Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Pre-Preliminary Exam: Test 1**

**Short Stories Poems Drama**

1) Princess September 1) I Believe Merchant

Of

2) A Tiger in the Tunnel 2) Psalm of life Venice (Act I)

**Std X Set A**

**Marks 40 1 hour**

**Q.1**

**Ans i)** Shylock speaks these lines. To Antonio and Bassanio. **2marks**

**Ans ii)** Compromise here is the agreement that took place between Laban and Jacob. The agreement was that Jacob would take the sheep of Laban for grazing and the eanlings (newborn lambs) which are striped and spotted would be given to Jacob as his salary. **3marks**

**Ans iii)** Antonio says that there was a difference in the both situations of shylock charging interest and Jacob winning the lambs. Firstly Jacob worked hard for this earning unlike shylock who charges interest without any work. Also it was not in hands but fashioned by god that the eanlings were striped or spotted. **3marks**

**Q.2**

**Ans i)** Previous to this Antonio compares the world to a stage where each one of us has to play a role and says he is playing the role of a sad man. **2marks**

**Ans ii)** Gratiano desires to play the role of a fool and that he should get old with mirth and laughter. He would rather have his liver heat with wine than his heart becoming cold by painful groans. Does not want to be peevish and contract jaundice. **3marks**

**Ans iii)** He asks Antonio not to fish by using melancholy as a bait. There are some people who deliberately encourage the melancholic expression on their face as they want to be considered as wise but Gratiano compares this opinion of humans as a gudgeon fish who is foolish. **3marks**

**Q.3**

**Ans i)** Baldeo being a tribal was used to the jungle and its ways. He carried an axe to prevent himself from any eventuality in the forest. **2marks**

**Ans ii)** The axe of Baldeo was fragile to look at but deadly when in use. It could cut a tree as neatly as it was sawn with three to four strokes. Axe head was of pure steel thin but ringing like a bell. It was made over a charcoal fire by his father. It was a part of himself and he carried it wherever he went. Though he was offered good money he did not part with it because of his attachment. **4marks**

**Ans iii)** An official who had come to the station had offered good money for the axe. No Baldeo did not part away with it. **2marks**

**Q.4**

Princess September story gives us a couple of learnings at the end. The first one is if we do something under pressure or restriction the quality of that thing comes down. Just as the nightingale was not able to sing well when she was in the cage. But after coming out, she flew over the paddy fields trees and the lake. She flew far away but came back with loveliest songs. We also learn the real happiness lies I the happiness of others. Though it is difficult to place someone else’s happiness over yours, that alone can give you supreme happiness. Princess September’s becoming more beautiful because the window is always kept open is symbolic too. When you allow fresh thoughts to touch you and are open to change then alone you can become beautiful and worthy. She got married to the king of Cambodia as she deserved nothing less than a king. If you are closed like the other princesses, then you become closed, rigid and ugly. Then you don’t deserve the best in life as depicted by them getting married to the councilors of the king. **8marks**

**Q.5**

**Ans i)** Hyperbole: It is an overstatement. OR Personification as the earth is given the human quality of having a belly. **2marks**

**Ans ii)** She would find priceless gems in it. She would beautify or adorn herself with it. **3marks**

**Ans iii)** The message conveyed is that though we must dream and aspire to the do the impossible, perhaps work towards it too but more important than that is to know the role assigned to us and do that role perfectly. Realism should dominate over idealism in real life. **3marks**

**Q.6**

**Ans i)** Heartbeat is compared to the beating of drums in the stanza. These drums are called as muffled as they beat within the body and cannot be heard loudly. **2marks**

**Ans ii)** The drums are called muffled as the noise made by them is not substantial at they beat within our body. These drums should remind us that we are marching to our funeral that is our death pretty quickly. **3marks**

**Ans iii)** If we leave footprints on the sand of time they may help someone else in distress. If somebody has faced disaster (has had his shipwrecked) he may get inspired by the example that we have set. This encouragement is all that make a difference I his life. **3marks**