Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Second Semester Examination**

**Std IX Set A**

**Marks 80 2hours**

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

**Section A- Drama**

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

***Question 1 16***

***‘Return in haste, for I do feast tonight… My best-esteem’d acquaintance.’***

1. **Who is the speaker of these lines? To whom are they spoken to? Whom is ‘acquaintance referred to’? 3**
2. **In what way does Shakespeare bring about humour in Gobbo’s speech with Bassanio 3**
3. **What according to Bassanio would be a pity? Why? 3**
4. **How does Launcelot react when Gobbo tells him that he does not recognise him? 3**
5. **What does Launcelot say in a dialogue just before the lines given? 3**

i. Bassanio is the speaker. Spoken to Leonardo. Antonio is the best-esteem’d acquaintance.

ii. 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.

iii. 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.

iv. Launcelot says that even if he had his eyes he would not be able to recognise him. He uses a proverb which implies that it is a wise father who can recognise his own child. He further goes on to say that truth will come to light and murder cannot be hidden for long. A man’s son may try to hide the truth but in the end truth will come out.

v. Launcelot tells his father that he was lucky to land up a job with Bassanio due to him, as he does not have even a tongue in his head. He says that he has a fairer table which can swear upon a book than any man alive in Italy. He continues that his lifeline is a very lucky one and has fifteen wives, eleven widows and nine maids. He calls it is a small income for one man. Apart from that he would escape drowning thrice and the biggest peril of his life would be provided by the edge of a featherbed. He compares Fortune to a lady and says that she is kind to him.

***Question 2 16***

***‘My daughter! O my ducats! O my daughter!’***

1. **Who says these lines, here? Why? 3**
2. **What happened when the Duke and Shylock reached the harbour? 3**
3. **What information received from a French man does Salerio share with Solanio? 3**
4. **What did Shylock mention in his outburst on the streets? 3**
5. **What shows the strength of Bassanio’s and Antonio’s friendship in this scene? 4**

i. These lines are spoken by Solanio. He says that he had never heard a passion so confused, strange, outrageous and variable. This kind of an emotion was expressed by Shylock in the streets.

ii. By the time Duke and Shylock reached the harbour, the ship was already under sail. There the Duke was informed that Lorenzo and his amorous Jessica were seen in a gondola together. Apart from this, Antonio certified the Duke they were not with Bassanio in his ship.

iii. Salerio says that he reasoned with a French man the previous day. The French man informed him that in the narrow seas which lies there between the English and the French, a vessel belonging to their country had miscarried. This vessel was richly fraught and he thought about Antonio when he heard about this sad news.

iv. Shylock laments the loss of his daughter and his ducats. He says that his daughter

has fled with a Christian and in the confused state of mind he calls his ducats also

as Christian. He then asks for justice and law to take its course. He says that two

sealed bags of ducats had been stolen from him by his daughter. Finally he says

two rich and precious stones have also been stolen.

v. Bassanio tells Antonio that he would try to return as early as possible. To this, Antonio tells him that he should not hasten up his work for him. He should wait till the ripening of time and not allow the thought about Shylock’s bond to enter in his mind which is full of love. He tells Bassanio to be merry and employ his chiefest thoughts to courtship and such suitable fair ostents of love. Then, Antonio’s eyes were full of tears and he wrung Bassanio’s hand in a sensible way. This parting shows the depth of the relationship.

**Section B- Poetry**

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

***Question 3 16***

***‘He will not see me stopping here’***

1. **Who is ‘he’ in the given lines? Which place does ‘here’ refer to? Why has the narrator stopped? 3**
2. **What does the horse ask the narrator? How? Why? 3**
3. **What is the emotion of the narrator towards the owner of the woods 3**
4. **Which sounds are mentioned in the poem? What kind of aura is created 3**
5. **Explain the symbolism of the last stanza. 4**

i. ‘He’ is the owner of the woods where the narrator has stopped to watch it fill up with snow. ‘Here’ refers to a place between the woods and the frozen lake.

ii. The horse asks the narrator if there is some mistake as they have suddenly stopped near a place where there is no farmhouse around. He asks this by giving a shake to his harness bell.

iii. The narrator has two emotions towards the owner of the woods. At one level, he has a little sympathy towards him as he is not able to enjoy the beauty of his own woods filling up with snow. On the other hand, there seems to be a sense of relief too as he is trespassing into somebody else’s land.

iv. The woods only have the sound of the easy wind and the downy flake. To that the sound of harness bells shaken by the horse get added. The aura that is created of an enigmatic place. There is a certain magnetism to the beauty of this place.

v. In the last stanza, the woods are called lovely, dark and deep. These woods symbolize the distractions which are offered by the beautiful things around us. Many times in life we are not able to pull ourselves away from these distractions. The narrator later says that he has miles to go before he sleeps as he has promises to fulfil. This symbolises the responsibilities and duties that we all have to negotiate in life. We should have the capability of pulling ourselves away from the distractions and focussing on our responsibilities and duties.

