Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**SECOND TERM EXAMINATION**

**Std VIII Duration: 2 hours Marks 80**

**ALL QUESTIONS ARE COMPULSORY**

Question 1

**Compare Chauvelin who puts his own friend into a difficult situation and Scarlet Pimpernel who is willing to sacrifice his own life for the justice of other people 10**

**(FOLLOWING POINTS TO BE INCLUDED)**

Chauvelin emotionally traps Marguerite to extract information from her about the League and the Scarlet Pimpernel. He overhears how Countess de Tournay rebuked Marguerite in The Fisherman’s Rest and uses it against her when she denies to help him. He asks mockingly if she wishes to get insulted by every single French aristocrat who visits England after their escape. He follows her and tries to convince her by addressing her in her maiden name. He intends to remind her that she belongs to France first and her devotion and loyalty should be bound to France. He keeps requesting her by saying that Scarlet should be found for France as the secret group is a menace to the Republican Government of France. When Armand lays his hands on a scrap of paper that was signed by Armand, he smiles cunningly. He is fully aware that that piece of paper will make Marguerite obey his instructions as it included vital information and can prove Armand to be a traitor to France. Moreover, his life could be in grave danger. Chauvelin makes a deal that Armand will be safe only if she finds out for him who the Scarlet Pimpernel is. At Grenville’s ball, Marguerite is able to get some information and she reluctantly forwards it to Chauvelin.

On the other hand, Scarlet Pimpernel who is an Englishman is willing to sacrifice for the French nobility. His modus operandi would be, a sergeant would get a piece of paper from a stranger. It was always signed with a design drawn in red. That paper was a signal that the group of Englishmen were planning a rescue. Within a few hours of receiving the warning, the sergeants at the gates would hear that some royalists had succeeded in getting through the city gates undetected and were making their way to England and safety. Scarlet Pimpernel was dressed as an old woman and drove a cart to save Countess de Tournay and her children. Scarlet Pimpernel is known for his noble task of saving innocent victims from the guillotine. Probably he knows, what he is doing is right, and that is what gives him the determination to succeed every time. His next mission is to save Count de Tournay. This mission is even more difficult as he was already sentenced to death. His escape from his mansion was itself a masterpiece of Scarlet’s planning. It would be quite impossible to get Count out of France.

Question 2

**Is Marguerite a good actress? Justify with suitable examples from the text. 10**

Yes, when Countess de Tournay insulted Marguerite, she did not create a scene. However, to maintain her dignity she left the inn trying hard to control her temper. At the Opera too, Marguerite tries to show Chauvelin that she is not interested to hear him out and she is busy emjoying the Opera. She is able to strike a balance between her curiosity and her demeanour of elegance and class. She did not show any ounce of eagerness knowing that her emotions could be manipulated by Chauvelin. At Grenville’s Ball, when situation demanded, Marguerite enacted to have fainted and she was able to get her work done of knowing what had been written on the scrap of the paper.

**Section B- PROSE**

Question 3

**‘There are twelve of them altogether…. ’**

1. **What does the word ‘there’ refer to? Explain in details. 3**

**Ans:** The word ‘there’ refers to the animals given in the Tibetan calendar to denote months. There are six male and six female animals. Deciding when one is born is not as easy as where.

1. **Which month was important for the narrator? Why? 3**

**Ans:** Later part of May month is important for the narrator. He was born at the end of the month. Time of birth, time of great expeditions and best mountain weather were the reasons for this month to be important. On 28th May he had almost climbed to the top of the Everest with Lambert. On 29th, a year and a day later, he reached the peak with Hillary.

1. **Mention in brief about the narrator’s family. 4**

**Ans:** Mongolian origin- ancestors migrated from Tibet- family lived in Thamey- Mother’s name is Kinzom- Father’s name was Ghang La Mingma- thirteen children- seven sons and six daughters- His parents named him Namgyal Wangdi but at the suggestion of a Lama, he was renamed Tenzing Norgay. Two of his surviving sisters shifted to Darjeeling with their families. Mother who is eighty-four years left her old home in Thamey for India.

Question 4

**‘But why must you sneak off? I am sure your father….**

1. **Who is the speaker? Whom are these lines spoken to? 3**

**Ans:** The speaker here is a gardener who had been with her family even before her birth. These lines are spoken to Mumtaz.

1. **What is the speaker sure of? Explain in details. 3**

**Ans:** The speaker is sure that Mumtaz’s father would give her permission and she need not sneak away without asking him to see the game of chaugan being played.

