Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Second Semester Examination**

**Std IX Set B**

**Marks 80 2 hours**

**Solve any five of the given questions. All questions carry equal marks.**

***Question 1 16***

***‘I will go before, Sir. Mistress, look out at window for all this:’***

1. Who is the speaker of these lines? Whom is Sir and Mistress referred to? 3
2. What does the speaker immediately say after this dialogue? Whose message has he brought? 3
3. What does Shylock say immediately after this dialogue? Whom does he refer to? Why? 3
4. Has Shylock been invited to the supper for love? Why is he going for the same? 3
5. What is Shylock’s response to the information about masque? 4

i. The speaker is Launcelot. Sir is Shylock. Mistress is Jessica.

ii. Launcelot tells Jessica to look at the window for all the things that her father had prohibited. He informs her that there will be a Christian who will come by, who will be worth a Jewess’ eye. He has brought Lorenzo’s message.

iii. Shylock calls Launcelot as a fool belonging to Hagar’s offspring. He means to say that Launcelot belongs to the family of illegitimate child who was born out of the wedlock between Abram and Hagar.

iv. No, Shylock has not been invited to the supper for love. He has been invited for flattering him. He wants to go in hate to feed upon the prodigal Christian. He also wants to check if any ill was brewing against him as he had dreamt of money-bags the previous night.

v. Shylock tells Jessica to lock up his doors and when she hears the wild squealing of the wry-necked fife, she should not climb up the casements. She should not thrust her head into the public street to gaze at Christian fools with varnished faces. She should stop the ears of his house by which he means his casements, and not allow the sound of shallow foppery to enter his sober house.

***Question 2 16***

***“Go, draw aside the curtains and discover the several caskets to this noble prince…”***

1. Who is the speaker of these lines? Whom are they spoken to? Who is the ‘noble prince’ here? 3
2. What is the message inscribed upon the three caskets? 3
3. What is the response of Morocco to the message on the lead casket? 3
4. What is the parting statement of Portia in the scene? What does it show about her? 3
5. What is the gist of the message written on the scroll within the gold casket? 4

i. Portia to the servant. Morocco is the noble prince here.

ii.The gold casket carries the message ‘Who chooseth me shall gain what many men desire’. The silver casket has ‘Who chooseth me shall get as much as he deserves’ inscribed upon it. The message on the lead casket is ‘Who chooseth me must give and hazard all he hath’.

iii. Morocco asks sarcastically if he was supposed to hazard for lead. He says that the lead casket threatens. Men that hazard all do it when they expect fair advantages. He goes on to say that a golden mind doesn’t stoop to the show of dross. By saying this he rejects the lead casket.

iv. The parting statement of Portia after the exit of Morocco is that it was a gentle riddance. She tells the curtain should be closed and she wishes that all people of the complexion of Morocco should choose her in the same fashion. This shows that she is a racist at heart.

v. The golden scroll gives the message that the proverb, ‘All that glisters is not gold’ is very famous. Many people have sold their lives just to see and possess gold. But even if the tomb is made of gold, inside it worms would be contained. If the suitor had has wisdom and judgement as much as his bravery and youth then his answer would not have been there in the form of a scroll. Finally, the scroll says that his suit is rejected.

***Question 3 16***

***‘That is good. These are days of family planning…***

1. What does the word ‘that’ refer to? What does this line show about the professor’s character? 3
2. What does Professor Sheth have to say about India’s progress? 3
3. What invitation does the professor give to his ex-student? What is funny about this invitation? 3
4. What does the speaker want to convey when he says, “Both have cars”? What does it convey about the Indian society? 3
5. Give an example of antithesis and tautology in the poem and explain them. 4

i. The word ‘that’ refers to the fact that the Professor’s ex-student has three issues. The Professor says that he is not against family planning. But we do notice that he himself has not practised any family planning, as he has five children. This behaviour reflects hypocrisy in his speech and behaviour.

ii. Professor Sheth is a typical Indian who blames ‘progress’ for changing values. He believes that world is changing fast and the old values are getting replaced by the new ones at a fast pace. He talks about India’s progress in negative light and his resentment towards this change in the Indian society is visible.

iii. The Professor tells him to visit his house someday, if in case the student happens to pass by. It is funny that the Professor is not inviting the ex-student then but at a later date. Also, the house is described as being ‘on opposite house’s backside’ which is a funny description.

iv. The Professor belongs to a middle class urban family. A car is a symbol of social status for a middle class family. He is proud to convey that his sons enjoy high social status because they have cars.

v. (a) Old values are going, new values are coming- Antithesis: Two opposite words ‘old’ and ‘new’/ ‘going’ and ‘coming’ are given.

