Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**FIRST TERM EXAM**

**Std IX-GOPAL SHARMA Duration: 2 hours Marks 80**

**Attempt five questions in all. Attempt at least one question from each section**

**Section A- Drama**

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

***Question 1 12***

***“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 12***

***“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.

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

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.

**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***

***“In bleak and bitter cold”***

1. Name the figure of speech used in the above given line. 3
2. Why did the first and the second person not give their logs? 3
3. Who is the third person? How is he dressed? What did he do? Why? 3
4. What was each man in the group aware of? 3
5. What are different types of discriminations highlighted in the poem? How can they affect the mankind? 4

Ans. The poet says that the cold is bleak and bitter as it could even kill the people. Here the line is “Alliteration’ as the sound ‘b’ is repeated. It is also an example of ‘Tautology’ as the words ‘bleak’ and ‘bitter’ have similar meaning.

Ans. The first person was a white lady, and when she saw a black man sitting opposite to her, her racist attitude stopped her from contributing to keep the fire burning. The second person refused to give his log because he saw a person who was not of his church, which justifies that this person was a classist.

Ans. The third person is a poor man. He sat in tattered clothes and gave his coat a hitch.

Ans. Each man was so full of hatred and contempt towards the other that he refused to give up his log to the fire that was dying. Each one thought that by doing so he was avenging the person whom he condemned. None was aware of the fact that eventually even he would die in the situation.

Ans. The poet has thrown light on the different ways in which people discriminate against each other. He gives the example of racial discrimination through the white lady and the black man. The poet also talks about the religious intolerance and class discrimination between the rich and the poor man. Such differences lead to envy, hatred, arrogance and revenge eventually destroying the very fiber of humanity.

***Question 6 16***

***It was a summer evening***

***Old Kaspar’s work was done…***

1. Mention the names of Kaspar’s grandchildren. What were they doing in the beginning of the poem? 3
2. How is the skull described by the poet and by the grandfather? 3
3. How did the battle cause damage to the property around? 3
4. What does the grandfather keep quoting in the poem? Why? What does it show? 3
5. Bring out the theme of the poem by justifying the title. 4

Wilhelmine and Peterkin. Wilhelmine was sporting on the green near her grandfather. Peterkin was playing beside the rivulet where he had found something that so large, smooth and round.

The skull described by the poet is large, smooth and round. The grandfather says that it belonged to some poor fellow’s skull who fell in the great victory.

The enemies had burnt Old Kaspar’s father’s dwelling to the ground and he was forced to fly. The country everywhere was wasted far and wide. This damage was done with fire and sword. After the field was won, it was a shocking sight for many thousand bodies lay rotting in the sun.

The grandfather keeps quoting in the poem that it was a great victory or it was a famous victory. These lines signify the fact that the generation to which the old man belonged never challenged the futility of war. They easily accepted that it was a necessary evil in spite of all the harm it caused to humanity.

The title of the poem ‘After Blenheim’ suggests what happens after the battle of Blenheim. It focuses on the destruction caused to the property as well as humanity. The old man vividly describes the consequences of the battle highlighting how many thousands were killed including soldiers and the commoners. The grandfather keeps repeating that it was a famous or a great victory because that was the propaganda which was indoctrinated in the minds of the common people. The poet through the repetition of the lines wants to emphasise that wars are senseless, futile and evil and that in war there are no real winners.

**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 was a pontoon bridge across the river”***

1. Describe the old man and the place where he was sitting. 3
2. What does the narrator do for a living? What is the role given to him? 3
3. Initially, how was the old man responding to the narrator’s questions? 3
4. What was the narrator looking at while talking to the old man? What thoughts did he have? 3
5. What is the advice given by the narrator to the old man? What is the old man’s response to that?

4

Ans. The old man was wearing dusty clothes and steel rimmed spectacle. He sat by the side of the road. He was seen a pontoon bridge by the Ebro river. Though the other people were crossing and moving ahead, the old man sat there without moving and seemed too tired to walk any further

Ans. The narrator seems to be an army scout. He was given the role to cross the bridge explore the bridgehead beyond and find out till what point the enemy has advanced. He was also supposed to return and signal safety to his contingent at the bridge.

Ans. The old man said that he was form San Carlos. He said it with pleasure as it was his native town and smiled while saying it. He also added without being asked that he was just taking care of the animals.

Ans. While the narrator was talking to the old man he was watching the bridge and the African looking country of the Ebro Delta. He was wondering how long would it be before they saw the enemy. He was also listening all the while for first noises that would signal the mysterious event called contract.

Ans. The narrator advices the old man to walk a bit further if he can. He could go the junction where the road forks to Tortosa. There are trucks up the road which are leaving for Barcelona. He could have a safe passage to Barcelona then. The old man now assures the narrator that he would wait a while and then go.

***Question 9***

***As they passed down the aisle of the coach the only vacant seat offered***

***was a reversed one facing the attractive young woman.***

1. Describe the appearance of the linked couple. 4
2. In your opinion state how minor characters play an important role in the story? 4
3. O. Henry presents various ironical situations in the story. Comment. 8

Among the newcomers in the coach there were two young men. One of them was a handsome man with a bold and frank facial expression and manner. The other one was a ruffled, serious looking person, heavily built and roughly dressed. They were handcuffed together and therefore are referred to as the ‘linked couple’.

It is the minor characters i.e. the two other passengers in a seat nearby who had heard most of the conversation reveal the truth. One of them subtly brings out the truth that Easton is the prisoner and the glum-faced man the marshal. As a marshal’s right hand is never handcuffed it is very clear that Easton is the prisoner and the glum-faced man a marshal. A prisoner’s right hand is handcuffed in order to restrict his movements.

The two men who enter are judged by their appearances. Mr Easton is of handsome presence with a bold, frank countenance and manner; the other is a ruffled, glum-faced person, heavily built and roughly dressed. 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’. Later in the story from the conversation of the other two passengers one realises that Mr Easton was actually the criminal and glum-faced man was the Marshall. O. Henry does drop subtle hints from the start to suggest the actuality of both’s characters. One, when Mr Easton says that his butterfly days are over and also when glum-faced man was observing the girl’s countenance with veiled glances from his keen, shrewd eyes. It is a typical characteristic of a policeman to do so.

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.