Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**SECOND TERM EXAMINATION**

**Std IX Duration: 2 Hours Marks 80**

**Solve any five of the given questions. All questions carry equal marks.**

**Question 1 16**

***‘What says that fool of Hagar’s offspring, ha?’***

**i. Who is the speaker of these lines? Who exits before this line is said? Where does the scene take place? 3**

**ii. Who is being referred to, in the above given lines? Why? 3**

**iii. Has Shylock been invited to the supper for love? Why is he going for the same? 3**

**iv. How does Launcelot try to cover up his mistake of giving information about the masque? 3**

**v. What is Shylock’s response to the information about masque? 4**

**Ans:** Shylock says these lines. Launcelot exits. Street outside Shylock’s house.

Shylock calls Launcelot as a fool belonging to Hagar’s offspring. He means to say that Launcelot belongs to the family of illegitimate child who was born out of the wedlock between Abram and Hagar.

No, Shylock has not been invited to the supper for love. He has been invited for flattering him. He wants to go in hate to feed upon the prodigal Christian. He also wants to check if any ill was brewing against him as he had dreamt of money-bags the previous night.

Launcelot accidentally discloses about the masque to Shylock. He tries to cover up by telling Shylock that it was not without reason that his nose started bleeding on last Black Monday at 6 o’clock in the morning. He claims that Ash Wednesday fell on the same day as Black Monday at 4 o’clock in the afternoon. He talks nonsense and gibberish to confuse Shylock.

Shylock tells Jessica to lock up his doors and when she hears the wild squealing of the wry-necked fife, she should not climb up the casements. She should not thrust her head into the public street to gaze at Christian fools with varnished faces. She should stop the ears of his house by which he means his casements, and not allow the sound of shallow foppery to enter his sober house.

**Question 2 *16***

***‘Signior Bassanio, hear me: If I do not put on a sober habit… ’***

i. Who is the speaker of these lines? What request is he making? 3

ii. What does Bassanio reply? 3

iii. What according to Bassanio would be a pity? Why? 3

iv. In what way does Shakespeare bring about humour in Gobbo’s speech with Bassanio? 3

v. How does Gratiano assure Bassanio about decent behaviour at Belmont? 4

**Ans:** Gratiano speaks these lines. He requests Bassanio that he would want to accompany him to Belmont.

Bassanio immediately agrees to this request of Gratiano but cautions him saying that he is too wild, rude and bold of voice. These parts suit him well enough and in his friends’ eyes do not appear to be faults. But where he is a stranger they would be too liberal as qualities. He tells Gratiano to allay with some cold drops of modesty his skipping spirit. Otherwise, because of his wild behaviour he would be misconstrued in the place they are going to and would lose his hopes of winning Portia.

According to Bassanio it would be a pity if Gratiano behaved in a decent manner during the feast. He rather requests Gratiano to put on his boldest suit of mirth. This is because friends were about to come to the feast for merriment and if Gratiano is off-colour it would make the feast dull.

Gobbo wishes Bassanio and starts recommending his son to be taken in his service. But Launcelot intermittently interrupts before his father can complete any of his statements. Also, Gobbo uses malapropisms like ‘infection’ instead of ‘affection’ and ‘defect’ instead of ‘effect’. This adds to the humour in the scene.

Gratiano assures Bassanio that he would put on a sober habit, talk with respect and swear rarely. He would wear prayer-books in his pockets, look around demurely and while grace is being said hood his eyes with his hat, sigh and say ‘Amen’. He would use all observances of civil behaviour like a person well-studied in sad ostent. Nobody’s grandmother would be able to gauge that this is not his real behaviour. If he fails to do that, then Bassanio should never ever trust him in future.

**Question 3 16**

***‘In the world’s broad field of battle….’***

**i. What has been compared to battle? Why? 3**

**ii. What is meant by bivouac? How should one act in the ‘bivouac of life’ 3**

**iii. How should we treat the three time frames? 3**

**iv. Explain: ‘Act-act in the living present’ 3**

**v. How is life described throughout the poem? 4**

**Ans:** 1. The world is compared to a battlefield. It is a battlefield in which each one of us is

fighting for our daily existence. Life is compared to a bivouac.

