Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**LITERATURE IN ENGLISH**

**ENGLISH Paper- 2**

**Set G**

***(Two hours)***

*Answers to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.*

*You will* ***not*** *be allowed to write during the first* ***15*** *minutes.*

*This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.*

*The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.*

*Attempt* ***five*** *questions in all.*

*The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets []*

**SECTION A- DRAMA**

*The Merchant of Venice: Shakespeare*

**Question 1.**

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

***O Sweet Portia ! Here are a few of the unpleaasant’st words that ever blotted paper.***

***Gentle lady when I first did impart my love….***

1. What prelude leads to this dialogue? What does Portia want to know? [3]

Ans: The prelude that leads to this dialogue is that Portia notices tat Bassanio’s cheek has lost colour after reading the letter that he has received. She persuades him read the shrewd contents that the paper brings. She wants to know the contents of the letter as she should have the half of whatever the paper brings to him.

1. What had Bassanio told Portia when he had expressed his love for the first time? What according to him should he have added to it? [3]

Ans: When Bassanio had expressed his love for the first time he had freely told her that all the wealth he had, ran in his veins and that he was a gentleman. He now confesses that he was a braggart. When he told her that his state was nothing, he should have then told Portia that he was worse than nothing as he had engaged himself to a friend, engaged his friend to his mere enemy to feed his means.

1. Whom had Bassanio engaged himself to? Did the other person engage himself too? [3]

Ans: Bassanio had engaged himself to his dearest friend Antonio. Yes. Antonio had engaged himself to his mere enemy Shylock. It was to feed the means of Bassanio.

1. What comparison does Bassanio make later in the same dialogue? [3]

Ans: Bassanio later compares the paper of the letter to the dead body of his friend. Each and every word in the letter is like a gaping wound issuing life blood.

1. What does Salerio inform Bassanio immediately after this dialogue? [4]

Ans: Salerio informs Bassanio that none of the ships of Antinio had reached the harbour. It also appeared that even if he had the present money to discharge the Jew he would not take it. He remarks that he had never seen a creature in the shape of man who was so greedy to confound another man. Shylock plied the duke att morning and night and does impeach the freedom of the state if they deny him justice. Though the duke, twenty merchants and magnificoes have tried to persuade him he is still adamant on his demand.

**Question 2.**

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

***“Here catch this casket, it is worth the pains, I am glad it is night,***

***You do not look on me….***

1. Who is the speaker of these lines? Whom are they spoken to? Where is the scene happening? [3]

Ans: Jessica is the speaker off these lines. They are spoken to Lorenzo. The scene is happening on

the street opposite Shylock’s house.

1. Why is the speaker glad? [3]

Ans: The speaker is glad that it is night. She is glad as Lorenzo would not be able to see her clearly. She is quite embarrassed by her exchange.

1. What can the lovers not see? What would happen if they would be able to see? [3]

Ans: Lovers cannot see the pretty follies that they themselves commit. If they could see these then according to her Cupid himself would blush to see her thus transformed to a boy.

1. What information shocks the speaker later in the scene? Why? [3]

Ans: The information that shocks Jessica in the scene later is that she would be the torchbearer for Lorenzo. She is shocked as she was already embarrassed by her disguise and was now being told to hold a candle to her shames. She was being given an office of discovery where she should have been obscured.

1. Why according to Lorenzo does he love Jessica? Can you see any other reason for the same? Substantiate with examples from the play. [4]

Ans: Lorenzo says that he loves Jessica because she is wise if he can judge her. She is fair if his eyes can see correctly and she is true as she has proved herself. For her being wise true and fair she would be placed in her constant soul.. I think he also loves her for her wealth. We see later in the play that Portia in Act IV says that the deed will be welcome to Lorenzo. Also we see in Act V when the information about the deed of gift is shared with Lorenzo he compares it to manna being dropped for starved people. It clearly shows that he is not well off and money could also be one of the motives of him falling in love with Jessica.

**SECTION B- POETRY**

*A Collection of Poems*

**Question 3.**

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

***There we stood, afraid. A house standing before us tilted, swayed,…***

1. Who is ‘we’ here in the poem? Why are they afraid? [3]

The doctor and his wife Yecko San are ‘we’ in the poem. The doctor, the narrator, and his wife were tripped by something at their feet. The narrator gasped out when he saw it was a head and asked to excuse him but he realised that he was dead. The gate had crushed him. So on realising the entire scenario they stood afraid.

1. What dawned upon the ‘we’? What other thought came to the narrator? [3]

It dawned upon the narrator and his wife that they should rush to the hospital as they needed air. The narrator also thought that he should help his staff too in this crisis of the moment.

1. What does the narrator wonder? Why? [3]

The narrator thought that the idea of helping his staff at that moment made sense to him but he wondered how that thought came into his mind (how I could have hoped) because he himself was hurt and needed help and he was not in the condition to do any good for others.