***Question 4 16***

***‘This thought disturbed me somewhat till I came…’***

1. **Which thought is being spoken about? Why did it disturb the speaker? Who is the speaker? 3**
2. **What had happened to his legs? Was his strength restored later? 3**
3. **What had the soldier done for him? What is the symbolism of the action? 3**
4. **What did the doctor feel when his wife left him? 3**
5. **How are the people walking towards hospital described? Why? 4**

i. The speaker here is a Japanese doctor who was a victim of Hiroshima nuclear explosion. The narrator was walking naked on the streets. The catastrophe had completely overwhelmed him and the people around. He did not feel ashamed in spite of being naked. He was disturbed by this though as in that condition, he ought to have felt ashamed.

ii. His legs had got too weak to support him to stand and he sat down on the ground.

Yes. His strength was restored. He was inhaling and exhaling quick short breaths

and gradually his strength was restored back.

iii. When the doctor was going to the hospital along with his wife, he was still naked but was not feeling ashamed. A soldier, who was standing around,felt pity on the doctor’s miserable condition and gave the towel around his neck to the soldier. The symbolism of the action is that in such moments of crisis people do try to restore the dignity of the victims.

iv. Though his wife didn’t want to leave him, but in desperate circumstances there was no choice for her but to leave. The doctor urged her to go ahead and showed selflessness. But as she left, he felt forlorn and friendless. A feeling of loneliness overpowered him and he felt distressed and dismayed.

v. The people walking towards hospital look like ghosts, scare-crows and are dumb.

They were walking wordlessly, because of the tremendous shock and extreme grief.

Some walked with arms stretched out from shoulder. The friction on the burns

caused so much pain that they feared to chafe or rub flesh against flesh. That would

have led to more pain.

**Section C- Prose**

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

***Question 5 16***

***‘Todd came after three weeks… ’***

1. **Who is Todd? Where had Todd been? What did he send from there? 3**
2. **What did the narrator suggest on his return? Why do you think it was suggested? Did Todd agree? 3**
3. **How was the evening spent by the narrator and his friend? What was the narrator constantly thinking? 3**
4. **Which other three hints were given by the narrator? 3**
5. **At what point in the story does the narrator provide a twist? 4**

i. Major Todd of the University Club Montreal is the narrator’s friend. Todd had been to Hamilton, Bermuda. He sent a note from there.

ii. The narrator suggested Todd to take up a taxi to the club. He did that to remind him of the dollar that Todd had taken three weeks ago. No, Todd denied and suggested to walk.

iii. The narrator and his friend, Todd, spent the evening talking about Bermuda. The narrator was constantly thinking of the dollar but didn’t refer to it.

iv. what currency was used in Bermuda, what his trip cost him, if he felt settled down after the trip

v. After describing in detail his attempts to remind Todd about the one dollar that he had taken, the narrator talks about a painful thought that crosses his mind. He talks about him taking money from the others and forgetting to pay it back. Then he suggests that there may be a long list of such men. This turns the story over its head.

***Question 6 16***

**In the context of the story’ God lives in the Panch’ bring out the similarities and the differences of the judgments of Alagu and Jumman.**

**Ans:** Jumman and Alagu - childhood friends- mutual outlook and community of ideas-base of their friendship- tilled their fields in common- had a joint-money lending business- Jumman respected for his knowledge- Alagu for his wealth- Jumman’s aunt and Jumman had a deal- he ought to take care of her in her old age and she transferred the property on his name- the deed was registered and Jumman’s conduct towards his aunt changed- she decided to go to the Panchayat- gathered sympathy of the villagers and at last went to Alagu’s house- Alagu avoids being dragged in the matter- aunt’s words ‘if it is right that for the sake of friendship he would keep his mouth shut and not speak what you consider just’ kept ringing in his ears. The aunt challenged his conscience and awakened it. Alagu becomes the head panch- takes the decision in aunt’s favour.

Alagu called for panchayat, Jumman, who is appointed as the head panch by Alagu’s rival, realises that one has to keep his personal feelings aside and he becomes conscious as he is placed in some responsible position- he tries to prove equal to the task- if we are ever tempted to go astray it is this thought of being at the responsible position prevents us from doing- after the cases are stated- Sheikh Jumman gives a just verdict proving that conscience was a guide to the two friends’ decision. Conscience makes them aware about their responsibility as head panch in their respective cases is the similarity. The difference is that when Alagu took the decision in aunt’s favour he did it against his own friend. Whereas, Jumman took the decision in favour of his enemy.