Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Second Term Examination**

**Std- VIII-PPS Marks 80 Duration: 2 hrs**

**Set A**

***Question 1***

**Write a composition (350-400 words) on any one of the following: [20]**

1. Write a short story which brings out the truth of the saying ‘Never Judge a book by its cover.’
2. If you had an opportunity to live the life of a renowned person of the past, who would you choose to be and why?
3. Describe what you think are the two serious problems facing us today, and state what should be done about them.

***Question 2:***

**Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: [15]**

The sea king down there had been a widower for years, and his old mother kept house for him. She was a clever woman, but very proud of her noble birth. Therefore she **flaunted**twelve oysters on her tail while the other ladies of the court were only allowed to wear six. Except for this she was an altogether **praiseworthy** person, particularly so because she was extremely fond of her granddaughters, the little sea princesses. They were six lovely girls, but the youngest was the most beautiful of them all. Her skin was as soft and tender as a rose petal, and her eyes were as blue as the deep sea, but like all the others she had no feet. Her body ended in a fish tail.   
  
The whole day long they used to play in the palace, down in the great halls where live flowers grew on the walls. Whenever the high amber windows were thrown open the fish would swim in, just as swallows **dart** into our rooms when we open the windows. But these fish, now, would swim right up to the little princesses to eat out of their hands and let themselves be petted.   
  
Outside the palace was a big garden, with **flaming** red and deep-blue trees. Their fruit glittered like gold, and their blossoms flamed like fire on their constantly waving stalks. The soil was very fine sand indeed, but as blue as burning brimstone. A strange blue veil lay over everything down there. You would have thought yourself aloft in the air with only the blue sky above and beneath you, rather than down at the bottom of the sea. When there was a dead calm, you could just see the sun, like a scarlet flower with light streaming from its calyx.   
  
Each little princess had her own small garden plot, where she could dig and plant whatever she liked. One of them made her little flower bed in the shape of a whale, another thought it neater to shape hers like a little mermaid, but the youngest of them made hers as round as the sun, and there she grew only flowers which were as red as the sun itself. She was an unusual child, quiet and **wistful**, and when her sisters decorated their gardens with all kinds of odd things they had found in sunken ships, she would allow nothing in hers except flowers as red as the sun, and a pretty marble statue. This figure of a handsome boy, carved in pure white marble, had sunk down to the bottom of the sea from some ship that was **wrecked**. Beside the statue she planted a rose-colored weeping willow tree, which thrived so well that its graceful branches shaded the statue and hung down to the blue sand, where their shadows took on a violet tint, and swayed as the branches **swayed.** It looked as if the roots and the tips of the branches were kissing each other in play.   
  
Nothing gave the youngest princess such pleasure as to hear about the world of human beings up above them. Her old grandmother had to tell her all she knew about ships and cities, and of people and animals. What seemed nicest of all to her was that up on land the flowers were fragrant, for those at the bottom of the sea had no scent. And she thought it was nice that the woods were green, and that the fish you saw among their branches could sing so loud and sweet that it was delightful to hear them. Her grandmother had to call the little birds "fish," or the princess would not have known what she was talking about, for she had never seen a bird.

**(a) Give the meaning of each of the following words as used in the passage: [6]**

1. flaunted-
2. praiseworthy
3. dart-
4. wistful-
5. wrecked-
6. swayed-

**(b) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words** **[9]**

(i) Where was princesses' mother? How was their grandmother?                        (2)

(ii) How many princesses were there? What did the each one have?                              (2)

(iii) What did each princess do on her part of possession?                                                (2)

(iv) Why had the youngest princess never seen a bird? Where were 'fish' according to her?   (2)

(v) Explain: high amber windows                  (1)

**Question 3 [10]**

***(Do not spend more than 20 minutes on this question.)***

**Select any one of the following:**

1. Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper about the stress that students undergo before their exams and suggest ways to relieve the tension.
2. Write a letter to your friend about the resolutions you have made for the New Year and how you plan to keep it.

