Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**SECOND TERM EXAM ( Paper 1)**

**Std VIII- Euro Duration: 1 hour Marks 40**

**Solve any four of the given questions. All questions carry equal marks. ( one novel question is compulsory)**

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

***Question 1 10***

***“But they don’t have to go to the court-house and wallow in it”***

1. **Who said the above to whom? Who does ‘they’ refer to? 2**

Ans: The above line was said by Aunt Alexandra to Atticus. ‘They’ refers to the children Scout and Jem.

1. **What was the argument mentioned in the above line? 2**

Ans: Aunt Alexandra told Atticus that she didn’t think it was wise to let the children witness the trial. Atticus explained that it was their home and that that is the way they had been brought up. He further told her that they (the children) might as well learn to cope up with the situation.

1. **Write about the conversation between Jem and Atticus as Atticus was about to go to bed? 3**

Ans: As Atticus was about to go to bed, Jem stopped him and asked him how could the jury convict Tom Robinson. Atticus did not have an answer to his question. He only said that that is the way it had always been. The coloured people were always on the receiving end. Whenever a case involved a white and a black, the black were always convicted. He further said it was only children who wept at such times.

1. **What did Atticus mean by ‘only children weep’? 3**

Ans: When Jem asked Atticus why Tom Robinson had been convicted, Atticus told him that it had always been like that and at such times only children wept. What he meant that the adults did not react in such situations. They become devoid of emotions as they grow and do not stand up against wrong done to humanity. On the other hand the children who are innocent and pure at heart sense the wrong done and react by crying. But sadly they cannot do anything about is as they are too young to do so.

***Question 2: 10***

***“ Tom’s jury sho’ made up its mind in a hurry”***

1. **Who said the following to whom? What did the speaker mean by it? 2**

Ans: Jem said the above line to Atticus. Jem was disturbed about Tom being convicted by the jury inspite of a strong defence being put up by Atticus. Here he is trying to say that the jury had taken a decision in a hurry.

1. **What made Atticus think that a positive change with respect to the law was imminent? 3**

Ans: Atticus said that generally in a case like Tom’s which was between a white and a black, the jury generally would have taken a quick decision against a black. This time however the jury took a few hours which meant there was someone or maybe more than one person who was in favour of Tom and it took time for the other members some time to convince him to change his vote. Thus Tom thought that there appeared to be at least some shift in the minds of the people in Maycomb and it was a new beginning even if it was the shadow of a beginning.

1. **Who was on the jury who supported Tom ? 2**

Ans: One of the Cunninghams was on the jury and he had supported Tom’s case.

1. **Why was Jem confused about the Cunninghams? What were Atticus’ views about the Cunninghams? 3**

Ans: Jem said that one moment the Cunninghams wanted to kill Tom and the other moment they were trying to turn him loose. He said he could never understand those folks all his life. Atticus said that one had to just know them. He said that the Cunninghams had not taken anything from or off anybody since they migrated to the New World. He further said that the other thing about them was that once anyone earned their respect they were for them tooth and nail.

***Question 3: 10***

***“ I am going outside and may be some time. “***

1. **Who said the above line ? When did he say it ? Where did he go? 3**

Ans: Titus Oates , a member of Scott’s party said the above line. He was in a terrible situation and it seemed that he was about to die. On his last day he woke in the morning and said the above line. After that he went out into the blizzard and did not return.

1. **On January 16, Scott has written ‘the worst has happened or nearly the worst’. What was the worst thing to have happened? Why was it nearly the worst? 4**

Ans: On January 16 , after covering 71/2 miles , Scotts party saw a black flag tied to a sledge bearer, nearby the remains of a camp, sledge tracks and ski tracks going and coming and the clear trace of dogs’ paws. This made it clear that the Norwegians were the first to reach the Pole and had forestalled Scott’s party. This was the worst thing to have happened. But Scott wrote it was nearly the worst because he realized that the return journey would not be smooth as they were tired, dejected and the weather was worsening. Thus he expected that the worst was yet to happen.

1. **What did Scott’s party do on reaching the Pole? Why does Scott write that they had said a goodbye to most of their dreams? 3**

Ans: On reaching a little away from the Pole, they camped there calling it the Pole Camp. They built a cairn and put up their poor sighted Union Jack and photographed themselves. They saw a runner of a sledge stuck in the ice realizing that their predecessors had made sure of their mark and fully celebrated the occasion. His team was obviously dejected at not winning the race to the Pole and thus the return home was an ordeal. They had to say a goodbye to their dreams.

