Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

First Terminal Examination

Std VIII SSRVM Duration: 2 Hrs Marks 80

**Section A- Prose**

**Read the given extracts and answer the questions that follow:**

**Question 1 (10)**

***She’s taken our class and she’s a splendid teacher.***

1. **Who said the above line? Who does ‘she’ refer to? 2**

Ans: The above line was said by Anne. ‘She’ refers to Mrs Allan, the wife of the new minister.

1. **Why does the speaker say that ‘she’ was a splendid teacher? 2**

Ans: The speaker, Anne, says that ‘she’ referring to Mrs Allan was her teacher in the local school. Anne thought she was a splendid teacher because she encouraged the children to ask her any question they liked. Anne thought she was another kindred spirit.

1. **What does the speaker wish to do to show her lover for her teacher? What did she want to prepare for the occasion? 2**

Ans: Anne wanted to invite Mr and Mrs Allan to tea the next Wednesday. She wanted to bake a cake for the occasion.

1. **What was the double disgrace that the speaker faced? 2**

Ans: Anne had mistakenly added Anodyne Liniment instead of vanilla essence in the cake. The liniment was in an empty bottle of vanilla essence and she had not known about it. Moreover , she could not smell it because of her cold. Thus Anne had to face a double disgrace.

1. **Write the meanings of : a) kindred spirit b) reflectively 2**

Ans: a) a person who has a personality like your own

b) thoughtfully

**Question 2 (10)**

***“Oh that, that is what we call him at home only.”***

1. Who says these words and to whom? 2

Ans: The above line /words were said by Ashoke, Gogol’s father, to the principal , Mrs Lapidus.

1. What is the person mentioned in the above lines called at home? What is the other name and where is he called by it? Why does the person have two names? 3

Ans: The person mentioned in the above lines is called ‘Gogol’ at home. The other name is Nikhil which would be used by the teachers and the children at school. The boy mentioned is a Bengali and all Bengalis have two names.

1. How does the listener react on hearing the above words? What does she do immediately? 3

Ans: The listener, Mrs Lapidus, frowns and says that she does not understand what a good name meant. She then studies the registration form and opens up the folder and examines the immunisation record and the birth certificate.

1. Explain : good name ( with reference to the lesson ) 2

Ans: In Bengal there is a custom where two names are given to each person – a good name and a nickname. A good name is the one which is used on all legal documents.

**Question 3 (10)**

***Those few words overwhelmed me.***

1. Who does ‘me’ refer to? Whose words are referred to in the above line? 2

Ans: ‘Me’ refers to the narrator, Frantz. The words referred to in the above line were said by Monsieur Hamel, Frantz’ teacher.

1. What were the words that are referred to in the above line? Why was the speaker overwhelmed? 2

Ans: The words referred to in the above line were the words of the narrator’s teacher M Hamel who said that that was the last time that he should be teaching them’. The speaker was overwhelmed because the news was unexpected and he couldn’t believe it.

1. What would usually happen when the school began? Was it the same that day? What was different? 4

Ans: Usually at the beginning of school, there was a great uproar which could be heard in the street – desk opening and closing, lessons repeated aloud in unison and the teacher’s stout ruler beating on the desk. It was not the same that day as everything was quiet.

1. That day something unexpected had happened. Where did the people get such news generally? What kind of news used to be put up there? 2

Ans: Such news was generally put up at the Mayor’s office. New of battles lost, conscriptions used to be put up there.

**Section B- Poetry**

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

**Question 4 (10)**

**What do you weave, O ye flower – girls**

**With tassel of azure and red?**

1. What are the flower girls doing? 4

Ans: The flower girls are weaving tassels of azure and red, crowns for

bridegroom, chaplets for the bridegroom’s bed and sheets made of white flowers

to perfume the sleep of the dead.

1. Bring out the contrast in the last stanza. 2

Ans: The last stanza mentions the use of flowers in the Indian traditional

scenario. They are used to make chaplets to decorate that bed of the bridegroom

as well as to make colourful tassels to decorate her forehead. Contrary to that

they are also used at the time of death of a person to make a sheet to cover the

dead.

1. Do you think this bazaar is for people who want to buy things for their daily needs or for people to shop for luxuries? What makes you say so? 4

Ans: I think this bazaar is meant for both, the people who want to buy things for their daily needs and for people to shop for luxuries. This is evident from the variety of goods sold in the bazaar. There are wares for the rich like saffron, expensive clothes and ivory dice and gold ornaments as well as goods for the common man like lentils and rice.

**Question 5 (10)**

**Your fields are empty now**

**Only your ghosts dance**

1. Whose fields are empty now? What does the word ‘fields’ refer to? 2

Ans: The fields of the cranes are empty now. The fields refer to the wetlands which are the habitat of the cranes.