1. **Do you think the listener’s father was different from others? Justify. 2**

**Ans:** Yes, the listener’s father was different from others as he was a broad-minded man. That is visible as he had made arrangements for her education at home and many girls were not as lucky. He allowed her to go and watch the game but it should not affect her lessons.

1. **What idea was provided by Mumtaz to the Emperor? Where did the idea come from?2**

**Ans:** Mumtaz told the Emperor to set the ball on fire. She got the idea on the eve of Diwali. The house of a Hindu nobleman was decorated with lamps. They reminded Mumtaz of the torches around the chaugan field at the dusk.

Question 5

**‘He held me by the collar and stared at me…’**

1. **Who is ‘he’ here? According to the speaker, what was he going to do? 2**

**Ans:** ‘He’, here, is the convict for whom Pip had brought the file and some food to eat. According to Pip, he was going to cut his throat.

1. **What was heard the previous night? What had happened? 3**

**Ans:** The previous night there was a sound of cannons. Then there was a firing of guns, voices were calling. Soldiers with their red coats lighted up the torches and carried in front. The convict to whom Pip was talking, his number was called, he heard himself challenged, heard the rattle of the muskets and the orders.

1. **Did the two convicts know each other? Justify with the help of examples given in the chapter. 3**

**Ans:** Yes, the convict did know each other. When Pip said that the convict for whom he had got the food was eating it too fast and won’t leave out for the other one, the convict replied that ‘he’ the other one didn’t need wittles. Later when Pip says that he thought the other convict needed food, with keenest scrutiny he asked where he was. Moreover, both had worn similar clothes and the convict asked Pip too if he noticed any mark on his left cheek.

1. **What were the different things brought by Pip for the convict to eat? 2**

**Ans:** Brandy to drink, mincemeat, meatbone, bread, cheese, porkpie.

**Section C- POEM**

Question 6

**‘But Patience, to prevent that murmur…’**

1. **Which murmur is being spoken about? 2**

**Ans:** The murmur that says, “Doth God exact day-labour, light denied.” Is being spoken about.

1. **What does the ‘murmur’ reply? 2**

**Ans:** The murmur that is Patience here replies that God does not need either man’s work or his own gifts. The one who best bears his mild yoke, they serve him best.

1. **How is God described in the poem? Which other word is given to refer to Him? 2**

**Ans:** God is described as kingly. Thousands are at the bidding speed. The word that refers to Him is ‘The maker’

1. **What does ‘thousands’ refer to? What do they do? 4**

**Ans: ‘**Thousands’ are human beings who are angels. They are the ones who are willing to help others and are the messengers of God. They run over land and ocean without rest and also serve who only stand and wait.

Question 7

**‘Before they planted the trees…. ‘**

1. **What was there before the trees were planted? Who planted the trees? 2**

**Ans:** Before the trees were planted, there was a road through the woods seventy years ago. The weather and rain had planted the trees.

1. **Mention the different flora and fauna mentioned in the poem. 2**

**Ans:** coppice, heath, anemones, ring-dove, badgers, trout fish, otter, horse.

1. **Which are the different sounds heard if one enters the woods in the late summer evening? 3**

**Ans:** beat of a horse’ feet, swish of a skirt in the dew steadily cantering through the misty solitudes.

1. **Which word is given to describe the solitude? Explain the phrase 3**

**Ans:** the solitude is described with the word ‘misty’. The presence of misty solitude gives a sense of mystery or enigma to the atmosphere. The horse canters through the mist in a lonely manner which gives an element of suspense.

Question 8

**‘She left the web, she left the loom…’**

1. **Which ‘web’ is referred here? Why did she left the web? 3**

**Ans:** The web which is referred here is the magical web that Lady of Shalott weaves with bright colours. That web is a type of tapestry. She left the web as she saw the reflection of Sir Lancelot into the crystal mirror.

1. **Which different things did she observe? What happened when she looked down the Camelot? 4**

**Ans:** Shadows of the world appear, winding highway down to Camelot, river eddy whirling, surly village churling, red cloaks of market girls were observed in the mirror. However, when she looked down the Camelot she saw the water-lily bloom, helmet and the plume. As she saw all this, the mirror cracked from side and side and the curse befell upon her.

1. **Mention why the weather underwent a sudden change in the next stanza. Describe graphically. 3**

**Ans:** The stormy east wind strained, the pale yellow woods were waning, the broad stream in its bank was complaining and the low sky was heavily raining.