Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Pre-Preliminary Exam: Test 2**

**Short Stories Poems Drama**

1) My Lost Dollar 1) Sonnet 14 Merchant

Of

2) Hunger 2) A Doctor’s Journal… Venice (Act II)

**Std X Set E**

**Marks 40 1 hour**

**Q.1)**

**Ans i)** The speaker of these lines is the (Prince of) Morocco. He is saying these lines as he is just about to take his chance at choosing the right casket. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** Morocco reads the message on the gold casket which says that the one choosing it would have what many men desire. He feels it refers to Portia as many men desire her. The suitors come from all the four corners of the world to pay respect to the shrine of Portia. Hycranian deserts and Arabian deserts have become just thoroughfares for the princes to come. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** According to Morocco it is a sinful thought to even think that the portrait of Portia can be contained in leaden casket. He considers it as too gross to even contain her cerecloth in her grave. **3 marks**

**Q.2)**

**Ans i)** A servant is the speaker of these lines. He is talking to Portia in the presence of Nerissa. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** The Venetian has brought sensible greetings which symbolize courteous breath. Also he has send gifts which are of great value. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** The servant says that that April day is the sweetest he has ever seen. It brings a message that the valuable summer is about to approach. This example signifies the person about to come is bringing pleasant times with him.**3 marks**

**Q.3)**

**Ans i)** The tone used by the writer at the start of the story is a sarcastic one. He seems to be very bitter at not recovering his lost dollar. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** The writer eventually realizes that Todd had completely forgotten about the dollar that he had borrowed. He realized it as his attempts at hinting to Todd by beating around the bush had failed and Todd was not talking about it at all. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** The writer assures us that it would not have any impact on their friendship. Though he is bitter about having lost a dollar he tries to show that he is generous enough to not allow a dollar to spoil their friendship. **3 marks**

**Q.4)**

The initial approach that Kasim seems to be taking with Rizwan is that he is trying to ignore him. He seems disinterested in talking to him and on a lot of persistence from the side of Rizwan does 0he talk. His answers are short and monosyllabic at times and sarcastic at others. We also see him suspicious about Rizwan when he asks him if he is a government tout. He seems to have lost all faith in government and does not see any chance of change happening irrespective of who rules. He has valid reasons for thinking the way he does. He claims that they were asked the same questions earlier and made the same promises too. But after the victory of a particular regime they were not remembered at all. As they were busy sloganeering they did not work that day and slept hungry. He feels bad that though they work so hard they almost starve. He seems to be completely disillusioned by the situation that they are facing. **8 marks**

**Q.5)**

**Ansi)** The poem is If Thou Must Love Me which is Sonnet 14 of Sonnets from the Portuguese. It is written by Elizabeth Barret Browning. **2marks**

**Ans ii)** The poet mentions the external attributes as being the reason for us falling in love. These things are the looks, smile, way to talking, thoughts of a person. They are collectively mentioned as ‘These things’. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** The poet is mentioning that actually there is a possibility that these external qualities a person displays like the smile, beauty, way of talking, thoughts which end up impressing us may actually change . A person may become less beautiful have a less charming smile etc. Also it is possible that the things may change only according to the person who had fallen in love. His way of looking may undergo a change. **3 marks**

**Q.6)**

**Ans i)** When he got up the narrator was sprawling on his bed and was half dressed. He looked out of the window at the form of shimmering leaves and shadows caused by them. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** When the narrator was debating with himself if the lantern had flared up because of magnesium, the roof and walls of his house collapsed in a heap of timber and debris. Dust swirled around him and he found himself in the garden of his house without his undershirt and drawers. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** Yecko san was the wife of the narrator. She came out of the house in a pale, bloodstained, frightened manner holding her broken elbow. The narrator consoled her by saying that everything would be fine and that they should quickly get out of there. **3 marks**