Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Second Semester Examination**

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

***Question 1***

1. **Who is the speaker of these lines? Whom are they spoken to? Who is the ‘noble prince’ here? 3**

**Ans:** Portia to the servant. Morocco is the noble prince here.

1. **What is the message inscribed upon the three caskets? 3**

**Ans:** The gold casket carries the message ‘Who chooseth me shall gain what many men desire’. The silver casket has ‘Who chooseth me shall get as much as he deserves’ inscribed upon it. The message on the lead casket is ‘Who chooseth me must give and hazard all he hath’.

1. **What does Morocco ask Portia after reading the three caskets? What does she respond? 3**

**Ans:** Morocco asks Portia how he would come to know if he has chosen the right casket. She replies that one of the caskets contains her picture and if he chooses that casket she would be his.

1. **Explain the analogy given by Morocco while choosing the gold casket. 3**

**Ans:** Morocco says that the English have a coin which bears the figure of an angel stamped in gold. He says just like that coin which has an angel insculped upon, in this case the angel lies within the golden bed. What he means to say is that Portia’s portrait would be contained in the gold casket.

1. **What is Morocco’s opinion of Portia? Write with reference to this scene. 4**

**Ans:** Morocco calls Portia as a breathing saint for whom suitors are coming from all the

four corners of the earth. He says that the Hyrcanian deserts and the vasty wilds of wide Arabia have become like throughfares for suitors to come to view fair Portia. The ocean which is described as a watery kingdom whose ambitious head spits in the face of heaven and is no bar to stop the foreign spirits. They still come as if crossing a brook to see fair Portia.

***Question 2***

1. **Who is ‘the patch’ here? Who is the speaker? What does the word mean? 3**

**Ans:** The patch here is Launcelot. Speaker is Shylock. It means ‘a fool’.

1. **How does the speaker describe this ‘patch’? 3**

**Ans:** Shylock says Launcelot is a patch and a huge feeder, snail-slow in profit and he sleeps by the day more than the wild cat. He calls him a drone and says that drones do not hive with him. Therefore he is parting with Launcelot to help Bassanio to waste his borrowed purse.

1. **What instructions are given to Jessica? Mention the proverb used. 3**

**Ans:** 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. The proverb used is ‘Fast bind, fast find’

1. **Who makes the closing dialogue of this scene? What does he/she say? 3**

**Ans:** Jessica makes the closing dialogue of this scene. She bids a farewell and says that if luck is with her she will lose a father and he will lose a daughter.

1. **What is Shylock’s response to the information about masque? 4**

**Ans:** 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***

1. **What does the word ‘figures’ refer to? Why were they still? What had happened? 3**

**Ans:** ‘Scores of figures’ refer to the dead bodies of the soldiers lying around everywhere. They, along with the wounded soldiers, had fought throughout the night. They all were the young soldier’s companions in the war and had fought for the whole day and night and now were lain dead.

1. **What is asked for, in the next stanza? Who asks for it? Why? 3**

**Ans:** In the next stanza, the soldier boy asks for a sip of water. He added that a sip of water on that morning would surely do him good. They had fought day and night with scarcely any rest. The water would help him to be at ease with the small pain in his chest.

1. **What shows the soldier’s commitment towards his job? 3**

**Ans:** The soldier was seriously injured with what he calls as the small pain in his chest. In

spite of this injury and the knowledge of all his comrades being dead, he kept on firing at his enemies. He persisted with his best effort till he was overwhelmed by his physical injury.

1. **Why did the solider look around? What did he find? 3**

**Ans:** The soldier looked around to get some aid. However, he found big, deep craters in the earth and bodies on the ground.

1. **Is this an anti-war poem? Justify. 4**

Yes, this is an anti-war poem. It elaborates the aftermath of the war. The loss and the destruction that both the countries, all soldiers have to go through. The ones who witness the devastation and who are alive are harrowed by the experience. They carry the memory to their grave.

***Question 4 16***

1. **Who cut the bell? Why? 3**

**Ans:** Sir Ralph, the Rover cut the bell. Sir Ralph decided to cut the Inchcape Bell as it used to earn a lot of blessings and praise for the Abbot of Aberbrothok. As Sir Ralph was jealous of this praise he decided to plague the reputation of the Abbot.

1. **What did a sailor ask Sir Ralph? What was his response?**  **3**

**Ans:** A sailor asked Sir Ralph if he could hear the breakers roaring. That would mean that they were near the shore. Sir Ralph says that he could not tell where they were currently. He wished that he could hear the Inchcape Bell ringing.

1. **Give a brief note on Inchcape Rock. 3**

**Ans:** Inchcape Rock was in the sea few miles away from the shore of Scotland. It was called perilous because it was usually hidden under the surface of water. The sailors could not spot the rock during a voyage. Consequently, many ships were destroyed by colliding against the rock.

1. **Explain: ‘the breakers roar’ 3**

**Ans:** Breakers are the waves which have the capability of destroying or breaking even the big ships. Here it is a loud noise made by these waves. If the waves make a very loud noise, it indicates that there is some land or rock nearby.

