Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**FIRST TERM EXAM**

**Std: IX PPS (CHANDIVALI) 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:***

***“Not in love neither? Then let us say that you are sad as you are not merry.”***

1. Who is the speaker of these lines? Whom are the spoken to? Where is the scene happening? 3

Ans: The speaker of these lines is Salerio (Salerio). They are spoken to Antonio. The scene is taking place in a street in Venice.

1. Whose swear is the speaker taking? What is the swear? Why is the swear of that entity taken?

Ans: The speaker Salerio is swearing by Janus. The swear is that nature hath framed strange fellows in her time. The swear of Janus is taken as just as Janus is looking in opposite directions with his two heads, these people show opposite behaviour.

1. What kinds of people are there in the world according to the speaker? 3

Ans: The people made by nature are strange according to the speaker. Some people forever peep through their eyes and laugh like a parrot even at a bagpiper playing bagpipe. Other people are of such vinegar aspect that they will not show their teeth in the way of smile though Nestor swear that the jest is laughable.

1. Who enters the scene at this juncture? How is he described? What else is spoken by the person describing the entrant? 3

Ans. Bassanio, Lorenzo and Gratiano enter the scene at this time. Bassanio is described as the most noble kinsman of Antonio. The person says that he would leave Antonio now in better company.

1. What role does Gratiano want to play in the world?

Ans. Gratiano want to play the role of a fool. He wants the old wrinkles to come with mirth and laugher. He would rather have his liver heat with wine than his heart being cold with mortifying groans. He does not want to be like his grandsire’s alabaster statue, sleep when he wakes and creep into the jaundice by being peevish.

***Question 2:***  “***Ho, no, no, no, no; my meaning in saying he is good man is to have you understand me that he is sufficient***”

1. What misunderstanding does Shylock try to clear through this speech? 3

Ans. Shylock ties to clarify why he called Antonio a good man. He says his meaning in saying Antonio was a good man was that he was sufficient. This was necessitated by the way in which Bassanio had interpreted his previous statement.

1. Why does Shylock think that Antonio is not a reliable bet for the loan? 3

Ans. Shylock thinks that Antonio is not reliable for the loan as his means were in supposition. He had his argosies sailing in different parts of the ocean. But ships are just boards, sailors just men a. And there is a risk of land rats and water rats and pirates. Also, ships are subjects to risks of water winds and rocks.

1. What does Shylock want to do to be a little more reassured about giving the loan? What is Bassanio’s response to it? 3

Ans. Shylock wants to meet Antonio to be sure about giving the loan. Perhaps he is looking for an assurance straight from him. Bassanio invites him for dinner to introduce him to Antonio.

1. How does Shylock respond to Bassanio’s offer here? 3

Ans. Shylock is sarcastic in his response. He says that he wouldn’t go to smell pork. He could not eat of the habitation into which their prophet the Nazarite (Jesus) conjured the devil into. He says he doesn’t mind walking, talking and selling with the Christians but cannot eat, drink or pray with them.

1. In what manner does Shylock use a biblical story to justify charging of interest? 4

Ans. Shylock gives the biblical story of Jacob and Laban to justify charging o interest. Jacob and Laban had come to an agreement about the razing of Laban’s sheep. Laban would not pay him a regular salary for the same but all the eanlings that were streaked and pied were to fall as Jacob’s hire. Jacob smartly stuck the wands in front of the fulsome ewes. All the eanlings went to him. This was his way to thrive and any thrift is a blessing if not stolen by one.

***Question 3: “Father in. I cannot get a service, no! I have never a tongue in my head”***

1. How does Launcelot describe his palm? What does his palm tell him about wives? 3

Launcelot says that his palm was the luckiest palm in Italy to have offered to swear upon a book. His palm shows that he will have a small trifle of wives. He considers fifteen wives as nothing and would have eleven widows and nine maidens in his life too.

1. What instructions does Bassanio give Leonardo? How does he respond? 3

Bassanio tells Leonardo to think of whatever he has been told. He wants his to buy and orderly bestow it and return in haste as he is going to feast with his best esteemed acquaintance.

1. Who enters the scene at this point? What does he request Bassanio? 3

Gratiano enters the scene at this point. He requests Bassanio that he wants to accompany Bassanio to Belmont.

1. What is Bassanio’s response to this request? 3

Bassanio nervously accepts the request made by Gratiano. He cautions Gratiano to behave himself s many a times he was rude wild ad bold of voice. These parts would not be appreciated at a new place and he may be misunderstood at the place he goes to. He may lose his hopes of winning Portia due to that.

1. How does Gratiano address Bassanio’s apprehensions? 4

Gratiano promises that he would put on a sober habit, talk with respect, swear but now and then ,look demurely. When grace is saying he would hood his eyes with a hat and sigh and say amen as well as carry prayer books in his pocket. He would use all observance of civility like one well studied in sad ostent to please anyone’s grandam. He tells Bassanio to never trust him more if he doesn’t do these things.

**Section B- Poems**

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

***Question 4: 16***

***He plants, in sap and leaf and wood,***

***In love of home and loyalty***

***And far-cast thought of civic good…***

1. What does ‘His blessings’ refer to? Who is blessed in this extract? [3]

His blessings refer to the blessings of the person who does a noble deed of planting a tree and showers blessings on humanity. He said to be God-like persona or the Saviour as he grants life to every human being by planting. All those people who are in the neighbourhood and who benefit from the planting of the tree are blessed.

1. Why is the tree considered to a friend to the sun and sky? Mention why the tree is compared to a flag of breezes? [3]

The tree towers high towards the sky and appears as if it is extending its hand of friendship to the sun and the sky. The tree is a friend in the true sense of the word because it is beneficial to the environment as it reduces the temperature and purifies the atmosphere.

1. According to the poet how does a nation grow? [3]

A person who plants a tree plants the seed of growth and prosperity. Trees are the symbol of life as they purify the air and maintain ecological balance. One tree gives rise to many more leading to growth of forests across all the nations of the world. That’s how the nation grows.

1. Out of which emotions does the planter plant a tree? Mention the three benefits which are related to civic good. [3]

The planter plants a tree in love of home, in loyalty and far-cast thought of civic good. The three benefits that we get by planting a tree are; sap, leaf and wood.

1. Why is the first line of each verse repeated? Do you think the title of the poem is appropriate? Justify.

[4]

In the beginning of every stanza the poet asks ‘what does he plant who plants a tree’. He answers his own question by enlisting the several benefits of planting a tree. He repeatedly asks the question to emphasize that when a person plants a tree, he actually plants a lot of things along with it which have an everlasting positive effect on mankind.

***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?

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***

***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

***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:***

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.