because that was the propaganda which was indoctrinated in the minds of the common people. The poet through the repetition of the lines wants to emphasise that wars are senseless, futile and evil and that in war there are no real winners.

**SECTION C- PROSE**

**Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

***Question 7: 16***

***The boy appeared to be crying.***

***His head hung down, he held his face in his hands,***

1. How can one identify that he was a school boy? Where was he sitting?

What was he not supposed to do? [3]

**Ans:** One can identify that he was a school boy as he was wearing a school cap which was their uniform. He was sitting alone on a rock. He was not supposed to be out after dark.

1. What happened due to the strong wind? How different was Mr Oliver? [3]

**Ans:** Due to the strong wind, the pine trees made sad, eerie sounds that kept most people to the main road. Mr Oliver was not a nervous or imaginative man.

1. What was Mr Oliver carrying? What was the problem with it? [3]

**Ans:** Mr Oliver was carrying a torch and its gleam moved fitfully down the narrow forest path. Its batteries were running down. Also, its light was flickering.

1. Where was the school located? How is the school described in the media? Name the medium. [3]

**Ans:** The school was located on the outskirts of the hill-station of Simla. Life magazine, in a feature on India, had once called it the ‘Eton of the East.’

1. What did Mr Oliver do when he saw the boy’s face? What happened then? [4]

**Ans:** When Mr Oliver saw the boy’s face, he was so shocked that the torch fell from his trembling hand. He turned and scrambled down the path, running blindly through the trees and calling for help. He kept running towards the school buildings when he saw a lantern swinging in the middle of the path.

***Question 8: 16***

***“Death touches the spring of our common humanity.***

***This woman had been despised, scoffed at and angrily denounced***

***by nearly every man, woman and child in the village.***

1. How did the people of the village treat the woman during her life? What was their attitude towards her after her death? [3]

This woman had been despised, scoffed at, and angrily denounced by nearly every man, woman and child in the village. After her death, the news of her death was passed from lip to lip in subdued tones. Pity took the place of anger and sorrow of denunciation.

1. How and where did the mother die? How many children did she have? [3]

The mother had fallen upon the threshold of her own door in a drunken fit and died in the presence of her frightened little ones. She had three children; John, Kate and Maggie.

1. What did people carry with them when they visited the woman’s house on her death? Why did no one follow the dead cart? [3]

They carried a grave-cloth for her and some food for the three half-starving children. Some women also brought some cast- off clothes and changed the soiled and ragged clothes of Maggie, who was bedridden. Nobody followed the dead cart as it bore the unhonoured remains to its pauper grave.

1. Who was the dead woman’s youngest child? How had she become a disabled person? [3]

The youngest child was Maggie. She was hopelessly diseased. Two years before a fall from a window had injured her spine and she had not been able to leave her bed since.

1. Who was Joe Thompson? What type of a person was he? What doubt did Joe Thompson have when he decided to take the youngest child home? [4]

Joe Thompson was a wheelwright. He was rough in exterior but he had a heart and was very tender in some place. Being childless, Joe would be pleased to have the children come to his shop where sleds and wagons were made or mended. Joe’s wife Mrs Jane Thompson was not a woman of saintly temper, nor much given to self-denial for others’ good and he had well grounded doubts touching the manner of greeting he should receive on his arrival.

***Question 9: 16***

***As they passed down the aisle of the coach the only vacant seat offered***

***was a reversed one facing the attractive young woman.***

1. Describe the appearance of the linked couple. [4]

Among the newcomers in the coach there were two young men. One of them was a handsome man with a bold and frank facial expression and manner. The other one was a ruffled, serious looking person, heavily built and roughly dressed. They were handcuffed together and therefore are referred to as the ‘linked couple’.

1. In your opinion state how minor characters play an important role in the story? [4]

It is the minor characters i.e. the two other passengers in a seat nearby who had heard most of the conversation reveal the truth. One of them subtly brings out the truth that Easton is the prisoner and the glum-faced man the marshal. As a marshal’s right hand is never handcuffed it is very clear that Easton is the prisoner and the glum-faced man a marshal. A prisoner’s right hand is handcuffed in order to restrict his movements.

1. O. Henry presents various ironical situations in the story. Comment. [8]

The two men who enter are judged by their appearances. Mr Easton is of handsome presence with a bold, frank countenance and manner; the other is a ruffled, glum-faced person, heavily built and roughly dressed. The readers just like the lady immediately accept this as the truth due to the appearances of the two men. O. Henry thus clearly brings out the fact that ‘appearances can be deceptive’. Later in the story from the conversation of the other two passengers one realises that Mr Easton was actually the criminal and glum-faced man was the Marshall. O. Henry does drop subtle hints from the start to suggest the actuality of both’s characters. One, when Mr Easton says that his butterfly days are over and also when glum-faced man was observing the girl’s countenance with veiled glances from his keen, shrewd eyes. It is a typical characteristic of a policeman to do so.