Vikram ’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Pre-Preliminary Exam: Test 1**

**Short Stories Poems Drama**

1) Princess September 1) I Believe Merchant

Of

2) A Tiger in the Tunnel 2) Psalm of life Venice (Act I)

**Std X Set F**

**Marks 40 1 hour**

**Q.1)**

**Ans i)** Speaker is Portia. Spoken to Nerissa. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** Referring to French lord monsieur Le Bon. She is mocking him as a person who does not have an individuality of his own. He behaves strangely and marrying him would be like marrying twenty people. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** Fearing the worst she tells the listener to place a glass of Rhenish wine over a wrong casket so that the German lord duke of Saxony makes the wrong choice. She says this as she does not want to get married to him. **3 marks**

**Q.2)**

**Ans i)** The speaker is likely to call him a cut throat dog again. It is because he charges interest which is not at all justified according to the speaker. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** A friend is unlikely to charge interest on the money given. He says gold coins are barren metal unlikely to reproduce and so do not deserve any premium. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** Antonio says that money should be given without interest. He tells Shylock to lend him money as an enemy and not a friend. If he is unable to pay back at the said time he can exact a penalty for that. **3marks**

**Q.3)**

**Ans i)** Baldeo was ready to leave the hut for his nightly errand. Baldeo was responsible for signalling whether or not the tunnel was clear of obstruction. At night it was his duty to see that the lamp was burning and that the overland mail passed through safely. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** The station near Baldeo’s hut was a station in name only. It was a small shack backed by a heavy jungle and the trains stopped there if at all for a few seconds before entering the deep cutting that led to the tunnel. Most trains only slowed down before taking the sharp turn. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** Baldeo’s responsibility as a Khalasi was to signal whether or not the tunnel was clear of obstruction. His hand-worked signal stood at the entrance of the tunnel. At night, it was his duty to see that the lamp was burning and that the overland mail passed through safely. **3 marks**

**Q.4)**

Human beings l like to be praised:- The king likes to hear God ‘Save the king’ but not ‘Pretty Polly’.

Human beings are self-centered:- The maids leave the Princess September because she is crying.

Human beings are jealous:- the other princesses are jealous of the acquisition of nightingale by September

Human beings get easily influenced by majority:- September get influenced and cages the nightingale

Human beings once suspicious think only negatively:- September gets suspicious of the nightingale because she comes late

Humans become possessive when they love someone a lot:- September gets possessive of the nightingale and puts her in a cage to enjoy the company of nightingale. **8 Marks**

**Q.5)**

**Ans i)** It represents the human aspiration of ambition. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** after reaching the heights of the sky the poet wants to touch the silky clouds. She also wants to feel the stars. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** Last stanza jumps from fantasy to reality. The most important thing is highlighted in the last stanza. Other stanzas speaks of what she aspires to be, but she realizes the importance of fulfilling the role given on earth more than fulfilling the dreams. **3 marks**

**Q. 6)**

**Ans i)** the poet does not want us to be dumb driven cattle. She wants us to be a hero in the strife.  **2marks**

**Ans ii)** We should work in the present forgetting the future or the past. We should work with full heart and should be aware that god is there overhead to protect us. **3marks**

**Ans iii)** Lives of great men reminds us that we too can make our lives sublime and exemplary like them. When we go from this world we can leave footprints on the sand of time. Those can serve as inspiration for the generations to come. **3marks**