Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**First Semester Examination**

**Std VIII-PPS Set A**

**Marks 80 2 hr Section A- Prose**

***At least 1 question to be attempted from every section***

***Question 1***

**“It didn’t take long to get where they were going?”**

1. What does the word ‘they’ refer to? Mention two similarities and differences between them. 3
2. What had Bruno observed there? 3
3. What did Bruno say the very first thing after the observation? Did Shmuel too support him? 3
4. Why had Bruno removed his boots and his socks? 3
5. In what period is the story set in? How did Bruno’s family shift there? Explain the irony given at the end of the story. 4

The word ‘they’ refer to Bruno and Shmuel. Bruno and Shmuel were of the same age born on the same day. However, one was Jew and the other was a German. One lived a miserable life; life of torture and the other lived a life full of freedom.

Bruno had observed three soldiers who seemed to be in charge of a group of about twenty men. They were shouting at them. Some of the men had fallen to their knees with their heads in their hands. In another corner he could see more soldiers standing around and laughing and looking down the barrels of their guns aiming them in random directions but not firing them.

The very first thing Bruno said after the observation was that he didn’t like it there. To which Shmuel also agreed and said that he too didn’t like to be there.

Bruno had to remove his shoes and socks to look as similar as Shmuel. He had to look like Shmuel to resemble him and get easily mixed in the crowd. Bruno had already changed his clothes into a striped pyjama bottoms, a striped pyjama top and a striped cloth cap.

The story is set in the period of Holocaust. The family shifts to Auschwitz as Bruno’s father gets promoted as Commandant. The Irony mentioned at the end of the story is that Bruno does say that he gets a best friend for life but it is when they were about to die in the gas chamber.

***Question 2***

**“Where is your husband,” he called…**

1. Who is the speaker of these lines? To whom are they spoken? Where does this scene take place? 3
2. Which tool did the young girl give to the speaker? Why? How? 3
3. What happened after the speaker said the above lines? What did the speaker do? What was Mrs Seaton and her daughters’ reaction? 3
4. Mention in brief how Siegfried behaved while sharpening the knife. 3
5. Describe Siegfried Farnon. 4
6. Siegfried Farnon is the speaker of these lines. These lines are spoken to Mrs Seaton. The scene takes place on the step outside Mrs Seaton’s house.
7. The young girl gave a steel to Siegfried because he wanted to sharp the dangerous looking knife. The young girl inched her way up to Siegfried and gave him the steel at arm’s length and dashed back to safety.
8. After the speaker said the above lines, there was no reply. He strode into the kitchen, waving the gleaming blade in front of him. Mrs Seaton and her daughters were cowering in the far corner and were staring at Siegfried with large, frightened eyes.
9. Siegfried prided himself on his skill at sharpening a knife. It was something he really enjoyed. As he honed the knife on the steel, he warmed to his work and finally burst into song. There was only the sound of a ring of steel on steel backed by the tuneless singing. There were silent intervals when he tested the edge carefully. Then the noise would start again.
10. Siegried Farnon was an absent-minded veterinary doctor. He would charge round the practice with fierce energy from dawn till dark. It wasn’t surely for money as he treated it with little respect. When the bills were paid, the cash went into the pot. He would simply grab a handful when he wanted it. His pockets would bulge with loose and balled up notes and whenever he pulled a thermometer, the notes would fly around him in a cloud. (Any 4 points)

***Question 3***

***“Oh my God! Helen! It was the band!”***

1. Who was the speaker of these lines? Where? How is that particular night described? 3
2. What happened next to the speaker? 3
3. What did the step father do when he was called? What was his name? 3
4. How has Helen’s life been for two years? What recent development has taken place in her life? 3
5. How did the step-father react to the recent development in Helen’s life? Why? 4

***Question 3***

1. Helen’s sister, Julia, was the speaker of these lines. This scene takes place in their manor house at Stoke Moran. It was a windy night and rain was beating against the window.
2. Julia pointed in the direction of her stepfather’s room, but a fresh convulsion seized her and choked her words. Helen rushed out calling loudly for her stepfather.
3. The step-father’s name is Dr Grimesby Roylott. He sent for medical aid from the village but all efforts were in vain.
4. Two years have passed since then and Helen’s life has been lonelier than ever. A month ago itself a dear friend asked her to marry him.
5. Helen’s stepfather did not oppose to the match and Helen and her fiancé were to get married in spring. However, two days before she had been told to shift into the chamber in which her sister died saying that the room needed repairs. The step-father wanted Helen to shift to the other chamber where Julia lived so that he could kill her.

