Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**FIRST TERM EXAM**

**Std: IX- VPM Duration: 2 hours Marks: 80**

***Question 1: 16***  “***Ho, no, no, no, no; my meaning in saying he is good man is to have you understand me that he is sufficient***”

1. What misunderstanding does Shylock try to clear through this speech? 3

Ans. Shylock ties to clarify why he called Antonio a good man. He says his meaning in saying Antonio was a good man was that he was sufficient. This was necessitated by the way in which Bassanio had interpreted his previous statement.

1. Why does Shylock think that Antonio is not a reliable bet for the loan? 3

Ans. Shylock thinks that Antonio is not reliable for the loan as his means were in supposition. He had his argosies sailing in different parts of the ocean. But ships are just boards, sailors just men a. And there is a risk of land rats and water rats and pirates. Also, ships are subjects to risks of water winds and rocks.

1. What does Shylock want to do to be a little more reassured about giving the loan? What is Bassanio’s response to it? 3

Ans. Shylock wants to meet Antonio to be sure about giving the loan. Perhaps he is looking for an assurance straight from him. Bassanio invites him for dinner to introduce him to Antonio.

1. How does Shylock respond to Bassanio’s offer here? 3

Ans. Shylock is sarcastic in his response. He says that he wouldn’t go to smell pork. He could not eat of the habitation into which their prophet the Nazarite (Jesus) conjured the devil into. He says he doesn’t mind walking, talking and selling with the Christians but cannot eat, drink or pray with them.

1. In what manner does Shylock use a biblical story to justify charging of interest? 4

Ans. Shylock gives the biblical story of Jacob and Laban to justify charging o interest. Jacob and Laban had come to an agreement about the razing of Laban’s sheep. Laban would not pay him a regular salary for the same but all the eanlings that were streaked and pied were to fall as Jacob’s hire. Jacob smartly stuck the wands in front of the fulsome ewes. All the eanlings went to him. This was his way to thrive and any thrift is a blessing if not stolen by one.

***Question 2: 16 “Turn up on your right had at the net turning, but at the net turning…”***

1. What directions are given by Launcelot to his father? How does his father react? 3

Launcelot first tell his father to turn right at the next turning, then left at the very next turning and to turn of no hand at the third . In this way he would indirectly land up at the Jew’s house. His father says that by god’s sonties (saints), it will be hard way to hit.

1. What had the father got as a gift for the master of his son? Where did the son want it used? 3

Father had got a dish of doves for the master of his son. Son wants it used to be gifted to Bassanio. This is because he is the one giving rare new liveries and Launcelot wanted to serve Bassanio.

1. What according to Launcelot had fate done to the son of old Gobbo? How does old Gobbo react to the information? 3

Launcelot says that fate had made Old Gobbo’s son deceased or in plain terms gone to heaven. Old Gobbo is shocked at this piece of news and calls him the very staff of his old age and his only prop. Later he asks Launcelot for confirmation of the same news.

1. Finally, how does Launcelot convince old Gobbo that he was indeed his son? 3

After claiming a couple of times that he is Old Gobbo’s son he kneels down and askes his father to give him a blessing. When his father says that he is not his son, he finally says that he surely was the son of his wife Margery. That convinces Old Gobbo that Launcelot was indeed his son.

1. How does Launcelot describe his plight under Shylock? 4

Launcelot claims that his master is a very Jew. He deserves a halter and not a present. He claims that he is famished under the service of Shylock and his father can feel every finger he has with his ribs. He wants to say h ribs can be felt by his father’s fingers. He does not want to rest till he had run some ground away from Shylock.

***Question 3: 16 “I am bid forth to supper, Jessica; here are my keys, but wherefore should I go”***

1. Why is the speaker confused? Where is he supposed to go? What is the real reason for the invitation? 3 The speaker Shylock is confused as he doesn’t know if he should go to Bassanio’s feast. He has been invited by Bassanio to his house. The real reason for the invitation is that Bassanio and his friends wanted Shylock to leave his house so that it could help Jessica to elope with Lorenzo.
2. What are the reasons the speaker gives to go ahead with the supper plan? 3

Shylock says he would go to feed upon the prodigal Christian. He wants to waste the borrowed money of Bassanio so that he can take revenge from Antonio. Also he believes that there is some ill being brewed against his rest as he did dream of money bags ad wanted to check if all was well.

1. What mistake does Launcelot do at this juncture? How does he try to cover it up? 3

Launcelot makes the mistake of speaking about the masque. He tries to cover it up by talking gibberish, and saying that his nose started bleeding on last black Monday at six o clock in the morning falling out that year was four year in the afternoon.

