Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**SECOND PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2016-2017**

**LITERATURE IN ENGLISH**

**ENGLISH Paper- 2**

**Set II-D *(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:

**“*So may the outward shows be least themselves:***

***The world is still deceived with ornament. In law***

***what plea so tainted and corrupt, but being seasoned with a gracious voice...***

1. **Explain: The world is still deceived with ornament [3]**

**Ans:** Bassanio says that whatever is visible outward may be least themselves. The world is still deceived with ornament. By this he means that the world still decides things based only on outward appearances.

1. **What deception happens in law according to Bassanio? [3]**

**Ans:** Bassanio says that it is quite possible in law that a tainted and corrupt plea may be presented. Only because it is seasoned with a gracious voice it may obscure the visibility of evil.

1. **Which other example does Bassanio give to prove deception? [3]**

**Ans:** Bassanio says that there are many cowards whose hearts are as false as stairs of sand. These people yet wear upon their chins the beards of Hercules and frowning Mars. If we search these people inward, their livers would be found white as milk. But these people assume valour’s excrement to show themselves as fearful.

1. **Who was Mars? Why are Hercules and Mars mentioned here? [3]**

**Ans:** Mars is the God of war. Bassanio is compared to Hercules as he is going to choose the caskets with no less presence but with much more love than young Alcides. Hercules did redeem Princess Hesione from the sea-monster but he did it for the greed of her father’s horses. In this case, Bassanio was rescuing Portia, but it was because of love.

1. **Describe the feelings of Portia as Bassanio chooses the correct casket. [4]**

**Ans:** Portia says that all her passions are fleeting into the air. The emotions such as doubtful thoughts, rash embraced despair, shuddering fear and green-eyed jealousy have all evaporated. She is relieved that Bassanio has made the right choice.

**Question 2.**

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

**‘*Fair ladies, you drop manna in the way of starved people…’***

1. **Who is the speaker of these lines? In what context are they spoken? [3]**

**Ans:** Lorenzo is the speaker of these lines. Portia and Nerissa hand over a document to Lorenzo. That was from the rich Jew, a special deed of gift which will be inherited by Jessica and Lorenzo after Shylock dies.

1. **What news has been given by Portia to Antonio? [3]**

**Ans:** Portia tells Antonio that she has better news for him than he could expect. She tells him to open a letter in which he would find that three of his argosies had richly but unexpectedly returned to the harbour. She does not disclose how she lay her hands upon the letter.

1. **Explain the allusion of manna. [3]**

**Ans:** In Bible, Jewish people complained to God that they were starving. God miraculously sends food for them. They picked it up and ate it like bread. They called it ‘manna’. So Lorenzo says that Portia and Nerissa have got happy news like the heavenly food ‘manna’ for the hungry.

1. **Who has the last word in the play? What does he communicate? [3]**

**Ans:** Gratiano has the last word in the play. He says that for the rest of his life, his chief care would be nothing else but to guard Nerissa’s ring and never to part with it.

1. **What does this scene tell us about Lorenzo? [4]**

**Ans:** His musical and poetic taste is revealed in the scene. His conversation with Jessica is very harmoniously set which shows their compatibility and that they have similar tastes. His honorable character and worth as Portia tells him to manage the house. She trusts him and finds him quite efficient. He has a lot of knowledge in music as he talks of theory of the music of the spheres and the power of music like a learned musician. He has probably spent money extravagantly as he confesses that the news Portia brought about Shylock’s money was like ‘manna’ for him.

**SECTION B- POETRY**

*A Collection of Poems*

**Question 3.**

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

‘***If thou must love me, let it be for nought except for love’s sake only’***

1. **In what form is the poem written? What is the peculiarity of the form? [3]**

**Ans:** The poem is written in the sonnet form. Sonnet is a poem consisting 14 lines. Due to its rhyme scheme which is ‘abba abba cdcdcd’ this sonnet takes form from the Italian or Petrarchan sonnet.

1. **What according to the narrator is said by most lovers? [3]**

**Ans:** The statements that usually people make about their reason of love are like ‘I love her for her smile, her looks, her way of speaking gently and for a trick of thought’. These statements show that the love is not a permanent one. It would surely be ephemeral and would vanish easily.

1. **Explain: *And love so wrought may be unwrought so*  [3]**

**Ans:** According to the poetess the love that has been cultivated because of the external attributes like beauty, smile, thoughts and talk may easily be evaporated. If love has been brought about by these aspects, the process of this kind of love getting reversed would not take much time.

1. **What would happen if the origin of love is pity? [3]**

**Ans:** If origin of love is pity then this kind of love would cease to exist once the tears of a person dry away and pity has been drained. So this too would only be a temporary kind of love.

1. **Is it realistically possible according to you to achieve the goals the narrator has set? [4]**

**Ans:** No, according to me, it is not realistically possible to achieve the goals the narrator has set. The love that the poet talks about is idealistic love and cannot be called realistically possible. Love needs a premise to stand upon. It cannot be born out of nothing. Love for love’s sake seems to be farfetched idea. We, human beings, in spite of all our reasoning, do get attracted only by the external attributes and cannot delve beyond what is visible.

