Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**SECOND TERM EXAM (NES)**

**Std IX Duration: 1 hour 30 min Marks 60**

***Question 1***

**i. Who is ‘I’ here? Whom are these words spoken to? Why does the speaker use the word ‘again’ in his dialogue? 3**

**Ans:** Antonio. These words are spoken to Shylock. Antonio uses the word ‘again’ as he flares up after being provoked by sarcastic way of Shylock’s taunts. Shylock expects Antonio to be ashamed but he flares up and says that he will call him dog, spit on him and spurn him again.

**ii. How does Bassanio react to the bond? What does it show about Bassanio’s character? 3**

**Ans:** Bassanio is not comfortable with the condition of the bond. He does not trust Shylock would ever offer friendship without any malicious intent. This shows that Bassanio is a good friend. Though he is in need, he would certainly not stake his friend’s life for his wishes.

**iii. What does Shylock accuse Antonio of, regarding the latter’s behaviour with the former?**

**4**

**Ans:** Shylock tells Antonio that often he has berated him in the Rialto about his moneys

and usances. He has borne it with a patient shrug. Antonio has called him misbeliever,

cut-throat dog and spat upon his Jewish gabardine. He has done all this just because

Shylock charges interest. Antonio also has spat on his beard and kicked him as one

would spurn a stray dog over his threshold.

***Question 2***

**i. Who spoke these lines? To whom? Where does the scene take place? 3**

**Ans:** Gratiano is the speaker. To Lorenzo. In the street outside Shylock’s house.

**ii. How does Lorenzo understand that Jessica had written the letter? 3**

**Ans:** Lorenzo says that he knows the hand of the person who wrote the letter. He says

that it is a fair hand and is whiter than the paper on which it is written.

**iii. What are the contents of the mentioned letter? 4**

**Ans:** Jessica had directed how he should take her from her father’s house. She had also mentioned the gold and jewels she was furnished with and which page’s suit she had in readiness. She was going to elope in the disguise of a page-boy.

***Question 3***

**i. Who is ‘he’ mentioned here? Why was he cheerful? 3**

**Ans:** He here is Sir Ralph, the Rover. He was excessively mirthful on seeing the buoy as he had a wicked plan in his mind. The plan was to cut the Inchcape Bell away from the float.

**ii. What did he instruct his sailors to do? What did he do to add on to the action of the sailors? 3**

**Ans:** Sir Ralph instructed the sailors to put out a lifeboat and row him towards the Inchcape Rock. To add on to the action of the sailors, he bent over from the boat and cut the Inchcape Bell away from the Inchcape float.

**iii. What role has weather played at the end of the poem? 4**

**Ans:** Before cutting the Inchcape Rock the weather was beautiful. The sun was shining

brightly and all things looked joyful. When he was on his return journey, the weather changed drastically. A thick haze spread over the sky. Even the sun was not visible. Wind had blown as a gale the entire day but in the evening it had died away.

***Question 4***

**i. How does the Professor endorse ‘change’ in the poem? 3**

**Ans:** He believes that world is changing fast and the old values are getting replaced by the new ones at a fast pace. He talks about India’s progress in negative light and his resentment towards this change in the Indian society is visible.

**ii. How do we get to know about the professor’s health at the end of the poem 3**

**Ans:** The professor enjoys good health as he would have abstained from things like tobacco and alcohol. His sound habits in youth have proved to be a key to his good health in his old age. He is healthy and doesn’t have any life threatening disease all because of a healthy lifestyle. He only suffers from usual aches and pains.

**iii. How has Nizzim Ezekiel criticized urban society in the poem? 4**

**Ans:** The poem is a satire on the Indian society. The poet doesn’t talk about academic achievements rather he showcases materialistic importance. The qualities of being honest, hard-working, dedicated are not showcased. The poet points out how Indians typically assume fatness to be a sign of prosperity and wealth. The goodness of sons is portrayed by how well they earn and not how well they behave.

***Question 5 10***

***‘This exasperated the aunt. She threatened to take her case before the panchayat.’***

i. What do you understand by the word ‘this’? 3

ii. Why was Jumman confident of winning the case in the panchayat? 3

iii. How does the old lady ring a bell in Alagu’s mind? 4

**i. What do you understand by the word ‘this’? 3**

**Ans:** The word ‘this’ refers to the comment made by Jumman. On being asked for an allowance, Jumman asked his aunt if money grew on trees. The aunt asked Jumman how she was supposed to live to which Jumman taunted her by saying that she had not conquered death. This exasperated the aunt.

