Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**FIRST TERM EXAM**

**Std: IX-BB 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***

***“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***

***“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.
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 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
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.
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**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***

***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 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 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

He’ here is Mr Oliver. He turned and scrambled down the path running blindly through the trees and calling for help.

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.

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.

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.

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 8 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 9***

***“What is to be done with the children? That was the question now”***

1. How many children did the woman leave behind? Describe them briefly. 4
2. Can charity be based on convenience? Substantiate your answer with respect to the story. 4
3. Discuss the internal conflicts faced by Mr Joe Thompson in the story ‘Angel in Disguise’ 8

The woman had left behind three children. John, the oldest was twelve and was heavily built. He could earn his living as a farm-hand. Kate, between ten and eleven, was a bright and active girl, who could do well if in good hands. Maggie, the youngest, was completely bedridden due to a spine injury.

No, charity cannot be based on convenience. The villagers in the story do chairty but only as per their convenience. They take food for the kids and a burial cloth for the dead woman. Two of the villagers take the two kids who would be of help to them. But nobody is ready to take Maggie, who is bed ridden due to an injury as she would be a burden to them.