**Section B- Poem**

***Question 4***

***‘I thank whatever gods may be for my unconquerable soul…’***

1. What does the word ‘whatever’ refer to? Why is the soul called ‘unconquerable’? 3
2. Explain the comparison given in the first line of the first stanza. How is the pit described? 3
3. How did the poet react in the fell clutch of circumstance? What does it show about him? 3
4. Identify the phrases that the poet uses to describe challenges? 3
5. Is the title of the poem justified? Explain. 4

***Question 4***

1. The word ‘whatever’ refers to the condition that God has put him into. Irrespective of the circumstances, hardships and obstacles God has not been able to conquer his spirit or the soul. He has not given up and will not succumb to the adversities. That is why his soul is described as unconquerable.
2. In the first line of the stanza, the night which is black is compared to the pit. It is described to be dark and from one pole to the other.
3. He did not wince nor cry aloud. His head is bloody but unbowed. It shows bludgeonings of chance. It shows he is invincible.
4. ‘Out of the night that covers me’, ‘In the fell clutch of circumstance I have not winced nor cried aloud’, ‘beyond this place of wrath and tears….’, ‘How charged with punishments the scroll’
5. Yes, the title of the poem is justified because the poet-narrator shows immense courage. He displays fortitude in the face of adversity and believes that no matter what he is the master of his fate and captain of his soul.

***Question 5***

***‘Stole a maiden from her place …’***

1. What does the word ‘stole’ mean here? What was she going to do? 3
2. How did the other maidens praise the dead warrior? 3
3. What did the nurse do? How old was she? What difference are you able to make out between the maidens and the nurse? 3
4. Explain the term ‘noblest foe’. Which figure of speech is given in the same line? Explain. 3
5. Give an example of a Simile from the poem and explain its meaning. 4

**Question 5**

1. The word ‘stole’ means to move quietly. She was going to step lightly to the warrior and was also going to move the face cloth off his face.
2. The other maidens praised him soft and low. They called him worthy to be loved and that he was a truest friend and noblest foe.
3. The nurse rose and set his child upon her knee. She was a ninety year old lady. We realise that given the nurse’s age, she understood what can make the warrior’s wife cry. However, the maidens because they were naïve and inexperienced, they probably didn’t know what could make her cry.
4. The term ‘noblest foe’ means that the warrior had been just and fair to his enemies too. The figure of speech given in the same line is ‘Antithesis’. Opposite words ‘friend’ and ‘foe’ are given in the same line.
5. Like Summer tempest came her tears- Simile: The tears of the dead warrior’s wife that came fiercely are being compared to the summer tempest.

***Question 6***

***So let’s work together and restore their rightful place***

1. What does the word ‘their’ refer to? How are they addressed in the poem? What is happening to them? 3
2. Which animals are mentioned in the first stanza? 3
3. Which issues are the animals facing, according to the third stanza? 3
4. Which tree is mentioned in the poem? What threat can it face? In which stanza is it mentioned? 3
5. Give two examples of Alliteration in the poem. Explain. 4

***Question 6***

The word ‘their’ refers to the animals who are becoming extinct. They are addressed as ‘best friends’. They are vanishing without any trace.

Golden mole, pine marten, polecat, hippos, cheetahs of Botswana are mentioned in the first stanza.

Manta ray is troubled by pollution of the waters, cats of the Andes scraper from a slaughter, jaguar tries to outrun the hunter’s cold pursuit and the Great crested newt doesn’t have ponds to live in.

Mpingo tree is mentioned in the poem. The poet wonders when would it take its final fall. It is mentioned in the third stanza.

