Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**SECOND TERM EXAM (JK)**

**Std IX Duration: 2 Hours Marks 80**

***Question 1***

**i. Who chose this casket? What were the reasons of choosing this one? 3**

**Ans:** The Prince of Morocco chose this casket. He believes that the message on the casket hinted to Portia. He focuses on the word ‘desires’ and reasons that the world desired her. The suitors are coming from the four corners of the world to woo Portia.

**ii. How does the suitor interpret the words inscribed on this casket? 3**

**Ans:** The suitor Morocco focuses on the word ‘desires’. He states that the world desires Portia and the suitors are coming from the four corners of the world to woo Portia. The Hyrcanian deserts the wilds of Arabia and the watery kingdom the ocean is no barrier to stop these suitors from coming to Belmont.

**iii. What is spoken about the watery kingdom? 3**

**Ans:** The water kingdom refers to the ocean. It is called as spitting in the face of heaven. The meaning implied is that the rough sea is no barrier to the suitors and they cross the ocean as if it a brook to see fair Portia.

**iv. What would be sinful thought according to this speaker? 3**

**Ans:** According to the speaker the thought that Portia may be immured within the silver casket is a sinful thought. He considers it sinful as never ever a gem like Portia was set it in something less than gold. He also says that silver is ten time undervalued compared to gold.

**v. Summarise the scroll found by the speaker. 4**

**Ans:** The scroll inform the reader that all that glisters is not gold. It is a very common saying. Many people have sold their life to just behold the gold casket. Even if the tomb is gilded it infolds worms. If the person choosing the casket was wise and not just bold and had the judgement of an old person and not just young limbs his answer would not have there in the form of a scroll. Finally the scroll wishes the reader a farewell and says that his suit is cold.

***Question 2***

**i. What question is Shylock responding to? Who had asked the question? 3**

**Ans:** Shylock is responding to the Salerio’s question. Salerio has asked Shylock what purpose would be served by Antonio’s pound of flesh that he intends to take. He says that he is sure that if Antonio forfeits the bond Shylock would not take his pound of flesh.

**ii. Just before the extract, Shylock uses three words to describe his adversary. What are they? 3**

**Ans:** Bankrupt, prodigal, beggar.

**iii. Shylock says that he will use the ‘bait’ to feed his revenge. What does the ‘bait’ here refer to? What remark had Shylock made in Act 1 Scene 3 to hide his real intention from Bassanio?** **3**

**Ans:** Shylock had overheard Bassanio prompting Antonio to not sign the bond. He had remarked that Christians are suspicious like that. They have their own hard dealings because of which they suspect the thoughts of others.

**iv. What are the crimes which he accuses his adversary of? 3**

**Ans:** Shylock accuses Antonio of coming in a very smug way upon the mart. He used to call Shylock usurer. He also wound give out money for Christian courtesy.

**v. ‘If we are like you in the rest, we will resemble you in that.’ State any one point of similarity between the Jews and Christians as stated by Shylock. How does Shylock justify his right to take revenge against Antonio? 4**

**Ans:** Shylock says that if a Jew wrong a Christian he would take revenge. Similarly if a Christian wrong a Jew he would also want to take revenge. Shylock says that the Jews are similar to Christians in everything. They too have hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections and passions. They too are fed by the same food, hurt by the same weapons, suffer from the diseases and healed by the same means. As a Christian does not show any sympathy if he is wronged by a Jew, the Jewish are also supposed to follow none but the Christian example and seek revenge.

***Question 3***

**i. Who is ‘he’ mentioned here? Why was he cheerful? 3**

**Ans:** He here is Sir Ralph, the Rover. He was excessively mirthful on seeing the buoy as he had a wicked plan in his mind. The plan was to cut the Inchcape Bell away from the float.

**ii. What did he instruct his sailors to do? What did he do to add on to the action of the sailors? 3**

**Ans:** Sir Ralph instructed the sailors to put out a lifeboat and row him towards the Inchcape Rock. To add on to the action of the sailors, he bent over from the boat and cut the Inchcape Bell away from the Inchcape float.

