Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Test: The Open Window, The Charge of the Light Brigade,**

**Rapid Reader Chp. 1 (World and After)**

**Std: VIII-JK Duration: 45 mins Marks:30**

**Q1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: (10)**

***“Then you know practically nothing about my aunt?”***

***pursued the self-possessed young lady.***

1. Who is the ‘young lady’ mentioned in the extract? Who is she talking to? What answer did the other person give to her question? 3

Ans. The young lady mentioned in the extract is Mrs Sappleton’s niece, Vera. She is talking to Framton Nuttel. Framton says that he only knew her aunt’s name and address.

1. What tragedy does the ‘young lady’ narrate about? 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.

1. What was purely ‘horrible’ for Framton? Why? 4

Ans. Mrs Sappleton kept talking about her husband and brothers having gone for shooting and that they would come in from the window. She further rattled cheerfully about the shooting and the scarcity of birds and the prospects for duck in the winter. Vera had already given a different version of the story saying that her aunt’s husband and her brothers had gone for hunting three years ago and had not returned but the aunt kept believing that they would and therefore would keep the window open. Having heard this version, Framton was shocked to hear Mrs Sappleton talking about the hunting party returning any moment. This was purely ‘horrible’ for Framton.

**Q2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: (10)**

***“Half a league, half a league,***

***Half a league onward”***

1. What is meant by the word ‘league’ in the poem? How many people are going? Where? 3

Ans. ‘League’ is an old way to measure distance. It is approximately three miles. Hence, ‘half a league’ means one and half a mile. The six hundred soldiers are ride to the valley of Death.

1. Describe the scene in the third stanza. 3

Ans. It has been said that the cannons were to the right, left and in front of these six hundred soldiers. These soldiers were attacked with those cannons and it made a thundering sound. They were stormed at with shot and shell yet they rode boldly and well.

1. How did the six hundred soldiers attack? 4

The six hundred soldiers flashed all their bare sabres, they attacked as they turned in the air. They killed the gunners who were charging there, with their sabres. They were all surrounded with the smoke of the battery that is the heavy weaponry. The soldiers broke through the line of their attackers.

**Q3. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: (10)**

1. Which special quality did Prometheus decide to give human beings? Where was it found? 3

The special quality that Prometheus decided to give human beings was the gift of fire. 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.

1. How did the Gods come to know that human beings had the gift? What did the king of Gods do? 3

One night when Zeus the king of the Gods looked down from his palace and saw lights shining on the earth, he understood at once that fire had been stolen from Mount Olympus. Zeus understood that it was Prometheus who could have done that. He immediately summoned the other gods to his palace to decide the best form of punishment.

1. Cite Zeus’ plan of sending a woman on Earth. 4

Zeus planned that he would sending a woman on Earth who would be specially charming and each God would give her a special gift. So the Gods joined hands to create a divinely beautiful woman with very special gifts. They named her Pandora. Hermes, the messenger of the Gods, took Pandora down to the earth and presented her to Prometheus as a special gift from Zeus. But Prometheus did not trust Zeus and wisely refused to accept the gift. Epimetheus, on the other hand was more trusting. He could not believe that such an exquisite creature could harm them in any way, so he married Pandora despite Prometheus warning him not to do so.