Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**THIRD TERM EXAMINATION (NES)**

**Std VIII Set A**

**Marks 80 2 hrs**

Note:-Attempt five questions from Q.1-Q.6

Last Question is compulsory

**Question 1.**

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

***And we’re off at last for the northern part…***

1. Who is ‘we’ here? Where are they going? Mention the stations. [3]
2. Who gives the signal? How? Where was he all the while? [3]
3. What delights are there for the passengers of the train? [3]
4. Is Skimble’s job a tough or an easy one? Justify with the examples from the poem. [4]

1. Here ‘we’ refer to the narrator and the passengers aboard the Night Mail. The station mentioned here are Crewe, Carlisle, Dumfries, Gallowgate.

2. Skimbleshanks by giving a flash of his green-glass eyes. He was in the luggage van checking all the luggage.

3. little den, name written on it, berth is very neat and newly folded sheet, no speck of dust on the floor, every sort of light, handle to open the window, funny little basin, crank to shut the window if you sneeze, your preference over tea is asked, counterpane is given which is very nice, nobody can disturb that you can be assured of.

4. Yes, it is a tough one. The Cat has to be punctual or the passengers are frantic. He has to be vigilant, check the luggage, not be bias against anyone irrespective of their class or status. He has to maintain a regular patrol, he is hospitable, keeps himself awake, and is careful that nothing disturbs the passengers. He will also be there on the train the next time you board it.

**Question 2.**

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

***‘Will ye not come home brother? Ye have been long away,’***

1. Who is referred as ‘brother’? Who is speaker of these lines? Where is the ‘home’? [3]
2. Which month is mentioned in the next month? What does its onset symbolize? [3]
3. How does the poet feel when he hears the west wind? Why? [3]
4. Mention the sights and sounds that tempt the poet homewards. [4]

1. The brother refers to the poet John Masefield. The speaker is the West Wind. The home is the west land.

2. April month is mentioned in the next stanza. Its onset symbolizes the blossoming time where the sun is bright, the wind is full of birds’ cries. Air is like wine, young corn is green, rabbits run, sky is blue, etc.

3. He feels nostalgic. He misses his homeland. The west wind reminds him of his homeland and he has tears in his eyes.

4. Sounds are birds’ cries, thrushes are in song, fluting in the nest, larks singing. Sights are old brown hills, daffodils, apple orchards, cool green grass, bright sun, warm rain, young corn, blue sky, white clouds, white may flower, green wheat (any three or four)

**Question 3.**

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

***I remember the night my mother… He risked the rain again…***

1. Who does ‘he’ refer to? Why did he come inside the house? Where did he hide? [3]
2. Which word is given to describe the tail? What does it mean? [3]
3. Explain the phrase ‘peace of understanding’ [3]
4. Who is sceptic and rationalist? What did he try? Why? [4]

1. ‘He’ here refers to the scorpion. He came in the house to seek protection and shelter from the rain. He hid himself beneath the sack of rice.

2. ‘Diabolic’ is the word given to describe the tail. The sting of the scorpion’s tail caused much pain to the poet’s mother. He is therefore calling its tail diabolic or devilish.

3. Although the villagers were sad to see the mother suffering, the understanding that it was doing some good to both her body and her spirit - brought peace on their faces.

4. The father is sceptic and rationalistic. He was too grieved with the mother's situation to think practically. So, he tried whatever anyone around suggested to him which would help to relieve the mother's pain and suffering. It shows that during a crisis, human beings will do anything suggested to them, by others, to help them overcome the crisis.

**Question 4.**

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

***My mother came out, looked at the man and asked…***

1. Whose mother is being spoken about? Who is the man here? What did she ask? [3]
2. What did the man reply? Was it unusual? Justify. [3]
3. Mention about the three ‘guests’ and their demands at the doorstep. [3]
4. How was the mother’s disposition? Give two examples. [4]

1. The mother of the little boy is being spoken about. The man here is B. Wordsworth. She asked him in a very unfriendly way what he wanted.

2. The man replied that he wanted to watch the bees. Yes, the reply was unusual as it wasn’t normal for anyone to leave work aside and observe bees especially in the time of poverty, unemployment and economic instability.

3. The three ‘guests’ are the three beggars. First came an Indian who was given a tin of rice. At twelve, an old woman came who got a cent. At two came a blind man led by a boy who called for a penny.

