Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Test: After Blenheim, A Face in the Dark,**

**Merchant of Venice (Act 1 Scene 1)**

**Std: IX-Euro Duration: 1 hour Marks: 40 marks**

Answer the following questions based on their weightage:

1. What was Old Kaspar doing one summer evening? What were his grandchildren doing? Name them. (4)
2. What had Peterkin found? What did his grandfather tell him about it? (3)
3. Which battle does Old Kaspar refer to? Which were the opposing sides of the battle? Who was victorious? Write the lines in support of your answer. (3)
4. Describe the scene of the battlefield through Kaspar’s eyes. (3)
5. Which two people were praised after the battle? Why? (2)
6. How was Mr. Oliver different from most of the people? (2)
7. Did Mr. Oliver prove himself to be as described by the writer? (4)
8. What was Mr. Oliver’s usual activity? How far was the Simla Bazaar from the school? (3)
9. In what conditions does Solanio claim he would have his affections with his hopes abroad? (3)
10. How does Salerio explain the contrast of Antonio’s melancholy when Antonio says he is not in love? (4)
11. Who was Nestor? Explain his significance in Salerio’s speech? (2)
12. How does Gratiano want to live his life? (3)
13. In what way should a man behave in comparison with his grandsire? (2)
14. One summer evening, Old Kaspar was sitting in the sun before his cottage door. Kaspar had two grandchildren, Wilhelmine and Peterkin. Wilhelmine was playing in the green lawn beside the cottage. Peterkin was rolling some large, round object which he had found near the rivulet.
15. Peterkin had found a skull which was a smooth, large and round object while he was playing near the rivulet. His grandfather told him that it was the skull of someone who had died fighting in the battle of Blenheim, which he referred to as ‘the great victory’.
16. Old Kaspar refers to the battle of Blenheim. This is evident from the line ‘My father lived in Blenheim then.’ It was fought between the English and French and the English were victorious in the battle. The lines- ‘It was the English,’ Kaspar cried, ‘Who put the French to rout’- are evidence of the fact that the English were victorious.
17. Kaspar says that the scene on the battlefield after the battle was a shocking sight to behold. Thousands of dead bodies lay scattered on the field rotting in the sun. These brave martyrs did not even get a decent burial and nobody even claimed their bodies.
18. The Duke of Marlbro from the English army and Prince Eugene of Savoy were praised after the battle. These were the heroes of the battle of Blenheim as they had played a very vital role in defeating their enemy – the French.
19. The eerie sounds made by a strong wind would keep most of the people to the main road. But Mr. Oliver was not the nervous or imaginative kind who would get frightened at such sounds.
20. No, the author of the story described Mr. Oliver as not a nervous or imaginative man. On the contrary, his strength and clarity wore away under pressure. When he saw the boy, without a face, his hands trembled and he ran blindly through the trees and called for help too. When he saw the watchman, he gasped and stammered too. That showed that he was scared and nervous contrary to the previous description.
21. Mr. Oliver would spend his time at Simla Bazaar, take a stroll into the town in the evening and return to school after dark. He would take a short cut through the pine forest. The Bazaar was just three miles away from the school
22. Solanio claims that if he had such a venture forth the better part of his affections would be with his hopes abroad. He would be still plucking the grass to know where the wind sits peering in maps for ports and piers and roads and every object that might make him fear misfortune to his ventures out of doubt that would make him sad.
23. Salerio says that he is sad just because he is not merry. Suddenly he would laugh and leap and say that he is merry because he is not sad. He swears by two-headed Janus that nature had framed strange fellows. Some would evermore peep through their eyes and laugh like parrots and a bagpiper. The others are of such vinegar aspect that they would not show their teeth to smile even though Nestor swears that the jest is laughable.
24. Nestor was an old Greek general who fought in the Trojan War. He was a serious fellow who would not laugh even if the joke was good. He is mentioned to highlight the funniness of the joke.
25. Gratiano wants to play the fool. He wants old wrinkles to come with mirth and laughter and would rather have his liver heat with wine than his heart cool with mortifying groans. He doesn’t believe in sitting like his grandfather’s alabaster statue and being passive like that.
26. A man should be more active compared to his grandsire’s alabaster statue. He should not sleep when he wakes and creep into the jaundice by being peevish.
27. Salerio says that perhaps Antonio’s mind is tossing on the ocean where his argosies are sailing with portly sail. The anxiety about his ships is making him anxious.