Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**FIRST TERM EXAM**

**Std: VIII BB Duration: 2 hrs Marks: 80**

**Attempt five questions in all.**

**SECTION A- PROSE**

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

***Question 1: 16***

***“May I hope, Madam, for your interest with your fair daughter”***

1. Who is the speaker? Who is the speaker talking to? What does the speaker ask? 3
2. How does the speaker flatter Elizabeth in spite of her unwillingness to marry him? 3
3. Mention the reasons why the speaker wants to marry Elizabeth. 3
4. In what way does Elizabeth convey that matter was settled? 3
5. How does the speaker justify that Elizabeth’s refusal was not serious? 4
6. The speaker is Mr. Collins. He is talking to Mrs Bennet, Elizabeth’s mother. The speaker asks Mrs Bennet if he can speak to her daughter Elizabeth in private.
7. Mr. Collins tells Elizabeth that her modesty from doing any disservice rather adds to her perfections. He says that she would have been less amiable in her eyes had there not been a little unwillingness from her side.
8. Mr. Collins gave Elizabeth three reasons for getting married. First, he thought it was the right thing for every clergyman in easy circumstances to set the example of matrimony in his parish. Secondly, he was convinced that it would greatly add to his happiness. Thirdly, it was his particular advice and recommendation of the very noble lady, whom he had the honour of calling patroness.
9. Elizabeth wishes Mr. Collins to be very rich and very happy. She says that by refusing his hand, she had done all she could in her power to prevent being his otherwise. She also says that in making her the offer of marriage, he must have satisfied all the delicacy of his feelings with regards to her family and may take the possession of the Longbourn estate whenever the time would come.
10. Collins says that it did not appear that his hand was unworthy of her acceptance, or that the establishment that he could offer be any other than highly desirable. He says that she should take it into further consideration that in spite of her manifold attractions, it is by no means certain that another offer of marriage may ever be made to her. Her proportion is unhappily so small that it will in all likelihood undo the effects of all her loveliness and amiable qualifications.

***Question 2: 16***

***“Well, it’s just a bit of magic, perhaps.”***

1. Who said the above to whom? What does ‘it’ refer to? 3
2. Describe ‘it’ and also mention its special feature. 3
3. How had the speaker got the paw? Why did he still have it with him? 3

iv) What happened as soon as Mr White made the first wish? 3

v) Mention the contrast in the parlour room as mentioned at the end of part one and the beginning of part two of the story. 4

1. Sargeant Major Morris said these lines to the Whites family, the three listeners. It refers to the monkey’s paw.
2. It had a spell put on it by an old fakir, who wanted to show that those who interfered with fate did so to their sorrow. He put a spell on it so that three separate men could each have three wishes from it.
3. The man who had possessed the paw before Morris had made the third wish for death. It was granted and thus Morris got the paw. Morris had wanted to sell the paw to someone as he wanted to get rid of it. But the paw had caused enough mischief already. Besides, people thought it was a fairy tale. Thus the paw was still with him.
4. As soon as Mr White made his first wish, the paw twisted in his hand like a snake . Mr White was started and gave out a shuddering cry and dropped the paw on the floor. On hearing the cry, Mrs White and Herbert ran toward Mr White.
5. At the end of part one Mrs and Mr White retire to bed and Herbert waits behind and is seen sitting alone in the darkness gazing at the dying fire for a while. He too later on goes to bed. Maybe the writer has used the word ‘dying fire’ to point out that it would be last night for Herbert. In the beginning of part two of the story, there was an air of prosaic wholesomeness about the room which had lacked the previous night.

**SECTION B- POETRY**

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

***Question 3: 16***

***“I met a traveller from an antique land”***

1. What had the traveller seen? 3
2. Describe what he had seen. 3
3. What was written on the pedestal? 3
4. What is meant by ‘colossal wreck’? Why has it been called so? 3
5. What message is conveyed through the poem? 4
6. The traveller had seen two vast and trunkless legs of a statue in the desert. He also saw the face of the statue lying nearby, half sunk in the sand.
7. The statue was broken. The two vast legs where standing on a pedestal but the trunk (torso) was missing. The face, which was shattered, was half buried in the stand
8. The following words were written on the pedestal on which the statue stood - “My name is Ozymandias, king of kings: Look on my works, ye Mighty and despair!”
9. The ‘colossal wreck’ refers to the remains of the statue that was found in the midst of the desert. The trunkless legs and the visage lying next to it were clearly indicating that it had been a huge statue which is now a shattered wreck. That is why the terms ‘colossal wreck’ have been used.
10. The poet conveys the message that man is immortal however powerful he may be. All powerful people and their creations come to an end and therefore they must not boast or feel proud about it.

***Question 4:***

***“Life is but an empty dream”***

1. How is life described in the next stanza? 3
2. What should and shouldn’t be our destined end or way? 3

iii) What should our heartbeat remind us of? 3

iv) What can be an inspiration for the people who are in trouble? How? 3

1. What does the poet describe about in the last stanza of the poem? 4
2. The poet says that life is very much real and earnest. It is in contrast to the belief that life is unreal. Also he says that the goal of life is not the grave. The soul of a person is very much alive even after the person is no more.
3. Enjoyment and sorrow should not be our destined end or way. We have to take action so that each tomorrow finds us farther than today. We must strive to be better and better by every passing day.
4. Our heartbeat ought to remind us of death. The beat here is compared to a march-past. This march-past is steadily taking us to our grave. That is the reason we need to use our time well.
5. Our footprints can inspire a forlorn and shipwrecked brother. While sailing over, life’s solemn main (ocean) he has faced disaster. But looking at our footprints he may take heart again. This inspiration can lead him out of the state of despair and desolation.
6. In the last stanza of the poem, the poet tells us that we should be up and doing. We should actively participate in life and work hard to achieve success but we should be prepared for any fate. Even if we achieve things in life still we should continue the pursuit. After the labour sometimes the fruits of success get delayed. In such circumstances we should have patience.

**SECTION C- ALCHEMIST**

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

***Question 5:***

1. Who is ‘he’ here? What does the word mean ‘them’? What things are being mentioned here (3)
2. What would the boy do when the merchant would be busy in the shop? Which shop is this? How many times in a year would he go there? (3)
3. How is the girl described in the next few lines? (3)
4. How did Santiago feel four days before meeting the girl? Why? (3)
5. Mention the bond between Santiago and his sheep. (4)
6. The word ‘he’ is referred to Santiago. He sometimes would read them parts of his book that had made an impression on him, or when he would tell them of the loneliness or the happiness of a shepherd in the fields.
7. The boy would sit on the steps of the shop and he would take a book out from his bag. This is a dry goods shop. He would go to the village once a year.
8. The girl was from Andalusia with flowing black hair and her eyes that vaguely recalled the Moorish conquerors.
9. Four days before meeting the girl, he was excited and at the same time, uneasy as well. He thought that may be the girl had forgotten him as many shepherds pass through selling their wool. He then convinced himself that it didn’t matter and he knew other girls.
10. Santiago always felt that his sheeps were able to able to understand him and hence he would read the parts of his books that made an impression on him, or when he would tell them of his loneliness or the happiness of a shepherd in the fields. Sometimes he would comment to them on the things he had seen in the village they passed.