Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**FIRST TERM EXAM Std: IX-EURO Duration: 2 hrs Marks: 80**

**Attempt five questions in all.**

**You must attempt at least one question from each of the Sections A, B and C**

**SECTION A- DRAMA**

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

***Question 1 16***

***“Well, keep me company but two years more …”***

1. To whom are these lines said? What will happen, if the speaker keeps company for two more years? How does Antonio react to this? 3
2. What has Bassanio wasted his money on, according to his own confession to Antonio? 3
3. How does Bassanio describe the uselessness of Gratiano’s speech? 3
4. Why should melancholy not be used as a bait? 3
5. How does Bassanio describe Portia? 4
6. These lines are said to Lorenzo. Gratiano says that if he keeps company for two more years he (Lorenzo) would not be able to know the sound of his own tongue.
7. According to Bassanio, he has disabled his estate by showing something which is a swelling port than what his faint means would allow. He has lived a life full of extravagance which his limited income doesn’t allow. He doesn’t also want to be abridged from such a noble rate.

1. Bassanio compares finding meaning in Gratiano’s speech to searching of two grains of wheat in two bushels of chaff. Even if you find them after a day’s search they are not worth the effort. Similarly even if you find meaning in the nonsensical talk of Gratiano, it is not worth the effort to listen to the nonsense.
2. Gratiano tells Antonio that his melancholy should not be used as a bait. He says that many people use it to develop an opinion of wisdom, gravity and profound conceit. But this opinion is like trapping a fool gudgeon and is not worth the effort.
3. Bassanio calls Portia as rich, fair and virtuous. He says that this Portia is not less in value to Cato’s daughter Portia. The world is not ignorant of her worth and renowned suitors come from all the four directions. Her sunny locks hang on her temples like a golden fleece and Belmont has become Colchis’ strand. Many Jasons come in quest of Portia and he believed because of the fair speechless messages that she had given, he would be the one who would be fortunate to marry her.

**Question 2**

***“Why, look you, how you storm!” 16***

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.
10. 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**

***“Mislike me not for my complexion, the shadowed livery of the burnished sun to...” 16***

1. Who is the speaker of these lines? Whom are they spoken to? Where does the scene take place?3
2. Explain: The shadowed livery of the burnished sun 3
3. Is Morocco proud of his colour? Justify with examples from the scene. 3
4. How does Portia react to this speech of Morocco? 3
5. What does this scene tell us about the character of Morocco? 4
6. Prince of Morocco. These lines are spoken to Portia. A room in Portia’s house, Belmont.
7. He says that the dark complexion is given by the burnished sun to whom he is a neighbour. He calls this dark complexion as a shadowed livery.
8. Yes, Morocco says that he is proud of his colour and would not want to change it. The only situation in which he would be willing to change his colour would be to steal the thoughts of Portia.
9. Portia confesses to Morocco that the choosing of her husband is not in her hands. She had to depend on the conditions put by her father. If her father had not hedged her and scanted her by his wit, then Morocco stood a fair chance as any other suitor who had come for her affection.
10. Prince of Morocco considers himself to be brave and better than the fair people from the North. But if an incision is made in them, it would be easily proved whose blood is redder. He implies that he is Morocco says that the native girls of his country love the bravery which he has. This bravery has scared even the most valiant people around full of valour and bravery than any fair man. Morocco swears by his scimitar and brags that he would slew the Sophy and a Persian Prince who had won three battlefields against Sultan Solyman. Morocco says that he would overstare the sternest eyes that looked at him. And outbrave the most daring heart on earth. He would pluck the young sucking cubs from the she-bear to prove his bravery. He claims that he is a deserving candidate and compares himself to Hercules also thanks Portia for giving him a fair chance.

