Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Test: The Heart of the Tree, Chief Seattle’s speech**

**Batch: IX SSRVM Marks: 20 Time: 35 Mins**

**Answer the following questions according to their weightage:**

1. Why is the tree called as a heaven anigh? 3

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

1. What will the ‘unborn eyes’ see? How will they react? 2

Ans. Unborn eyes are the unborn children of the future generations and they will see the tree planted by its ancestors now fully grown and will be filled with joy.

1. Why does the poet say that a nation’s growth depends upon the wealth of the tree? 4

Ans. Tree 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 pollutant 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.

1. What does Chief Seattle think about the White Chief’s offer? Why? 2

Ans. Chief Seattle thinks that the White Chief’s offer is wise. Chief Seattle is very well aware of the fact that this tribe is receding and thus does not require all the land of an extensive countryside.

1. How are the young Red Indians described by the Chief? 3

Ans. The Orator says that the young red Indians, like youth, were very impulsive. Their anger which was sometimes based on reason but at times baseless led to aggression. The youth would the seek ‘revenge’ and if they died in the process, they looked at it as a form of martyrdom or sacrifice.

1. What are the Red Man’s feelings towards their ancestors? How do the Whites regard their ancestors? 2

Ans. The Red Man considers the ashes of their ancestors sacred and their graves holy ground. Whereas, the whites seem to wander far away from the graves of their ancestors, that too without regret.

1. What role do the Red Indians play after their death? 4

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 alive and fighting for their lands.