Vikram’s English Academy

**Test: The Professor, Sonnet**

**Answer Key**

1. **What does the speaker mean by ‘God’s grace? What does the phrase signify in this context? (2)**

Ans: The speaker wants to boast of his family specially his children. He says that in his family his children are enjoying all luxuries of the world by the grace of God. He mentions the phrase God's grace only to impress the listener of his well settled family.

1. **Why does the speaker say that, ‘We have to change with times?’ What does it show about the character of the speaker? (3)**

Ans: The speaker says that “we have to change with times” because he feels that since the whole world is changing, so we should also change with the changing times. It shows the pretence of the speaker, who feels that we should change with the changing times, but in reality, he himself clings to the old traditions and does not want to change.

1. **Which line in the poem refers to a man who has a status in the society? To whom does the speaker say this? Which idiom used in the poem is the antonym of the above mentioned line? (4)**

Ans: The line - he is a man of weight and consequences refers to a man who has a status in the society. The speaker says this to his former student. The idiom 'black sheep' is the antonym of the above mentioned line, it is used to describe an odd and disreputable member of group especially family.

1. **What does the word ‘issues’ mean in the poem? Why does the poet speak of ‘family planning’, are there any other issues that the speaker speaks about? (3)**

Ans: The word 'issues' means children in the poem. He speaks of family planning as he knows time is changing. Everything around is changing very fast. The new trend is of having two or three children. The speaker also speaks about replacing old values with new values in a fast pace. The other issues are lack of mobility and usual aches and pains.

1. **What does the speaker mean by saying ‘let it be for nought’? How does the speaker want her lover to love her? (2)**

Ans: The poet asks her lover to love her for no other reason but love. She wants him to love her not superficially, but with a genuine, unconditional love.

1. **Explain: ‘Love so wrought may be unwrought so’ (3)**

Ans: According to the poetess the love that has been cultivated because of the external attributes like beauty, smile, thought and talk may easily be evaporated. If love has been brought about by these aspects, the process of this kind of love getting reversed would not take much time.

1. **Do you believe that this kind of love the poet yearns for can be called idealistic love? Or does it fall under the realm of realism? (3)**

Ans: According to me, the love that the poet talks about is idealistic love and cannot be called realistically possible. Love needs a premise to stand upon. It cannot be born out of nothing. Love for love's sake seems to be a farfetched idea. We human beings, in spite of all our reasonings, do get attracted only by external attributes and cannot delve beyond what is visible.