Setting sun, final fall. (Any 1) the starting sound ‘s’ and ‘f’ is repeated in the line.

**Section C- Poem**

***Question 7***

***I don’t want all that. Shall I succeed in my present search or not?***

1. Who is the speaker of these lines? Whom are these words spoken to? What was the other man about say? 3
2. Why had the astrologer left his village? What would he had done had he not left his village? 3
3. Explain ‘present search’. What did the astrologer respond? 3
4. What solution was offered to Guru Nayak to avoid second threat his life? 3
5. Describe the Town Hall Park. (Any 4 points) 4

***Question 7***

1. The speaker is the stranger, Guru Nayak. These words are spoken to the astrologer. The other man that is the astrologer was going to give a false prediction involving a woman but the stranger interrupted him.
2. The astrologer had left the village out of fear of killing someone. Had he not left his village, he would have continued carrying on with the work like his forefathers- tilling the land, living, marrying and ripening in his cornfield and ancestral home.
3. The present search refers to the man who tried killing Guru Nayak. The astrologer tells Guru Nayak that his enemy was dead and that he had died four months ago.
4. The astrologer told Guru Nayak that he should be taking the next train and leave that place immediately. The astrologer said that there was another threat to his life if he goes away from his home. Saying this, he took out a pinch of sacred ash and held it out to him. He told him to rub it on his forehead and go home and not to travel southward again and thus he would live to be a hundred.
5. Surging crowd moved up and down, variety of trades and occupations: medicine sellers, sellers of stolen hardware and junk, magicians and above all an auctioneer of cheap cloth. Next came the vendor of fried groundnuts who gave his ware a fancy name every day.

***Question 7***

***And we have arithmetic today, which means for a whole period we are going to be beaten***

1. Who is the speaker of the given lines? Who is he talking to? What did the other person suggest? 3
2. In what way was Samuel violent? 3
3. What idea occurred to the speaker as he entered the school gate? 3
4. How did the speaker try to flare up Samuel in the class? 3
5. What is the irony of the story? 4
6. The speaker of the given lines is Swaminathan. He is talking to his mother. His mother suggested that Swami should stay at home.
7. Swami told his father that Samuel was very violent especially with the boys who came late. Some days ago, a boy was made to sit on his knees for a whole period in a corner of the class because he came late, and this punishment was given after getting six cuts from the cane and having his ears twisted. When Samuel would start caning he would not stop until he saw blood on the boy’s hand, which he made the boy press to his forehead like a vermilion marking.
8. As Swami entered the school gate, the idea that occurred to him was a sort of a solution to him. He decided to not deliver the letter to the headmaster immediately but at the end of the day. He thought that there was nothing wrong in it and his father wouldn’t even know. Swami thought that if the letter was given at the end of the day, there was a chance that Samuel might do something to justify the letter.
9. Swami tried to flare up Samuel. While Samuel was teaching Indian History, Samuel asked him a question at the top of his voice. When he was told by Samuel to not shout, he said that it was his ordinary voice which God had given to him. Samuel then asked a question, and before he could answer it, Swami shouted again. This time he was again scolded by Samuel for his obstructive behaviour. Swami again obstructed Samuel later, after which he got a warning from Samuel to not get up again. Yet Swami disobeyed Samuel by getting up again and was then beaten by the cane.
10. The irony of the story is that Swami’s father had written a letter to the headmaster of the school about Samuel’s violent behaviour. Swami thought that he was perjuring himself and ruining his teacher and hence decided to given the letter at the end of the day so that there might be a chance that Samuel might do something to justify the letter. After seeing Samuel’s behaviour on that day, he feels desolate. He thinks that his teacher might get punished because of him. Swami flares up Samuel purposely and gets beaten by him. But, at the end of the day, Swami does not get to deliver the letter to the headmaster but was asked by the peon to give the letter to the assistant headmaster, Samuel. Swami gets caught by both the ends as, when he goes home, his father calls him a coward and tearing the letter, says that he deserved a teacher like Samuel.