***Question 4***

**a. Fill in each of the numbered blanks with the correct form of the word given in brackets. Do not copy the passage, but write in correct serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space. [10]**

1. A burning desire is the **(1) starting** (start) point of all accomplishments. Once Socrates **(2) was walking** (walk) along the bank of a river, when a young man **(3) came** (come) to him and said, “**(4) Learned** (learn) Sir, what **(5) is** (be) the secret of success?” Socrates asked him **(6) to walk** (walk) with him into the river. When the water reached (reach) upto their necks, Socrates took the man by surprise by **(7) ducking** (duck) him into the water. The man began to gasp and

**(8) took** (take) a deep breath of air, Socrates asked him “What did you want the most when you were under water?” The man replied “Air.” Socrates said, “That **(9) is** (be) the secret of success. When you **(10) want** (want) success as badly as you want air, then you have it. ”

1. Some people have a natural gift for **(1) telling** (tell) humorous stories. However, it is quite difficult when it **(2) comes** (come) to writing something humorous. Humour **(3) can emerge/emerges** (emerge) from various sources. When we expect one thing to happen and something else unexpectedly takes place we can have a comical situation. For instances, someone is **(4) expecting** (expect) a birthday present. A parcel **(5) arrives** (arrive). He unwraps it and finds a dead cockroach **(6) wrapped** (wrap) in a golden paper! Second, we can have a humorous situation when someone **(7) doesn’t behave** (behave) in a way that is appropriate to the situation or the surroundings. An example would be when someone, not **(8) used** (use) to a polite company, has **(9) to attend** (attend) an important office function. Because he doesn’t know how to behave in such a situation, he makes a **(10) laughing** (laugh) stock of himself.

**b. Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word: [8]**

1. Do not boast **of/about** your wealth.
2. The sisters fought **over**  a trifle.
3. He was **at** a loss, he didn’t know how to tackle it.
4. She is cutting **down** on sugar.
5. The Principal impressed **on/upon** her students the importance of leading a disciplined life.
6. The Phoenix is a legendary bird that rises **from** its ashes.
7. Copy this letter word **to** word.
8. The spendthrift has run **into** heavy debt.
9. The garden is just round the corner. It will take about 5 minutes **on** foot to reach there.
10. He abused his friends, as he was **under** the influence of alcohol.
11. The examination will be held **across** all the centres all over India.
12. After the argument, his friends turned **against** him.
13. She takes **to** her mother, she has her lovely green eyes.
14. The Headmaster will look **into** the cheating case.
15. Nehru was born **to** rich parents.
16. A dispute arose **between** the landlord and the tenant.

**c. Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence without using *and, but* or**

***so*: [7]**

1. This town was once a prosperous sea port. It is now a heap of ruins.

Although, though, even though…. Which/that

1. He completed his assignment. He was transferred soon after.

When, as soon as, after

1. Both the candidates are good. The voters have a tough choice to make.

As, since, because

1. She is a beautiful dancer. She is vain.

Although, even though

1. Sunita is a famous astronomer. She is also a good singer.

Besides, apart from, as well as

1. Renu acted in a movie. It became very popular.

which/that

1. Give him water to drink. He will die of thirst.

Or, or else

**d. Re-write the following sentences according to the instructions given after each. Make other changes that may be necessary, but do not change the meaning of each sentence. [10]**

1. Winter is the coldest season of the year. (Begin with: No…)

No other season of the year is as cold as winter.

1. He was too foolish to learn from the mistakes he made. (Use ‘so’)

He was so foolish that he couldn’t/didn’t learn from the mistakes he made.

1. Put your papers in the file, you may forget them on the table. (Use ‘lest’)

Put your papers in the file lest you should forget them on the table.

1. As soon as the sun rose, they left the house. (Begin: No…)

No sooner did the sun rise than they left the house.

No sooner had the risen than they left the house.

1. But for his help, I’d have drowned. (Begin: Had… )

Had he not helped me, I’d have drowned.

Had he helped me, I would not have drowned.

1. “Please teach me to cycle”, she asked her brother. (Change into indirect speech)

She asked her brother if he would teach her to cycle.

1. Her attitude often annoys me. (Rewrite using the noun form of ‘annoy’)

Her attitude often causes annoyance to me.

1. She found your keys in the garage. (Begin with: The keys… )

They keys were found in the garage by her.

1. Unless you confess your guilt, you will be punished. (Start with ‘Confess…)

Confess your guilt or you will be punished.

Confess your guilt and you will not be punished.

1. The President rose to speak and there was silence. (Use a subordinator)

As/When/Since ….