Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**FIRST TERM EXAMINATION**

**Std VIII-NES**

**Question 1**

***‘What does it matter to me, if they can write...’ 10***

1. Who does the word ‘me’ refer to? Who are ‘they’ in the poem? Why is the speaker not bothered? [3]
2. What is the ‘brunt’ which the poet is talking about? [3]
3. Explain: ‘My pack of unruly hounds’. To whom does he call so? Why? [4]
4. The word ‘me’ refer to the teacher. They are the students here. The speaker is not bothered if the students learn or not.
5. The brunt refers to the books that lie out on the desks. There are 60 books of several insults of blotted pages and scrawl of slovenly work that the students have offered him.
6. The teacher calls his students as a pack of unruly hounds. The word pack means a group. Hounds are dogs who are unruly that is extremely wild and undisciplined in their behaviour.

**Question 2**

***‘When the night comes, to lie down in peace….’ 10***

1. What has the poet expressed in the sentence that comes immediately after this? [2]
2. Who are envied? [3]
3. Explain: stranger’s shell [3]
4. What is the rhyme scheme of this poem? Mention the reason. [2]
5. The poet has said that as he sleeps maybe he will die in his sleep peacefully.
6. Those people who have house of their own, who can say that their feet rest in their house and who don’t live in stranger’s shell.
7. Stranger’s shell is a house which doesn’t belong to a person. It is someone else’s house and people stay there on rent.
8. Free verse. As no words rhyme with each other.

**Question 3**

***‘I am sorry,’ said I ‘but the matter cannot be delayed’ 10***

1. Which ‘matter’ is mentioned in the story? Why is the speaker sorry? [3]
2. What happened when the friend’s name was mentioned? [3]
3. Which details, not including the revelation that he is a murderer, create the impression that Culverton Smith is an unpleasant person? [4]
4. Matter of Culverton Smith accompanying Watson for Sherlock Holmes’ treatment cannot be delayed.
5. When friend’s name was mentioned there was an extraordinary effect upon the little man. The look of anger passes in an instant from his face and his face became tense and alert.
6. When Dr Watson goes to Mr Smith in order to request him to see Holmes, Mr Smith responds in a rude manner. He tells his brother that he was a busy man and that his work shouldn’t be hindered indicating that he had very high self-importance and would not trade his needs for anyone even if that person was sick. He also shouts at Watson when he forcibly enters his room to meet Mr Smith. Watson also notices a sly and malicious smile on the man’s face when he mentions that Holmes was ill indicating that he enjoyed another person’s discomfort.

**Question 4**

***‘It’s song to a man’s soul, brother, fire to a man’s brain.’ 10***

1. What does the word ‘its’ refer to? [2]
2. How is the west land described in this stanza? [3]
3. Explain the line ‘fire to a man’s brain’ [2]
4. How differently is the word ‘warm’ mentioned in the poem? [3]
5. To hear the wild bees and see the merry spring again is referred here.
6. There is young corn in the fields where rabbits run, sky is blue. The clouds are white, warm rain and sun.
7. Hearing the wild bees and seeing the merry spring again is like fire to the man’s brain. Fire here means energising a person’s brain.
8. Rain/wind is described as warm which is pleasant in the spring. People have warm hearts- full of love, compassion.

**Question 5**

***“Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widening thought and action…” 10***

i. Who is ‘thee’ in the poem? To whom is the poem addressed? [3]

ii. What has the poet expressed in the line previous to this one? [3]

iii. Explain: ‘knowledge is free’ [4]

1. ‘Thee’ refers to God. He wants God, the Father or the Almighty.
2. ‘Dreary desert sand of dead habit’ refers to ritualistic behaviour and blind beliefs. They are illogical and are like desert, unproductive. There can be no progress if one does not follow reason and logic and continue to move in the rut of old customs.
3. By the words ‘Where the knowledge is free’, the poet wants to say that in his country everyone should have the freedom to acquire knowledge without any restrictions. The restrictions imposed on the spread of knowledge include the prejudices based on wealth, caste and religion. Knowledge was a monopoly only of the higher castes and the elite.