1. **Abbot of Aberbrothok is the symbol of goodness. Comment. 4**

**Ans:** We see two dimensions of people. People who believe in good, are kind in nature while on the other hand people are cruel, reckless and jealous. Abbot was a philanthropist and a holy man. He comes to know about the existence of a dangerous rock known as the Inchcape Rock under the water surface. The sailors couldn’t spot the rock during a voyage. Consequently many ships were destroyed by colliding against the rock. Abbot placed a bell on the Inchcape Rock in such a way that at the time of the storm, the sailors would become cautious about the Rock and would escape the collision. Thus, it is true that Abbot was a good human being and believed in doing well for everyone.

***Question 5***

1. **Who is being spoken about? What was his and the villagers’ role in a photographic expedition? 3**

**Ans:** Sher Singh bahadur is being spoken about. Sher Singh Bahadur had gone into the jungle with a photographic expedition. He was a shikari who was supposed to help in the identification of the location of the animals. The villagers of the Laldwani village accompanied him as beaters.

1. **For whom was the fuel used? Why? How did they use the fuel? 3**

**Ans:** The fuel was used to heat the water so that rags can be put on Kunwar’s belly. He was suffering from stomach pain which was getting worse. They were using the fuel recklessly to get the water hot at the earliest.

1. **How far was Kalaghat from Laldwani? How did Sher Singh hope to reach Kalaghat**

**with his brother? 3**

**Ans:** Kalaghat was at least fifty miles away from Laldwani. Sher Singh hoped that if he could get through the jungle and cross the two rivers that lay between him and his goal, he might get a lift in a bullock-cart or perhaps even a broken down truck for the last part of his journey.

1. **Which village did Sher Singh belong to? What were his means of livelihood? 3**

**Ans:** Sher Singh belonged to Laldwani. He grazed his cattle and cultivated his bit of land. But whenever there would be an expedition into the jungle in search of big game, either to shoot them or photograph them Sher Singh Bahadur was sent for.

1. **How did Sher Singh, the father, win the title ‘Bahadur’? 4**

**Ans:** Sher Singh, the father, could find tigers where there were no tigers at all. He could look at the dry grass and tell everything that had happened there. He could listen to a chital calling and guess that the panther had killed just one of them. All over his body there were scars of his struggle with a tiger, snake and other animals.

***Question 6 16***

**Friendship isn’t about whom you have known the longest… It’s about who came and never left your side. Explain this quote with reference to ‘The Last Leaf’.**

Johnsy, also called Joanna and Sue had met at the table d’hote of an Eighth Street ‘Delmonico’s’. One was from Maine and the other was from California. The two friends found their tastes in art, chicory salad and bishop sleeves so congenial that the joint studio resulted at the top of the squatty, three-story brick building. Johnsy was smitten by Pneumonia and she laid scarcely moving on her painted iron bedstead. She looked through the small Dutch window-panes at the blank side of the next brickhouse. The doctor told Sue that Johnsy had one chance in ten. That chance too was if she had the willingness to live. Sue pretended to Johnsy that all was fine. She could not have shared the reality of the doctor’s diagnosis with her. The strange fancy that possessed Johnsy was that when the last leaf would fall down, she would die. The doctor had said that Johnsy’s chance of recovery was one in ten. Sue lies to Johnsy stating that according to the doctor her chance of recovery was ten to one. Sue communicated the strange fancy of Johnsy to Behrman. Initially Behrman loses his temper and refuses to pose but then mellows down and agrees that he would come with Sue. Behrman and Sue looked fearfully out of the window to see the ivy wine. Bothof them had the fear that it would be a disaster if Johnsy’s fancy would come true.Johnsy ordered Sue to pull up the drawn green shade. She wanted to see what had happened to the last leaf. When Johnsy looked out of the window, she was surprised to see one ivy leaf against the brick wall. She was surprised as after the beating rain and fierce gusts of wind that had endured through livelong night, she had not expected the leaf to be still there. Sue was quite disappointed when Johnsy insisted that she would die the same day when the last leaf falls. In her last desperate attempt she tells Johnsy to think of her if not about herself. The sight of the last leaf persisting in rough weather and still clinging to the wall brought about a positive change in Johnsy’s approach towards life. The change was visible when she states that it is sin to want to die. She also tells Sue to bring her a little broth and some milk with a little port wine in it. She also asks for hand-mirror and tells Sue to pack some pillows as she wanted to watch her cook. Finally, she expresses her optimism on painting Bay of Naples. The doctor told Sue that Johnsy had even chances of surviving. He also told her that if she nursed Johnsy properly, she would win. We see Sue taking timely updates from the doctor and getting concerned about them. She pretends that everything is normal and even lies to Johnsy about the doctor’s diagnosis. She tries to convince Johnsy about the stupidity of her fancy related to the falling of the last leaf. She cooks some broth for Johnsy and plans to buy port wine for her. Even while sketching she wants to have Johnsy within the range of her vision. Friendship is not defined by the quantity of years. Johnsy and Sue’s friendship was only a few months old but their bond was very strong indeed. It is quite visible in the way Sue took care of Johnsy while she was down with pneumonia.