2. Life is compared to a bivouac. Bivouac is a temporary shelter used by the soldiers in a battlefield. Similarly, life is a temporary shelter that we have been provided with, in the battlefield of the world.

3. The poet urges humans to live in the present by saying that even if the Future seems to be pleasant he cannot be trustworthy. The Past is already dead and should be buried. However Present is alive and is the only time we can work in. Investing in Present will surely give good results.

4. The poet wants us to act without any fear in the present. We should remember that we have a heart within and God overhead. This should give us the courage to act fearlessly in the present.

5. 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. Life is compared to a main (ocean) in the second last stanza of the poem. The comparison is made because, just like a rough ocean where we have to face storms, so it is with life. We go through ups and downs in life frequently.

**Question 4 16**

***‘I think, before I travel, I’ll get a little rest….’***

**i. Why did the narrator cry? What did he do then? What had happened to the boy? 3**

**ii. How would the mother and the wife react, according to the soldier? 3**

**iii. What did the soldier asked for? Why? 3**

**iv. How does the narrator describe the wounds? Explain its symbolism. 3**

**v. Give a description of the night of the battle. 4**

**Ans: 1.** The narrator cried because he couldn’t do anything to save the soldier boy. He put his arms around the soldier and pulled the soldier towards him.The boy had died because of the small pain in his chest. The small pain did prove to be fatal as it took away his life.

2. The soldier says that his mother would not have ever imagined when she held him to her breast that one day he would be sitting there with a small pain in his chest. The picture that he tries to portray is that when a mother nurtures a child she is unaware of the uncertainties of life that may snatch her child from her. She is a helpless victim to fate.

3. He added that a sip of water on that morning would surely do him good. They had fought day and night with scarcely any rest. The water would help him to be at ease with the small pain in his chest.

4. The narrator says that he put his arms around the soldier and pulled the soldier towards him. As he held the soldier near him, he could feel that their wounds were pressed. He describes the wound in his heart as a large one and the wound in the chest of the soldier as a small one. When any two wounds press against each other, the pain increases and with the bloods mixing, one is reminded of the universality of human beings. Irrespective of any other consideration, pain is a great leveller.

5. A very heart-breaking and pitiable picture of the battlefield is portrayed by the poet. On visiting the battlefield, he notices the destructive aspects of the war. He also witnesses a number of dead bodies lying still and lifeless and the entire surrounding was depressing and horrifying. They, along with the wounded soldiers, had fought throughout the night. They all were the young soldier’s companions in the war and had fought for the whole day and night and now were lain dead.

***Question 5 16***

***‘Now he was away in the jungle with a photographic expedition’***

1. **Who is being spoken about? What was his and the villagers’ role in a photographic expedition? 3**
2. **For whom was the fuel used? Why? How did they use the fuel? 3**
3. **How far was Kalaghat from Laldwani? How did Sher Singh hope to reach Kalaghat with his brother?**

**3**

1. **Which village did Sher Singh belong to? What were his means of livelihood? 3**
2. **How did Sher Singh, the father, win the title ‘Bahadur’? 4**

**Ans: 1.**

***Question 5***

**Ans:** Sher Singh bahadur is being spoken about. Sher Singh Bahadur had gone into the jungle with a photographic expedition. He was a shikari who was supposed to help in the identification of the location of the animals. The villagers of the Laldwani village accompanied him as beaters.

**Ans:** The fuel was used to heat the water so that rags can be put on Kunwar’s belly. He was suffering from stomach pain which was getting worse. They were using the fuel recklessly to get the water hot at the earliest.

**Ans:** Kalaghat was at least fifty miles away from Laldwani. Sher Singh hoped that if he could get through the jungle and cross the two rivers that lay between him and his goal, he might get a lift in a bullock-cart or perhaps even a broken down truck for the last part of his journey.

**Ans:** Sher Singh belonged to Laldwani. He grazed his cattle and cultivated his bit of land. But whenever there would be an expedition into the jungle in search of big game, either to shoot them or photograph them Sher Singh Bahadur was sent for.

