Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**LITERATURE IN ENGLISH**

**ENGLISH Paper- 2**

**Set C**

**Question 1.**

1. The speaker of these lines is Arragon. Portia has just told him that every suitor who comes to hazard for her worthless self has to take the three oaths. This is spoken in reaction to this information.
2. When Arragon looks at the lead casket, he says that it should have looked fairer for him to hazard and choose it. The contradiction that is visible immediately after this is the reaction that comes when he reads the inscription on the gold casket. He says that he would not choose the gold casket as he does not want to go by whatever is visible to the eye.
3. The speaker uses the metaphor of a martlet bird to justify his not choosing the gold casket. Though he martlet bird is aware about the force and road of casualty, it still builds the nest on the outward wall. Similarly, the eyes are aware about the risk of wrong judgement when it can pry to the interior. But still most of us decide based on the outward appearance.
4. The speaker says that he doesn’t want to be counted among the barbarous multitudes of people who choose only based on the outward appearance. These people are called as common spirits as they choose by show and do not try to understand the real merit of the situation.
5. If estates, degrees and offices are not derived corruptly, then many people who stand bare will cover up. Those people who are right now commanding would then be commanded. A gleaning would happen which would separate the low peasantry from the true seed of honour. Many of those people who were considered as chaff will now be considered a true seed and newly varnished.

**Question 2.**

1. The speaker of these lines is Lorenzo. They are spoken to Jessica about Launcelot.
2. The word ‘suited’ is a pun as there are two possible meanings here. The first meaning is that the words are suitable to the situation. The second meaning is that he is talking like a man dressed up in a suit of a jester.
3. The speaker Lorenzo says that he is aware about many fools who are garnished like Launcelot. They defy the matter for a tricksy word. But the difference in the situation is that they stand in a much better place compared to Launcelot. What he means is that they are court jesters who are paid and respected well.
4. Jessica says that Portia is past all expressing. It is meet that Lord Bassanio should live an upright life. He has found the joys of heaven in having such a blessing as Portia for wife. She goes on to say that if two Gods play a heavenly match and one of them lays Portia on wager, something else must be pawned with the other lady as the poor world has no match of Portia.
5. After the suspense which is built in the previous scene where Portia has disclosed that she would be going to Venice attired as a boy, this scene heightens it further before the court scene. It gives the opportunity to Portia to be present in the court in the disguise of a boy. Also the light-hearted wit and humour evoked by Launcelot acts as a comic relief before the audience is exposed to the intensity of emotions during the court scene.

**Question 3.**

1. Goldsmiths make these things. They also make wristlets, anklets, rings and bells for the feet of the blue pigeons.
2. **‘**Bells for the feet of blue pigeons, frail as a dragon-fly’s wing**’** is an example of Simile. Bells are as frail as dragon fly’s wing. The delicate bells are compared to the ‘frail’ wings of the dragon fly.

1. Fruitmen, musicians and magicians are mentioned in the next stanza. Fruitmen sell citron, pomegranate and plum. Musicians play sitar, sarangi and drum. The magicians chant spells for aeons to come.
2. Vendors sell saffron, lentil and rice. The colours of saffron (saffron), rice (white), lentils (green) symbolise the Indian flag. The poetess is bringing about a contrast as saffron is very expensive whereas lentil and rice are the staple diet of most of the Indians.
3. The peon ‘In the bazaars of Hyderabad is trying to evoke a sense of pride and patriotism in us Indians. On one hand it is highlighting the richness and variety of the Indian market place by introducing us to a variety of things both common and exquisite. We are introduced to merchants, vendors, pedlars, goldsmiths, musicians, magicians, flower girls etc. On the other hand we see she is invoking Swadeshi through the use of very powerful symbols.

**Question 4.**

1. The narrator stops between the woods and the frozen lake. He is mesmerised by the sight of the woods filling up with snow and wants to enjoy it. It around Christmas time i.e. extreme winter.
2. The narrator feels a sense of sympathy for the owner of the woods. The owner is not there to enjoy the beautiful sight of the snow filling up in his own land. The second emotion is a sense of relief as the owner isn’t there to see him trespassing on his piece of land.
3. The three sounds are the sound of downy flake, sweeping wind and the harness bell of the horse. As the backdrop seems to be extremely silent these three sounds create an enigma in the poem.
4. The word ‘promises’ refers to the commitments and the responsibilities that he has to negotiate in life. Sleep has two meanings. One is that he talking about the actual journey where he has to cover many miles before he sleeps. The second meaning is death He is trying to imply that he has many things to be done in life before he dies.
5. The woods are described as lovely dark and deep. They symbolise the beautiful distractions which are there all around us. The horse symbolises the human conscience. It is trying to pull back the narrator from the distractions and tells him to get back to work. It is finally successful in his goal of pulling back the narrator from the distractions.

**Question 5.**

1. She refers to Johnsy. Sue is speaking to Behrman. Behrman is annoyed at the information about the sickness and the wild imagination about the last leaf that she is carrying.
2. The strange fancy that Johnsy had was when the last leaf would fall she would die too. She even expected the doctor to have diagnosed it and communicated to Sue. That left her mind morbid.
3. Behrman was a failed artist. For forty years he had been wielding the brush without much success. He claimed that he was to paint a masterpiece but had never begun it. For several years he had painted nothing except now and then a daub in the lineof commerce or advertising. He earned a little by posing for the young artists who could not pay the price of a professional.
4. Is dere people in de world mit der foolishness to die because leafs dey drop from confounded vine-Are there people in the world wit their foolishness because leaves they drop from a confounded vine-Ach,dot poor little Miss Yonsy. Ah that poor little Miss Johnsy. Who said I will not bose-Who said I will not pose?
5. When the doctor visited Johnsy for the first time he said that she had a one in a ten chance for survival. He also added that the little lady had given up hope to live and if she was willing to live her chances of survival would improve. On a later occasion he said that the chance was fifty-fifty. If Sue provided good nutrition to Johnsy, she would win.

**Question 6.**

Points to be contained:- explain two three examples inn detail.

Sandeep Unnikrihnan:- NSG- taking initiative- wants to go alone- attains martyrdom

Vishnu Zende- announcer- presence of mind- how he saved lives

Karambir Kang- Manager at Taj- family in trouble- still preferred to save lives of guests and staff.

Other examples that can be given are:- Chotu Chaiwala, Sandra Samuel.