Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**LITERATURE IN ENGLISH**

**ENGLISH Paper- 2**

**Set E**

**Question 1.**

1. The speaker of these lines is Launcelot. They are spoken to his father, Old Gobbo. The scene is taking place in Venice on the street outside Shylock’s house.
2. The listener, Old Gobbo, realises that the speaker is indeed speaking the truth when he names Margery as his mother. It is then that Old Gobbo realises that this boy is really Launcelot. He had claimed to be the same without the old man being convinced about it earlier.
3. Old Gobbo is surprised at the beard his son Launcelot has got. He says that he had more hair on his chin than his fill-horse Dobbin’s tail. Launcelot says that in that case Dobbin’s tail would be growing backward. When he had last seen Dobbin his tail was long and hairy.
4. Old Gobbo has got a present for Shylock. It is in the form of a dish of doves. He has done so to please his son’s master so that Shylock should be generous and considerate towards Launcelot.
5. Launcelot says that his master is a typical Jew. The only present that he deserves is a halter. He claims that his famished under the service of Shylock. His father could easily tell every rib he has with his finger. He wants to run away from the service of Shylock and possibly serve Master Bassanio who gives rare new liveries. He wants Old Gobbo to give the present to Bassanio.

**Question 2.**

1. Shylock says that many people in the audience have bought slaves which are used in abject and slavish parts like asses, dogs and mules. They are able to do so because they have bought these slaves. Similarly, he had bought a pound of flesh of Antonio and could use it the way he want it.

1. Shylock tells the audience to allow their slaves to be free and marry them to their heirs. He is asking them sarcastically why the servants are sweating under burdens. He suggests that their beds be made soft and their palates should also be seasoned with delicious viands.
2. Shylock challenges the Duke through this speech to take action according to the law and get him his pound of flesh. If the Duke denies him then Shylock fies upon the law. He says there is no force in the decrees of Venice if be denied justice.

**iv.** The Duke says that using his power he is dismissing the court. He had sent for a learned doctor Bellario to determine the case and till he arrived the case would not be heard further.

**v.** Antonio has gratitude to the Duke as he had taken great pains to qualify the rigorous course of Shylock. He says that he would face fury of Shylock with patience and quietness of spirit. He seems to be very stoic when the proceedings of the court are going on. He sarcastically tells Bassanio to not try and convince Shylock we later see that he is very much prepared for death when he calls himself a tainted wether and even a weak fruit whose suitable for death. -

**SECTION B- POETRY**

*A Collection of Poems*

**Question 3.**

1. Life boat is referred here. The boatmen are going to the Inchcape Rock as per Sir Ralph’s instructions. Sir Ralph on reaching the Inchcape Rock bent over from the boat and cut the bell from the Inchcape Float.

1. After the Bell was cut, it sank down with a gurgling sound. The bubbles rose and burst around. Sir Ralph said that the next sailor who comes to the Rock won’t bless the Abbot of Aberbrothok.
2. Sir Ralph was a Rover, a pirate. Abbot was a kind-hearted and noble man. He was praised and loved by everyone for his good deed of placing the bell and saving lives of many sailors. But, the Rover removed the bell just to cause sufferings to others out of jealousy.
3. Before cutting the bell, there was no movement in the air and the sea. The ship was as steady as it could be. The sails of the ship too didn’t move. Everything was calm, pleasant and joyful. On the contrary after the bell was cut, a thick haze spread in the sky, there was a storm all day and in the evening it subsided.
4. The title ‘The Inchcape Rock’ is relevant as it had caused many fatalities. The story revolves around this dangerous rock which jutted close to the shoreline of Scotland. The rock was not visible during the high tide or during the storm and many ships had been wrecked by dashing against this rock. Abbot of Aberbrothok was a kind man and had placed a bell to warn the sailors. This noble deed had saved many lives from the perilous ‘Inchcape Rock’ but the Rover cuts it out of jealousy. The evil deed of cutting the bell eventually results in his death. The poem hence proves the proverb- ‘As you sow, so shall you reap.’

**Question 4.**

1. ‘I’ here is Professor Sheth. He is not against the family planning. He believes that one has to change with times as the whole world changes.
2. The narrator says that he wants to change with times because the whole world is changing and in India also we are trying to keep up with the changes. He believes that one has to change as old values are being replaced by the new ones.
3. The narrator is a retired Geography professor who is sixty-nine years old. He is a widower and has five children; three sons and two daughters. One son is a Sales Manager, the other one is Bank Manager and the third one is a ‘black sheep’ in the family. His daughters’ names are Sarala and Tarala. He has eleven grand-children.
4. According to the poet, restricting ones’ movements, not able to go out more often is the price of the old age. The narrator says that he has ‘usual aches and pains’ and enjoys good health. He takes a lot of pride in saying that he is not suffering from any major ailment like diabetes, blood pressure and heart attack.
5. Yes, 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.**

1. ‘I’ here is the narrator. The ‘row’ mentioned here is over the coin between Mini’s mother and Mini. The narrator found Mini being asked where she had got the coin from in a rebuking tone.
2. After that incident, the narrator learnt immediately it was not the second meeting between Kabuliwala and Mini. But he had been visiting Mini almost daily and by offering her pistachio nuts he had already won a large part of the girl’s childish heart.

1. As per the Bengali culture, the girls are commonly familiar with the term ‘in-laws’ practically since birth. But being modern, the narrator and his family chose not to load their daughter’s mind with precocious thoughts at such a tender age. And as she could never understand the implication, she would ask Rahamat if he would go to his ‘in-laws’ house.
2. The first routine exchange between the old man and the little girl would be Mini asking Kabuliwala what he carried in his sack. To which he would answer ‘Hanti’ in an unnecessary nasal tone. Second routine exchange would be between them over the topic of ‘in-laws’
3. No, the narrator was not modernist in thinking. Though he doesn’t discuss terms like ‘in-laws’ in the house when Mini was young but we do notice that she gets married at the tender age of thirteen. Also, the narrator who is Mini’s father reduces his friendship with his daughter to a more formal bond when she is growing up. It doesn’t really show a modern way of thinking.

**Question 6.**

Yes, 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 aware about their responsibility as head panch- Conscience leads to a misunderstanding and even clears the misunderstanding between the two friends too.