Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Pre-Preliminary Exam: Test 4**

**Stories Poems Drama**

1) The Bet 1) Small pain in… Merchant

Of

2) Journey by NIght 2) In the Bazaars of… Venice (Act IV)

**Std X Set C**

**Marks 40 1 hour**

**Q.1)**

**Ans i)** Nerissa to Portia. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** Portia is confident that the old swearing will be done by their respective husbands that they gave their rings to men. She says that they would be able to outface and out swear them. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)**The last action of the scene is that Nerissa asks Gratiano to show her the way to the house. She has to go there to take the signature of Shylock who is yet to sign on the things that he had agreed to in court. It sets the base for Nerissa’s humorous confrontation of Gratiano in the next scene. **3 marks**

**Q.2)**

**Ans i)** Malice is a deliberate intention to trouble someone. Yes it is appropriately used here because Shylock had given the loan with this king of intent to Antonio and now maliciously wanted to extract a pound of flesh in lieu of it. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** The speaker duke expects that after this show of malice Shylock would at the last minute show mercy and remorse which will seem stranger than the visible cruelty. He would not just forego the forfeiture but also forgive the principal amount looking at the extent of the losses of Antonio. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** The speaker justifies the expectation by saying the extent of losses of Antonio is huge. It can bring any royal merchant down. Even people with brassy bosoms and hearts of flints would have pity on him and even Turks and tartars who are not habituated to showing pity would do the same. **3 marks**

**Q.3)**

**Ans i)** As the narrator approached, he could see the soldier beckoning to him. The soldier looked calm. The battle that had been fought seemed to have been long, hard and had lasted through the night. He could also see scores of people laying still in the morning light. **3 marks**

**Ans ii)** The soldier gave a weak smile. This was the best he could manage as he was in tremendous pain. The smile was also reflective of the warmth the soldier had as he was asking for narrator’s help. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** Antithesis. Contrasting ideas of fighting in day and fighting during night are expressed together. **2 marks**

**Q.4)**

**Ans i)** The different kinds of seller’s mentioned are merchants, vendors, peddlers, fruit men and flower girls. Merchants sell their wares in their respective shops. Vendors do their business from stalls whereas peddlers move about to conduct their business. Fruit men and flower girls sell their respective things only.

**3 marks**

**Ans ii)** The garments mentioned in the stanza are turbans which of crimson and silver colour and tunics displaying purple brocade work. The turbans represent the self-esteem of Indians, the colours being representative of celebration and royalty. The rich brocade on the tunic shows the traditional Indian artisans work and is also symbolic of royalty, purple being the colour representing royalty.

**3 marks**

**Ans iii)** Pedlars are selling chessmen and ivory dice. Both chess and dice games have Indian origin and ivory being expensive shows richness of tradition.**2 marks**

**Q.5)**

**Ans i)** The banker does not agree with the theory that life imprisonment in more moral than death penalty. He believes that death penalty is more moral. **2 marks**

**Ans** ii) The banker feels that death penalty is more preferable as it takes away life instantly. According to him lifelong imprisonment kills a man slowly. It is better to give quick death than drag life out of someone in a few years. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** According to one of the guests State is not God. It has no right to take anyone’s life .anyone who cannot restore life has no right to take it away according to him. **3 marks**

**Q.6)**

Journey by night is a story where night is represented in different respects. On a superficial level as it was undertaken during the night time so it is called so. But night is also symbolic of the difficulties that were faced by Sher Singh in carrying his brother Kunwar to the hospital. The first challenge was carrying the weight of Kunwar for fifty miles. Though his mother helped him in this respect by making a sling bag out of the sari still it was a mammoth task. Apart from that the jungle posed different dangers. Right from saving himself from the cobra, noticing the bear tracks, the encounter with elephants and noticing tiger paws were all a part of the journey. Add to that the crossing of the two rivers the second one being flooded and the bridge above which was broken. All these difficulties represent night. Also with Kunwar reaching the hospital and surviving this journey ends with a new hope dawning for the family. The journey by night is finally over. **8 marks**