**SECTION B- POETRY**

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

**Question 4 *16***

***One half their lives was reading books! The nursery shelves held books galore!***

1. What does the word ‘their’ refer to? Where else were the books kept? Why? 3
2. Which tales were found in the books read by children? 3
3. Which writer’s name is mentioned in the poem? Enlist any two names of the characters and two short stories. 3
4. What epithets has the poet used for the television screen? Why? 3
5. Despite the children throwing tantrums, why does the poet advise the parents not to fear? 4
6. The word ‘their’ refers to the children in olden days when the monster ‘television’ was not invented. Apart from nursery shelves, the books were scattered on the nursery floor and kept in the bedroom by the bed
7. The books read by children were brimming with tales of various characters which built the imaginative powers of children. There were tales of dragons, gypsies, queens, whales, treasure islands and distant shores. The books also narrated stories of smugglers and pirates and elephants and cannibals cooking Penelope.
8. Beatrix Potter. Mr Tod, the dirty rotter, Squrrel Nutkin, Piggling Bland, Mr. Toad, Mr. Rat and Mr. Mole, Mrs. Tiggy-winkle are the names of the characters. ‘Just How The Camel Got His Hump’ and ‘How The Monkey Lost His Rump’ are the names of two short stories.
9. The poet calls the television ridiculous, nauseating, foul and unclean. The poet is convinced that watching television is a useless activity which kills the thinking power and creativity of children. It eventually engulfs the child as he gets completely hooked on to the idiot box.
10. When the television is replaced by a bookshelf, initially the children will retaliate by screaming at and hitting their parents. The poet advises the parents not to fear because he is sure that this is a temporary reaction of the children. He knows that in a week or two the children will start reading and as they continue to do so they will enjoy the activity and finally love their parents more for giving them the gift of reading.

***Question 5 16***

***Continuous as the stars that shine and twinkle on the Milky Way,***

1. What are continuous like stars? Which other term means ‘continuous’ that is given in the same stanza? Name the figure of speech in the given line. 3
2. Why did the daffodils seem to be gleeful? 3
3. Describe in your own words the poet’s feelings when he sees the host of golden daffodils? 3
4. What does the term ‘sprightly dance’ mean? Why has the poet used it for the daffodils? Which literary device is used her? 3
5. What does the term ‘bliss of solitude’ mean? In what context has the poet used the term in the poem? 4
6. Daffodils are continuous like the stars. Another term for continuous in the same stanza is ‘never ending’. Simile
7. The daffodils, lined up in a vast expanse on the shore of a lake, were dancing with the breeze. The waves of the lake too seemed to be dancing. But the dance of the daffodils was more lively and cheerful so they were extremely happy feeling a sense of victory. Thus, they seem to be gleeful.
8. The poet was initially feeling lonely while wandering along the bay of the lake. Suddenly, he saw a host of daffodils dancing in the breeze. The daffodils seemed extremely cheerful as they had outdone the dancing waves of the lake. The poet too felt very happy in the company of such cheerful flowers. His loneliness is replaced by feelings of happiness.
9. The term ‘sprightly dance’ means a dance which is full of life and energy. The daffodils that the poet saw along the bank of the lake were moving their heads from one side to another very energetically and happily and this movement looked like a very enthusiastic dance. Thus, the poet has used the term ‘sprightly dance’ for the daffodils. This is a ‘Personification’ as a non-human object (daffodils) is given a human characteristic of ‘dancing’.
10. This term refers to the time when the poet is alone and his mind is not clustered with worldly thoughts. The poet uses the term in the last stanza. He says that whenever he is resting on a couch and his mind is either void of thoughts or he is in a pensive mood, the beautiful vista of the daffodils which were impregnated in his mind, suddenly flash across his inward eye.

***Question 6 16***

***In hushed and happy twilight heard***

1. Which question does the poet ask? Why does he ask the question repeatedly? 3
2. What does the poet mean by ‘mother-croon’? Why is it sung in hushed voice? 3
3. In the third stanza, what does he plant who plants a tree? What stirs in the heart of the man who plants a tree? 3
4. What does “far-cast thought of civic good” mean? Why does the poet say that the man who plants a tree “holds the responsibility of all our land”? 3
5. Why does the poet say that the nation’s growth depends upon the wealth of the trees? 4

Ans. The poet has asked “What does he plant who plants a tree?” The poet has asked the question repeatedly to emphasize that when a person plants a tree, he actually plants a lot of things along with it which have an everlasting positive effect on mankind.

Ans. ‘Mother-croon’ refers to the sweet and gentle song of the mother bird which is like a lullaby to its young one. The mother bird is singing in twilight in order to put its baby to sleep and thus she sings in a hushed voice.

