Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**SECOND PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2016-2017**

**LITERATURE IN ENGLISH**

**ENGLISH Paper- 2**

**Set II-A *(Two hours)***

*Answers to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.*

*You will* ***not*** *be allowed to write during the first* ***15*** *minutes.*

*This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.*

*The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.*

*Attempt* ***five*** *questions in all.*

*The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets []*

**SECTION A- DRAMA**

*The Merchant of Venice: Shakespeare*

**Question 1.**

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

***Shylock: I am bid forth to supper, Jessica,***

***There are my keys. But wherefore should I go?***

1. Who has invited Shylock to supper? Why had he declined the same invitation earlier? [3]
2. ‘I am not bid for love.’ Why then was Shylock invited? Why does he call his host a

‘Prodigal Christian’? Explain the Biblical reference. [3]

1. What instructions does Shylock give Jessica when he hears there is to be a ‘masque’ that night? Mention any three. [3]
2. ‘I am loath to go.’ What explanation does he give us, in the following lines to feel this way? Was he justified in feeling uneasy? [3]
3. What aspect of Jessica’s character is a contrast to that of Portia’s? Bring out the Dramatic irony in this scene. [4]

**Question 2.**

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

***Shylock ………I crave the law,***

***The penalty and forfeit of my bond.***

1. Where are Shylock, Bassanio and Portia at this time? Briefly explain the situation that has brought these characters together? [3]
2. How does Portia describe the ‘quality of mercy’ and the blessings it carries with it, in the opening four times of her appeal to Shylock? What is Shylock’s first response to it? [3]
3. What further offer does Bassanio make, if ‘twice the sum’ does not suffice? What does he conclude about Shylock’s motives if all offers fail? [3]
4. How does Antonio face his inevitable end? Why does he feel that ‘Fortune shows herself more kind than is her custom?’ [3]
5. Mention any two particular traits of Shylock’s character that are highlighted in the trial scene? What are your feelings for him now? Support your answer with reference to the trial scene. [4]

**SECTION B- POETRY**

*A Collection of Poems*

**Question 3.**

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

***In the world’s broad field of battle, In the bivouac of life,***

***Be not like dumb driven cattle, Be a hero in the strife!***

1. What is the poet H.W. Longfellow’s impression of the ‘world’ and ‘life’? Bring out the aptness of these comparisons. [3]
2. Who do ‘dumb, driven cattle’ refer to? How can you be a ‘hero’ in life’s struggle? [3]
3. What does the poet go on to say about the Future and Past? Would you consider it sound advice? What does he advise us to do about the Present? [3]
4. Why, according to the poet, should we emulate the ‘lives’ of great? How would this action in turn help a forlorn and shipwrecked brother? [3]
5. What is the ‘tone’ of the poem? Pick out the lines (couplet or verse) from the poem (other than the extract) that you found inspirational. Why? [4]

**Question 4.**

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

***“The soldier boy was sitting calmly underneath that tree.***

***As I approached…***

1. What is your impression of the soldier from the opening verse of the poem? What request did the soldier make? What is the significance of the request? [3]
2. What other aspects of the ‘battle’ did the soldier narrate? How was he injured? [3]
3. What agonizing thoughts are there in soldier’s mind as he remembers his wife and mother? Why does he emphasize on the word ‘HERE’? [3]
4. Mention three examples to show that the solider knew of the impending death. [3]
5. Explain the deeper significance of the large wound of the narrator pressing against the small wound of the soldier [4]

**SECTION C- PROSE**

*Collection of Short Stories*

**Question 5.**

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

**‘*Missy you should never go to the in laws…***

***Mini could never fully understand Rahmat’s advice***

1. How did Mini and Kabuliwala become acquainted first? What prevented Mini from making friendship with him in this meeting? [3]
2. What do you think brought them together? [3]
3. What was the later reference to in-laws? Why was it not so funny then? [3]
4. Why was the narrator not so welcoming when Kabuliwala came to meet Mini after his release? Why did he change his heart? What did he do as a result? [3]
5. The story portrays sensitivity of human relationships. Bring two relationships that touch you from this story and say why did they touch you? [4]

**Question 6.**

The two protagonists of ‘God lives in the Panch’ wake their dormant conscience when occupying a seat of judgment. How does the story justify ‘Satyameva Jayate’. [16]