Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Pre-Preliminary Exam: Test 4**

**Stories Poems Drama**

1) The Bet 1) Small pain in… Merchant

Of

2) Journey by Night 2) In the Bazaars of… Venice (Act IV)

**Std X Set H**

**Marks 40 1 hour**

**Q.1)**

**Ans i)** Shylock. You here is the Duke. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** Shylock says it is his humour to ask for three thousands ducats over a pound of flesh. He asks if anybody can object to him giving ten thousand ducats to poison his house which is troubled with a rat. He then gives other examples of people not loving the sight of a gaping pig, a cat and bagpiper playing his bagpipe. He justifies himself by saying that as no firm reason can be rendered for these things, similarly he cannot give a concrete reason for hating Antonio. **4 marks**

**Ans iii)** 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. He tells these people to set the slaves free, marry them to their heirs and make their beds as soft as their own and season their palates with similar viands. **4 marks**

**Q.2)**

**Ans i)** Portia is the speaker. The deed is an agreement which Shylock has to sign. It is mentioned that whatever Shylock possesses when he dies would be given to Lorenzo and Jessica. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** Gratiano tells Portia that finally he was able to overtake her (Balthazar). Gratiano gives Bassanio’s ring and says that upon more advice Bassanio had sent it. Bassanio had also requested Portia’s company at dinner. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** Portia says that she warrants that Nerissa would be successful in getting her ring from Gratiano. Then they would have old swearing that they did give the rings away to men. Both of them then would be able to outface and outswear their respective husbands. **3 marks**

**Q.3)**

**Ans i)** semi-precious stone: jade, amber, colour- crimson, silver, purple **3 marks**

**Ans ii)** The maidens are grinding aromatic cosmetics like sandalwood and henna. They are also grinding spices. Both these things are used by the women.The flower girls are weaving tassels of azure and red, crowns for bridegroom, chaplets for the bridegroom’s bed and white flower sheets or to perfume the sleep of the dead. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** Old English word which means ‘you’. Merchants, vendors, maidens, pedlars, goldsmiths, fruitmen. **2 marks**

**Q.4)**

**Ans i)** The speaker wants to travel to the next birth before taking rest i.e. dying. After this the soldier dies, but the narrator does not recall what happened. He thinks he would have cried. This is because he is completely numb after the death of the soldier. **3 marks**

**Ans ii)** A very heart-breaking and pitiable picture of the battlefield is portrayed by the poet. On visiting the battlefield, he notices the destructive aspects of the war. He also witnesses a number of dead bodies lying still and lifeless and the entire surrounding was depressing and horrifying. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** Antithesis- large and small are two opposite words. **2 marks**

**Q.5)**

**Ans i) ‘**He’ is the lawyer. 14th November 1885. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** According to the agreement, the banker ought to pay two millions and if he does that, the banker would be ruined. **2 marks**

**Ans iii)** When the banker placed this bet, his millions had been beyond his reckoning. Fifteen years after placing the bet, he had to ask himself which were greater; his debts or his assets. Desperate gambling on the Stock Exchange, wild speculation and excitability had led by degrees to the decline of his fortune. The proud, fearless, self-confident millionaire had become the banker of a middling rank trembling at every rise and fall in his investments. **4 marks**

**Q.6)**

Yes. Seeing death in the eyes of his brother- suggested to carry Kunwar Singh to the hospital at Kalaghat- faced obstacles and dangers- yet was determined to save him from the jaws of death- proved himself to be the son of his father- earned the title ‘Bahadur’ by his bravery **8 marks**