Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**SECOND TERM EXAM**

**Std IX-SSRVM Duration: 2 hours Marks 80**

**Solve any five of the given questions. All questions carry equal marks.**

**Section A- Drama**

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

***Question 1 16***

***“The first, of gold, who this inscription bears; who chooseth me shall gain what many men desire.”***

i. Who chose this casket? What were the reasons of choosing this one? 3

ii. How does the suitor interpret the words inscribed on this casket? 3

iii. What is spoken about the watery kingdom? 3

iv. What would be sinful thought according to this speaker? 3

v. Summarise the scroll found by the speaker. 4

**i.** The Prince of Morocco chose this casket. He believes that the message on the casket hinted to Portia. He focuses on the word ‘desires’ and reasons that the world desired her. The suitors are coming from the four corners of the world to woo Portia, to kiss the shrine of this mortal breathing saint that is Portia.

**ii.** The suitor Morocco focuses on the word ‘desires’. He states that the world desires Portia and the suitors are coming from the four corners of the world to woo Portia. The Hyrcanian deserts the wilds of Arabia and the watery kingdom the ocean is no barrier to stop these suitors from coming to Belmont.

**iii.** The water kingdom refers to the ocean. It is called as spitting in the face of heaven. The meaning implied is that the rough sea is no barrier to the suitors and they cross the ocean as if it a brook to see fair Portia.

**iv.** According to the speaker the thought that Portia may be immured within the silver casket is a sinful thought. He considers it sinful as never ever a gem like Portia was set it in something less than gold. He also says that silver is ten time undervalued compared to gold.

**v.** The scroll inform the reader that all that glisters is not gold. It is a very common saying. Many people have sold their life to just behold the gold casket. Even if the tomb is gilded it infolds worms. If the person choosing the casket was wise and not just bold and had the judgement of an old person and not just young limbs his answer would not have there in the form of a scroll. Finally the scroll wishes the reader a farewell and says that his suit is cold.

***Question 2 16***

***‘What says that fool of Hagar’s offspring, ha?’***

1. Who is the speaker of these lines? Who exits before this line is said? Where does the scene take place? 3
2. Who is being referred to, in the above given lines? Why? 3
3. Has Shylock been invited to the supper for love? Why is he going for the same? 3
4. How does Launcelot try to cover up his mistake of giving information about the masque? 3
5. What is Shylock’s response to the information about masque? 4
6. Shylock says these lines. Launcelot exits. Street outside Shylock’s house.
7. Shylock calls Launcelot as a fool belonging to Hagar’s offspring. He means to say that Launcelot belongs to the family of illegitimate child who was born out of the wedlock between Abram and Hagar.
8. No, Shylock has not been invited to the supper for love. He has been invited for flattering him. He wants to go in hate to feed upon the prodigal Christian. He also wants to check if any ill was brewing against him as he had dreamt of money-bags the previous night.
9. Launcelot accidentally discloses about the masque to Shylock. He tries to cover up by telling Shylock that it was not without reason that his nose started bleeding on last Black Monday at 6 o’clock in the morning. He claims that Ash Wednesday fell on the same day as Black Monday at 4 o’clock in the afternoon. He talks nonsense and gibberish to confuse Shylock.
10. Shylock tells Jessica to lock up his doors and when she hears the wild squealing of the wry-necked fife, she should not climb up the casements. She should not thrust her head into the public street to gaze at Christian fools with varnished faces. She should stop the ears of his house by which he means his casements, and not allow the sound of shallow foppery to enter his sober house.

***Question 3 16***

***The third one sat in tattered clothes he gave his coat a hitch***

1. Against whom was he biased? What did the other man in question think of the third man? 3
2. Why did the second person refuse to give his log? What kind of a person does he seem to be? 3
3. What are the different types of discriminations highlighted in the poem? What can such discriminations or prejudices do to mankind? 3
4. What symbolizes human sin in the poem? What is the sin mentioned here? 3
5. Explain the figure of speech and symbolism in the following line: 4

‘Their logs held tight in death’s still hands, was proof of human sin.’

1. The poor man was biased against the rich who was in the group. He hated the rich as he thought they were idle and had earned all the wealth only by exploiting the poor. On the other hand, the rich man was only thinking of the wealth in his store and wanted to protect it from the poor who, he thought, were lazy and lacked ambition.
2. The second person refuses to give his log as he sees that in the group there is a person who does not belong to his community and so he does not want to help him. This person seems to be a fanatic who is intolerant of other religions or communities.
3. The poet also talks of racial discrimination through the white lady and the black man, also about the religious intolerance and class discrimination between the rich and the poor man. Such differences lead to envy, hatred, arrogance and revenge eventually destroying the very fiber of humanity.
4. The logs, in the hands of each of the six persons mentioned in the poem, symbolize human sin. The sin refers to the negative qualities of prejudice, hatred, malice, discrimination and revenge in the hearts of the people trapped in a cold night. These traits are called ‘sin’ as they spell doom and destruction of humanity.
5. This line is a Personification. Here the non – human thing or the idea of ‘death’ is assigned the human characteristic of possessing ‘hands’. Jesus sacrificed himself on the wooden logs to wash away human sins. On the contrary, here the humans are sinning by holding on to the logs and not saving each other.

