Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**FIRST TERM EXAM**

**Std IX-PPS Duration: 2 hours Marks 80**

**Set B**

**Attempt at least one question from each section**

**Section A- Drama**

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

***Question 1 12***

***“Nature hath fram’d strange fellows in her time.”***

1. Who is the speaker of these lines? Where are they spoken and to whom? 3
2. How does the speaker explain nature’s strange ways regarding people? 3
3. Who was Nestor? Explain his significance. 3
4. What assurance does Antonio give Salerio and Solanio after they share their insecurities? 3
5. How does Salerio explain the contrast of Antonio’s melancholy when Antonio says he is not in love? 4

Salerio. They are spoken to Solanio and Antonio. In a street in Venice.

Salerio swears by two-headed Janus that nature had framed strange fellows. Some would evermore peep through their eyes and laugh like parrots and a bagpiper. The others are of such vinegar aspect that they would not show their teeth to smile even though Nestor swears that the jest is laughable.

Nestor was an old Greek general who fought in the Trojan War. He was a serious fellow who would not laugh even if the joke was good. He is mentioned to highlight the funniness of the joke.

Antonio’s assurance to Salerio and Solanio is that his ships are not the reason for his melancholy. His ventures are not trusted in one bottom or in one place. His whole estate is not upon the fortune of that present year. Therefore, he is not sad because of his merchandise.

Salerio says that he is sad just because he is not merry. Suddenly he would laugh and leap and say that he is merry because he is not sad. He swears by two-headed Janus that nature had framed strange fellows. Some would evermore peep through their eyes and laugh like parrots and a bagpiper. The others are of such vinegar aspect that they would not show their teeth to smile even though Nestor swears that the jest is laughable.

***Question 2 12***

***“Why, look you, how you storm!”***

1. What happens just before this dialogue? 3
2. How does the speaker react to Antonio’s anger? 3
3. What condition does Shylock place before Antonio to give him an interest free loan? 3
4. How does Shylock convince Antonio to sign this bond? 3
5. What are the reasons that Shylock gives for hating Antonio? 4
6. Antonio flares up even more and says that he was likely to call Shylock a dog, spit on him and spurn him again. If he would give them the loan he should give it as an enemy not as a friend.
7. Shylock cools down and says that he would be friends with Antonio. He says he was willing to forgive the shames that Antonio had stained him with and supply his present wants. He did not want a doit of usance for his money and was offering it only as a friend.
8. Shylock says that Antonio should accompany him to the notary and seal with him his individual bond. The bond would be in a merry sport and would mention that if Antonio is unable to repay him on a particular day, a particular place the amount specified in the condition then the bond would be forfeit. The forfeit would be nominated by one pound of Antonio’s flesh to be cut off from any part of his body that pleases Shylock.
9. Antonio says that, Christians because of their hard dealings suspect, the thoughts of others. He says a pound of man’s flesh is not estimable or profitable as the flesh of muttons, beefs or goats. He says that he has offered the money only to buy his favour and be a friend.

Shylock hates Antonio because he is a Christian. Though he lives a life of low simplicity, Antonio lends out money gratis and brings down the rate of interest with the money lenders in Venice. Shylock says that he bears an ancient grudge towards Antonio as he hates their sacred nation and rails where merchants mostly congregate. He criticises Shylock, his bargains and his well-won thrift which he calls interest.

***Question 3 16***

***“God made him, and therefore let him pass for a man.”***

1. Who is being spoken about? How is he described? 3
2. How is the appearance of the English lord described? 3
3. Which example does Portia give to Nerissa to prove that she abides by her father’s condition? 3
4. What request does Portia make to Nerissa to avoid her getting married to the German lord? 3
5. What is Nerissa’s formula for ideal happiness? What example does she give to substantiate it? 4

Portia says that God has made the French lord, so she considers him to be a man. He talks about the horse more than the Neapolitan Prince and frowns more than Count Palatine. The moment a throstle bird sings he starts dancing and he would even fence with his own shadow. If Portia marries him, it would be like marrying twenty husbands. If he despises her she would forgive him but if he loves her she would never be able to requite him.

The English lord is called as a dumb-show. He is oddly suited with his doublet bought from Italy, his round hose bought from France, his bonnet from Germany. His behaviour has been borrowed from everywhere according to her.

Portia is not happy about the condition of the caskets but she still decided to abide by it. She says that even if she grows as old as Sibylla, she would die as chaste as Diana unless she can be obtained by the manner of her father’s will.

Portia requests Nerissa to place a deep glass of Rhenish wine on the contrary casket. She is sure that if the devil be within, and temptation outside he would choose it. She also calls him a sponge.