***Question 4: 10***

***“ We never intended to cause all this destruction”***

1. **Who is the speaker ? On what occasion does speak? What is the central idea of this write up? 3**

Ans: The speaker is Albert Gore who had received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007 and the above line is a part of his speech. His speech revolves around the consequences of global warming and suggestions to reduce the effects and save the planet.

1. **Explain the above line. 3**

Ans: The writer says that the destruction of the planet is not intentional and we humans never it . Giving the example of Alfred Nobel , the writer says that he too never wished that dynamite be used for waging war. He had hoped his invention would promote human progress. Similarly says he, we too burnt coal, oil and methane for a constructive purpose without realizing the horrendous effects.

1. **What ‘planetary emergency’ does the writer speak of? What potential has it gathered? Is the situation hopeless? 4**

Ans: The ‘planetary emergency’ refers to the global warming also known as ‘climate change’ which is a rise in the average temperature of the earth’s climate system which is a threat to the survival of our civilization. This threat is gathering ominous and destructive potential every second that goes by. The writer says that the situation is a dire one but not a hopeless one . There is hopeful news that we have the ability to solve these crises and avoid the worst if not all of its consequences.

***Question 5: 10***

***“ It may be he shall take my hand”***

1. **Who does ‘he’ refer to? What does the poet expect ‘him’ to do? What figure of speech does this line refer to? 3**

Ans ‘Him’ refers to ‘death’. The poet considers him ( death) to be like a friend or a companion. He thinks that death may take his hand and lead him into its dark land. The figure of speech here is ‘Personification’ as death, an abstract idea is said to possess the human attribute of holding hands and leading someone( the poet).

1. **Which are the lines that are repeated (Bring out the use of ‘anaphora’) and what does**

**it signify?**  **2**

Ans: The lines ‘I have a rendezvous with Death’ and ‘When Spring’ are repeated in the poem. Spring symbolizes life. The poet has used contrasting ideas to show that in a season which brings greenery and new life he is ready to meet death as he has a prior commitment with it.

1. **Write a character sketch of the poet based on to the poem. 3**

Ans: The poet is a soldier and true to his profession, he is brave and fearless. He is not afraid of death and is ready to face it while on duty. He is very practical as he knows that death is inevitable and one has to face it. He even goes on to consider death as his friend who will lead him to the other world quite gently. He has a loving family and a home to go to but chooses to meet his death during the battle. He seems to be a patriot who is ready to lay his life for the honour of his country.

1. **What according to the poet would be better than dying on a battlefield? Does the poet accept the option? 2**

Ans: According to the poet , it would be better if he were in his bedroom. He would prefer to sleep profoundly in his silk pillow surrounded by a lovely fragrance . He would prefer to be next to his loved ones rather than next to death. He does not take this option and prefers to meet his death as he has made a promise to do so and does not want to fall back on his commitment.

***Question 6: 10***

***“ Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls”***

1. Explain ‘narrow domestic walls ‘and how they have fragmented the world. 3

Ans: Narrow domestic walls refer to the superstitions, narrow outlook and beliefs of people. This has led individuals to become self-centred and also made their hearts small and concise.People have lost faith in one another, leading to fragmenting the world into small pieces.

1. What does the poet compare ‘reason’ to? Why ? What figure of speech is used here? 3

Ans: The poet compares reason to a clear stream. Rational thinking and clarity in thought helps in progress and growth of an individual and a nation collectively. The evil and negative thoughts and the old and superstitious beliefs can only be washed away by such clean and pure ideas . Thus the poet compares such clear thoughts to a clear stream which washes away all the silt as it flows.

1. What kind of heaven does the poet wish his country to wake up into? 4

Ans: The poet wishes his country to wake up into a new dawn. This new light would bring in truth, enlightenment for the countrymen. In this new light the countrymen would see things clearly and also let go of age old beliefs and superstitions which are hindering the growth of these countrymen. The poet dreams of a heaven where countrymen would live with dignity and self-respect. The land will flourish with men and women brimming with values like honesty, hard work and truthfulness. It is then that our country would be a paradise of freedom.