Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Pre-Preliminary Exam: Test 3**

**Stories Poems Drama**

1) India’s Heroes 1) Stopping by woods Merchant

Of

2) The Last Leaf 2) The Professor Venice (Act III)

**Std X Set B**

**Marks 40 1 hour**

**Q.1)**

**Ans i)** The speaker of these lines is Jessica. The appreciation of Portia according to her is beyond expression. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** According to the speaker Bassanio should now lead a very upright life. He is lucky to have got a wife in the form of Portia though he perhaps does not deserve her. So it is to be expected from him that he should lead a virtuous life. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** Jessica says that if two gods are playing some heavenly match in heaven, and on hand if Portia is staked by one of them, then the other god will have to stake something else apart from the other lady being staked in return. This is because there is no one according to Jessica on earth who can match Portia. Only thus will the two sides be equal in the wager. **3 marks**

**Q.2)**

**Ans i)** The speaker Bassanio claims to be bereft of all words as Portia has very eloquently expressed her love towards Bassanio. She has just given him a ring as a token of her love and expressed her pleasure at the company of Bassanio.

**2 marks**

**Ans ii)** Bassanio says that he is speechless and only the blood in his veins is communicating to her. He says after good speech of oration by a much loved prince the audience is left buzzing in happiness, but together the buzzing sounds like confusion. He describes himself in this kind of confusion because of his happiness. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** Bassanio assures Portia at the end of this speech that he will ensure that the ring is always on his person . He goes on to claim if the ring parts from him ever then she can draw a conclusion that he is dead. **3 marks**

**Q.3)**

**Ans i)** According to the narrator his horse found it queer to stop in the middle of the road without a house or a farmhouse nearby. He says that it was the darkest evening of the year and they had stopped between the woods and the frozen lake. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** When the narrator and his horse stop in the middle of the woods it is quite silent. Apart from the harness bell that the horse shakes the only other sound that can be heard is that of easy wind blowing by and the downy flakes of snow settling down. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** The last stanza of the poem gives us a very deep message. It suggests that many times in life we will be faced with the beautiful things of the world which may even serve as distractions. Though we should enjoy the beauty all around momentarily we cannot get lost in it permanently. It is also our duty to remind ourselves of our bigger responsibilities and obligations and keep working hard till we reach the goals that we have set for ourselves. **3 marks**

**Q.4)**

**Ans i)** The professor is mentioning about the respective husbands of his daughters. Their names are Sarala and Tarala. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** According to the professor the value structure is constantly changing. New values are taking over and old values are being replaced. It is happening because of the progress of India and the global impact on our values. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** There are many evidences that the poet is attacking typical Indian thinking. The fixation that we have towards the word manager, the obsession about cars, the having of which is status symbol, the rhyming of names of children all are typical Indian habits. Also other things like our reluctance to adopt family planning, wanting to show off our health and wanting to live hundred years are essentially Indian in nature. **3 marks**

**Q.5)**

**Ans i)** Behrman lived on the ground floor of the same building as Johnsy and Sue. It was a dimly lit house and in one corner of the room was a blank canvas on an easel. It had still not been sketched or painted. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** Sue informed Behrman about Johnsy’s fancy and also her fear that as Johnsy was light and fragile like a leaf , she feared that Johnsy would float away from this world. That is the illness would kill her. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** Behrman was very agitated at the information. He shouted his contempt and derision at such idiotic imaginings of Johnsy. He said that he had not heard that the leaves falling from a confounded vine could be the reason for somebody’s death and in this irritation even refused to pose for Sue. **3 marks**

**Q.6)**

nervous about his speech-beads of perspiration were visible on his forehead- hands shaking- not accustomed to addressing the class- doesn’t have the flair for making speeches- but put his heart into the assignment and worked very hard at it- speech was different from all the other speeches as he had not chosen only one person, profession or quality- a combination of traits and people of different from different walks of life- started his speech he spoke about Sandeep Unnikrishnan, all eyes were on him and all other students were rapt in attention-oblivious to all other noise outside- described Vishnu Zende, Karambir Kang- grew emotional while speaking about Hemant Karkare- speech went on to cover Mohammed Taufeeq Sheikh- goose bumps on his hands- because his speech came from his heart it touched a chord among his classmates and the teacher- inspired by these real heroes of India , he expressed his appreciation of these heroes and his desire to be like them- the emotion reverberated through the audience- speech got a rousing welcome when he ended it- the applause proves amply that you do not require the qualities of a good speaker to give a great speech- can become great by the conviction of the speaker if the speaker truly believes in what he is speaking. 8 marks