Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Test:**

**On the Grasshopper and the Cricket, Where the mind is without fear, A Shot in the Dark, The World-Renowned Nose**

**Merchant of Venice**

**Std VIII-NES Marks: 25 Duration: 30 min**

**Q.1) ‘Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls;’**

**i) What does the word ‘the world’ refer to? (2)**

**ii) What does ‘knowledge is free’ mean? (2)**

1. The world refers to India here as Rabindranath Tagore talks about his Motherland in the poem.

2. ‘Knowledge is free’ means knowledge is available to everyone irrespective of creed, race, caste, gender etc.

**Q.2) ‘….for when tired out with fun, he rests at ease beneath some pleasant weed. The poetry of earth is ceasing never.’**

i) Who is referred to as ‘He’ in the given extract? Which season is mentioned in the octave of the poem? (2)

ii) What is the poet trying to say in the lines- ‘The poetry of earth is ceasing never?’ (2)

1. ‘He’, here, is the grasshopper. The season mentioned in the octave of the

poem is the summer season.

2. According to the poet, the poetry of the earth is never dead as nature is never quiet. It always produces sounds either in form of animals, birds or insects or in form of different seasons. Whether it is the grasshopper in the summer or the cricket in winter, the nature is never silent.

**Q.3) Mention the consequences of Philip’s good and bad impression on Mrs. Saltpen. (4)**

Q.3 If Philip is able to impress Honoria, he might count on the nomination as an assured thing. If Philip fails to find favour in Honoria’s eyes, the local leaders would probably cool off in their early enthusiasm for him.

**Q.4) What is the profession of the protagonist? Was he aware of the happenings in the world? (4)**

Q.4 The protagonist is a cook, a kitchen worker who was illiterate and could neither read nor write. No, he wasn’t aware of the happenings in the world as his world was confined to the kitchen. He never felt like paying attention to the world as he could eat to his satisfaction, sleep and work.

**Q.5) Sadness has made me an idiot**

**Antonio says it to Salarino and Salanio**

**Recommenced- started again**

Obliged- grateful/indebted

Disarray-disorganised

Perpetuated- continued

Confidence trick- a fraud which somebody obtains something of value by first gaining the trust of victim then betraying the person