**Question 6**

***“Maintaining Robutt isn’t cheap, either…”*** ***10***

1. Who is the speaker? Whom are the words spoken to? Why? [3]
2. Where is the guest? How long have they not seen him? [3]
3. How did Robutt get its name? Mention two points how Robutt is different from the real dog? [4]
4. Mr. Anderson is the speaker. These words are spoken to Mrs Anderson. As Jimmy is a Moonborn and can’t visit Earth, the father decides to bring a real dog. Mrs Anderson says that its costly enough. To which Mr Anderson says the given sentence.
5. The guest is at the rocket station. They have not seen a new dog since 15 years.
6. Robutt- was a Robot mutt. Mutt means a dog. It was a robotic dog who could hear Jimmy by radio. He didn’t need any spacesuit. He had four legs, a positronic brain, radar and was made up of tendons of steel.

**Question 7**

***‘What is your crest, by the way? 10***

1. Mention the two crests and the reason why there are two? [4]
2. How much money Bertie had in his pocket? Which other things were scattered on the seat beside him? [3]
3. Which parts of the story show us that it was written and is set in the past? [3]
4. A demi-lion holding a cross-crosslet in its paw, running greyhound. The demi-lion is the Saltpen crest and Running greyhound is Jago crest
5. He has six penny coin. A cigarette case, matchbox, key, silver pencil case and railway ticket
6. Empty railway carriage, carriage-window, four quid, corresponded several times , different sort of vehicle to the horse drawn carriage…

**Question 8  *10***

***“And treat these two impostors just the same...”***

1. Which impostors have been mentioned in the poem? Why are they called so? [4]

Triumph and Disaster are the two impostors mentioned in the poem. They are called so as the sense of victory or sense of defeat are transient and short-lived. They are temporary in life and have no permanent place in a man’s life.

1. Explain: If you can dream- and not make dreams your master. [2]

The poet says that one should dream and be ambitious to achieve those aspirations. But at the same time one should not become slave to those dreams.

1. List the qualities which ‘make a man’ according to the poet. [4]

According to the poet a man must be calm, self-confident, loyal, truthful, upright, loving, positive-minded and strong enough to reconstruct things from disasters. A man should be forgiving and ready to act positively. He must learn to sacrifice and value action.

**Question 9**

***“That slowly dawned behind the trees, the barren boughs without the leaves… 10***

1. How did the children’s reaction change later? [3]
2. What time of day is it? Which season? Where was the brook? Justify with the lines from the poem. [3]
3. Why did the children go to the brook? Did they get it there? [4]
4. The children later laid their staying hand on each other to listen before they dared to look. In the silence, they heard the brook.
5. It is the evening time in autumn season filled with dim moonlight. The brook was by the woods

Because the autumn eve was fair/ And by the brook our woods were there.

1. The well next to their house had dried up and so with a pail they went across the fields to seek the brook. No, they did not get the water there as the brook had been frozen. The drops floated on the pool like pearls and the frozen ice looked like silver blade.

**Question 10**

***‘The lion saw his chance now; he released the leg…’ 10***

1. What happened next? What did the children see in the pit? [3]
2. Which different noises were created in the background of silence? [3]
3. How do we know that the children are completely absorbed in watching the meat-ant being attacked by the ant-lion? [4]
4. After the ant-lion released the leg, he seized the meat-ant by its abdomen. There was a wild scurry in the pit now and the ant was rearing in the fountaining sand. The children could see those shovel-jaws working.
5. a wagtail hopped on the fence, the other ants ran placidly about their business, creek below made an endless liquid noise over the rocks.
6. In their whole minds, the ant and its arena of battle enlarged, filled the whole world
7. Shamed enraptured she clung to the tree root with one hand and stared down.
8. To the two children all had shrunk to the dimensions of the pit and the creatures in it.