Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Second Semester Examination (Euro)**

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

***Question 1***

1. **Who is the speaker of these lines? Whom are they spoken to? Where does the scene take place? 3**

**Ans:** Lorenzo speaks these lines. They are spoken to Jessica. The street outside Shylock’s house.

1. **Why does the speaker instruct to come at once? Where have they set out? 3**

**Ans:** The speaker tells her to come immediately because the dark night is playing a runaway. He also tells that they are stayed for at Bassanio’s feast.

1. **What is Jessica’s reaction when she is told that she must be a torch-bearer? 3**

**Ans:** Jessica is completely shocked on getting the information that she must be a torchbearer. She does not want to hold a candle to her shames. She says that her disguise itself is very much visible. She is being given an office of discovery whereas she should be obscured because she is eloping.

1. **Who enters after Jessica exits? What does he say? 3**

**Ans:** Antonio enters after Jessica exits. He brings information as it is 9 o’ clock, their friends are waiting for Lorenzo and Gratiano. He informs Gratiano that they would not participate in the masque. The reason is that the wind has started and Bassanio will have to go aboard the same night.

1. **In what way does Lorenzo express his love for Jessica to Gratiano? 4**

**Ans:** Lorenzo tells Gratiano that he loves Jessica heartily. He does so as she is wise if his judgement is correct. She is fair if his eyes can see truly. She is true as she has proved herself. So a girl like Jessica who is wise, fair and true shall be placed constantly in his soul.

***Question 2***

**i. Who says these lines, here? Why?**

These lines are spoken by Solanio. He says that he had never heard a passion so confused, strange, outrageous and variable. This kind of an emotion was expressed by Shylock in the streets.

**ii. What happened when the Duke and Shylock reached the harbour?**

By the time Duke and Shylock reached the harbour, the ship was already under sail. There the Duke was informed that Lorenzo and his amorous Jessica were seen in a gondola together. Apart from this, Antonio certified the Duke they were not with Bassanio in his ship.

**iii. What information received from a French man does Salerio share with Solanio?**

Salerio says that he reasoned with a French man the previous day. The French man informed him that in the narrow seas which lies there between the English and the French, a vessel belonging to their country had miscarried. This vessel was richly fraught and he thought about Antonio when he heard about this sad news.

**iv. What did Shylock mention in his outburst on the streets?**

Shylock laments the loss of his daughter and his ducats. He says that his daughter

has fled with a Christian and in the confused state of mind he calls his ducats also

as Christian. He then asks for justice and law to take its course. He says that two

sealed bags of ducats had been stolen from him by his daughter. Finally he says

two rich and precious stones have also been stolen.

**v. What shows the strength of Bassanio’s and Antonio’s friendship in this scene?**

Bassanio tells Antonio that he would try to return as early as possible. To this, Antonio tells him that he should not hasten up his work for him. He should wait till the ripening of time and not allow the thought about Shylock’s bond to enter in his mind which is full of love. He tells Bassanio to be merry and employ his chiefest thoughts to courtship and such suitable fair ostents of love. Then, Antonio’s eyes were full of tears and he wrung Bassanio’s hand in a sensible way. This parting shows the depth of the relationship.

***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 16***

1. **Who was away in the jungle? Who went along with him? Why? 3**

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. **How many children did Sher Singh Bahadur have? 3**

Sher Singh Bahadur had only two children alive. They were Sher Singh and Kunwar

Singh. There had been other children but they were dead, carried off by cholera, influenza and by jungle accidents.

1. **Where was Kunwar lying? In what condition? 3**

Kunwar was lying upon the low string charpoy in his mud and grass hut with a floor of trodden earth. He was crying and sometimes coughing from the smoke but was mostly glazed and silent.

1. **What did the sight of the bear track make Sher Singh think? 3**

Sher Singh saw the sight of the bear track in the dust, square front paw and long back one which made him glance around uneasily. He had once seen a man who had been mauled by a bear, his face torn away. Thinking about this Sher Singh quickened his step.

1. **Explain the symbolism of the title ‘Journey by Night’ 4**

The journey that Sher Singh undertook started in the evening. He was supposed to carry his brother to Kalaghat which was fifty miles away, in the night crossing the forest and two rivers. The night here is also symbolic of the difficulties faced by him. The cobra, elephants and other wild animals around pose a challenge to him just as the crossing of the two rivers do. He is able to overcome all these and reach Kalaghat in time. As he is able to successfully undertake the journey through the night and its difficulties.

***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.