Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Test: 1st Term Examination**

**Std: IX-BB Duration: 1.5 hr Marks: 60 marks**

**Note:-Attempt five questions in all (One question from each section compulsory)**

**Section A- Drama**

***Question 1 10***

1. Bassanio compares finding meaning in Gratiano’s speech to searching of two grains of wheat in two bushels of chaff. Even if you find them after a day’s search they are not worth the effort. Similarly even if you find meaning in the nonsensical talk of Gratiano, it is not worth the effort to listen to the nonsense.
2. Gratiano tells Antonio that his melancholy should not be used as a bait. He says that many people use it to develop an opinion of wisdom, gravity and profound conceit. But this opinion is like trapping a fool gudgeon and is not worth the effort.
3. Bassanio calls Portia as rich, fair and virtuous. He says that this Portia is not less in value to Cato’s daughter Portia. The world is not ignorant of her worth and renowned suitors come from all the four directions. Her sunny locks hang on her temples like a golden fleece and Belmont has become Colchis’ strand. Many Jasons come in quest of Portia and he believed because of the fair speechless messages that she had given, he would be the one who would be fortunate to marry her.

***Question 2 10***

1. Nerissa is the speaker of these lines. Neapolitan Prince, Count Palatine, Falconbridge, Scottish Lord, the Duke of Saxony’s nephew, Monsieur Le Bon
2. The English lord is called as a dumb-show. He is oddly suited with his doublet bought from Italy, his round hose bought from France, his bonnet from Germany. His behaviour has been borrowed from everywhere according to her.
3. Nerissa believes that ideal happiness would be if a person is seated in the mean between extreme joy and extreme sorrow. She is aware that extreme joy can also lead to surfeit which would not allow the person to be really happy. She says superfluity comes sooner by white hair but it is the competency that lives longer.

**Section B- Poetry**

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

***Question 3 10***

1. The narrator of the poem is one of the bangle sellers who bear their shining loads (bangles) to the temple fair.
2. The tokens meaning bangles are said to be delicate, bright and rainbow-tinted circles of light.
3. A bride wears either bright green or bright red bangles on the day of her wedding. The green bangles are compared to the vast fields of corn which shine brightly in the sunlight. The bright red ones are like the flame of her marriage fire. The red colour also symbolises the passion of the newly wed. The sound of these bangles is like the laughter of the bride whereas the texture is as clear and tender as her tears.

***Question 4 10***

1. The person who plants the tree, plants a friend of sun and sky. The tree towers high towards the sky and appears as if it is extending its hand of friendship to the sun and the sky. The tree is a friend in the true sense of the word because it is beneficial to the environment as it reduces the temperature and purifies the atmosphere.
2. The tree is towering high into the sky. Moreover, there is a lot of harmony and peace surrounding the tree. The birds nest in the tree and sing in twilight and this fills the atmosphere with music that is very soothing. All this makes the tree like a heaven close by.
3. The term ‘days to be’ refers to the days that are yet to come or the future. In the second stanza, the poet continues to eloquently praise the benefits of planting a tree which continue to positively impact the present as well as the future. When a person plants one tree, the seeds of the tree enclosed in the fruit scatter and give rise to more trees. Thus, the cycle continues incessantly and benefits the future generations too.

**Section C- Prose**

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

***Question 5 10***

***“She pulled one out… scr-r-ratch!- how it spluttered and burnt…”***

1. The word ‘one’ means a small match stick. She struck it against the wall. The flame spluttered and burnt. It had a warm, bright flame like a tiny candle.
2. The little girl dared not go home for she had sold no matches and earned not a single penny. Her father would be sure to beat her and besides it was very cold at home. They had nothing but the roof above them and the wind whistled through it, even though the largest cracks were stuffed with straw and rags.
3. The Christmas tree that the little girl had imagined was much larger and lovelier than the one she had seen the previous year through the glass doors of the rich merchant’s house. A thousand candles lit up the green branches and gaily coloured balls like those in the shop windows that looked down upon her.

***Question 6 10***

***“The torch fell from his trembling hand.***

1. ‘He’ here is Mr Oliver. He turned and scrambled down the path running blindly through the trees and calling for help.
2. On Mr.Oliver’s narration of the faceless boy, the watchman raises the lamp to his own face. To the horror of Mr. Oliver, he too had no eyes, no ears, no features and not even an eyebrow. Exactly that time the wind blew the lamp out.
3. No, the author of the story described Mr. Oliver as not a nervous or imaginative man. On the contrary, his strength and clarity wore away under pressure. When he saw the boy, without a face, his hands trembled and he ran blindly through the trees and called for help too. When he saw the watchman, he gasped and stammered too. That showed that he was scared and nervous contrary to the previous description