Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Second Semester Examination**

**Std IX Set C**

**Marks 80 2 hours**

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

***Question 1 16***

***‘Here, catch this casket, it is worth the pains…’***

1. Who is the speaker of these lines? Which ‘casket’ is being spoken about here? What does it contain? 3
2. Why does Jessica say she is glad? What example does she give in this context? 3
3. What is Jessica’s reaction when she is told that she must be a torch-bearer? 3
4. What does Lorenzo apologise for on his arrival? What does he assure his friends? 3
5. What is a ship compared to by Gratiano? Why? 4

i. Jessica. Jessica hands over a heavy casket to Lorenzo from the balcony. This casket contains ducats and jewels that Jessica has stolen from Shylock’s house.

ii. Jessica says that she is glad that it is night because she is much ashamed of her exchange of clothes. She says that love is blind and lovers cannot see the petty follies that they themselves commit. If they could see them Cupid would also blush to see Jessica transformed thus into a boy.

iii. Jessica is completely shocked on getting the information that she must be a torchbearer. She does not want to hold a candle to her shames. She says that her disguise itself is very much visible. She is being given an office of discovery whereas she should be obscured because she is eloping.

iv. Lorenzo apologises for his long abode in arriving. He says that it’s not him but his affairs that have made them wait. He assures his friends that when they would play the thieves for wives he would watch as long for them.

v. The ship is compared to the prodigal son by Gratiano. It is just like the prodigal son that the scarfed bark does start from its native bay in a grand way. Just like the prodigal son came in contact with the prostitutes, the ship too embraces the wind, which is compared to a prostitute. The ship returns with over-weathered ribs and ragged sails lean, rent and beggared by the strumpet wind. It is the same condition in which the prodigal son had returned to his house.

***Question 2 16***

***‘To signify th’ approaching of his lord;’***

1. Which lord is being spoken about? Who is the speaker of these lines? Whom are they spoken to? 3
2. Which analogy does the servant give to reinforce his point? 3
3. Which quote is mentioned just before the servant enters? Explain. Who says those lines? 3
4. What does Portia remark after the exit of Arragon? 3
5. Who is the fore-spurrer of the lord? What fear is expressed by Portia? 4

i. Bassanio, servant, spoken to Portia

ii. The servant says that the coming of the fore-spurrer is like a promising day in April. If the day in April is so pleasant then surely the summer would be even better. Similarly, if the fore-spurrer is so good the master would be even better.

iii. Nerissa. The ancient saying that Nerissa says is ‘’ Hanging and wiving goes by destiny’. The meaning is that the death of a person and whom he gets married to, are decided by destiny.

iv. After the exit of Arragon Portia says that in this way the candle had singed the moth. He calls Arragon as one of the deliberate fools who when they choose in spite of their wit they make the wrong choice.

v. Gratiano. After hearing the praise of the fore-spurrer by the servant, she tells him that she is half afraid that the servant would now disclose that he is in some way related to him. He has spent too much of high-day with in praising him. She now longs to see quick cupid’s messenger who comes so mannerly.

***Question 3 16***

***‘Around me-in the garden now- and, weird…’***

1. Who is ‘me’ here in the above lines? What is described ‘weird’ by the narrator? 3
2. Where was the narrator at the start of the story? What happened later? 3
3. What happened when the doctor and his wife stepped out on the street? 3
4. What do the words like ghosts, scare-crows and the dumb indicate? 3
5. Mention any 2 qualities of the doctor showcased in the poem. Justify with the lines given in the poem. 4

i. ‘Me’ here is the Japanese doctor, the narrator, who was a victim of Hiroshima nuclear attack. The fact that his clothes disappeared due to the impact of the bomb is said to be weird.

ii. At the start of the story, the narrator is within his house near the window and is sprawling half-clad on his bed. After the explosion he is thrown out into the garden and he finds himself without clothes.

iii. When the doctor and his wife stepped out on the street, they fell down after stumbling. They had tripped after stepping on a person’s head. The man had been crushed by the gate.

