Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**SECOND PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2016-2017**

**LITERATURE IN ENGLISH**

**ENGLISH Paper- 2**

**Set II-C  *(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:

**“*You need not fear, lady, the having of any of these lords:***

***they have acquainted me with their determinations.***

1. **Who is the speaker of these lines? Whom are they spoken to? Where is the scene taking**

**place? [3]**

**Ans:** Nerissa is the speaker. Spoken to Portia. The scene is taking place in Portia’s room in Belmont.

1. **Which determination is the speaker talking of? Is this good news for the listener? [3]**

**Ans:** The speaker is talking of the determination of deciding not to continue with the suit and return back home without choosing the casket. Yes, this is a good news for the listener (Portia) as there is not one among them whom she will dote on his absence. However she was not happy about the condition of the caskets.

1. **What is the immediate reaction of Portia after this speech? [3]**

**Ans:** Portia says that she would have been glad of the approach of Prince of Morocco if she had the same happiness as at the farewell of the other four. She also says that even if he had the condition of the saint she would not marry him because he had the complexion of a devil. She would rather have him sermonize to her than marry her.

1. **Who is introduced to us after this extract of speech? How? [3]**

**Ans:** Prince of Morocco is introduced to us after this extract of speech. The servant brings news that a forerunner has come from the fifth with news from his side. The forerunner is from the Prince of Morocco who had got the news that the Prince’s master would be there that night.

**v. In what way does this scene take significance in the play? [4]**

**Ans:**  We see Portia having bitterness for her father due to the lottery of the three caskets that was set. The introduction to the lottery and its condition sets the plot of the play. The description of various suitors is given and we see Portia’s emotions towards them. Portia’s love for Bassanio and her racist bent of mind is visible at the end of the scene.

**Question 2.**

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

**“*What judgment shall I dread, doing no wrong?***

***You have among you many a slave, which like***

***your asses and your dogs and mules”***

1. **Why is Shylock speaking these lines? Explain the context. [3]**

**Ans:** Shylock says that there are many people in the court who have purchased slaves.

These slaves they treat as their asses, dogs and mules and are used in abject and slavish parts. He says that they are doing it only because they had bought the slaves. So he is justified in his demand of the pound of flesh as it was dearly bought.

1. **What suggestion does Shylock give to the people of the court? [3]**

**Ans:** He suggests these people to set the slaves free. Let them get married to their heirs. Those people should make their beds as soft as their own and season their palates with similar viands.

1. **What answer does he expect from the others? What is his tone in this speech? [3]**

**Ans:** Shylock expects these people to tell him that they can treat their slaves as they want because they have bought them. Similarly, he says the pound of flesh which he is demanding in the court is dearly bought. He can do what he wants with it because it is his. Shylock is sarcastic in this tone and trying to justify his wrong doing.

1. **In what way does he try to put pressure on the Duke at the end of this speech? [3]**

**Ans:** Shylock tries to put pressure on the Duke by answering that the pound of flesh is dearly bought and that it is his and he will get it. He further asserts that if the Duke refuses him, then the laws of Venice have no validity. He expects justice and he wants an answer for the same.

1. **How is the strength of the friendship between Antonio and Bassanio visible a little later in this scene? [4]**

**Ans:** On one occasion we see Bassanio saying that his wife is dear to him as life itself. But his life, his wife and the entire world is not as valuable as his friend Antonio’s life. He would not mind losing and sacrificing all these to the devil Shylock, to deliver Antonio. We also see Bassanio offers Shylock twice the sum that Antonio owes him. If that is not sufficient he is willing to be bound to pay it ten times over on the forfeit of his hands, his head and his heart. If that is not sufficient it would be shown that malice bears down truth.

**SECTION B- POETRY**

*A Collection of Poems*

**Question 3.**

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 effect does the word ‘though’ have on the meaning of the first stanza? [3]**

**Ans:** The narrator stopped in the middle of the woods as he was fascinated by the beauty around. The narrator knows the owner of the woods but the owner stays in the village. Hence, he cannot enjoy the serene atmosphere and landscape as the narrator can.

1. **What emotions can you judge in the narrator as he says these lines? Why? [3]**

**Ans:** The narrator has two emotions towards the owner of the woods. At one level, he has a little sympathy towards him as he is not able to enjoy the beauty of his own woods filling up with snow. On the other hand, there seems to be a sense of relief too as he is trespassing into somebody else’s land and is relieved to know that he wouldn’t be caught.

1. **Who would find the going silly? Why? [3]**

**Ans:** The horse of the narrator would find it silly or queer that the narrator has stopped between the woods and the frozen lake. There is no farmhouse nearby and it is a dark and cold evening.

1. **What does he do to alert the narrator? Does it have any effect on the narrator? [3]**

**Ans:** The horse thinks that the narrator has stopped at that place by some mistake. He gives his harness bells a shake to alert the narrator. Yes, he does have an effect on the narrator. The narrator is alerted and awakened from his desires into the world of duties. He realises that although the woods are lovely, dark and deep. He has promises to keep and miles to go before he sleeps.