(b) Usual aches and pains- Tautology: Two similar meaning words ‘aches’ and ‘pains’ are mentioned in the poem.

***Question 4 16***

***‘He gives his harness bells a shake’***

1. Who is ‘he’ here? Why does he give a shake to his bells? What is the symbolic meaning? 3
2. Mention the three words/phrases that indicate it was the winter season. 3
3. What can we judge about the narrator through the poem? 3
4. What is symbolised by the woods being called lovely, dark and deep? 3
5. Is the poet only talking of the nature’s beauty? Justify with the correct symbolism. 4

i. ‘He’ here is the horse. He gives a shake to his bells to ask the narrator if there is any mistake that they had stopped. The horse symbolizes the human conscience. Whenever we get swayed away by distractions, it is the conscience that pulls us back and reminds us about our impending duties.

ii. woods fill up with snow, frozen lake, darkest evening of the year, downy flake (Any 3)

iii. Through the poem we can guess that the narrator is a common man. He perhaps cannot dream of owning this kind of wood and is running and errand for someone else. He seems to be responsible and faithful to his work and of course is a nature lover.

iv. The lovely woods talk about the beauty of the forest. The dark woods point to the denseness of the forest. They are called deep as we are here talking about a wide expanse of forest area.

v. No, the poet has compared the Life’s journey to the journey of the narrator in the poem. Thus, we can surely say that this poem is an indirect comparison to life. A man has to achieve his goals and fulfil his responsibilities before he reaches his final destination that is death. So he cannot afford to waste time in temptations on the way, towards the goal of one’s life.

***Question 5 16***

***‘He looked round for help, but none was forthcoming…’***

1. Who looked round for help? Why? What had happened? 3
2. What did he do when he saw that he wasn’t getting any help? 3
3. How did Sahu prepare himself for spending the night on the road? What happened eventually? 3
4. What offer did Sahu make to Alagu to compensate for his loss? 3
5. Mention in brief the treatment given to the bullock by Samjhu and Alagu. 4

i. Samjhu Sahu looked round for help. It was because his bullock had died and he was left stranded without any mode of transport to go home with many valuable stuff.

ii. When Sahu saw that he wasn’t getting any help, he slowly disengaged the dead animal from the cart and decided to spend the night there. But he did so only after giving a last kick to the poor animal and cursing it for landing him in such difficulties.

iii. Sahu thought that it was best for him to spend the night on the road with the help of his ‘chillum’. He tied his purse around his waist like a belt and busied himself with his ‘chillum’ and charcoal till midnight came. Then wearied with the day’s work and his misfortune, his eyes began to droop and he was soon fast asleep.

iv. Sahu told Alagu that he had used his bullock only for a month. If he still insisted on his claim for money, it would be better if Alagu took away Sahu’s bullock and used it for two months instead of one. This is the maximum that they could do.

v. Samjhu hoped to multiply his income several times with the multiple trips to the town and back. He began to overwork the bullock. His daily routine was now three trips to the town, sometimes even four. The bullock was hardly allowed to rest or to take its full feed. Hardly had it finished one trip when it was yoked for another. While, Alagu used the bullock only occasionally. A servant constantly looked after it and its body was rubbed vigorously twice a day. It grew fat and strong and always looked fresh.

***Question 6 16***

**Where, do you think, does the story ‘My lost dollar’ take a turn? What kind of turn?**

Yes. The story takes a humorous turn. Point examples where the writer is trying to count himself out from all the liabilities. E.g. 1 He says he does not remember specifically taking money from anyone but then says such people may come to him in alphabetical order and he will write their names. E.g. 2. He does not want to the man who lent him 30 cents for soda. He specifically wants only to pay back that person who would have lent him money for a cab while going to Bermuda.