Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**LITERATURE IN ENGLISH**

**ENGLISH Paper- 2**

**Set D**

***(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:

***O sweet Portia! Here are few of the unpleasantest***

***words that ever blotted paper.***

1. Which words are called unpleasantest? Why? [3]
2. What had Portia noticed earlier? What did she guess as a result? [3]
3. What does Bassanio confess to Portia here? [3]
4. What does Bassanio compare the letter to? [3]
5. What does Salerio inform Bassanio later? [4]

**Question 2.**

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

***If you had known the virtue of the ring,***

***Or half her worthiness that gave the ring.***

***Or your own honour to contain the ring.***

1. Who is the speaker of these lines? Who are the other people present? Where is the scene taking place? [3]
2. What kind of person is being called ‘unreasonable’ by the speaker? [3]
3. How does Bassanio try to convince Portia about his giving of the ring? [3]
4. What according to Bassanio made him part away with the ring? [3]
5. What does Portia warn Bassanio not to do? How is he supposed to watch her? What will happen if he is not careful? [4]

**SECTION B- POETRY**

*A Collection of Poems*

**Question 3.**

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

***Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit***

***Where the mind is led forward by thee***

1. Who is ‘thee’? What does the poet mean by ‘dead habit’? How has it affected the country? [3]
2. Which word is repeated often in the poem? Why? [3]
3. What has been spoken about ‘knowledge’? Justify. [3]
4. How can perfection be achieved? [3]
5. Name and explain the figures of speech in the following lines. [4]

a. Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high

b. Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection.

**Question 4.**

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

***Still, like muffled drums, are beating***

***Funeral marches to the grave***

1. What is being spoken about in the first line of the given extract? Which figure of speech is given? Explain. [3]
2. How are art, time and our hearts described? [3]
3. In the next stanza, what does the poet want us to be? [3]
4. ‘Live life in the moment’. Explain this quote with reference to the poem. [3]
5. Explain the title: ‘A Psalm of Life’ [4]

**SECTION C- PROSE**

*Collection of Short Stories*

**Question 5.**

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

***“The Princess September clapped her hands***

***with delight and….***

1. Why was the Princess so delighted? Who was the visitor and what did he do? [3]
2. What had the King gifted the nine princesses? How would they spend time with ‘the gift’? Why? [3]
3. Why were the conducts of the six princesses contrasting to September? [3]
4. What would have happened if the thirteenth daughter is born? How did the Queen react? [3]
5. Give two instances of typical human nature brought out in the story. [4]

**Question 6.**

‘There is more fruit in a rich man’s shampoo than in a poor man’s plate. Explain this line with reference to the story ‘Hunger’ [16]