Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**SECOND PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2016-2017**

**LITERATURE IN ENGLISH**

**ENGLISH Paper- 2**

**Set II-A *(Two hours)***

**Question 1.**

1. **Ans:** Bassanio has invited Shylock. Earlier he had declined as he did not want to smell pork with the Christians. He had clarified that he would not mind talking walking and dealing with the Christians but would not want to eat drink or pray with them.
2. **Ans:** According to Shylock he was invited because they wanted to flatter him. He is being compared to the prodigal son. The younger son of an old man took his share of property from his old father and left home. He spent the money on prostitutes and returned back in a ragged and starving condition. The host Bassanio is called a prodigal as he is also spending lavishly for winning a girl (Portia).
3. **Ans:** Shylock tells Jessica to not clamber up the casements when she hears the noise of drum or the wry necked fife. She is not supposed to thrust her neck in the public street to look at Christiaan fools with varnished faces. Rather she is expected to close the windows which Shylock refers to as the ears of his house. She should not allow the noise of shallow foppery enter his sober house.
4. **Ans:** He feels so as he did dream of money bags that night. It is because of this that he wanted to go and check things out at Bassanio’s feast.

1. **Ans:** We see Portia as a dutiful daughter who, though unhappy with the condition set by her father has vowed to abide by it. On the other hand Jessica is a careless daughter who does not care for the emotions of her father. She has decided to elope from the house even though she is aware that it would be a great setback too her father. The dramatic irony in the scene is that though the audience is aware of Jessica’s plan to escape, Shylock does not know it. Shylock even brags about finding things easily if it is secure properly.

**Question 2.**

1. **Ans:** Shylock Bassanio and Portia are at the court of the Duke at this time. These characters have been brought together as Shylock has come to the court to ask for justice. Portia is here dressed a lawyer to negotiate the case. She has come in place of Doctor Bellario who was invited by the Duke to resolve the case.
2. **Ans:** Portia says that the quality of mercy is not strained. It drops like the gentle rain from heaven upon the place beneath.. It is called as twice blessed. It blesses both the giver and the receiver of mercy. Shylock immediately says that his deeds would be on his head meaning that he would pay for his own sins and nobody else should bother about the same.

1. **Ans:** If twice the sum is not sufficient then Bassanio would not mind signing a bond to pay the amount ten times over. He is ready to keep his hands, his head and his heart as the forfeit. If all the offers fail it would seem that malice bears down truth.
2. **Ans:** Antonio faces his inevitable end in a very calm and composed manner. He says that he is armed and well prepared to face his fate. He calls Fortune as kinder than is her custom. Usually she makes the wretched man outlive his wealth too see with a wrinkled brow and hollow eye an age of poverty. From such lingering penance of such misery Fortune has cut him off.
3. **Ans:** Shylock is unforgiving during the trial scene. Though he is convinced by the Duke and Portia he does not show any mercy towards Antonio. He is also without any doubt malicious and that’s visible in his demand off the pound of flesh after rejecting the money offered. Though Shylock has been cruel to Antonio, I have sympathy for him. His losing money was enough punishment for his cruelty. Him having to undergo a change in religion is not appropriate.

**Question 3.**

1. **Ans:** 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. 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.
2. **Ans: ‘**Dumb, driven cattle’ refers to the people who blindly follow whatever others have done with a herd mentality. He would prefer us to be a hero in the strife. They should be swift and active. They need to make their own decisions and treat the world as a battlefield. They must accept challenges and emerge victorious in the battle of life.
3. **Ans:** Yes, the advice regarding the Present is sound as it is alive and is the only time we can work in. Investing in Present will surely give good results. 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.
4. **Ans:** Lives of great men should remind us that we too can make our lives sublime. While we are leaving this world, we can leave the footprints on the sand of time that can inspire a forlorn and shipwrecked brother. While sailing over, life’s solemn main (ocean), he may have faced disaster. But looking at our footprints he may take heart again. This inspiration can lead him out of the state of despair and desolation.
5. **Ans:** The tone of the poem is inspirational and motivating. (Any line from the poem with a correct justification)

**Question 4.**

1. **Ans:** A wounded soldier with what he called a small pain in his chest was calling him by beckoning to him. The soldier called the narrator for aid. He wanted a sip of water as he was wounded while fighting the enemy.
2. **Ans:** The other details that the soldier shares about the war are that he was in a contingent which had two hundred soldiers. As they cleared the crest of the mountain that they were climbing, there was an explosion in the night. After this explosion he found himself with a small pain in his chest.
3. **Ans:** The soldier thinks from the perspective of his wife and imagines her thoughts if she sees him in that condition. She would find it strange to see her man, who was strong and grown up, sitting helplessly and not even able to stand alone. 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 soldier is perhaps aware that he was about to die in that battlefield. He knows this would be his final destination in life. To highlight that fact ‘HERE’ is given in capitals.
4. **Ans:** a. Can it be getting darker so soon? b. Its growing dim ….. c. I think before I travel on, I will get a little rest….
5. **Ans:** 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.

**Question 5.**

1. **Ans:** Kabuliwala was an Afghan street vendor who carried a bag over his shoulder and a few boxes of dry grapes in his hand and would pass through the street slowly. On hearing Mini’s call, the Kabuliwala approached the house with a smile. At this, Mini dashed inside and couldn’t be found anywhere. She had this childish fear that if someone looked through the bag of this Afghan man several living children would be found in there.
2. **Ans:** After a few days after the first meeting between the Kabuliwala and Mini, the narrator had noticed his tiny daughter sitting on the bench next to the door and speaking non-stop with the Kabuliwala. He was parked next to her feet and was listening to her with a grin. He enjoyed talking to her and he interjected now and then in broken Bengali to give his opinion.
3. **Ans:** The later reference to in-laws is the jail here. Mini straightaway asked him if he would be going to his in-laws’ house. It was not funny then though Kabuliwala replied with a laugh that that was exactly where he was going. He later stated pointing towards his hands that he would have beaten up the in-laws but he couldn’t as his hands were tied up.
4. **Ans:** When the narrator realised that Rahamat had been released from the jail the previous evening, he got a sudden jolt as he didn’t want Rahamat, a convict, to meet Mini on such an important day of her life. Thus he was not so welcoming when he came to meet Mini after his release. A grimy piece of paper that had an impression of a tiny hand created with burnt charcoal daubed on the palm changed his heart as the narrator realised that both of them were sailing in the same boat as both were fathers.
5. **Ans:** The narrator is a patient, protective father who belongs to an aristocratic family. He has never left his daughter Mini unattended and has always been in his home city, Kolkata. On the other hand, the Kabuliwala is a street vendor who has to leave his family for most of his years and travel to Kolkata to earn his daily bread. Both of them love their daughters but the narrator understands the pain of separation from a daughter on the day of Mini’s wedding. On the day of Mini’s wedding, both of them look identical to us.

**Question 6.**

The old aunt striking a conversation with Alagu- The words ringing in his ears if Alagu would not say what is right or just for the sake of friendship- Alagu’s nomination as Head panch and his just verdict keeping his personal feelings aside- knowing well that it could snap his old friendship with Jumman- second time when panchayat takes place- Jumman gets the chance to be the head panch and realises that when one is at a responsible position, one cannot be partial- voice of panch is voice of God.