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 G**

**Marks 40 1 hour**

**Q.1)**

**Ans i)** After confirming from the court about the presence of Antonio, the Duke tells him that he feels sorry for him. He has come in answer of an inhuman a stony adversary. Shylock was an inhuman wretch uncapable of pity, void and empty from any dram of mercy. **3 marks**

**Ans ii)** After this dialogue, Bassanio asks Shylock if all men kill the things they dont love. To this Shylock replies that if one doesn’t want to kill the other he does not hate him at all. Bassanio says that every offence is not a hate at first. Shylock says that anyone would not have a serpent sting him twice. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** Bassanio tries to cheer Antonio by saying that he should be positive and have courage yet. He says that he was ready to offer his flesh blood bones and all before Antonio shall lose because of him even one drop of blood. **2 marks**

**Q.2)**

**Ans i)** The ‘I’ here refers to Portia. The cause she mentions is the reason of the dispute between Shylock and Antonio. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** Gratiano says that Shylock was making his knife keen not on his sole but on his soul. When he notices Shylock rubbing his knife on the hard leather sole of his shoe he makes this comment. Wittily playing with the homophone of the word ‘sole’ he says that the evil soul of Shylock is the reason that he is sharpening the knife for the evil act. **2 marks**

**Ans iii)** The letter that Nerissa brings inn to the court is addressed to the Duke and send by Doctor Bellario. The letter tells the Duke that at the receipt of the letter he is very sick but in a loving visitation a young Doctor from Rome Balthazar was with him. After discussing the case Bellario had requested Balthazar to visit the court of the Duke instead of him. The letter also warns the duke judging the young doctor adversely because of his young age. It says that he had never seen such a young body with such an old head. Finally he says that he leaves the young doctor to the gracious acceptance by the Duke and promises the Duke that his trial shall publish his commendation better. **4 marks**

**Q.3)**

**Ans i)** The bells that are made for the feet of pigeons are frail. The delicateness of the bells is compared to the wings of the dragon fly. They are light in weight as the pigeons would not be able to fly if they are heavy. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** Scabbards of gold are made for the kings. These are used to cover the blade of the sword. The goldsmiths are also making girdles of gold for the dancers. **2 marks**

**Ans iii)** In the stanza just before this one vendors, maidens and peddlers are mentioned. The vendors are selling saffron, lentil and rice. The maidens are grinding and selling sandalwood and henna and spice. The pedlars are calling out and selling chessmen and ivory dice. **4 marks**

**Q.4)**

**Ans i)** The ‘I ‘refers to the injured soldier. The rest refers to the other soldiers who had lost their life fighting. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** He considers himself luckier than the rest as all of them have died fighting and he is still alive. After the explosion the other soldiers had died and this soldier had survived and was injured on his chest. **2 marks**

**Ans iii)** There are two wounds mentioned at the end of the poem. One wound is the physical wound of the soldier and the other one is the psychologic wound of the narrator. The physical wound is a serious one that proves fatal to the soldier though he downplays it by calling it small pain in his chest. On the other hand the narrator is calling his wound on the heart as a large one. He is deeply affected and moved as he has not been able to save the life of the soldier. **4 marks**

**Q.5)**

**Ans i)** Through the thin cotton cloth which the sari of the mother was made of Sher Singh was able to feel the heat of his brother Kunwar’s body. Kunwar had got fever making his body really warm. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** Sher Singh also felt the weight of his brother. He wondered if he would manage carrying his brother to the hospital in time. He had to carry his brother fifty miles from Laldwani to Kalaghat. **2 marks**

Ans iii) Around the village were spread the bits of cultivation owned by the villagers and the maidan where they grazed their cattle and the hedges made of plied up thorn branches. Also there was a compound, where the forest guards locked up cattle caught feeding in Government reserved forest. Then a good deal of burnt grassland followed by the start of the jungle. There was scrub at first, rough grass dotted with thorn trees and then will Sal trees. **4 marks**

**Q.6)**

**Points to be covered in the answer:-** The lawyer goes into confinement. Starts reading the books. Starts with light reading and sensational stories. Graduates to the classics. Reads six hundred learned volumes in four years. Then moves to Gospel and Theology. Last two years reading randomly. Just as if he wants to keep afloat as if by clutching greedily into whatever he can find. The books help him to pass the fifteen years in solitary confinement. When he is found by the banker after opening the door the books can be seen lying open all around. The books give him the wisdom to move away from the materialistic approach which he had earlier. They inspire him to run away from the cottage of the banker without waiting for his prize of two million. They elevate him above the other mortal humans. **8 marks**