Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Assignment: The Model Millionaire- Answer Key**

**Answer the following:**

1. What does the line ‘Romance is the privilege of the rich, not the profession of the unemployed’ mean ?

Ans: It is important to have money to woe a girl and ask her hand in marriage. The

unemployed first need to find work and earn money before they can even think of

marrying. Thus only the rich can think of romance and marriage not the poor and

unemployed.

1. Which truths of modern life did Hughie Erskine never realize ?

Ans: Romance should be only done by the rich and not the poor and unemployed.

Moreover it is better to have a permanent income than to be fascinating.

1. Describe Hughie Erskine.

Ans: Hughie Erskine was a good-looking and a popular man. He had never said a brilliant

thing in his life and never made money. He had tried his hands at many professions and

failed at all. He was living on the money that an old aunt gave him.

1. Whom did Hughie love ? Why couldn’t he marry her ?

Ans: Hughie loved a girl named Laura Merton , the daughter of a retired colonel. Hughie couldn’t marry her because Laura’s father wanted him to earn ten thousand pounds before asking her hand in marriage.

1. Who was the model in Alan’s studio ? Describe his attire .

Ans: The model in Alan’s studio was a beggar. He had worn old clothes with a tattered brown cloak flung over his shoulders. His thick boots were patched and cobbled. He leant on a rough stick with one hand while he held a battered hat for alms with the other.

1. How much did Trevor pay a model for a sitting and how much did Trevor get for his picture ? What was Hughie’s take on that ?

Ans: Trevor paid a model a shilling an hour for a sitting whereas he earned two thousand guineas for it. Hughie said that models should earn a percentage of what the artist gets because they work as hard as them.

1. Why was Hughie blushing as he left the studio ?

Ans: Hughie felt sympathetic towards the old model. When Trevor went out for some time , Hughie slipped a sovereign into the beggar’s hand. He was quite amazed at what he had done inspite of the fact that he survived on the bear minimum. Thus he was blushing as he left the studio.

1. What did Trevor mean by the line ‘What seems poverty to you is picturesqueness to me’

Ans: Hughie felt sad about the tattered clothes the beggar had worn. He offered his old clothes to the beggar through Trevor. Trevor told him that the old man looked splendid and was a perfect model of a beggar. His poverty was picturesqueness to an artist like Trevor.

1. What was the truth behind the beggar at Trevor’s studio?

Ans: The beggar was actually Baron Hausberg , a millionaire. He was one of the richest men in Europe and could buy all London without overdrawing his account. He had a house in every capital and dined off gold plate and was politically so powerful that he could prevent Russia going to war.

1. Why did Alan find Hughie’s generosity hilarious?

Ans: In spite of being poor, Hughie had given a sovereign to the beggar who in reality was a millionaire. Thus Alan found Hughie’s generosity hilarious.

1. How was Hughie rewarded for his generosity?

Ans: The Baron was very impressed with Hughie’s generosity and sent him a cheque of ten thousand pounds as a wedding present.

1. What did Alan mean when he said, “Millionaire models are rare enough but model millionaires are rarer still “

Ans: The baron, who was a millionaire had become a model of a beggar for getting a painting done of himself. On the other hand, Hughie was poor but had the heart of a millionaire as he gave a sovereign to the beggar. Thus Alan says that millionaire models like the Baron are rare but model millionaires like Hughie are rarer.