Nerissa believes that ideal happiness would be if a person is seated in the mean between extreme joy and extreme sorrow. She is aware that extreme joy can also lead to surfeit which would not allow the person to be really happy. She says superfluity comes sooner by white hair but it is the competency that lives longer.

**Section B- Poetry**

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

***Question 4 16***

***“He plants a home for the heaven anigh”***

1. Why does the poet call the tree a ‘heaven anigh’? 3
2. Explain ‘treble of heaven’s harmony’. 3
3. Explain the meaning of the word ‘twilight’. Why has the poet mentioned ‘happy twilight’ in the poem? 3
4. In the second stanza, what does he plant who plants a tree? 3
5. Is the poem relevant even in today? 4

Ans. The tree is towering high into the sky. Moreover, there is a lot of harmony and peace surrounding the tree. The birds net in the tree and sing in the twilight and this fills the atmosphere with music that is very soothing. Al this makes the tree like a heaven close by.

Ans. The tree houses many birds which croon to their young ones. The high pitch of the mother bird heard in the hushed and happy twilight is like a harmonious blend of several notes creating divine music. The poet refers to this as ‘the treble of heaven’s harmony’.

Ans. Twilight is the time of the day immediately after sunset. Just like human being, the birds and animals return to their dwellings where the young ones are waiting for them. Both, the parent birds and the young ones, are happy at this moment to meet each other after a long day. Thus, it is referred to as ‘happy twilight’.

Ans. He plants cool shade and tender rain, and seed and bud of days to be. He plants the glory, the beauty of the plains. He plants the forest’s heritage which would be the harvest of the future.

Ans. This poem strongly conveys the message that planting of trees is very important for the growth and welfare of humanity at large. This poem was written long ago when there wasn’t so much of a threat to our planet as it is today, yet the poet has highlighted the importance of planting trees. In today’s modern times it is required even more because it is a well-known fact that it Is excessive deforestation has posed a great threat to the survival of the planet.

***Question 5 16***

***“In bleak and bitter cold”***

1. Name the figure of speech used in the above given line. 3
2. Why did the first and the second person not give their logs? 3
3. Who is the third person? How is he dressed? What did he do? Why? 3
4. What was each man in the group aware of? 3
5. What are different types of discriminations highlighted in the poem? How can they affect the mankind? 4

Ans. The poet says that the cold is bleak and bitter as it could even kill the people. Here the line is “Alliteration’ as the sound ‘b’ is repeated. It is also an example of ‘Tautology’ as the words ‘bleak’ and ‘bitter’ have similar meaning.

Ans. The first person was a white lady, and when she saw a black man sitting opposite to her, her racist attitude stopped her from contributing to keep the fire burning. The second person refused to give his log because he saw a person who was not of his church, which justifies that this person was a classist.

Ans. The third person is a poor man. He sat in tattered clothes and gave his coat a hitch.

Ans. Each man was so full of hatred and contempt towards the other that he refused to give up his log to the fire that was dying. Each one thought that by doing so he was avenging the person whom he condemned. None was aware of the fact that eventually even he would die in the situation.

Ans. The poet has thrown light on the different ways in which people discriminate against each other. He gives the example of racial discrimination through the white lady and the black man. The poet also talks about the religious intolerance and class discrimination between the rich and the poor man. Such differences lead to envy, hatred, arrogance and revenge eventually destroying the very fiber of humanity.

***Question 6 16***

***“Who will buy these delicate, bright rainbow tinted circles of light”***

1. Name and explain the figure of speech in the above line. What is linked to the happiness of daughters and wives? 3
2. In the second stanza, some bangles are said to be like buds. Why? What do the symbolise? Give the comparison. 3
3. Which bangles are compared to the mountain mist? Why? 3
4. Which bangles does a bride wear on her wedding day? What are the bangles compared to? 3
5. What does the poet mean by “Whose hands have cherished, whose love has blest”? 4

Ans. The figure of speech in the given line is metaphor. The poet has compared the bangles indirectly to rainbow-tinted circles of light. The poet says that the bangles are shining symbols of the happy and cheerful lives of the happy daughters and happy wives who buy them.

Ans. The buds are pink in colour like the blush on a maiden’s face. So, the pink bangles are compared to buds. The pink buds symbolise small girls who are about to enter the adolescent age. Just like the buds are about to blossom into flowers, these girls are about to blossom into young adolescents.

Ans. The blue and silver bangles are compared to the mountain mist. Patches of the blue sky peeping through the mist gives a silvery effect. This is like wearing silver and blue bangles.

