Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

First Terminal Examination

Std VIII EURO Duration: 2 hours Marks 80

**Attempt any five**

**Section A- Novel**

**Question 1 (16)**

***“This is the School, the old man said mildly”***

1. Who said these words? What was Ged carrying? 3

The Door keeper said these words. Ged was carrying a letter from the Mage Ogion of Gont to the Warder of the School on this island.

1. Which spell did Ged use to enter? Was he successful, first? Why or why not? 3

Ged used an Opening Spell which his aunt had taught him long ago. No, it wasn’t successful as it was only a witch’s charm and the power that held this doorway was not moved at all.

1. Did the doorkeeper help Ged? What did he tell Ged to do? 3

After the spell failed Ged stood a long while there on the pavement. At last he looked at the old man who waited inside and told him that he couldn’t enter unless he helped Ged. On knowing that, the doorkeeper helped Ged. He told Ged to say his own name.

1. What response had Ged received from the old woman? 3

Ged had asked a question to an old woman with a basket of mussels and she replied that he couldn’t always find the Warder where he was but sometimes, he would find him where he was not. And further, she went on crying her mussels to sell.

1. Describe the doorway. 4

The doorway through which he had come was not plain wood as he thought, but ivory without joint or seam; it was cut as he knew later from a tooth of the Great Dragon. The door that the old man behind him was of polished horn, through which the daylight shone dimly and on its inner face was carved the Thousand-Leaved Tree.

**Question 2**

1. Write a brief note on Moon’s Night and Long Dance. 8

In the second month of that summer all the school gathered again at the Great House to celebrate the Moon’s Night and the Long Dance, which that year fell together as one festival of two nights which happens but once in fifty-two years. All the first night, the shortest night of full moon of the year flutes, played out in the fields and narrow streets of Thwil were full of drums and torches, and the sound of singing went out over the moonlit waters of Roke Bay. As the sun rose next morning the Chanters or Roke began to sing the long Deed of Erreth-Akbe. When the chant was finished the Long Dance begant. Townsfolk and Masters and students and farmers all together, men and women, danced in the warm dust and dusk down all the roads of Roke to the sea-beaches, to the beat of drums and drone of pipes and flutes. Straight out into the sea they danced under the moon one night past full and the music was lost in the breakers’ sound. As the east grew light, they came back up the beaches and the roads the drums silent and only the flutes playing soft and shrill. So it was done one every island of the Archipelago that night; one dance one music binding together the sea-divided lands.

1. Mention the different tricks that the boys played as pure frolic. 8

One boy had lighted the court with a hundred stars of werelight, coloured like jewels, that swung in a slow netted procession between them and the real stars and a pair of boys were playing bowls with balls of green flame and bowling pins that leaped and hopped away as the ball came near and all the while Vetch sat cross-legged eating roast chicken, up in mid-air. One of the younger boys tried to pull him down to earth but Vetch merely drifted up a little higher out of reach and sat calmly smiling on the air. Now and then he tossed away a chicken bone which turned to an owl and flew hooting among the netted star-lights. Ged shot breadcrumb arrows after the owls and brought them down and they touched the ground there they lay, bone and crumb, all illusion gone.

**Section B- Poetry**

**Question 3 (16)**

***“I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,”***

1. What is the narrator going to build there? How is he going to survive there? 3

Ans. The narrator is going to build a small cabin there which will be made of clay and wattles. He is going to survive by having nine-bean rows and he would also have a hive for honey-bee.

1. What is the narrator expecting to achieve? How is it going to come? 3

Ans. The narrator is expecting to achieve peace. He says that peace comes dropping slow, dropping from veils of the morning from where cricket sings.

1. Describe the way in which the narrator has described the entire day. 3

Ans. The poet says that the morning looks like it has veils, and that midnight is all a glimmer, the noon is a purple glow and evening full of the linnet’s wing.

1. When does the poet hear the low sound of the lake water? What does this signify? 3

Ans. He hears the low sound of the lake water day and night. This signifies that though he is standing on the roadway or on the pavements grey he can hear the low sound of the lake water in the depth of his heart. He wanted to escape from the life he was living in the town or the city, and wanted to live a peaceful life.

1. Is the narrator happy where he is? Justify with examples from the poem. 4

Ans. No, the narrator is not happy where he is. He mentions at the very beginning that he would go to Innisfree, build a small cabin and live a peaceful life there, which signifies that he was not living a peaceful or happy life where he was. He says that he would live alone in the bee-loud glade. While he stands on the roadway or the pavements grey, in the depth of his heart he hears lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore. Also, he mentions that he will arise and go which shows his desperation to go to Innisfree.

**Question 4 (16)**

***His brow is wet with honest sweat, he earns whate’er he can***

1. Who is ‘he’ here? Where is he? How are his hands described? 3

Ans. He is the Smith here. He is under a chestnut tree working in his smithy. He has large and sinewy hands and his brawny arms are strong.