**Ans:** Sher Singh, the father, could find tigers where there were no tigers at all. He could look at the dry grass and tell everything that had happened there. He could listen to a chital calling and guess that the panther had killed just one of them. All over his body there were scars of his struggle with a tiger, snake and other animals.

***Question 6 16***

‘Justice neither knows a friend nor an enemy’. Elaborate this line with reference to the story ‘God lives in the panch.’

Sher Singh’s encounter with the cobra. He found out a cobra who had been sunning himself on the path in the last of the daylight, contracted and rose with a hiss. He spread his hood to show the spectacle mark on the back. Sher Singh stood frozen on seeing the cobra and then slowly backed away. The cobra swayed watching him with its tongue playing in and out. Later it subsided and slid off into the matted grass. Sher Singh saw the sight of the bear track in the dust, square front paw and long back one which made him glance around uneasily. He had once seen a man who had been mauled by a bear, his face torn away. Thinking about this Sher Singh quickened his step. Sher Singh heard the jostle and squeal of elephants, he realised that this herd was coming up the nullah perhaps to the new feeding grounds. Sher Singh was glad that he was outside the ravine and above them. Sher Singh noticed that one great old tusker had a dark oily flow of musth discharge on his cheeks. He realised that in that condition he might chase and kill men where normally he would not bother. Sher Singh understood that the elephants were very near as he could smell them and hear the squeak of sand crushed under their feet. The brush of rough hide against each other was also heard. He could even see that the toss and hustle and great heads and black backbones. The tusker was playing with his trunk to and fro to learn whatever the breeze could tell him. He suddenly hesitated when he came near the boys. The trunk came around towards the boys. Then the tusker snorted, trumpeted and shook his head, then he hurried on angrily up the riverbed and disappeared. Sher Singh chilled with fright when he saw the trunk of the tusker coming towards him. He knew that with Kunwar to carry, he could neither climb nor run. If he shouted it would bring the catastrophe upon them. He started praying to God for protection. After stepping into the first river, Sher Singh realised that the water was colder than usual, there was an icy edge to it. He also noticed that in the middle it was deeper than it had been earlier. He guessed that perhaps the snow water was already

coming down. He had to go slowly because of the slime on the stones and find a foothold to be sure not to fall. After Sher Singh crossed the first river and swashed up to the shore, water twinkled in his footprints before sinking into the sand. He saw that another set of footprints came out of the river. They belonged to a tiger and there was a glitter in them too. As he looked at them, they dried. When he reached the second river, Sher Singh saw that from bank to bank the river foamed. He could not see the bridge as it was submerged. A fierce crest of water showed where the bridge lay, which was confirmed by a drowned goat held against it by the torrent. He could see branches rising like dying arms in the vortex and caught against the bridge and feathering the wild glissade of water. The entire tree was churning over and over on the cataract. It gathered speed and crashed against the drowned bridge. There was a thundering noise followed by a loud tearing sound. The bridge moved like a monster heeled over and broke, throwing up its bamboo ribs like a fan. The question that crossed the mind of Sher Singh after the bridge was broken, was how to cross the bridge. There was no chance to swim, even alone he would be lost in the current but he guessed that perhaps among the wreck of the bridge there would be a way. Sher Singh gathered grass and plaited it into a rope. The blades of the grass were sharp and cut his fingers. He tied the rope around his brother and himself so that they would keep together. The moment Sher Singh entered the second river, he and Kunwar were seized and flattened against the wreck by the current of water. Initially Sher Singh could not move but then he began to edge forward into the maelstrom holding on to anything that he could lay his hands on. He was feeling forward for things to hold and finding the split ends of bamboo that were sharp enough to disembowel a man. Sher Singh was deafened by the deluge. Timber banged and bruised him. He could hardly keep his hold because of the cold water. He could not get his breath in the spray and water poured past and over him in one long icy cascade. He was deaf, blinded, frozen and drowned. Sher Singh was numb because of coldness and his nose hurt with water inside it. He still stumbled on, walking and walking. His knees bent and trembled. They gave way and he was almost crawling till he reached a better road and later a village. After Sher Singh reached a better road, he could hear the yap of pi-dogs which heralded a village. Suddenly he could see people. Earlier he had expected to get a lift in a bullock cart and then a truck. That is exactly how his last phase of journey was.