Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**FIRST TERM EXAM**

**Std IX-SSRVM E Duration: 2 hours 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***

***“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 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.

***Question 3 16***

***“I am debating of my present store, and, by the near guess of my memory…”***

1. Who is ‘I’ here? Was he/she really debating of his/her present store? Justify. 3
2. Give an idea about the argosies of Antonio. 3
3. Which custom is Antonio willing to break? Why? 3
4. What does Shylock tell Bassanio about his financial condition while thinking about giving the loan? 3
5. What analogy does Shylock give Antonio to justify charging of interest? 4
6. Shylock. No. He was not debating of his present store. He was actually responds aside how Antonio looks like a fawning publican. He hates him because he is a Christian, but more for the fact that in spite of his low simplicity he lends out money gratis. That brings down the rate of usance in Venice.
7. Antonio has an argosy bound for Tripolis, another bound for Indies. He has learnt upon the Rialto that his third argosy is at Mexico and fourth for England. There are other ventures which he has squandered abroad.
8. Antonio tells Shylock that he neither lends nor borrows by taking or giving of excess (interest). But, to supply the ripe wants of Bassanio he would break a custom and is willing to pay interest.
9. Shylock says that he is debating of his present store and buy the near guess of his memory, he cannot instantly raise up the gross of full three thousand ducats. Nevertheless, he says Tubal, a wealthy Hebrew will furnish him.
10. Shylock says when Jacob, the third possessor of Holy Abram, grazed his uncle Laban’s sheep, he did not take any salary. Rather, they were compromised that all the eanlings which were streaked and pied should fall as Jacob’s hire. Jacob pilled certain wands and stuck them in front of the fulsome ewes and eanlings were born as streaked and pied. This was his way of winning thrift. He justifies it saying that any thrift is a blessing if men steal it not.

**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. Yes. 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***

***“Each one possessed a stick of wood or the story’s told”***

1. What is the significance of the word ‘trapped’ used in the first line? 3
2. Who is the first person mentioned in the poem? Who is sitting opposite to her? Why does the person hold back their log? 3
3. Why did the second person not give his log? What do we understand about him? 3
4. Did the black man give his stick of wood? Why? 3
5. How is the title of the poem significant? 4

Ans. He word ‘trapped’ means to be caught in a difficult situation from which one cannot escape. Here the six humans did not want to be together as each one hates some other in the group. They seem to be together coincidentally and so seemed to be ‘trapped’.

Ans. The first person in the poem is a white lady. A black man is sitting opposite to her. She was a racist, and did not want to give her log in the fire which would benefit the black man also.

Ans. The second person refuses to give his log as he sees that in the group there is a person who does not belong to his church or his community and so he does not want to help him. This person seems to be a classist, a bigot or a fanatic who is intolerant of other religions or communities.

Ans. No, the black man did not give his stick of wood. There was a white lady in the group and he was full of hatred and vengeance towards the white. He thought that his stick of wood was the only way to take revenge. Thus, he refused to give his tick of wood.

Ans. The poet has clearly woven a story of six strangers trapped in biting cold. They had the opportunity to save themselves, if they had given their logs to the dying fire, the only chance of their survival. They refused to do so due to their irrational prejudices. Finally, it was the cold

within their hearts and not without that spelt their doom. The poet has aptly titled his poem ‘The cold within’.

***Question 6 16***

***“Bangle sellers are we who bear Our shining loads to the temple fair”***

1. Who is the narrator of the poem? Where does he go? Why does he go there? 3
2. Who are the prospective customers of the bangle seller? What terms does the poet use for them? Why? 3
3. How does the poet describe the red bangles? 3
4. How do the emotions of the bride connect to the bangles she wears? 3
5. Which women are referred to in the last stanza? What does the poet say about them? 4

Ans. The narrator of the poem is one of the bangle sellers. He goes to temple fair to sell his wares. A temple is visited by the Indian women regularly. When there is a temple fair, there is a consistent crowd thronging the place. Thus, he chooses the temple fair so that he can make a good profit in a single day.

Ans. It is young girls and women who are the prospective customers of the bangle seller. According to the Indian tradition, colourful bangles are worn by young unmarried girls or wives. These women are happy and content. Thus, the poet has used the terms, ‘happy daughters’ and ‘happy wives.

Ans. Some brides wear red bangles on the day of their marriage. In the Indian traditional marriage ceremony, the bride and the groom take seven vows around a fire. The bright red bangles of the bride are like the amber coloured frame of the marriage fire.

Ans. The bride’s heart is full of emotions on the day of her wedding, she is very happy to enter into a new world of her spouse and her heart is filled with passion and desire. On the other hand, she is also sad that she has to leave the comfort and protection of her parents’ house and the company of her siblings and her friends. The tinkling sound made by the bangles and their lustre are like her laughter soothing. Whereas, the tender and clear texture of her bangles is like tears.

Ans. The poet refers to women who have reached that stage of their lives where they have become the matriarchs of the family. They have fulfilled all their commitments. They have given birth and nurtured their children and accomplished all their duties towards their household and their family. Such women feel satisfies having met all expectations in life. They have now earned a position of respect and can stand by their husband’s side while performing all religious duties.

**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 were three animals altogether”***

1. What was the old man’s response when the narrator asked him about his animals? 3
2. Which animal was the old man not worried about? Why? 3
3. What did the narrator feel bad about? Why? 3
4. Give the symbolism of Easter Sunday. 3
5. Why is the old man called lucky for that day? 4

Ans. Initially the old man says he was taking care of ‘various animals.’ When asked by the narrator what animals were there, the old man says that there were three animals in all. There were two goats and a cat and there were four pairs of pigeons.

Ans. The old man was not worried about the cat. He said that the cat knew how to take care of itself and would be safe. He perhaps believed in the proverb that a cat has nine lives.

Ans. The narrator realises that there is nothing to be done about the old man. He thinks that the old man is disorientated and hence is not able to understand the gravity of the situation. He feels bad that he wouldn’t be able to prevent the old man from dying.

Ans. Easter Sunday is the day of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the third day after his crucifixion. Good Friday is the day that the innocent Christ sacrificed himself for humanity. Here the writer is juxtaposing the sacrifice of this old man on the day of Christ’s resurrection.

Ans. The narrator calls the old man lucky on that Easter Sunday. As it was a cloudy overcast day and the ceiling was low, the fascists planes were not up that day. So the old man would remain alive at least that day. Also the fact that the cats know how to look after themselves is also called by the narrator to be a lucky thing for the old man.

***Question 9***  **16**

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.