Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**SECOND PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2016-2017**

**LITERATURE IN ENGLISH**

**ENGLISH Paper- 2**

**Set II-B *(Two hours)***

*Answers to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.*

*You will* ***not*** *be allowed to write during the first* ***15*** *minutes.*

*This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.*

*The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.*

*Attempt* ***five*** *questions in all.*

*The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets []*

**SECTION A- DRAMA**

*The Merchant of Venice: Shakespeare*

**Question 1.**

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

**“*What are there masques? Hear you me, Jessica:***

***Lock up my doors, and when you hear the drum***

***and vile squealing of the wry necked fife,***

***clamber not you up to casements then...***

1. What do you understand by vile squealing? Why is it referred to as vile? [3]
2. Explain: Wry necked fife [3]
3. What does Shylock swear by Jacob’s staff? [3]
4. What does Launcelot whisper to Jessica while leaving? [3]
5. What can we read into Jessica’s character through this scene? [4]

**Question 2.**

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

**‘*Fair Portia’s counterfeit! What demigod hath come so near creation?***

***Move these eyes? Or weather riding on the balls of mine seem they in motion?***

1. Who is the speaker of these lines? In what context are they spoken? [3]
2. What does Bassanio call the artist who had painted the portrait of Portia? Why? [3]
3. How are the hair of Portia praised in the speech of Bassanio? [3]
4. What surprises Bassanio about the painting of Portia’s eyes? [3]
5. What is the gist of the matter written in the scroll? [4]

**SECTION B- POETRY**

*A Collection of Poems*

**Question 3.**

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

**‘*Remember me? I am Professor Sheth.***

***Once I taught you Geography.***

***Now I am retired, though my health is good.’***

1. Who is conversing to whom in this poem? What is peculiar about the conversation? [3]
2. Mention a few linguistic errors that we can notice in the extract. [3]
3. Give details about the female family members of the Professor. [3]
4. What according to the Professor do we have to do with time? Why? [3]
5. How much does the Professor think he would live? On what basis? [4]

**Question 4.**

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

***“A gate had crushed him. There we stood, afraid.***

***A house standing before us…’***

1. Who is the narrator of the poem? In what form is the narration? [3]
2. Who is the ‘him’ mentioned in the extract? How did the narrator react to ‘him’? [3]
3. What happened to the house standing before the narrator? [3]
4. Mention the injuries that had happened to the narrator? [3]
5. The poem makes us shudder with the imagery used. Substantiate. [4]

**SECTION C- PROSE**

*Collection of Short Stories*

**Question 5.**

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

**‘*Alagu had purchased, a year ago,***

***from the Bateshwar fair, a pair of fine bullocks.’***

1. What was the peculiarity of the bullocks? How did the villagers receive them? [3]
2. What allegations and counter allegations were made with the death of one of the bullocks? [3]
3. Who had an eye on the lone bullock that was left out? Why? [3]
4. After the death of the second bullock what offer was made by Samjhu to Alagu? [3]
5. Mention the circumstances under which the second bullock died. [4]

**Question 6.**

Can reading change your mind? Give your opinion in the backdrop of the story ‘The Bet’. Elucidate with examples from the story [16]