**iii. Where did Sir Ralph proceed to? For what? 3**

**Ans:** After cutting off the Bell, Sir Ralph sailed away from the shore of Scotland to scour the seas for many days and grow rich with the plundered store.

**iv. Why were the sailors not able to see things clearly? What did Sir Ralph hope for? 3**

**Ans:** The sailors were not able to see things clearly as a thick haze spread over the sky. Even the sun was not visible. Wind had blown as a gale the entire day but in the evening it had died away. Sir Ralph hoped for dawn of the rising moon and it would be brighter soon.

**v. What role has weather played at the end of the poem? 4**

**Ans:** Before cutting the Inchcape Rock the weather was beautiful. The sun was shining

brightly and all things looked joyful. When he was on his return journey, the weather changed drastically. A thick haze spread over the sky. Even the sun was not visible. Wind had blown as a gale the entire day but in the evening it had died away.

***Question 4***

1. **Give a brief description of the Professor as portrayed just before this extract. 3**

**Ans:** Professor Sheth used to teach Geography and is a widower. The Professor is retired but he enjoys good health.

1. **What is the professor’s idea of being well settled? 3**

**Ans:** ‘Well-settled in life’ means one having a good job that gives one enough salary to own a house, car and children. Professor Sheth mentions this with a stereotypical notion of measuring success with materialistic accomplishments.

1. **How does the Professor endorse ‘change’ in the poem? 3**

**Ans:** He believes that world is changing fast and the old values are getting replaced by the new ones at a fast pace. He talks about India’s progress in negative light and his resentment towards this change in the Indian society is visible.

1. **How do we get to know about the professor’s health at the end of the poem 3**

**Ans:** The professor enjoys good health as he would have abstained from things like tobacco and alcohol. His sound habits in youth have proved to be a key to his good health in his old age. He is healthy and doesn’t have any life threatening disease all because of a healthy lifestyle. He only suffers from usual aches and pains.

1. **How has Nizzim Ezekiel criticized urban society in the poem? 4**

**Ans:** The poem is a satire on the Indian society. The poet doesn’t talk about academic achievements rather he showcases materialistic importance. The qualities of being honest, hard-working, dedicated are not showcased. The poet points out how Indians typically assume fatness to be a sign of prosperity and wealth. The goodness of sons is portrayed by how well they earn and not how well they behave.

***Question 5***

**i. What do you understand by the word ‘this’? 3**

**Ans:** The word ‘this’ refers to the comment made by Jumman. On being asked for an allowance, Jumman asked his aunt if money grew on trees. The aunt asked Jumman how she was supposed to live to which Jumman taunted her by saying that she had not conquered death. This exasperated the aunt.

**ii. Why was Jumman confident of winning the case in the panchayat? 3**

**Ans:** Jumman was confident as he knew that panchayat would give a decision in his favour as there was nobody in the village whom he had not obliged. The members of the panchayat

would be his friends and would not dare to incur his displeasure.

**iii. What could be seen for days after that? 3**

**Ans:** The old lady could be seen leaning on her poor staff going from villager to villager

to enlist their sympathy. Though her body was doubled up with age and she was infirm, she dragged her unwilling feet and persisted in her mission. She poured her pitiable tale into everyone’s ear.

**iv. What was the reaction of the villagers to the pitiable tale of the old lady? 3**

**Ans:** The villagers were not moved by the plight of the lady. Most of them offered her verbal sympathy which they never meant. While others cursed the bad times which had brought her to such a pass. Some of them advised her to make it up with her nephew, some others told her to pass her days in prayer. The village did not lack men to whom the sight of the aged woman with her white hair, toothless mouth and body bent as a bow was a source of constant fun.

**v. How does the old lady ring a bell in Alagu’s mind? 4**

**Ans:** Aunt asked Alagu to attend the panchayat when the matter would come up. Alagu retorted initially and later said he would attend the panchayat but would not participate in the proceedings. It was because Jumman was his old friend and he can’t go against him. The Aunt asked him if it was right that for friendship’s sake, he should keep his mouth shut and not say what he felt as just. After aunt had left, her words kept ringing in his ears.

