Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Second Term Examination**

**Std- VIII-PPS Marks 80 Duration: 2 hrs**

**Set B**

***Question 1***

**Write a composition (350-400 words) on any one of the following: [20]**

1. Pollution has become a great problem in the city. Mention important causes of pollution in your locality, its harmful effects and how can it be checked.
2. Describe a day at home when an unexpected visitor for you had arrived. Explain what happened and how the day ended.
3. Students may not attend schools in future, they may have the choice of studying at home by using computers or internet. Would you like to attend a school or study at home? Give reasons to support your choice.

***Question 2:***

**Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: [15]**

The sea king down there had been a widower for years, and his old mother kept house for him. She was a clever woman, but very proud of her noble birth. Therefore she **flaunted**twelve oysters on her tail while the other ladies of the court were only allowed to wear six. Except for this she was an altogether **praiseworthy** person, particularly so because she was extremely fond of her granddaughters, the little sea princesses. They were six lovely girls, but the youngest was the most beautiful of them all. Her skin was as soft and tender as a rose petal, and her eyes were as blue as the deep sea, but like all the others she had no feet. Her body ended in a fish tail.   
  
The whole day long they used to play in the palace, down in the great halls where live flowers grew on the walls. Whenever the high amber windows were thrown open the fish would swim in, just as swallows **dart** into our rooms when we open the windows. But these fish, now, would swim right up to the little princesses to eat out of their hands and let themselves be petted.   
  
Outside the palace was a big garden, with **flaming** red and deep-blue trees. Their fruit glittered like gold, and their blossoms flamed like fire on their constantly waving stalks. The soil was very fine sand indeed, but as blue as burning brimstone. A strange blue veil lay over everything down there. You would have thought yourself aloft in the air with only the blue sky above and beneath you, rather than down at the bottom of the sea. When there was a dead calm, you could just see the sun, like a scarlet flower with light streaming from its calyx.   
  
Each little princess had her own small garden plot, where she could dig and plant whatever she liked. One of them made her little flower bed in the shape of a whale, another thought it neater to shape hers like a little mermaid, but the youngest of them made hers as round as the sun, and there she grew only flowers which were as red as the sun itself. She was an unusual child, quiet and **wistful**, and when her sisters decorated their gardens with all kinds of odd things they had found in sunken ships, she would allow nothing in hers except flowers as red as the sun, and a pretty marble statue. This figure of a handsome boy, carved in pure white marble, had sunk down to the bottom of the sea from some ship that was **wrecked**. Beside the statue she planted a rose-colored weeping willow tree, which thrived so well that its graceful branches shaded the statue and hung down to the blue sand, where their shadows took on a violet tint, and swayed as the branches **swayed.** It looked as if the roots and the tips of the branches were kissing each other in play.   
  
Nothing gave the youngest princess such pleasure as to hear about the world of human beings up above them. Her old grandmother had to tell her all she knew about ships and cities, and of people and animals. What seemed nicest of all to her was that up on land the flowers were fragrant, for those at the bottom of the sea had no scent. And she thought it was nice that the woods were green, and that the fish you saw among their branches could sing so loud and sweet that it was delightful to hear them. Her grandmother had to call the little birds "fish," or the princess would not have known what she was talking about, for she had never seen a bird.

**(a) Give the meaning of each of the following words as used in the passage: [6]**

1. flaunted-
2. praiseworthy
3. dart-
4. wistful-
5. wrecked-
6. swayed-

**(b) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words** **[9]**

(i) Where was princesses' mother? How was their grandmother?                        (2)

(ii) How many princesses were there? What did the each one have?                              (2)

(iii) What did each princess do on her part of possession?                                                (2)

(iv) Why had the youngest princess never seen a bird? Where were 'fish' according to her?   (2)

(v) Explain: high amber windows                  (1)

**Question 3 [10]**

***(Do not spend more than 20 minutes on this question.)***

**Select any one of the following:**

1. Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper about the stress that students undergo before their exams and suggest ways to relieve the tension.
2. Write a letter to your friend about the resolutions you have made for the New Year and how you plan to keep it.

