Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Batch: IX FRIENDS Duration: 1 HOUR Marks: 40**

Answer the following questions based on their weightage:

1. Which two kinds of people does Salerio mention about? 3

Ans. Salerio swears by two headed Janus that nature had framed strange fellows. Some would evermore peep through their eyes and laugh like parrots at bagpiper. The other of such vinegar aspect that they would not laugh even though Nestor swears that the jest is laughable.

1. In what way do Solanio, Salerio and Antonio show sophistication while parting from each other? 3

Ans. When Solanio notices Bassanio, Lorenzo and Gratiano entering, he says that they would leave Antonio with better company. Salerio says that he would have stayed till he had made Antonio merry if worthier friends had not prevented him. Antonio replies that their worth was very dear in his regard and he took it that their own business was calling on them and they were embracing the occasion to depart.

1. How does Bassanio describe Portia? 4

Ans. Bassanio calls Portia as rich, fair and virtuous. He says that this Portia is not less in value to Cato’s daughter Portia. The world is not ignorant of her worth and renowned suitors come from all the four directions. Her sunny locks hang on her temples like a golden fleece and Belmont has become Colchis’ strand. Many Jasons come in quest of Portia and he believed because of the fair speechless messages tha she had given, he would be the one who would be fortunate to marry her.

1. Why is the tree called as ‘a heaven anigh’ in the poem ‘The Heart of the tree’? 3

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

1. What do the ‘unborn eyes’ refer to? What will they see? 2

Ans. The unborn eyes refer to unborn children of the future generations. These children will see the tree planted by its ancestors now fully grown and will be filled with joy.

1. Why does the poet say that a nation’s growth depends upon the wealth of the tree? 4

Ans. Trees are the lifeline of a nation, playing an important part in maintaining its ecological balance. They purify the air by absorbing the carbon dioxide and other pollutant gases and providing oxygen. They have a cooling effect on the surroundings ad are also instrumental in a good rainfall. Trees act like a canopy and are homes to the birds for whom they are like a heaven on earth. It is these endless benefits due to which the poet says that a nation’s growth depends upon the wealth of the trees.

1. Who is the narrator of the poem ‘Bangle Sellers’? How does the narrator describe the bangles in the first stanza? 2

Ans. The narrator of the poem is one of the bangle sellers. The poet describes the bangles as delicate, bright, rainbow-tinted circles of light and lustrous tokens of radiant lives.

1. Some bangles are compared to buds. Why? What do the buds symbolize? Bring out the comparison. 3

Ans. The buds are pink in colour like the blush on a maiden’s face. So the pink bangles are compared to buds. The pink buds symbolise small girls who are about to enter the adolescent stage. Just like the buds are about to gloom into flowers, these girls are about to gloom into young adolescents.

1. Which bangles are compared to the mountain mist? Why? 2

Ans. The blue and silver bangles are compared to the mountain mist. Patches of the blue sky peeping through the mist gives a silvery effect. This is like wearing silver and blue bangles.

1. Which women are referred to in the last stanza of the poem ‘Bangle sellers’? What does the poet say about them? 4

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 family. Such women feel satisfied having met all expectations in life. They have now earned a position of respect and can stand by their husbands’ side while performing all religious duties.

1. Who is the narrator of the story ‘Old Man at the Bridge’? What role is he given? 3

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

1. Where were the trucks heading to? Why? What is the response of the old man to this information? 3

Ans. The trucks were heading towards Barcelona. They were probably rescuing the trucks taking the republican supporters to safety. Barcelona, then, was an area under Republican domination. When the old man is told this he responds by saying that he knew no one in that direction.

1. Explain the symbolism of the animals in the story ‘Old man at the Bridge’. 4

Ans. The animals used in the story are all symbolic. The old man is not worried about the cat as it can take care of itself and is supposed to have nine lives. The doves are supposed to be symbols of peace and are expected by the narrator to fly away (which would be the case when the war is on). The goats are the animals he is worried about. Goats are supposed to be the symbols of sacrifice and in this case too they are being sacrificed without any fault. Like them the old man is being sacrificed too because of no fault.