**Question 4.**

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

***‘What do you weigh, O ye vendors?’***

1. **Mention the things sold by the vendors. What picture do these things present? [3]**

**Ans:** The vendors are selling important commodities like saffron, lentil and rice. The commodities like saffron signifies the richness of the Indian culture as saffron is very expensive. On the contrary, the lentils and the rice, being the staple diet of Indians, symbolize the middle class existing in the nation. Additionally, the colour of three products also symbolize the Indian flag: saffron (saffron colour), rice (white), lentils (green).

1. **What are the maidens doing in the marketplace? Explain the significance of their action. [3]**

**Ans:** The maidens are grinding aromatic cosmetics like sandalwood and henna. They are also grinding spices. Both these things are used by the women. The aspect of Indian society represented by the maidens is community living. The poetess here gives a panoramic view of the Indian market where Indian women are a part of the hustle and bustle. Moreover she wants the countrymen to have pride in their country which was a land of spices.

1. **Who are the pedlars? What are they selling? What is symbolized by the goods they sell? [3]**

**Ans:** The pedlars or hawkers are the ones who sell goods by going from one place to another. The pedlars are selling chessmen and ivory dice. The phrase ‘Chessmen and ivory dice’ suggests India’s fascination for board games especially of chess and dice. Indians took great interest in such games and they became very popular in those days too. Also these games originated in India. Them being made of ivory, shows our richness.

1. **How are the products displayed by the merchants in the marketplace? [3]**

**Ans:** Expensive wares like turbans of crimson and silver, tunics of purple brocade, mirrors with panels of amber, daggers with handle of jade are displayed in the bazaar. These products are displayed richly because they are meant for the rich. The poetess wants to prove that in India such luxurious expensive wares also have buyers.

1. **Analyse the poem in the backdrop of its age. [4]**

**Ans:** Through this poem, Sarojini Naidu, the poetess, wants to enthuse deep respect for Indian culture and a zeal to drive away the British, in the minds of Indians. Very subtly, she wants to point out to the Indians that India is full of beautiful products meant for everyone so there is no need to use the foreign goods. She wants to revive the self-esteem of her countrymen and motivate them to unite and boycott foreign goods.

**SECTION C- PROSE**

*Collection of Short Stories*

**Question 5.**

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

**‘*Baldeo, listening as he had never listened before,***

***wondered if it was making for the tunnel or in the opposite direction.’***

1. **Who is being described in this extract? How did Baldeo realise about its existence? [3]**

**Ans:** The man-eater Tiger is described in the tunnel. Baldeo heard a low grunt from the top of the cutting, he guessed that this grunt could be emitted only by a tiger.

1. **What did Baldeo realize in an instant after this? How? [3]**

**Ans:** Baldeo realised that as there was no shelter for him, he would have to fight the tiger. He grasped his axe firmly and tensed his body trying to make out the direction from which the animal was approaching. He heard a thump and a rattle of small stones which announced that the tiger had sprung into the cutting.

1. **How did Baldeo prepare for the calamity that he was going to face? [3]**

**Ans:** Baldeo decided to fight the tiger with his axe. He realised that flight from the cutting

into the tunnel was useless. In the dark the tiger would be more surefooted than him and would spring upon him from behind. Baldeo stood with his back to the signal post and stared at the tiger moving rapidly towards him.

1. **Describe in brief the skirmish mentioned here.**

**Ans:** Baldeo was ready for the tiger’s attack and with a marvellously agile leap, he avoided the paw and brought down his axe on the animal’s shoulder. The tiger gave a roar and attempted to close in. Again Baldeo drove his axe with true aim but as the beast swerved, the axe caught the tiger on the shoulder almost severing its leg. The axe remained stuck in the bone and Baldeo was left without a weapon.Baldeo was brought down by the injured tiger who tore at his body. Baldeo was conscious only of a searing pain down his back and then there was blackness all around him. The night closed in on him forever. **[3]**

1. ***‘He found himself trapped like the man’.* Throw some light on the above statement in the context of the story. [4]**

**Ans:** The tiger was in tremendous pain after killing Baldeo. He sat down licking his wounded leg and was roaring every now and then in agony. Because of the pain, he did not notice the faint rumble that shook the earth and the train entered the cutting leaving him no scope of escape. As the train entered the cutting, the tiger realised that flight along the cutting was impossible. He was trapped like Baldeo. He entered the tunnel as fast as his wounded leg could carry him.This eventually led to his death.

**Question 6.**

Plotting from the very beginning to the end, trace the humour element in the story ‘*My lost Dollar’.* [16]

Todd takes an odd dollar to pay the taxi driver- he sends a note to the narrator from Hamilton Bermuda- the narrator thinks it to be a dollar- the number confuses him- the narrator gives him several hints like- taking a taxi, asked him what currency was used in Bermuda, whether the American dollar goes at par- but Todd didn’t understand. The narrator asked if he felt ‘settled down after his trip’, even Todd’s own reference to Poland and her debts didn’t make him self-conscious of his own debts.

However, as the narrator realises that he might be owing an odd dollar to many people. He starts defending himself and his forgetfulness; He says that he would never pay it on this side of the grave, he would want those people to speak out not all at once but in reasonable numbers. He would first make a list in alphabetical order and he would write their names down on paper. He would not count men who gave him an odd dollar over a bridge table or of the man who lent me thirty cents to pay for a bottle of plain soda in the Detroit Athletic Club. He wants to start a Back To Honesty Movement so that people would pay back those odd dollars borrowed in moments of expansion. So it is obvious that the narrator judges Todd on the basis of different standards than he uses for himself.