1. Explain : only your ghosts dance 2

Ans: Here the poet is referring to the fact that cranes are an endangered species as their habitat has been encroached upon by the cities that have been raised on it. Thus one can no more see the cranes dancing. Only the memories of their dances remain.

1. Why are the fields mentioned above empty? Who has occupied them? 2

Ans: The fields are empty now because the wetlands which were a habitat of the cranes have now been occupied by the other cranes which are the construction machines

1. Bring out the difference in the approach of the poet and that of the people regarding their reaction to the lessening in the number of the creatures mentioned in the poem.

Ans: The poet is an environmentalist who admires the live dance of the cranes

and is now worried due to the lessening of the species. On the other hand the

people who are living on the very land of the cranes, which has been turned into

a concrete jungle, enjoy watching their dances on a video .

**Question 6 (10)**

**Yet one is surprised to see the poem**

**Gradually unfolding**

1. Why do the above lines start with ‘yet’ 2

Ans: ‘Yet’ is used as a connective. Here the word connects the stanza to the previous one. In the previous stanza the poetess says that one is not amazed at the first glance of a poem. In the next stanza the poet says that in spite of not being surprised at the first glance of the poem, one is surprised as it gradually unfolds.

1. What happens when the poem gradually unfolds? When does this happen? 2

Ans: When the poem gradually unfolds , it reveals its rich inner self. This happens when one reads it again and again.

1. What is the first reading of a poem compared to? Do we find that surprising? Why? 2

Ans: The first reading of a poem is compared to the unfolding of a bud. Yes it is surprising because the inner beauty of the bud is totally different from its exterior.

1. Does the poem just unfold as time passes or does it happen when we do something a few times? Do what? 2

Ans: No. The poem does not unfold as time passes. It happens when we read the poem again and again.

1. Write the meanings: a) dimensions b) revealing 2

Ans: a) size, proportion b) exposing, showing, disclosing

**Section B- Rapid Reading**

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

**Question 7 (10)**

**Question 7: (10)**

***“Mollie? Mollie? Mollie? Where are you?”***

1. Who is the speaker of the given lines? Describe the speaker and Mollie. 3

Ans. Giles is the speaker of the given lines. Mollie Ralston is a tall, beautiful and young woman with naïve looks, and is in her twenties. Giles is a rather proud attractive young man in his twenties. They are husband and wife.

1. What did the speaker complain about? 3

Ans. Giles had to go to the village to get a chicken-netting, but the one he got was not the right type of netting. He went to another store but that was completely useless. Practically a whole day was wasted. He was half frozen. The car was skidding badly. The snow was falling heavily.

1. Why does the speaker say “We are rather stupid in this business”? 4

Ans. Giles complains about daily women employees being a nuisance because they have to do everything themselves. Mollie reminds him it is a partnership. Giles agrees as long as he doesn’t have to cook. Mollie reminds him cooking is her field and chides him for the misspelled signboard of the guest house, calling it a disaster and pointing out the mistake of the missing ‘S’. Giles reminds her to check if the rooms are ready and if she has taken the rent in advance. Mollie confirms the room allocation and says that she may have forgotten to take the rent in advance to which Giles comments and says, ”We are rather stupids in this business.”

**Question 8: (10)**

***“Excellent breakfast this morning”***

1. Describe the breakfast, lunch and dinner that was served? 3

Ans. Mrs. Boyle says that it is dishonest not to have been informed that the guest house was newly started. Major Metcalf replies saying that everything has got to have a beginning. The breakfast was excellent with good coffee, scrambled eggs, homemade marmalade. He goes on to say that the lunch was excellent too with corned beef being disguised in red wine and that they were to be served pie for dinner.

1. What is the opinion of Mrs. Boyle and Major Metcalf about Christopher? 3

Ans. Mrs. Boyle says that Christopher is a very strange young man and wonders if he is mentally unstable. Major Metcalf enquires if he escaped from a lunatic asylum. To this Mrs. Boyle says that she wouldn’t at all be surprised if it were true.

1. Briefly state the discussion between Mrs. Boyle and Miss Casewell about Mollie and her social status. 4

Ans. Mrs. Boyle says that Mollie is an incredible young woman who doesn’t know anything about housework. She enquires if there are any back stairs to dispose the garbage to which Miss Casewell replies that there are. Mrs. Boyle then says that all housework should always be done in the morning before lunch. Miss Casewell tells Mrs. Boyle that Mollie had to cook the lunch. Mrs. Boyle states that everything is very disorganized and non-professional, and there should be a proper staff. Miss Casewell then says that it is not that easy nowadays. Mrs. Boyle then replies that the lower classes have to finish any new business enterprise they have started with enthusiasm, thus indicating that Mollie and her husband belong to the lower classes.