4. The mother’s disposition was very ill-tempered. She was very unfriendly to the man. When the little boy asked her if she wanted to buy poetry she told him to drive the man away. When the little boy went alone, she hit him so badly that he bled.

**Question 5.**

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

***Those who return alive from the forbidding heights….***

1. Whom does the word ‘those’ refer to? Which forbidding height is being spoken about? Why?[3]
2. Why is normal life virtually impossible? [3]
3. What is the full form of WCF? What kind of provision is provide? Is it enough? [3]
4. What is the condition of those people who return alive? [4]

1. ‘Those’ refer to soldiers posted at the Siachen Glacier for three months. Siachen Glacier is the highest battlefield in the world and its forward post of Pahalwan is at 20,000 ft. It is called as a forbidding height because ninety percent of the casualties have been caused by the extreme cold.

2. The normal life is virtually impossible because everything freezes solid. Onions are too hard to cut, eggs become like rocks, they cannot be broken, most toothpastes except gels cannot be squeezed, chocolates become hard as steel plates. Skin becomes so chilled that when a jawan tries to load his gun, the bullets stick to his gloveless hand. And if he tries to take them off, the skin will also peel off.

3. WCF is Wind Chill Factor. In this region, it has proved to be fatal. The shelter and the clothing given to the jawans is designed to protect them from WCF of up to 800. But the average WCF in winter is around 1400 when any exposed flesh will freeze within minutes. No, it is surely not enough. As the WCF often goes to 2000 and once touched an all-time high of 3000.

4. Those people or soldiers who come alive look as if they have taken a peep into hell; dark, haggard faces with skin peeling off, long, unkempt hair, flowing beards and filthy uniforms that would shame any self-respecting soldier. They say nothing but their eyes express the horrors they have experienced during their three month stay.

**Question 6.**

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

***‘People must keep calm. People are people. They could not keep calm.’***

1. Why people didn’t keep calm? [3]
2. How did people react? What did they do? [3]
3. What did the doctor do? What did they find? [3]
4. Does this story reflect upon our society? Elaborate. [4]

1. People didn’t keep calm as the trial against the ‘Chief of the long-nosed ones’ was going to take place on 9th March. The trial was against him because it was stated that his nose was made up of rubber and he cheated people.

2. They came in large numbers into the metropolis. They invaded the hotels. They burnt public conveyances. They set fire to police stations and they destroyed government buildings.

3. One doctor blocked the nostrils of the long-nosed one; he immediately opened his mouth wide and another doctor took a needle and punctured the tip of his nose. To his amazement a drop of blood appeared at the tip of the nose.

4. Yes, this story does reflect about the people and their thinking. How anyone believes in rumours without any substantial evidence. People often fall prey to news hyped by the media for publicity stunt. The story throws light on public’s mentality, hero-worship, weak memory that public has.

**Question 7.**

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

***“Well, keep me company but two years more …”***

1. To whom are these lines said? What will happen, if the speaker keeps company for two more years? How does Antonio react to this? [3]
2. How does Bassanio describe the uselessness of Gratiano’s speech? [3]
3. Why should melancholy not be used as a bait? [3]
4. How does Bassanio describe Portia? [3]
5. What has Bassanio wasted his money on, according to his own confession to Antonio? [3]

1. These lines are said to Lorenzo. Gratiano says that if he keeps company for two more years he (Lorenzo) would not be able to know the sound of his own tongue.

2. Bassanio compares finding meaning in Gratiano’s speech to searching of two grains of wheat in two bushels of chaff. Even if you find them after a day’s search they are not worth the effort. Similarly even if you find meaning in the nonsensical talk of Gratiano, it is not worth the effort to listen to the nonsense.

3. Gratiano tells Antonio that his melancholy should not be used as a bait. He says that many people use it to develop an opinion of wisdom, gravity and profound conceit. But this opinion is like trapping a fool gudgeon and is not worth the effort.

4. Bassanio calls Portia as rich, fair and virtuous. He says that this Portia is not less in value to Cato’s daughter Portia. The world is not ignorant of her worth and renowned suitors come from all the four directions. Her sunny locks hang on her temples like a golden fleece and Belmont has become Colchis’ strand. Many Jasons come in quest of Portia and he believed because of the fair speechless messages that she had given, he would be the one who would be fortunate to marry her.

5. According to Bassanio, he has disabled his estate by showing something which is a swelling port than what his faint means would allow. He has lived a life full of extravagance which his limited income doesn’t allow. He doesn’t also want to be abridged from such a noble rate.