***Question 4***

**a. Fill in each of the numbered blanks with the correct form of the word given in brackets. Do not copy the passage, but write in correct serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space. [10]**

1. A reporter **(1) called** (call) on Thomas A.Edison one afternoon, **(2) to interview** (interview) him about a substitute for lead in the manufacture of storage batteries that the scientist **(3) was looking** (look) for. Edison **(4) informed** (inform) that he **(5) had made** (make) 20,000 experiments but none of them **(6) worked** (work). “But aren’t you **(7) discouraged** (discourage) by all this waste of effort? The reporter asked **(8) amazed** (amaze). “Waste?” exclaimed Edison. “There **(9) is** (be) no waste. I **(10) have discovered** (discover) 20,000 things that don’t work.”
2. Chandi Prasad Bhatt **(1) launched** (launch) a public campaign **(2) known** (know) as the Chaipko Movement **(3) to protect** (protect) the trees against the axe. In this movement, village women played an active role. They took up their position with each other **(4) hugging** (hug) a tree by enveloping the trunk in their arms. They **(5) did** (do) to warn the contractors that if they wanted **(6) to cut** (cut) down a tree, they would have to attack the protestors first. Bhatt himself **(7) was surprised** (surprise) at the success of the movement and at the protectors’ positive participation to prevent the **(8) felling** (fell) of trees. This unusual movement was successful as it **(9) was based** (base) on the principle of non-violence and **(10) focused** (focus) on the sentimental feelings of the local inhabitants who treated trees as their family members.

**b. Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word: [8]**

1. He is indifferent **to** praise or blame.
2. Afflicted **with** cancer, she died a miserable death.
3. He was entrusted **with** the task of arranging the function.
4. You must abide **by** the school rules.
5. These books are **of** no value.
6. The labourers put the ladder **against** the wall.
7. I could come here by car or **on** foot.
8. The soldiers agreed to carry **out** the major’s orders.
9. December is the month when winter sets **in**.
10. He may turn **up** when we least expect him.
11. **Besides/Among/With** other things, they found an old sword near the ruins of the building.
12. He flew **into** a rage when he was challenged.
13. Pursued by his enemies, he swam **across** the river to safety.
14. Please contact **between** 9 am to 10 am.
15. The rescuers ran short **of** adequate resources.
16. The minister resigned **from** the cabinet due to ill health.

**c. Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence without using *and, but* or**

***so*: [7]**

1. I have four lessons for the exam. I must learn them.

Which/that

1. I have read Wordsworth. It has inspired me greatly.

Which/that/who

1. He is fat. He cannot sit on the floor.

As/since/because

1. Ruchi is very punctual. She cannot be late.

As/since/because

1. This is the bus. We came in this bus.

We have come in this bus/This is the bus in which/ by which we came/ This is the bus which we came in.

1. This music is noisy. I cannot stand it.

As/since/because…. / I cannot stand this noisy music

1. Could he give us a loan? I didn’t know.

I didn’t know that he could give us…. I didn’t know if/whether he could give us…

**d. Re-write the following sentences according to the instructions given after each. Make other changes that may be necessary, but do not change the meaning of each sentence. [10]**

1. They rejected our suggestion. (Rewrite using ‘accepted’)

Our suggestion wasn’t accepted.

1. You must work hard to pass the examination. (Use ‘unless’)

Unless you work hard, you will not pass the examination.

1. Who is helping you in your studies? (Begin: By whom…)

By whom are you being helped in your studies?

1. The thieves stole everything from the merchant and left him for dead. (Begin: Having…)

Having stolen everything from the merchant, the thieves left him for dead.

Having left the merchant for dead, the thieves stole everything from him.

1. Very few doctors in the hospital are as dedicated as he is. (Rewrite using ‘the’)

He is one of the most dedicated doctors in the hospital.

1. The Principal dealt with the miscreants firmly. (Change the voice)

The miscreants were firmly dealt with by the Principal.

1. On reaching the destination safely, give me a call. (Use ‘as soon as’)

As soon as you reach the destination, give me a call.

1. The Shoes are so tight that I cannot wear it. (Remove ‘so’)

The shoes are too tight for me to wear/ The shoes are too tight to be worn by me.

1. Although he was selected for the post, he did not join the office. (Use ‘despite’)

Despite being selected for the post, he did not join the office.

1. Sanica said to the librarian, “Will you please let me keep this book till tomorrow?” (Change into indirect speech)

Sanica requested the librarian if she/he could let her keep that book till the next day.