Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**SECOND TERM EXAM**

**Std IX-PPS (BH) Duration: 2 hours Marks 80**

**SET A**

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

**Section A- Drama**

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

***Question 1 16***

***“The first, of gold, who this inscription bears; who chooseth me shall gain what many men desire.”***

i. Who chose this casket? What were the reasons of choosing this one? 3

ii. How does the suitor interpret the words inscribed on this casket? 3

iii. What is spoken about the watery kingdom? 3

iv. What would be sinful thought according to this speaker? 3

v. Summarise the scroll found by the speaker. 4

**i.** The Prince of Morocco chose this casket. He believes that the message on the casket hinted to Portia. He focuses on the word ‘desires’ and reasons that the world desired her. The suitors are coming from the four corners of the world to woo Portia, to kiss the shrine of this mortal breathing saint that is Portia.

**ii.** The suitor Morocco focuses on the word ‘desires’. He states that the world desires Portia and the suitors are coming from the four corners of the world to woo Portia. The Hyrcanian deserts the wilds of Arabia and the watery kingdom the ocean is no barrier to stop these suitors from coming to Belmont.

**iii.** The water kingdom refers to the ocean. It is called as spitting in the face of heaven. The meaning implied is that the rough sea is no barrier to the suitors and they cross the ocean as if it a brook to see fair Portia.

**iv.** According to the speaker the thought that Portia may be immured within the silver casket is a sinful thought. He considers it sinful as never ever a gem like Portia was set it in something less than gold. He also says that silver is ten time undervalued compared to gold.

**v.** The scroll informs the reader that all that glisters is not gold. It is a very common saying. Many people have sold their life to just behold the gold casket. Even if the tomb is gilded it infolds worms. If the person choosing the casket was wise and not just bold and had the judgement of an old person and not just young limbs his answer would not have there in the form of a scroll. Finally the scroll wishes the reader a farewell and says that his suit is cold.

***Question 2 16***

***‘What says that fool of Hagar’s offspring, ha?’***

1. Who is the speaker of these lines? Who exits before this line is said? Where does the scene take place? 3
2. Who is being referred to, in the above given lines? Why? 3
3. Has Shylock been invited to the supper for love? Why is he going for the same? 3
4. How does Launcelot try to cover up his mistake of giving information about the masque? 3
5. What is Shylock’s response to the information about masque? 4
6. Shylock says these lines. Launcelot exits. Street outside Shylock’s house.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Launcelot accidentally discloses about the masque to Shylock. He tries to cover up by telling Shylock that it was not without reason that his nose started bleeding on last Black Monday at 6 o’clock in the morning. He claims that Ash Wednesday fell on the same day as Black Monday at 4 o’clock in the afternoon. He talks nonsense and gibberish to confuse Shylock.
10. 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 3 16***

***One half their lives was reading books! The nursery shelves held books galore!***

1. What does the word ‘their’ refer to? Where else were the books kept? Why? 3
2. Which tales were found in the books read by children? 3
3. Which writer’s name is mentioned in the poem? Enlist any two names of the characters and two short stories. 3
4. What epithets has the poet used for the television screen? Why? 3
5. Despite the children throwing tantrums, why does the poet advise the parents not to fear? 4
6. The word ‘their’ refers to the children in olden days when the monster ‘television’ was not invented. Apart from nursery shelves, the books were scattered on the nursery floor and kept in the bedroom by the bed
7. The books read by children were brimming with tales of various characters which built the imaginative powers of children. There were tales of dragons, gypsies, queens, whales, treasure islands and distant shores. The books also narrated stories of smugglers and pirates and elephants and cannibals cooking Penelope.
8. Beatrix Potter. Mr Tod, the dirty rotter, Squrrel Nutkin, Piggling Bland, Mr. Toad, Mr. Rat and Mr. Mole, Mrs. Tiggy-winkle are the names of the characters. ‘Just How The Camel Got His Hump’ and ‘How The Monkey Lost His Rump’ are the names of two short stories.
9. The poet calls the television ridiculous, nauseating, foul and unclean. The poet is convinced that watching television is a useless activity which kills the thinking power and creativity of children. It eventually engulfs the child as he gets completely hooked on to the idiot box.
10. When the television is replaced by a bookshelf, initially the children will retaliate by screaming at and hitting their parents. The poet advises the parents not to fear because he is sure that this is a temporary reaction of the children. He knows that in a week or two the children will start reading and as they continue to do so they will enjoy the activity and finally love their parents more for giving them the gift of reading.