***Question 4 16***

1. Whom does the word ‘they’ refer to? 2
2. Which battle does Old Kaspar refer to? Which were the opposing sides of the battle? Who was victorious? Write the lines in support of your answer. 3
3. How does Kaspar describe the scene on the battlefield after the battle? 3
4. How does grandfather describe the consequences of the battle? How does Peterkin react to it?

3

1. What do the last two lines signify? 4
2. The word ‘they’ refer to English and French.
3. Old Kaspar refers to the battle of Blenheim. This is evident from the line ‘My father lived in Blenheim then.’ It was fought between the English and French and the English were victorious in the battle. The lines- ‘It was the English,’ Kaspar cried, ‘Who put the French to rout’- are evidence of the fact that the English were victorious.
4. Kaspar says that the scene on the battlefield after the battle was a shocking sight to behold. Thousands of dead bodies lay scattered on the field rotting in the sun. These brave martyrs did not even get a decent burial and nobody even claimed their bodies.
5. The old man vividly describes the consequences of the battle highlighting how many thousands were killed including soldiers and the commoners. He then also narrates how the brave heroes of war were praised by people. After hearing all he had to say about the battle, Peterkin asks him what good had come out of the battle.
6. The last two lines are very crucial to the poem. When Peterkin asks his grandfather what good the war had done, he had no answer to it. He said he didn’t have an answer to his question but believed that it was a famous victory. These lines signify the fact that the generation to which the old man belonged never challenged the futility of war. They easily accepted that it was a necessary evil in spite of all the harm it caused to humanity.

***Question 5 16***

***The younger man roused himself sharply at the sound of her voice….***

1. Who is the younger man here? Did he know the lady? How? 3
2. How did the man react to her voice? Why? 3
3. Where would the young man not be in the near future? What did the other man answer? What was the reality? 3
4. What did the glum-faced man say to cut short the conversation between the other two? What could be the reason for his action? 3
5. Bring out the fact that ‘appearances can be deceptive from the story ‘Hearts and Hands’. 4
6. The younger man given here is Mr Easton. He was acquainted with Ms Fairchild as they were old friends from Washington days.
7. The younger man seemed to struggle with a slight embarrassment which he threw off instantly. His right wrist being bound to the silver bracelet caused the embarrassment.
8. The young man wouldn’t be in Washington in the near future. The other man answered that Easton was a marshal who had arrested him and was taking him to the Leavenworth prison. The reality was Mr Easton was the criminal who was taken away by the glum-faced man to Leavenworth prison.
9. He said that he needed a drink and a smoke. He urged Easton to take him to the smoking areas as he was longing for a smoke. The man realized that Miss Fairchild would have ended up asking too many questions.
10. The story begins with two men, handcuffed together entering a coach on a train and sitting opposite a beautiful young lady, Miss Fairchild. One of the men is handsome with a bold and frank countenance while the other a ruffled, heavenly built, roughly dressed and glum-faced man. The glum-faced man tells the lady that the other person, Mr. Easton is a marshal and he the culprit. The readers just like the lady immediately accept this as the truth due to the appearances of the two men. O. Henry thus clearly brings out the fact that ‘appearances can be deceptive.

***Question 6 16***

***Now the red man implored, ‘Please, please I will speak slowly...’***

1. Where has this red man come from? What was he wearing? How did his clothes cause confusion? 3
2. Why does Muni’s wife call ‘chewing drumstick out of sauce’ as an unholy craving? 3
3. What can we imply about relations between people of Kritam and Kuppam? 3
4. Why did the red man implore? 3
5. Was Muni a regular smoker? Give substantial evidence from the story. 4
6. The red man has come from America. He was wearing khaki clothes and Muni thinks that he is kind of an Impostor who has come to investigate about the murder.
7. When Muni told his wife that he was tired of eating drumstick leaves and he had a desire to chew the drumstick out of sauce, his wife taunted him. She said that he had only four teeth in his jaw. She said so because in that acute poverty he wanted the luxury of eating the drumsticks out of sauce.
8. We can imply that the relations between people of Kritam and Kuppam are not cordial. According to Muni, people of Kuppam can go to any extent and will not stop at anything. He was also sure that his village has always had a clean record and the culprit must be definitely from the other village.
9. The red faced man i.e. the American man implored Muni to try and understand what he was trying to say. He was frustrated as he had gotten along with English everywhere in the country. He wondered if there were any religious or spiritual scruples against English speech.
10. No, Muni wasn’t a regular smoker. He had not smoked since many years. Many years ago the shop man had given him a cigarette on credit. When the foreigner lit the cigarette, Muni took a deep puff and started coughing. Though it was pleasant, the effect was so racking that he had tears in his eyes. His head reeled due to its effect