1. **Whom does the horse represent in the broader sense? Do we have such voices in our life? What do they do? [4]**

**Ans:** The horse symbolizes the human conscience. Whenever we get swayed away by distractions, it is the conscience that pulls us back and reminds us about our impending duties. Yes, we do have such voices in our lives. We call them ‘inner voice’ or ‘conscience’. They remind us of our impending duties and responsibilities and keeps us away from our distractions to achieve our goal.

**Question 4.**

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

*‘****My breath was short,***

***but bit by bit my strength seemed to revive’***

1. **Which poem is the extract taken from? Who is the poet? [3]**

**Ans:** The extract is taken from ‘A Doctor’s Journal Entry for August 6, 1945.’ The name of the poet is Vikram Seth.

1. **What thought disturbed the narrator? [3]**

**Ans:** The narrator was walking naked on the streets. The catastrophe had completely overwhelmed him and the people around. He did not feel ashamed in spite of being naked. He was disturbed by this though as in that condition, he ought to have felt ashamed.

1. **What did the narrator tell his wife? What was her reaction? [3]**

**Ans:** The narrator asks his wife to carry on alone to get first aid for herself. He is aware that he may not be able to carry on, as his legs had refused to move. In that situation he should at least allow his wife to get first aid for herself. Though his wife didn’t want to leave him, but in desperate circumstances there was no choice for her but to leave. The doctor urged her to go ahead.

1. **What was the reaction of the narrator after she had left? Did he regret his decision? [3]**

**Ans:** A feeling of loneliness overpowered him and he felt distressed and dismayed. No, it did not regret his decision as he was practical and knew that in those circumstances, there wasn’t any choice left for them.

1. **In what way is the visual imagery used to make an impact in the next stanza? [4]**

**Ans:**  The poetic device that we see dominating in the poem is visual imagery. By the vivid description of the wounds of the narrator, torn cheek, glass jutting out from his mangled thigh, artery in the neck bleeding, the poet is able to communicate effectively the misery that war can bring about. Also people walking naked on streets like ghosts or scarecrows indeed scares the daylight out of us.

**SECTION C- PROSE**

*Collection of Short Stories*

**Question 5.**

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

**‘*The rag- seller did not stop and carrying his wares***

***on his shoulder he moved on taking long strides’***

1. **Why do you think that the rag seller did not stop? [3]**

**Ans:** Kasim did not stop as he believed that there would be some labourers near the ditch. They would be wanting to buy some warm clothes. So it was an appropriate time for doing business. Also he did not want to continue the political talk with Rizwan.

1. **Who noticed the rag seller helplessly? Why? [3]**

**Ans:** Rizwan noticed the rag seller helplessly as only that day he had found a job in the Kihaan newspaper. He was desperate to submit his first of five interviews which were mandatory to get the job confirmed. He was helpless as he couldn’t carry on the conversation.

1. **Who was difficult to identify? What was an ordeal? [3]**

**Ans:** Rizwan was supposed to submit interviews with five people along with their names and addresses. These people should only be in the labourer category and not shopkeepers. It was difficult to identify these people in the crowded market. To make them talk was an ordeal indeed.

1. **What problems was Rizwan facing back home? [3]**

**Ans:** Rizwan had many problems back home. His mother was ill, his father had died almost two years ago and his two younger brothers had to drop out of school. Without a proper job, it seemed that it was time to starve.

1. **What manipulation does Rizwan do after the going away of Kasim? Is he happy at it? What does it show you about his character? [4]**

**Ans:** Rizwan was supposed to submit an interview with the name and address of the interviewee. As Kasim had no specific address, Rizwan put down his own address instead of Kasim’s. Then he submitted the interview mentioning his name as the interviewer. Yes he was happy at it. When he came out of the office he had the satisfaction of knowing that he would be coming for work the next day. It shows that Rizwan was a victim of the desperate circumstances and hence had to manipulate to secure his employment.

**Question 6.**

**In the context of the story’ God lives in the Panch’ bring out the similarities and the differences of the judgments of Alagu and Jumman. [16]**

**Ans:** Jumman and Alagu - childhood friends- mutual outlook and community of ideas-base of their friendship- tilled their fields in common- had a joint-money lending business- Jumman respected for his knowledge- Alagu for his wealth- Jumman’s aunt and Jumman had a deal- he ought to take care of her in her old age and she transferred the property on his name- the deed was registered and Jumman’s conduct towards his aunt changed- she decided to go to the Panchayat- gathered sympathy of the villagers and at last went to Alagu’s house- Alagu avoids being dragged in the matter- aunt’s words ‘if it is right that for the sake of friendship he would keep his mouth shut and not speak what you consider just’ kept ringing in his ears. The aunt challenged his conscience and awakened it. Alagu becomes the head panch- takes the decision in aunt’s favour.

Alagu called for panchayat, Jumman, who is appointed as the head panch by Alagu’s rival, realises that one has to keep his personal feelings aside and he becomes conscious as he is placed in some responsible position- he tries to prove equal to the task- if we are ever tempted to go astray it is this thought of being at the responsible position prevents us from doing- after the cases are stated- Sheikh Jumman gives a just verdict proving that conscience was a guide to the two friends’ decision. Conscience makes them aware about their responsibility as head panch in their respective cases is the similarity. The difference is that when Alagu took the decision in aunt’s favour he did it against his own friend. Whereas, Jumman took the decision in favour of his enemy.