Ans. A bride wears either bright green or bright red bangles on the day of her wedding. The green bangles are compared to the vast fields of corn which shine brightly in the sunlight. The bright ones are like the flame of her marriage fire. The red colour also symbolises the passion of the newly wed.

Ans. In these lines the poet refers to the role of a woman when she becomes a mother. This is the most significant phase of a woman’s life where she makes a lot of sacrifices. She sacrifices her sleep and nurture her children. Her hands have taken care of the children and her love has blessed them.

**Section C- Prose**

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

***Question 7 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 8 16***

***“There was a pontoon bridge across the river”***

1. Describe the old man and the place where he was sitting. 3
2. What does the narrator do for a living? What is the role given to him? 3
3. Initially, how was the old man responding to the narrator’s questions? 3
4. What was the narrator looking at while talking to the old man? What thoughts did he have? 3
5. What is the advice given by the narrator to the old man? What is the old man’s response to that?

4

Ans. The old man was wearing dusty clothes and steel rimmed spectacle. He sat by the side of the road. He was seen a pontoon bridge by the Ebro river. Though the other people were crossing and moving ahead, the old man sat there without moving and seemed too tired to walk any further

Ans. The narrator seems to be an army scout. He was given the role to cross the bridge explore the bridgehead beyond and find out till what point the enemy has advanced. He was also supposed to return and signal safety to his contingent at the bridge.

Ans. The old man said that he was form San Carlos. He said it with pleasure as it was his native town and smiled while saying it. He also added without being asked that he was just taking care of the animals.

Ans. While the narrator was talking to the old man he was watching the bridge and the African looking country of the Ebro Delta. He was wondering how long would it be before they saw the enemy. He was also listening all the while for first noises that would signal the mysterious event called contract.

Ans. The narrator advices the old man to walk a bit further if he can. He could go the junction where the road forks to Tortosa. There are trucks up the road which are leaving for Barcelona. He could have a safe passage to Barcelona then. The old man now assures the narrator that he would wait a while and then go.

***Question 9***

1. How was Muni’s financial condition? Give examples. 4
2. How does Muni feel to give away his goats? What does he plan to do? 4
3. Is language a barrier in the story? Justify your answer by giving examples. 8

Ans. Muni was extremely poor as he would have drumstick leaves every day for his meal. Those leaves were taken down from the tree that was just outside his house. Muni had to lie for not having money to buy stuff or clear an ancient debt at the shop. Muni had not had a smoke since a long time. This shows that he couldn’t afford to buy even a cigarette or a bidi. Muni’s earning would be only in coppers and nickels and he had never seen a hundred rupee note. A five or ten- rupee note was known to him only due to its colour and he had seen that in someone else’s hand.

Ans. Muni is really happy to give away his goats. For him it was like a dream come true. He wanted to do so since a long time. He understood that the foreigner was actually making an offer for the goats. He had reared the goats up in the hope of selling them one day and with the capital, he wanted to open a small shop on that very spot.

Following points to be mentioned in the story-

Yes the language is a barrier in the story- The foreigner doesn’t understand Tamil and Muni doesn’t understand the ‘parangi language’ that the American speaks. Due to which there are many instances of miscommunication. The American asks about the gas station and on seeing the horse statue exclaims ‘Marvellous’, Muni observes khaki clothes and assumes the foreigner to be a policeman or a soldier. Muni wonders that if he runs then the policeman would catch him. Muni assumes that the American has come to interrogate about his goats. Later when the foreigner asks if he smokes he replies yes, no and put the flame of the lighter out not understanding what was to be done.- the foreigner presents his visiting card in front of Muni and Muni shrinks away from the card thinking it to be a warrant. He assumes that the foreigner was a policeman or a soldier and had come to investigate about the murder. The foreigner asks Muni about the horse but Muni shares the religious information and what the priest had told everyone in the village. Also, once when Muni assures the foreigner that they will catch the murderer and when he is caught…. He goes to show gestures of mincing meat. One can see that the foreigner assumes that he is stopping Muni from chopping wood and asks him to give the axe to him. On asking if there are any spiritual or religious scruples against English speech, Muni makes some indistinct sounds and shakes his head without understanding the questions.-The foreigner tells Muni about he being a modest businessman and that is trade is coffee. Muni is able to understand the word ‘kapi’ and mentions about kapi-otels in the next town. Muni asks the foreigner how many children he has, the foreigner assuming that the price of the horse was asked he replies ‘a hundred’ The foreigner is ready to offer hundred rupees to Muni; on the other hand, Muni thinks that the foreigner wants change and suggests him to go to the village headman who was also a moneylender. At one point, the foreigner shows interest in Muni’s pets and he casually strokes their backs, making Muni realise that the foreigner was interested in his two goats.