Ans. He plants in sap, leaf and wood which are used for making for various things like paper, medicines, rubber, etc. the man who plants a tree is actually doing so for the welfare of humanity. He desires to bring about the growth of not only his nation but also the whole world. It is this strong desire that stirs in the heart of the man.

Ans. Far-cast thought of civic good means the something which is done to benefit the society, for the good of the society. The poet says that the man holds the responsibility of all the land because, by planting a tree he is benefitting the neighbourhood. He is the one, who like god holds earth in the hollow of his hands, the responsibility of growth and success in his hands.

Ans. Trees are the lifeline of a nation playing an important part in maintaining its ecological balance. They purify the air by absorbing carbon dioxide and other polluted gases and providing oxygen. They have a cooling effect on the surroundings and are also instrumental in a good rainfall. Trees act like a canopy and are homes to the birds for whom they are like a heaven on earth. It is these endless benefits due to which the poet says that a nation’s growth depends upon the wealth of the trees.

**SECTION C- PROSE**

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

***Question 7 16***

***The younger man roused himself sharply at the sound of her voice….***

1. Who is the younger man here? Did he know the lady? How? 3
2. How did the man react to her voice? Why? 3
3. Where would the young man not be in the near future? What did the other man answer? What was the reality? 3
4. What did the glum-faced man say to cut short the conversation between the other two? What could be the reason for his action? 3
5. Bring out the fact that ‘appearances can be deceptive from the story ‘Hearts and Hands’. 4
6. The younger man given here is Mr Easton. He was acquainted with Ms Fairchild as they were old friends from Washington days.
7. The younger man seemed to struggle with a slight embarrassment which he threw off instantly. His right wrist being bound to the silver bracelet caused the embarrassment.
8. The young man wouldn’t be in Washington in the near future. The other man answered that Easton was a marshal who had arrested him and was taking him to the Leavenworth prison. The reality was Mr Easton was the criminal who was taken away by the glum-faced man to Leavenworth prison.
9. He said that he needed a drink and a smoke. He urged Easton to take him to the smoking areas as he was longing for a smoke. The man realized that Miss Fairchild would have ended up asking too many questions.
10. The story begins with two men, handcuffed together entering a coach on a train and sitting opposite a beautiful young lady, Miss Fairchild. One of the men is handsome with a bold and frank countenance while the other a ruffled, heavenly built, roughly dressed and glum-faced man. The glum-faced man tells the lady that the other person, Mr. Easton is a marshal and he the culprit. The readers just like the lady immediately accept this as the truth due to the appearances of the two men. O. Henry thus clearly brings out the fact that ‘appearances can be deceptive.

***Question 8***

***The torch fell from his trembling hand.***

1. Who is ‘he’ here? What did he immediately do after the given line? 3
2. What happens at the end of the story? 3
3. Where did the flickering light fall? What happened next? 3
4. Was there any difference in Mr Oliver’s voice while asking the miscreant the second time? Why? 3
5. Did Mr. Oliver prove himself to be as described by the writer? 4
6. ‘He’ here is Mr Oliver. He turned and scrambled down the path running blindly through the trees and calling for help.
7. On Mr.Oliver’s narration of the faceless boy, the watchman raises the lamp to his own face. To the horror of Mr. Oliver, he too had no eyes, no ears, no features and not even an eyebrow. Exactly that time the wind blew the lamp out.
8. The flickering light fell in the figure of a boy. He was sitting alone on a rock. Mr. Oliver asked him very sternly why he was out as boys were not supposed to be out after dark.
9. Yes, first when Mr. Oliver asked he was sharp as it was not the time for the boys to be out. As the boy didn’t answer anything, Mr. Oliver mellowed down and realised that the boy must have been in some serious trouble and his anger gave way to concern.
10. No, the author of the story described Mr. Oliver as not a nervous or imaginative man. On the contrary, his strength and clarity wore away under pressure. When he saw the boy, without a face, his hands trembled and he ran blindly through the trees and called for help too. When he saw the watchman, he gasped and stammered too. That showed that he was scared and nervous contrary to the previous description.

**Question 9**

***His fortunes had declined gradually, unnoticed.***

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.