1. Describe his face. 3

Ans. The village blacksmith’s hair was crisp, black and long and his face was tanned. His brow is described to be full of honest sweat. It is described so as he did a lot of hard work with honesty.

1. What aspect of his nature is described in the second and the third stanza? 3

Ans. We come to know that the village blacksmith is hard working. He earns whatever he can and he looks the world in the face which means that he does not fear anybody as he does no wrong. He works from morning till night week in and week out.

1. What happens when the evening sun is low? 3

Ans. When the sun is low, one can hear his bellows blow and swing his heavy sledge with measured beat and slow like a sexton who is ringing the village bell.

1. Is the protagonist religious? Justify. 4

Ans. Yes, he is religious. The blacksmith goes to Church on Sundays and hears the parson pray and preach. This tells us that he is not just involved in his work but also leads a normal life. He takes out time for religious activity.

**Section C- Prose**

**Question 5 (16)**

***I was to hear it again, all along our trip home.***

1. What does ‘it’ refer to? Where was the narrator when she heard ‘it’ for the first time? Where was the narrator going? 3

Ans. It refers to ‘Sayonara’. When the narrator heard it for the first time, she was in her stateroom. She was going to Japan.

1. Describe the scene on the railway station. (Any 3 points) 3

Ans. There was a lot of activity on the railway platform. There was the sound of the clatter of wooden clogs (footwear) on the platform , the kimonos – the traditional Japanese dress were fluttering, the babies were on their mothers’ backs, men were carrying four or five small bundles tied up in different coloured furoshiki, old women were walking with sticks which made a knocking sound and they were wearing huge hats of straw and a man was shouting to sell his wares.

1. Describe the unique goodbye as the boat pulled out at Yokohama port. 4

Ans. The crowd of Japanese which was leaning over the rails of the decks, shot twirling coloured paper ribbons across to those who had come to say a ‘Sayonara’. Both held the ribbons on either end. This looked like a brilliant, multi-coloured web spun between the ship and the shore. This web along with the conversation looked like a strong band connecting both the parties – the travellers and those at the dock. The band which was intricately patterned and rich in texture which held both together. Then as the boat moved started moving ahead the ribbons tautened and finally snapped and the broken ends twirled off idly into the water floating away with the unfinished ends of sentences.

1. How is ‘Sayonara’ different than a ‘goodbye’ and ‘farewell’? 4

Ans. Farewell is like a father’s goodbye. It is encouragement and admonition. Good bye is like a prayer, a ringing cry. It is like a mother’s goodbye. Sayonara says neither too much nor too little. It is simple acceptance of fact. All understanding of life lies in its limits. All emotion, smouldering, is banked up behind it. It is the unspoken good-bye, the pressure of a hand ‘Sayonara’.

1. Mention the goodbyes in German and French language and what do they mean? 2

Ans. Goodbye in German language is Auf Wiedersehens and in French it is Au revoirs. It means till we meet again.

**Question 6 (16)**

***“To get any useful instruction out of such a spectacle is impossible.***

1. Which spectacle is being mentioned in the extract? 3

Ans. The writer says to show a schoolboy who has ever learned anything valuable or important by watching a mangy old lion snoring away in its cage or a family of monkeys fighting for peanuts.

1. What is the sober truth, according to the narrator, that zoos give? 3

Ans. The sober truth is that the zoos are no more educational than so many firemen’s parades and displays of sky rockets, and that all they actually offer to the public in return for the taxes wasted upon them is a form of idle and witless amusement.

1. What are the three reasons of zoos’ existence, mentioned in the first paragraph? 3

Ans. According to the writer, principally a horde of superintendents and keepers may be put up in easy jobs, the least intelligent minority of the population may have an idiotic show to gape at on Sunday afternoons. The young of the species may be instructed in the methods employed by chimpanzees, jaguars, hyenas and polar bears in ridding themselves of lice.

1. What wrong information is imparted about a giraffe, according to the narrator? 3

Ans. The writer tells us about a scholar who studied the habits of the giraffe. Confining his observations to specimens in zoos, would inevitably come to the conclusions that the giraffe is a sedentary and melancholy beast, standing immovable for hours at a time and feeding on hay and cabbages.

1. How does the narrator end his article? Which question does he ask? What is the purpose of the question? 4

Ans. The narrator ends his article by saying that even if it is assumed that all the keepers in the men are of delicate natures and ardent zoophiles, it is plain that the work they do involves an endless war upon the native instincts of the animals and that they must thus inflict the most abominable tortures every day. He further mentions how it would be a sadder sight to see a tiger in a cage, or a forest monkey climbing despairingly up a barked stump or an eagle chained to its roost. Further he asks how a man can be benefitted or made better by robbing the seal of its Arctic ice, hippopotamus of its soft wallow, buffalo of its open range, lion of its kingship, birds of their air.