1. Whom did the narrator meet after starting his journey after a bout of thirst? What did the other person do? [3]

The narrator met a soldier who was standing silently. The soldier gave him the towel which was around his neck.

1. Describe the forms of people that the narrator saw? What did he finally realise about them? [4]

The narrator saw the shadowy forms of the people. He described some as ghosts, some as scarecrows and says that all were wordless and dumb. They had their arms stretched straight out, shoulder to dangling hand. It took some for the narrator to realise that the friction of their burns caused so much pain that they feared to rub (chafe) flesh against flesh while walking to the hospital in a blank parade.

**Question 4.**

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

***Tell me not, in mournful numbers,***

***Life is but an empty dream.***

1. Which three things does the narrator not want to listen? [3]

The narrator doesn’t want to listen that life is just an empty dream. This is usually spoken in mournful numbers. Also it is said that if a soul is slumbering, it is dead and things are not what they seem, that they are unreal and illusionary. The narrator doesn’t want to believe in any of these things.

1. Which biblical saying does the narrator refute? How? [3]

‘Dust thou art, to dust thou returnest’ is the biblical saying the narrator refutes. The narrator says that it was spoken about the body and not about the soul. He believes that the soul never dies.

1. What should not be and what should be our goal? [3]

Enjoyment and sorrow should not be our destined end or way. We have to take action so that each tomorrow finds us farther than today. We must strive to be better and better by every passing day.

1. Explain the metaphor that the poet uses for our heart? [3]

The metaphor that the poet uses to describe heart is drum. The beating of the heart is compared to a muffled drum. Just as the drum is covered up, its beating is barely audible similarly our heartbeat is barely audible. Our heartbeats are covered by our hearts that are stout and brave.

1. What is actually a Psalm? Is this poem a Psalm? In what way is it similar to or different from a Psalm? [4]

Psalm is a religious song. It has a rhythmic overtone and it is used to address God. This poem is not an example of psalm but it is quite similar in nature. As both give a way of living life and this poem is like a lesson to our lives.

**SECTION C- PROSE**

*Collection of Short Stories*

**Question 5.**

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

***I said once again, “There is festivity in the house today. It won’t be possible to see anyone at this time.***

1. Who is the speaker of these lines? What was his profession? [3]

Ans: The narrator is the speaker of these lines. He is Mini’s father. He is a writer/an author by profession. He used to write novels.

1. What was the reaction of the listener to the above statement? [3]

Rahamat began to leave the house but turned back in hesitation and asked in a faltering tone if he could meet the girl for a moment.

1. What act of generosity did the speaker indulge in? What was the reaction of the listener to it? [3]

Rahamat grabbed the narrator by the hand and said that the narrator had been a generous man. He would never forget the narrator’s kindness but did not want to be paid for those fruits. He informed the narrator that he too had a daughter back home and it is remembering her face that he used to bring those gifts for Mini. He didn’t come there for business.

1. What action of the listener touched the heart of the speaker? [3]

Rahamat shoved his hand inside his huge baggy shirt and brought out a grimy piece of paper from somewhere close to his chest. When the paper was unfolded, the narrator could see the impression of a very small hand on it. It was not a photograph or a painting but the trace of a tiny hand created with burnt charcoal daubed on the palm. For Rahamat the impression of his daughter’s hand was a memorabilia which he always carried with him. It was as if the soft touch of that little hand kept his huge lonely heart fed with love and happiness.

1. Can you say that the speaker and the listener were sailing in the same boat? Substantiate. [4]

The narrator’s eyes were filled with tears at the sight of the piece of paper carried by Rahamat. It didn’t matter to him anymore that Rahamat was an ordinary fruit-peddler from Kabul and he belonged to an aristocratic Bengali family. He realised that both of them were sailing in the same boat as both were fathers. After Mini left, Rahamat slouched on the floor with a long deep sigh. He realised that his own daughter would have grown up as well and he would have to get to know her all over again. He was not sure what would have happened to her in the past eight years.

**Question 6.**

Trace the growth of the friendship between Sue and Johnsy through the thick and thin in the story ‘The last leaf’ [16]

**Following points to be mentioned-**

Sue and Johnsy met at Delmonico’s restaurant- they hit it off immediately due to their common interests and choices- that was in May- in November, Johnsy is smitten by Pneumonia- Sue tries really hard to make her more positive and hopeful- but all in vain- she tries to cheer her up, be like a mother and take care of her- Sue also explains her condition to Behrman who initially gets wild and refuses to pose for a painting- Johnsy keeps counting the leaves on the ivy wine but in a reverse order- she connects the falling of the last leaf to her dying- However, Sue maintains her calm and composure and tries to reinstall hope in her- one morning when Johnsy sees that the last leaf still remained on the vine in spite of a bad weather, she realises how she was committing a sin by wanting to die- its later revealed that Behrman had finally painted his masterpiece i.e. the last leaf- Sue proves to be a good friend who is by Johnsy through thich and thin- also proving ‘a friend in need is a friend indeed’