***Question 6***

***Journey through night is the journey of a boy through all the risks he faces in his night journey. Explain the statement with examples from the text.***

Sher Singh’s encounter with the cobra. He found out a cobra who had been sunning himself on the path in the last of the daylight, contracted and rose with a hiss. He spread his hood to show the spectacle mark on the back. Sher Singh stood frozen on seeing the cobra and then slowly backed away. The cobra swayed watching him with its tongue playing in and out. Later it subsided and slid off into the matted grass. Sher Singh saw the sight of the bear track in the dust, square front paw and long back one which made him glance around uneasily. He had once seen a man who had been mauled by a bear, his face torn away. Thinking about this Sher Singh quickened his step. Sher Singh heard the jostle and squeal of elephants, he realised that this herd was coming up the nullah perhaps to the new feeding grounds. Sher Singh was glad that he was outside the ravine and above them. Sher Singh noticed that one great old tusker had a dark oily flow of musth discharge on his cheeks. He realised that in that condition he might chase and kill men where normally he would not bother. Sher Singh understood that the elephants were very near as he could smell them and hear the squeak of sand crushed under their feet. The brush of rough hide against each other was also heard. He could even see that the toss and hustle and great heads and black backbones. The tusker was playing with his trunk to and fro to learn whatever the breeze could tell him. He suddenly hesitated when he came near the boys. The trunk came around towards the boys. Then the tusker snorted, trumpeted and shook his head, then he hurried on angrily up the riverbed and disappeared. Sher Singh chilled with fright when he saw the trunk of the tusker coming towards him. He knew that with Kunwar to carry, he could neither climb nor run. If he shouted it would bring the catastrophe upon them. He started praying to God for protection. After stepping into the first river, Sher Singh realised that the water was colder than usual, there was an icy edge to it. He also noticed that in the middle it was deeper than it had been earlier. He guessed that perhaps the snow water was already

coming down. He had to go slowly because of the slime on the stones and find a foothold to be sure not to fall. After Sher Singh crossed the first river and swashed up to the shore, water twinkled in his footprints before sinking into the sand. He saw that another set of footprints came out of the river. They belonged to a tiger and there was a glitter in them too. As he looked at them, they dried. When he reached the second river, Sher Singh saw that from bank to bank the river foamed. He could not see the bridge as it was submerged. A fierce crest of water showed where the bridge lay, which was confirmed by a drowned goat held against it by the torrent. He could see branches rising like dying arms in the vortex and caught against the bridge and feathering the wild glissade of water. The entire tree was churning over and over on the cataract. It gathered speed and crashed against the drowned bridge. There was a thundering noise followed by a loud tearing sound. The bridge moved like a monster heeled over and broke, throwing up its bamboo ribs like a fan. The question that crossed the mind of Sher Singh after the bridge was broken, was how to cross the bridge. There was no chance to swim, even alone he would be lost in the current but he guessed that perhaps among the wreck of the bridge there would be a way. Sher Singh gathered grass and plaited it into a rope. The blades of the grass were sharp and cut his fingers. He tied the rope around his brother and himself so that they would keep together. The moment Sher Singh entered the second river, he and Kunwar were seized and flattened against the wreck by the current of water. Initially Sher Singh could not move but then he began to edge forward into the maelstrom holding on to anything that he could lay his hands on. He was feeling forward for things to hold and finding the split ends of bamboo that were sharp enough to disembowel a man. Sher Singh was deafened by the deluge. Timber banged and bruised him. He could hardly keep his hold because of the cold water. He could not get his breath in the spray and water poured past and over him in one long icy cascade. He was deaf, blinded, frozen and drowned. Sher Singh was numb because of coldness and his nose hurt with water inside it. He still stumbled on, walking and walking. His knees bent and trembled. They gave way and he was almost crawling till he reached a better road and later a village. After Sher Singh reached a better road, he could hear the yap of pi-dogs which heralded a village. Suddenly he could see people. Earlier he had expected to get a lift in a bullock cart and then a truck. That is exactly how his last phase of journey was.