Vikram ’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Pre-Preliminary Exam: Test 2**

**Short Stories Poems Drama**

1) My Lost Dollar 1) Sonnet 14 Merchant

Of

2) Hunger 2) A Doctor’s Journal… Venice (Act II)

**Std X Set D**

**Marks 40 1 hour**

**Q.1)**

**Ans i)** The speaker of these lines is the (prince of) Morocco. He is saying these lines as he is just about to take his chance at choosing the right casket. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** Morocco reads the message on the gold casket which says that the one choosing it would have what many men desire. He feels it refers to Portia as many men desire her. The suitors come from all the four corners of the world to pay respect to the shrine of Portia. Hycranian deserts and Arabian deserts have become just thoroughfares for the princes to come. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** According to Morocco it is a sinful thought to even think that the portrait of Portia can be contained in leaden casket. He considers it as too gross to even contain her cerecloth in her grave. **3 marks**

**Q.2)**

**Ans i)** A servant is the speaker of these lines. He is talking to Portia in the presence of Nerissa. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** The Venetian has brought sensible greetings which symbolize courteous breath. Also he has send gifts which are of great value**. 3 marks**

**Ans iii)** The servant says that that April day is the sweetest he has ever seen. It brings a message that the valuable summer is about to approach. This example signifies the person about to come is bringing pleasant times with him. **3 marks**

**Q.3)**

**Ans i)** The men the writer is talking about are those from whom he had borrowed money and had forgotten about it. They can remind him and claim their money back. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** These men should approach him one by one possibly in alphabetic order. He would write their names on a paper to pay them back later. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** The writer says that after a tiring journey across the Canada frontier there is nothing as refreshing as a soda. The person who had lent those thirty cents ought to understand it and extend it as a part of his hospitality. **3 marks**

**Q.4)**

Though Rizwan and Kasim are shown at the opposite side of the spectrum they are indeed sailing in the same boat. Rizwan claims to be a journalist but at the same time also seems to be representing the government as he tries to convince Kasim to take a loan from the bank or talks about arranging land for cultivation. Kasim is a responsible breadwinner for his family and has an old father to take care of and a son who is only five years old. He talks about the problems like starvation and disease they are facing. He talks about sleeping hungry too on the day of the procession. He is not willing to talk much to Rizwan and leave the conversation midway to hunt for customers. Rizwan too is bound by the same hunger to Kasim. His mother was ill , father had died two years ago and two younger brothers had to drop out of school due to financial constrains. He is desperate to get a permanent job and in the process interview five people. While going back home the same insecurity and hunger haunt Rizwan too as was visible in the case of Kasim. Both of them seem to live lives parallel to each other. They are separated by education but many things in their lives are common too.

**8 marks**

**Q.5)**

**Ans i)** The poet wants to be loved only for the sake of love. She is aware that people love for the other attributes like looks, way of talking thought process etc. But she wants to be loved for love’s sake only. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** People usually fall in love because of external attributes. They can be the smile of the person, the looks, the gentle way of speaking or the frequency of thought. Sometimes the people fall in love because they pity the other person who is in tears. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** Yes. I do think that the poet is being idealistic. That is because to cultivate love for love’s sake is not human nature. Humans do get attracted by beauty, smile, way of talking or impressed by someone’s thoughts. To only have love as the reason for loving is idealistic indeed. **3 marks**

**Q.6)**

**Ans i)** The poet took time to understand why the people were walking with outstretched hands. Yes he did realize it eventually that had they walked normally the friction of their wounds and burns on the skin would have increased the pain they were in. **3 marks**

**Ans ii)** The parade mentioned here is a blank parade. That is because people seemed to be walking aimlessly and in a silent fashion. **2 marks**

**Ans iii)** The poet is dismayed about the fact that he notices a woman and a child standing in his way and both of them are naked. As a result of further thinking he manages to understand that some strange thing had caused the clothes of people to perish. **3 marks**