Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**LITERATURE IN ENGLISH**

**ENGLISH Paper- 2**

**Set D**

**Question 1.**

1. The words contained in the letter that came from Antonio are called unpleasantest. The letter contained the news about Antonio’s ships drowning and his inability to honour the bond. As the creditors of Antonio had grown cruel he had no option but to forfeit the bond by paying through his pound of flesh.
2. Portia had noticed earlier that the colour of Bassanio’s cheek was being stolen by the content of the letter. She guessed that there were some shrewd contents in the paper. It could contain the news of some dear friend dead or some similar news. Nothing else in the world would be able to change the constitution of any constant man.
3. Bassanio confesses that when he had first imparted his love towards Portia he had said that his state was nothing he had lied. He should have then told that it was worse than nothing. This is because he had engaged himself to his friend who had engaged himself to his only enemy to procure the loan.
4. Bassanio compares the paper of the letter to the dead body of his friend. Every word of the letter is a gaping wound issuing life-blood. That means every word of the letter is like a bleeding wound on his friend’s body.

1. Salerio informs Bassanio that all the ships of Antonio had miscarried. Not even one had escaped the dreadful touch of the merchant marring rocks. Besides this, he also informs that even though Antonio has the present money to discharge the Jew he would not be willing to take it. He would still insist upon taking the forfeiture of a pound of flesh. He plies the Duke at morning at morning and at night and does impeach the justice of his state if he is denied justice. The Duke himself, twenty merchants and magnificoes of the greatest port were not successful in convincing him.

**Question 2.**

1. Portia is the speaker of these lines. Bassanio, Nerissa, Gratiano, Lorenzo and Jessica are the other people present. A garden in front of Portia’s house in Belmont.

1. Portia says that the ring was not defended with any amount of zeal by Bassanio. Had Bassanio done so, there is no one who would be so unreasonable to have demanded the ring which was held as ceremony. He would be lacking in modesty if he did so.
2. Bassanio says that he swears by his honour and his soul that it was given to a civil doctor and not to any woman. That doctor had refused three thousand ducats from Bassanio and asked for the ring instead. He even refused it and suffered the doctor to go displeased away but was forced by his conscience to give it later.
3. According to Bassanio he was beset with shame and courtesy. His sense of honour would not have allowed ingratitude to besmear it. He had to show gratitude to the man who has saved the life of his friend Antonio.
4. Portia warns Bassanio not to allow the doctor to come near her house. Since he had got the jewel that she loved she would become as liberal a Bassanio. She would not deny the doctor anything, neither her body nor her husband’s bed. He should not leave her alone and be away from home even for a night and should watch her like Argus. If she would be left to her own she would have the doctor for her bedfellow.

**Question 3.**

1. ‘Thee’ refers to God. ‘dead habit’ refers to ritualistic behaviour and blind beliefs. They are illogical and are like desert, unproductive. There can be no progress if one does not follow reason and logic and continue to move in the rut of old customs.
2. ‘Where’ is repeated often in the poem. By repeating the word, the poet tries to paint an idealistic picture of India that he wants to see. He is trying to increase the intensity before making a mention of ‘heaven of freedom’.
3. By the words ‘Where the knowledge is free’, the poet wants to say that in his country everyone should have the freedom to acquire knowledge without any restrictions. The restrictions imposed on the spread of knowledge include the prejudices based on wealth, caste and religion. Knowledge was a monopoly only of the higher castes and the elite.
4. The poet says that countrymen will achieve perfection through rigorous and persistent efforts and interminable struggle. He knows that perfection is not easy to gain. However, with tireless striving one can hope to come near our destination of perfection.
5. **a. Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high-** Alliteration: The starting sound ‘w’ is repeated.

**b. Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection. -** Personification ‘A tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection’- The human quality of stretching the arm is given to striving.

**Question 4.**

1. The poet tells us that art is long and time is fleeting. By this he means, it takes a long time to acquire a perfect technique or to master any craft. Simile: beating of the heart is compared to the muffled drums.
2. Art is described as ‘long’, time as ‘fleeting’ and hearts as ‘stout and brave’ and the beating of the heart is compared to the muffled drums.
3. The poet doesn’t want us to be like a dumb, driven cattle. He doesn’t want that we should blindly follow whatever others have done with a herd mentality. He would prefer us to be a hero in the strife.
4. The poet urges humans to live in the present by saying that even if the Future seems to be pleasant he cannot be trustworthy. The Past is already dead and should be buried. However Present is alive and is the only time we can work in. Investing in Present will surely give good results.
5. Psalm is a sacred song or a holy hymn. This poem is a sacred song about life. The poet tells the true meaning of life. Life is not an empty dream but it is real and earnest. ‘Dust thou art, to dust thou returnest was not spoken of the soul.’ The poet says that though the body of the person is mortal, his soul remains immortal, how one should live his life, inspire others, be a hero in the struggle and also live in the present.

**Question 5.**

1. The Princess was delighted to see the nightingale. He hopped on to the end of her bed and sang her to sleep. He would sing songs about the lake in the King’s garden, willow trees and so on.
2. The king had gifted each princess a beautiful green parrot in a golden cage. They would spend an hour every day, they were also of a methodical mind, in teaching them to talk.
3. The six princesses’ characters were permanently embittered by having to change to their names again and again. The older ones whose names had been changed oftener than the others had their characters more permanently embittered.
4. If the thirteenth daughter is born, the king would reluctantly have to cut off her head as number thirteen was considered unlucky. The Queen was uneasy because she knew that the king was fond of her and it would distress the king very much if he had to cut off her head.
5. Self-praise: King liked the song ‘God save the king’

Possessiveness and insecurity: Princess September wanted to cage the nightingale

Credit to oneself: The queen gave credit to herself for not giving supper to the Princess

Show off: Princess September showing off her bird to other sisters

Jealousy

**Question 6.**

Points to be contained in the answer:- Rizwan a newly appointed journalist searching for a man to interview- able to search a cloth seller Kasim after a lot of effort- in the marketplace it was difficult to identify such people as people were spending freely-Kasim’s condition- his earning-family in village- details about his father and grandfather- all of them labourers- illiteracy- unwillingness to send his son to school- no hope for future-goes away abruptly to earn his daily bread- Rizwan’s background- his family problems- both bound by the same thread of Hunger- finding it difficult to address his daily needs- no scope of extravagance or luxury unlike the rich people.