Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**LITERATURE IN ENGLISH**

**ENGLISH Paper- 2**

**Set H**

***(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:

***I never did repent for doing good, nor shall not now: for in companions***

1. Who is the speaker of these lines? Whom are they spoken to? [3]

Portia is the speaker of these lines. These lines are being spoken to Lorenzo in the presence of Nerissa, Jessica and Balthazar.

1. What is the definition of companionship as given by the speaker? [3]

Portia defines companionship as a relationship between people who converse and waste time together, whose souls bear an equal yoke of love for each other. Also they must be similar to one another in terms of lineaments, manners and spirit.

1. How much is the cost bestowed by the speaker? For what? [3]

Portia has paid the cost of bearing the absence of her lord i.e. Bassanio. She says that the cost bestowed is very little because she has purchased the semblance of her soul from the state of hellish cruelty. By this she wants to say that by the small sacrifice that she has made she will be able to rescue Antonio who is the resemblance of her Lord Bassanio from the cruel intentions of Shylock.

1. What does the speaker instruct Lorenzo later in the dialogue? [3]

Portia commits into Lorenzo’s hands the husbandry and management of her house until her lord returns. She tells him that all the servants have been informed and in her absence they would acknowledge Lorenzo and Jessica as the Lord and the Mistress of the house. She also tells him that she had breathed a secret vow towards heaven to live in prayer and contemplation and she would abide at a monastery which is two miles away, attended only by Nerissa.

1. Do we see a mischievous side of Portia at the end of the scene? Substantiate. [4]

Yes we do see a mischievous side of Portia at the end of the scene. Portia says that they will be meeting theirs husbands but they would not recognise them as they (Portia and Nerissa) would be disguised as men, Then Portia says that they would see them accomplished with what they lack. Portia bets that she would look the prettier men of the two. She boats that she would wear her dagger with brave grace and would speak between the change of man and a boy with a reed voice. She further says that she would convert her two mincing steps into a manly stride. She would speak of frays like a fine bragging youth and tell quaint lies like how fine, honourable ladies who sought her love which on being denied fell sick and died. Then she would repent and say that she couldn’t do anything about it and wished that she had not killed them. Portia says that she would speak twenty such puny lies. Looking at her men would feel as if she had discontinued school about a year ago. She also mischievously says that she has a thousand raw tricks of bragging jacks in her mind which she will practise.

**Question 2.**

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

***If thou be’st rated by thy estimation, Thou dost deserve enough, and yet enough may not extend so far as to the lady.***

1. Who is the speaker of these lines? Who else is present at the scene apart from him? Where is the scene taking place? [3]

The Prince of Morocco is the speaker of these lines. Apart from him, Portia and some servants are present at the scene. The scene is taking place at Belmont in a room in Portia’s house.

1. Explain these lines. [3]

The given lines are spoken by the Prince of Morocco as a response to the inscription on the silver casket. He asks himself to pause and weigh his value with an even hand. Then he quotes the given lines which mean that if he is rated by his own estimation, he deserves enough. But even that enough would not extend so far to deserve Lady Portia.

1. How does the speaker contradict his words almost immediately? [3]

After saying that even though he deserved enough, his enough would not extend so far to deserve Portia. He immediately contradicts his words. The Prince says that that would be a weak disabling of himself. Then he justifies by saying that he deserved Portia in birth, fortune, graces and in qualities of breeding but moreover he deserved her in love.

1. How is Portia praised later in the scene? [3]

The Prince of Morocco praises Portia by saying that the whole world desires Portia. Suitors come from four corners of the earth to kiss the shrine of the breathing saint Portia. He further says that Hyrcanian deserts and the vasty wilds of wide of Arabia have become like thoroughfares for suitors to come and view fair Portia. The ocean which is described as a watery kingdom whose ambitious head spits in the face of heaven, is no bar to stop the foreign spirits. They still come as if they were crossing a brook to see fair Portia.

1. Explain the gist written on the scroll found by the speaker later in the scene. [4]

The golden scroll gives the message that the proverb ‘All that glitters is not gold’ is very famous. Many people have sold their lives just to see and possess gold. But even if tombs are made of gold all they have is worms inside. If the suitor has had wisdom and judgement as much as his bravery and youth then his answer would not have been there in the form of a scroll. Finally the scroll says that his suit is rejected.

**SECTION B- POETRY**

*A Collection of Poems*

**Question 3.**

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

***He felt the cheering power of spring it made him whistle it made him sing,***

***His heart was mirthful...***

1. Who is ‘he’ in the poem? What made his mirthful? [3]

In the poem ‘Inchcape Rock’ he is Sir Ralph, the Rover. Sir Ralph was excessively mirthful looking at the buoy as he had a wicked plan in his mind. The plan was to cut the Inchcape Bell away from the buoy.

1. What did ‘he’ order his men? Why? [3]

Sir Ralph ordered his men to lower or put out the boat and row him to the Inchcape Rock. Sir Ralph wanted to cut off the Inchcape bell from its buoy. So he ordered his men to row him to the Inchcape Rock so that he could carry out his wicked plan and plague the Abbot.

1. How did the bell sink? Describe Sir Ralph’s reaction to it? [3]

After the bell was cut, the bell sank down with a gurgling sound. The bubbles rose to the surface and burst around. Sir Ralph then quoted ‘The next who comes to the Rock, wont bless the Abbot of Aberbrothok.’