***Question 4 16***

***Continuous as the stars that shine and twinkle on the Milky Way,***

1. What are continuous like stars? Which other term means ‘continuous’ that is given in the same stanza? Name the figure of speech in the given line. 3
2. Why did the daffodils seem to be gleeful? 3
3. Describe in your own words the poet’s feelings when he sees the host of golden daffodils? 3
4. What does the term ‘sprightly dance’ mean? Why has the poet used it for the daffodils? Which literary device is used her? 3
5. What does the term ‘bliss of solitude’ mean? In what context has the poet used the term in the poem? 4
6. Daffodils are continuous like the stars. Another term for continuous in the same stanza is ‘never ending’. Simile
7. The daffodils, lined up in a vast expanse on the shore of a lake, were dancing with the breeze. The waves of the lake too seemed to be dancing. But the dance of the daffodils was more lively and cheerful so they were extremely happy feeling a sense of victory. Thus, they seem to be gleeful.
8. The poet was initially feeling lonely while wandering along the bay of the lake. Suddenly, he saw a host of daffodils dancing in the breeze. The daffodils seemed extremely cheerful as they had outdone the dancing waves of the lake. The poet too felt very happy in the company of such cheerful flowers. His loneliness is replaced by feelings of happiness.
9. The term ‘sprightly dance’ means a dance which is full of life and energy. The daffodils that the poet saw along the bank of the lake were moving their heads from one side to another very energetically and happily and this movement looked like a very enthusiastic dance. Thus, the poet has used the term ‘sprightly dance’ for the daffodils. This is a ‘Personification’ as a non-human object (daffodils) is given a human characteristic of ‘dancing’.
10. This term refers to the time when the poet is alone and his mind is not clustered with worldly thoughts. The poet uses the term in the last stanza. He says that whenever he is resting on a couch and his mind is either void of thoughts or he is in a pensive mood, the beautiful vista of the daffodils which were impregnated in his mind, suddenly flash across his inward eye.

***Question 5 16***

***“The torch fell from his trembling hand.***

1. Who is ‘he’ here? What did he immediately do after the given line? 3
2. What happens at the end of the story? 3
3. Where did the flickering light fall? What happened next? 3
4. Was there any difference in Mr Oliver’s voice while asking the miscreant the second time? Why? 3
5. Did Mr. Oliver prove himself to be as described by the writer? 4
6. ‘He’ here is Mr Oliver. He turned and scrambled down the path running blindly through the trees and calling for help.
7. On Mr.Oliver’s narration of the faceless boy, the watchman raises the lamp to his own face. To the horror of Mr. Oliver, he too had no eyes, no ears, no features and not even an eyebrow. Exactly that time the wind blew the lamp out.
8. The flickering light fell in the figure of a boy. He was sitting alone on a rock. Mr. Oliver asked him very sternly why he was out as boys were not supposed to be out after dark.
9. Yes, first when Mr. Oliver asked he was sharp as it was not the time for the boys to be out. As the boy didn’t answer anything, Mr. Oliver mellowed down and realised that the boy must have been in some serious trouble and his anger gave way to concern.
10. No, the author of the story described Mr. Oliver as not a nervous or imaginative man. On the contrary, his strength and clarity wore away under pressure. When he saw the boy, without a face, his hands trembled and he ran blindly through the trees and called for help too. When he saw the watchman, he gasped and stammered too. That showed that he was scared and nervous contrary to the previous description.

***Question 6 16***

***How he took them up in his arms, and blessed them…***

1. What do the words ‘he’ and ‘them’ refer to? 2
2. Who spoke these words? To whom? Why? 3
3. Which phrase does the speaker keep repeating? Why? 3
4. What reason did the man give for sending Maggie to the poorhouse? 3
5. Justify the title ‘An Angel in Disguise’. 4
6. ‘He’ here means Jesus Christ, the Saviour. ‘Them’ word refers to the little children.
7. These words are spoken by Joe to his wife Jane. Joe gave his wife the biblical reference to make her realize that even God loved children. Joe wanted to invoke sympathy and love in his wife’s heart for the poor, sick and desolate child Maggie.
8. The speaker repeats ‘for a single night’ thrice. Joe wanted his wife to believe that he would leave her at the poorhouse after completing the formalities the next day also to convince her to take care of Maggie only for that one night.
9. The man said that the poor house would prove to be a good change for the crippled girl. He said that she would be kept clean,made to have healthy food and would also be doctored. This would be much better than her current lifestyle.
10. Joe and Jane’s life had been void of happiness as it was without the laughter and sunshine of children. Maggie was an angel who filled the dull and dreary chambers of not only their home but also their heart with her love and gentleness. She was disguised in the form of a sick, helpless and miserable body which was visible to all others but the love, gentleness and sweetness hidden in her was unfolded only to the Thompsons. Thus the title of the story is aptly ‘An angel in disguise’.