1. What instructions does Shylock give Jessica about the masque? 3

Shyock tells Jessica to lock up his doors and when she hears the drum and the vile squealing of the wry necked fife, not to clamber to the casements. She is also not supposed to thrust her head into the public street to gaze on Christian fools with varnished faces. She is supposed to stop his house’s ears (casements) and is not let the noise of shallow foppery enter his sober house.

1. In what manner does Shylock talk about Launcelot after he has left? 4

Shylock calls Launcelot as a patch and says that he is kind enough but a huge feeder. He is snail slow in profit and sleeps by the day more than a wild cat. He goes on to call him a drone and says that drones do not hive with him and that is the reason he is doing away with Launcelot. He wants Launcelot to help Bassanio waste his borrowed money.

**SECTION B- POEMS**

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

***Question 4 16***

***“He plants a home for the heaven anigh”***

1. Why does the poet call the tree a ‘heaven anigh’? 3
2. Explain ‘treble of heaven’s harmony’. 3
3. Explain the meaning of the word ‘twilight’. Why has the poet mentioned ‘happy twilight’ in the poem? 3
4. In the second stanza, what does he plant who plants a tree? 3
5. Is the poem relevant even in today? 4

Ans. The tree is towering high into the sky. Moreover, there is a lot of harmony and peace surrounding the tree. The birds net in the tree and sing in the twilight and this fills the atmosphere with music that is very soothing. Al this makes the tree like a heaven close by.

Ans. The tree houses many birds which croon to their young ones. The high pitch of the mother bird heard in the hushed and happy twilight is like a harmonious blend of several notes creating divine music. The poet refers to this as ‘the treble of heaven’s harmony’.

Ans. Twilight is the time of the day immediately after sunset. Just like human being, the birds and animals return to their dwellings where the young ones are waiting for them. Both, the parent birds and the young ones, are happy at this moment to meet each other after a long day. Thus, it is referred to as ‘happy twilight’.

Ans. He plants cool shade and tender rain, and seed and bud of days to be. He plants the glory, the beauty of the plains. He plants the forest’s heritage which would be the harvest of the future.

Ans. Yes. This poem strongly conveys the message that planting of trees is very important for the growth and welfare of humanity at large. This poem was written long ago when there wasn’t so much of a threat to our planet as it is today, yet the poet has highlighted the importance of planting trees. In today’s modern times it is required even more because it is a well-known fact that it Is excessive deforestation has posed a great threat to the survival of the planet.

***Question 5: 16***

***‘Their dying fire in need of logs,***

***But the first held hers back,’***

1. Whom does the word ‘their’ refer to? Where were they trapped? Explain the term ‘dying fire’ figuratively. 3
2. What did they all have? Why? What do the logs symbolize? 3
3. How could the people have saved themselves? 3
4. Explain ‘forlorn group’. Why is it an irony and mention which figure of speech it is? 3
5. Would you say that ‘The Cold Within` is an apt title for the poem? Give reasons for your answer. 4

Ans. Six people were trapped in bleak and bitter cold and the fire was their only chance of survival. After some time, the fire was about to die for lack of fuel. Each one had a log which they could put in the fire and keep it going to save themselves. None of them was ready to put their log as each one was prejudiced against some other in the group. Eventually all of them die as the fire dies. The ‘dying fire’ symbolizes the warmth and love in their heart which is dying slowly due do prejudices.

Ans. The rich man was thinking of the wealth in his store and wanted to protect it from the poor who, he thought, were lazy and lacked ambition. He did not want to give his wealth, the log he had, which could also help the poor.

Ans. The fifth man was a black man. There was white lady in the group, and he was full of hatred. He thought that the log was the only chance to take revenge. The sixth person was a calculative type of person. He was only ready to give to those who helped him too. Hence, they did not give their logs.

Ans. ‘Forlorn group’ means a lonely and isolated group. It is ironical because this group consists of six human beings and it cannot be lonely or isolated. However, it is due to their personal feelings and prejudices that have alienated them from each other. The figure of speech given here is ‘oxymoron’ as two opposite words are used together.

Ans. The cold within refers to the lack of warmth in the hearts of the people mentioned in the poem. Yes, it does affect humanity. The hatred within each one of them was a result of selfishness, greed, intolerance, discrimination and arrogance. The cold within caused the death of all the people. Similarly, such hatred and cold attitude of people towards each other, if not curbed, will lead to destruction of humanity at large.

***Question 6: 16***

*‘****Whose hands have cherished, whose love has blest,***

***And cradled fair sons on her faithful breast’***

1. What does the word ‘whose’ refer to? Which coloured bangles do they wear? 3
2. Where are the bangle sellers going? What do the bangle sellers bear? How are they described? 3
3. Which word is given to compare the buds to the maidens? What are these buds dreaming about? 3

Where?