1. What did Sir Ralph do after cutting the bell? [3]

After cutting the bell Sir quoted ‘The next who comes to the Rock, wont bless the Abbot of Aberbrothok’. Sir Ralph then sailed away from the shore of Scotland and scoured the sea for many days. After growing rich with the plundered store, he started steering the course towards Scotland’s shore.

1. Weather plays a significant role in the poem. Bring out its significance with examples from the poem. [4]

The weather does play a significant role in the poem. Before cutting the Inchcape bell, the weather was beautiful. The sun was shining brightly, the sea birds were screaming with joy as they wheeled around all the things were joyful on that day. After cutting the Inchcape bell when Sir Ralph was returning from his journey, the weather drastically changed, a thick haze had spread over the sky. Even the sun was not visible. The wind had blown a gale all day but in the evening it had died away. It seemed that the weather was conspiring to cause a downfall of Sir Ralph.

**Question 4.**

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

***Whose woods these are I think I know.***

***His house is in the village though.***

1. What does the word ‘though’ signify? [3]

The word ‘though’ signifies that the narrator has a little sympathy towards the owner of the woods as he is not able to enjoy the beauty of his woods filling up with snow.

1. What is the symbolism of the horse finding the narrators halt queer? [3]

The horse of the narrator would find the narrator halt queer as the narrator has stopped between the woods and the frozen lake. There is no farmhouse nearby and it is a dark and cold evening. The horse here is a symbol of human conscience which pulls us back from all our distractions and reminds us about our impending duties and responsibilities.

1. What time of the year are we talking of? How do you know? [3]

It is the winter season we are talking of and the approaching of Christmas. It could also be the evening of twenty second of December that is the winter solstice as the narrator says it is the darkest evening of the year.

1. Which three noises are heard in the forest? [3]

The woods have the sound of easy wind and downy flake. The third sound is of the harness bells shaken by the narrator’s horse.

1. How does the end of the poem appeal to you? [4]

In the last stanza, the poet says that the woods are lovely, dark and deep. But he has promises to keep; the woods here mean the nature and it symbolises the distractions offered by the beautiful things around us. At times we get carried away by these distractions and we are not able to pull ourselves back. So, later the narrator reminds himself that he has promises to keep, that is he has certain duties and responsibilities to fulfil. The last two lines of the stanza are ‘And miles to go before I sleep and Miles to go before I sleep’. These lines symbolise that we need to keep working hard until we reach our goals and fulfil our duties and responsibilities. The last stanza of this poem is very symbolic. It appeals to me that although there are distractions present around, we need to accomplish our duties and goals. And bounce back to life before getting swayed by the distractions.

**SECTION C- PROSE**

*Collection of Short Stories*

**Question 5.**

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

***‘Alagu and Samjhu Sahu ! The panches have heard you and considered the issues carefully. It is their decision that Alagu is entitled***

1. What was the verdict given in the panchayat? [3]

The verdict given by the panchayat was was that Alagu was entitled to the full rpice of the bullock. When Alagu sold the bullock it suffered from no disease or disability. The issue wouldn’t have come to the panchayat if Samjhu had paid the price beforehand. The death of the bullock was caused due to overwork and Alagu could not be blamed for it.

1. What did Ramadhan Mishra urge after the verdict was given? What was Panchayat’s response to his request? [3]

Ramadhan Mishra on hearing the panchayat’s decision urged that an example should be made of Samjhu for killing the bullock and he should be fined. Jumman countered this request by retorting that this was a different issue altogether and had not been presented before the panchayat.

1. What was Samjhu’s plea? What response did he receive? [3]

Samjhu pleaded for some consideration in view of his plight. He said that he was not in a position to pay the entire price of the bullock. In response to this, Jumman said that it was completely Alagu’s decision whether or not to reduce the price of the bullock.

1. How did Alagu react to the proceedings? Did it reverberate with the other members of the audience? [3]

On hearing the verdict of the panchayat, Alagu could not control his feelings. He stood up and shouted ‘Victory to the Panchayat’ over and over again. The crowd/audience took up the cry and echoed with the same slogan.

1. With what metaphor does the story end. Explain the metaphor. [4]

In the end of the story Alagu broke down and wept on Jumman’s shoulders. The tears of Alagu have been told to have washed away all the dirt and dust of misunderstanding between the two friends. The metaphor used for their friendship is of a withered and faded creeper which had become fresh and green by their tears. Here, their friendship is compared to a creeper which had withered and faded due to their misunderstanding but when their misunderstanding got sorted, their friendship had become strong again i.e. the creeper had become fresh and green again as Alagu’s tears had watered the creeper.

**Question 6.**

We should ‘Never say Never’. Justify this proverb in the light of the story ‘The last leaf’ [16]

Following points to be given in the answer:

Johnsy and Sue’s friendship- Johnsy falling ill and her fancy of dying when the last leaf falls-Doctor’s conversation with Sue- if there is anything on her mind- Sue trying to make her positive but fails do so- treats her like a child and she takes care like a mother- she requests Behrman to pose and also tells him about Johnsy’s fancy- Behrman makes his masterpiece that saves Johnsy’s life- a life-saving piece of art- it gives hope to Johnsy- and makes her realise how wrong she was and how she was committing sin by willing to die- One notices changes in Johnsy- she is no longer pessimistic- the proverb ‘never say never’ is quite similar to ‘Never quit’ to remain optimistic or never give up.