iv. The words like ghosts, scare-crows and dumb indicate the miserable condition of the people. Their sensibility had got numbed and they couldn’t express grief. Wrapped in blood and dust without clothes, without much life in them, they seemed like ghosts or scare-crows.

v. We’ll be fine- positive attitude

excuse me, please excuse me- good manners, etiquettes

I should help my staff too- humanity, benevolence

Told Yecko-San to go ahead- selfless sacrifice

I turned my gaze- civility

***Question 4 16***

***‘Only, this is price of old age…’***

1. What is the price of the old age? 3
2. What benefits did the Professor have due to ‘sound habits in youth’? 3
3. What joke is talked about here? Is it really a joke? 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. ‘I am Professor Sheth.’ Expain the irony of the sentence focussing on his profession and his beliefs. 4

i. The Professor has become old and feels restricted in his activities. He says that his health is O.K. and he has only usual aches and pains. He has no serious diseases like diabetes, blood pressure or heart attack. He calls this discomfort as ‘the price of old age’.

ii. ‘Sound habits in youth’ imply a perfect routine and good habits in a person. He would have abstained from things like tobacco and alcohol. His sound habits in youth have proved to be a key to his good health in his old age. He is healthy and doesn’t have any life threatening disease all because of a healthy lifestyle.

iii. The Professor says that earlier this ex-student of his was thin like a stick. Now he is a man of weight and consequence. In India, a fat person is supposed to be impactful. He calls this as a joke. In reality it is not a joke.

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. He is a retired Geography professor. He has a set of beliefs are not really in accordance to his profession. He gives more importance to the materialistic accomplishments. The goodness of sons is portrayed by how well they earn and not how well they behave. A daughter’s marriage is of the utmost importance for a father. While men’s prosperity is measured by how much he earns, the women being settled, is measured by the income earned by the husband. 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.

***Question 5 16***

***‘I make no difference in my demeanour to them….’***

1. Which list has the narrator added Todd to? How many people are there in that list? How does he treat the people in this list? 3
2. What painful thought comes to the narrator’s mind at intervals? 3
3. Which other three hints were given by the narrator? 3
4. What does the narrator ask the people to whom he owes money to do? What would he do in return? 3
5. At what point in the story does the narrator provide a twist? 4

i. The narrator has added Todd to the list of men who owe him a dollar and have forgotten about it. He says there are quite a few people in that list. The narrator says that he does not make any difference in his demeanour to them.

ii. The painful thought that comes to narrator’s mind at intervals is that if Todd has forgotten about the dollar that he owes him, it is theoretically probable that there must be men to whom he owes a dollar and has forgotten to repay it. Then he goes on to say that there must be a list of them.

iii. what currency was used in Bermuda, what his trip cost him, if he felt settled down after the trip

iv. The narrator asks the people to whom he owes money to speak out. They should not speak all at once but come in reasonable numbers, as far as may be in alphabetical order. In return he will write their names on a paper.

v. After describing in detail his attempts to remind Todd about the one dollar that he

had taken, the narrator talks about a painful thought that crosses his mind. He talks about him taking money from the others and forgetting to pay it back. Then he suggests that there may be a long list of such men. This turns the story over its head.

***Question 6 16***

**Justify the title of the lesson ‘God lives in the panch’.**

Jumman’s tiff with his aunt- her threat to go to the panchayat- her canvassing for support- going to Alagu’s house- the first panchyat- Alagu the head panch-keeps the friendship aside to give the right decision- They nurse a grudge against each other and turn enemies- Alagu buys a pair of bullocks- one dies- suspicion on Jumman- other bullock sold to Samjhu- he is to pay a month later- he overworks the bullock which also dies – the second panchayat- Jumman the head panch- still gives the right decision- Both of them are able to keep away their emotions- In the case of Alagu his friendship and in case of Jumman his anger and enmity to give a fair decision- the villagers believed that the Panches could never give a wrong decision as God lived in the hearts of Panches and directed their judgment.