Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**FIRST TERM EXAM**

**Std: IX-BOMBAY SCOTTISH Duration: 2 hrs Marks: 80**

**SECTION A- DRAMA**

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

***Question 1: 16 “Your father was ever virtuous, and holy men at their death have good inspirations”***

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 2:***  “***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 3: 16 “In terms of choice I am not solely led by the nice direction of a maiden’s eyes”***

1. Explain “nice direction of a maiden’s eyes”. 3
2. What false assurance did Portia give Morocco? 3
3. What predominates Morocco at the start of the scene? How do we know it? 3
4. In what manner does Morocco view the ‘fairest creature’ of the north? 3
5. Why does Morocco mention the allusion of Hercules? 4
6. Explain “nice direction of a maiden’s eyes”. 3

In this context nice direction of maiden’s eyes means whatever is considered nice and suitable by a maiden for the purpose of marriage. What Portia means to say is ,she is not impressed by the factors considered by other maidens. There are other factors too that she would consider if the decision ws in her hands.

1. What false assurance did Portia give Morocco? 3

Morocco is insecure about his colour and thinks that his colour may the reason of rejection from Portia’s end. Portia falsely assures Morocco that he stood a fair chance as any other suitor who had come for her affection. Had she not scanted and hedged by her father’s wit she could have got married to him.

1. What predominates Morocco at the start of the scene? How do we know it? 3

Morocco is predominated by his unsuitably due to his colour for winning Portia. He starts his discourse with that and tries to say that he is brave than any creature northward born and is willing to prove that by even making an incision for her love.

1. In what manner does Morocco view the ‘fairest creature’ of the north? 3

According to Morocco the ‘fairest creature’ of north is fair as Phoebus’ fire there is scarcely enough to melt icicles. He believe that the blood of this fair one would not be as red as his own blood. He is sure that the fair creature would be timid in his behaviour.

1. Why does Morocco mention the allusion of Hercules? 4

Morocco thinks that he is the most deserving one to win the hand of Portia . He is braver than any of the suitors around and is willing to prove that by doing daring things. But he understands that winning of Portia would happen because of fortune. To prove his theory he says that even Hercules may not be able to prove himself better than his servant Lichas, if it was to be decided by a throw of dice. Similarly as blind fortune is leading him, he may miss that which one unworthier may attain and die with grieving.

**SECTION B- POEMS**

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

***Question 4: 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 5: 16***

***One half their lives was reading books! The nursery shelves held books galore!***

1. What does the word ‘their’ refer to? Where else were the books kept? Why? 3
2. Which tales were found in the books read by children? 3
3. Which writer’s name is mentioned in the poem? Enlist any two names of the characters and two short stories. 3
4. What epithets has the poet used for the television screen? Why? 3
5. Despite the children throwing tantrums, why does the poet advise the parents not to fear? 4
6. What does the word ‘their’ mean? Where were the books kept? [3]

**Ans:** The word ‘their’ refer to those children who lived long ago and who were born before the monster (television) was created. Nursery shelves held the books galore, the books cluttered up the nursery floor. One would also find books in the bedroom by the bed.

1. Where do the smugglers go? How? Mention a synonym to the word ‘smugglers’ from the text? [3]

**Ans:** The smugglers go to the distant shores with muffled oars. Pirates in another word from the text that is synonymous to ‘smugglers’

1. What did the narrator beg about? [3]

**Ans:** The narrator begged to throw the TV set away and, in its place, install a lovely bookshelf on the wall and fill the shelves with lots of books, ignoring all the dirty looks, the screams and yells, the bites and kicks and children hitting the parents with sticks.

1. What will happen once the children begin to feel the need of having something to read? [3]

**Ans:** Once the children begin to feel the need of having something to read, parents would be able to see the slowly growing joy that fills their hearts. They will grow so keen that they will wonder what they had ever seen in that ridiculous machine.

1. Explain the central theme of the poem briefly. [4]

**Ans:** The poet has subtly brought out the advantages of reading books by highlighting the adverse effects of the television on the impressionable minds of the children. He is convinced that reading will lead to the intellectual growth of children. The habit of reading will enhance the imaginative power and the ability to think. It develops their understanding of fantasy and fairyland and transports them to a different world through books.

***Question 6: 16***

***I gazed and gazed but little thought***

***What wealth the show to me had brought.***

1. What happens very often with the poet? [3]

Whenever the poet’s mind is vacant or in a pensive mood and he is lying on his couch, the image of the daffodils would flash upon his mind. This would cheer him up and fill his heart with immense pleasure and it would break into a dance with the daffodils.

1. Explain: they flash upon that inward eye. [3]

The ‘inward eye’ refers to the imagination or the soul of the poet. Whenever he is thoughtless or in a pensive mood, the image of these daffodils flash upon his inward eye filling him with cheer. Thus the ‘inward eye’ is mentioned to convey the fact that the version of the beautiful flowers was etched in the memory of the poet.

1. Does the poet prefer his own company, at the end? Was it the same in the beginning of the poem?[3]

Yes, the poet prefers his own company. It is due to the daffodils that he feels ‘blissful’ in his solitude. In the beginning of the poem that was not the case. In the beginning of the poem, the poet was wandering alone like a solitary cloud that floats high over vales and hills. He was depressed and lonely. But its not the same at the end of the poem.

1. Where were the daffodils? [3]

Daffodils were beside the lake, beneath the trees and they are said to be along the margin of the bay.

1. Is the poem rich with Imagery? Which one? Justify. [4]

Yes, the poem is rich of visual imagery. There are many examples that justify this.

A host of golden daffodils, continuous as the stars that shine and twinkle on the Milky Way. They stretched in never ending line along the margin of a bay. Ten thousand saw I at a glance tossing their heads in sprightly dance. The waves beside them dance but they out-did the sparkling waves in glee. (Any 2-3)

**SECTION C- PROSE**

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

***Question 7: 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 8: 16***

***“The Indian’s night promises to be dark.”***

1. What does the ‘night’ refer to in the given line? Why does he say that it will be dark? 3
2. Why does the orator say that he does not to mourn at the untimely fate of his people? 3
3. What does Chief Seattle say about their sacredness to the soil? 3
4. Why does the orator say that the white man will never be alone? 3
5. What is the role played by the Red Indians after their death? 4

Ans. The ‘night’ refers to the end of the existence of the Red Indian tribe. The orator says this as there is no hope at all for them as ill fate seems to be on their trail. Wherever they go, the footsteps of their predators follow them. They have surrendered to their inevitable fate.

Ans. Chief Seattle firmly believes that life follows death. He knows that if a tribe or even a nation perishes another one will come to life just like the waves of the sea which rise and fall and rise again. This is a permanent face and thus he does not want to mourn at the untimely fate of his people.

Ans. Every part of the soil of their land is sacred because every hillside, every valley, every plain and grove has been made holy by some sad or happy event in the past. Even the rocks which appear lifeless are filled with the memories of various events in the lives of the people. The very soil upon which the Red Indians set their feet seems to remember and respond to the footsteps of the ancestors as it is rich with their blood.

Ans. The orator says that there will be a time when there will be only the White men on their land and no Red Indians. A few generations later the White men may feel lonely. At such times the spirits of the Red Indians, who would love their land even after death, will be all over place. These spirits will give company to the white men who there will not be alone.

Ans. The Red Indians are very attached to their descendants as well as their lands. Their spirits return from the heavens to their lands. They return to the beautiful valleys and mountains and lakes. These spirits also descend on their lands to visit, guide, comfort and console the Red Indians who are live and fighting for their lands.

***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.