**ii. Why was Jumman confident of winning the case in the panchayat? 3**

**Ans:** Jumman was confident as he knew that panchayat would give a decision in his favour as there was nobody in the village whom he had not obliged. The members of the panchayat

would be his friends and would not dare to incur his displeasure.

**iii. How does the old lady ring a bell in Alagu’s mind? 4**

**Ans:** Aunt asked Alagu to attend the panchayat when the matter would come up. Alagu retorted initially and later said he would attend the panchayat but would not participate in the proceedings. It was because Jumman was his old friend and he can’t go against him. The Aunt asked him if it was right that for friendship’s sake, he should keep his mouth shut and not say what he felt as just. After aunt had left, her words kept ringing in his ears.

***Question 6 10***

***Journey through night is the journey of a boy through all the risks he faces in his night journey. Explain the statement with examples from the text.***

Sher Singh’s encounter with the cobra. He found out a cobra who had been sunning himself on the path in the last of the daylight, contracted and rose with a hiss. He spread his hood to show the spectacle mark on the back. Sher Singh stood frozen on seeing the cobra and then slowly backed away. The cobra swayed watching him with its tongue playing in and out. Later it subsided and slid off into the matted grass. Sher Singh saw the sight of the bear track in the dust, square front paw and long back one which made him glance around uneasily. He had once seen a man who had been mauled by a bear, his face torn away. Thinking about this Sher Singh quickened his step. Sher Singh heard the jostle and squeal of elephants, he realised that this herd was coming up the nullah perhaps to the new feeding grounds. Sher Singh was glad that he was outside the ravine and above them. Sher Singh noticed that one great old tusker had a dark oily flow of musth discharge on his cheeks. He realised that in that condition he might chase and kill men where normally he would not bother. Sher Singh understood that the elephants were very near as he could smell them and hear the squeak of sand crushed under their feet. The brush of rough hide against each other was also heard. He could even see that the toss and hustle and great heads and black backbones. The tusker was playing with his trunk to and fro to learn whatever the breeze could tell him. He suddenly hesitated when he came near the boys. The trunk came around towards the boys. Then the tusker snorted, trumpeted and shook his head, then he hurried on angrily up the riverbed and disappeared. Sher Singh chilled with fright when he saw the trunk of the tusker coming towards him. He knew that with Kunwar to carry, he could neither climb nor run. If he shouted it would bring the catastrophe upon them. He started praying to God for protection. After stepping into the first river, Sher Singh realised that the water was colder than usual, there was an icy edge to it. He also noticed that in the middle it was deeper than it had been earlier. He guessed that perhaps the snow water was already

coming down. He had to go slowly because of the slime on the stones and find a foothold to be sure not to fall. After Sher Singh crossed the first river and swashed up to the shore, water twinkled in his footprints before sinking into the sand. He saw that another set of footprints came out of the river. They belonged to a tiger and there was a glitter in them too. As he looked at them, they dried. When he reached the second river, Sher Singh saw that from bank to bank the river foamed. He could not see the bridge as it was submerged. A fierce crest of water showed where the bridge lay, which was confirmed by a drowned goat held against it by the torrent. He could see branches rising like dying arms in the vortex and caught against the bridge and feathering the wild glissade of water. The entire tree was churning over and over on the cataract. It gathered speed and crashed against the drowned bridge. There was a thundering noise followed by a loud tearing sound. The bridge moved like a monster heeled over and broke, throwing up its bamboo ribs like a fan. The question that crossed the mind of Sher Singh after the bridge was broken, was how to cross the bridge. There was no chance to swim, even alone he would be lost in the current but he guessed that perhaps among the wreck of the bridge there would be a way. Sher Singh gathered grass and plaited it into a rope. The blades of the grass were sharp and cut his fingers. He tied the rope around his brother and himself so that they would keep together. The moment Sher Singh entered the second river, he and Kunwar were seized and flattened against the wreck by the current of water. Initially Sher Singh could not move but then he began to edge forward into the maelstrom holding on to anything that he could lay his hands on. He was feeling forward for things to hold and finding the split ends of bamboo that were sharp enough to disembowel a man. Sher Singh was deafened by the deluge. Timber banged and bruised him. He could hardly keep his hold because of the cold water. He could not get his breath in the spray and water poured past and over him in one long icy cascade. He was deaf, blinded, frozen and drowned. Sher Singh was numb because of coldness and his nose hurt with water inside it. He still stumbled on, walking and walking. His knees bent and trembled. They gave way and he was almost crawling till he reached a better road and later a village. After Sher Singh reached a better road, he could hear the yap of pi-dogs which heralded a village. Suddenly he could see people. Earlier he had expected to get a lift in a bullock cart and then a truck. That is exactly how his last phase of journey was.