1. Explain: And serves her household in fruitful pride. 3
2. Give two examples of Auditory and Tactile Imagery each. 4
3. What does the word ‘whose’ refer to? Which coloured bangles do they wear? [3]

**Ans:** The word ‘those’ refer to those women who have journeyed through life midway. These are women who are the female heads, matriarch or matrons of the family. They have fulfilled their responsibilities as homemakers, wives and mothers. They wear bangles that are purple in colour and are gold flecked grey.

1. Where are the bangle sellers going? What do the bangle sellers bear? How are they described [3]

**Ans:** The bangle sellers are going to the temple fair. The bangle sellers are bearing the shining loads i.e. the glass bangles. They described to be delicate, bright, rainbow-tinted circles of light.

1. Which word is given to compare the buds to the maidens? What are these buds dreaming about?

Where? [3]

**Ans:** The word given to compare the buds to the maidens is ‘flushed’. The buds are dreaming of growing up and blossoming into beautiful flowers. These buds are growing on the tranquil brow of a woodland stream.

1. Explain: And serves her household in fruitful pride. [3]

**Ans:** Once a woman gets married, she has to take care of her house and family. She has to perform a lot of duties and meet the expectations of her husband, in laws and her children. When she successfully shoulders all her responsibilities, she feels a sense of pride.

1. Give two examples of Auditory and Tactile Imagery each. [4]

**Ans:** Auditory Imagery - tinkling, bridal laughter

Tactile Imagery - delicate bangles, tender like her bridal laughter, tranquil brow…

**SECTION C- PROSE**

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

***Question 7 16***

***“Yonder sky that has wept tears of compassion upon my people”***

1. What does the Chief Seattle say about the sky? 3
2. What is the White Chief’s wish? What does the Orator say about his wish? Why? 3
3. How does Chief Seattle bring out the difference between the number of whites and the native Americans? What are the examples given by him to bring out the difference? 3
4. What ‘mournful memory’ does the Orator speak of? 3
5. What does the Chief Seattle say about the youth? 4

Chief Seattle says that the sky has wept tears of compassion upon his people for several years. He further says that the sky appears to be changeless and eternal but it is not. Sometimes it is clear and devoid of clouds but at the other times it is overcast with clouds.

The White Chief wishes to buy the lands of the Red Indians and in return allow them to live there comfortably. The Orator thinks that this deal is a fair and generous one because the Red man no longer has rights that he needs respect. He thinks that the offer is wise.

Ans. The whites are in large numbers just like the grass that covers the huge grasslands of prairies. The tribal people of Seattle are few. They are like the trees that have been scattered on the plains due to a storm.

Ans. The Orator recalls the time when his people were large in number. They covered the land like the waves of a wind-ruffled sea covers its bed. But that was long ago and now the tribe has reduced and the greatness of the tribe is just a mournful memory.

Ans. Chief Seattle says that the youth is impulsive. He says that when the young people get angry at some real or imaginary wrong, and they disfigure their faces with black paint which is a sign of valour, it denotes that their hearts are black and they are often cruel and relentless. Even the old men and old women are unable to restrain them.

***Question 8 16***

***“There was a pontoon bridge across the river”***

1. Describe the old man and the place where he was sitting. 3
2. What does the narrator do for a living? What is the role given to him? 3
3. Initially, how was the old man responding to the narrator’s questions? 3
4. What was the narrator looking at while talking to the old man? What thoughts did he have? 3
5. What is the advice given by the narrator to the old man? What is the old man’s response to that? 4

Ans. The old man was wearing dusty clothes and steel rimmed spectacle. He sat by the side of the road. He was seen a pontoon bridge by the Ebro river. Though the other people were crossing and moving ahead, the old man sat there without moving and seemed too tired to walk any further

Ans. The narrator seems to be an army scout. He was given the role to cross the bridge explore the bridgehead beyond and find out till what point the enemy has advanced. He was also supposed to return and signal safety to his contingent at the bridge.

Ans. The old man said that he was form San Carlos. He said it with pleasure as it was his native town and smiled while saying it. He also added without being asked that he was just taking care of the animals.

Ans. While the narrator was talking to the old man he was watching the bridge and the African looking country of the Ebro Delta. He was wondering how long would it be before they saw the enemy. He was also listening all the while for first noises that would signal the mysterious event called contract.

Ans. The narrator advices the old man to walk a bit further if he can. He could go the junction where the road forks to Tortosa. There are trucks up the road which are leaving for Barcelona. He could have a safe passage to Barcelona then. The old man now assures the narrator that he would wait a while and then go.

***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
2. In your opinion state how minor characters play an important role in the story? 4
3. O. Henry presents various ironical situations in the story. Comment. 8
4. 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.