Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**SECOND PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2016-2017**

**LITERATURE IN ENGLISH**

**ENGLISH Paper- 2 *(Two hours)* ICB**

*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:

***“Mark what Jacob did. When Laban and himself***

***were compromised that all the eanlings that were streak’d and pied”***

1. **What is the compromise that the speaker is talking about? Explain briefly. [3]**

**Ans:** Shylock says when Jacob, the third possessor of Holy Abram, grazed his uncle

Laban’s sheep, he did not take any salary. Rather, they were compromised that all the eanlings which were streaked and pied should fall as Jacob’s hire. Jacob pilled certain wands and stuck them in front of the fulsome ewes and eanlings were born as streaked and pied. As per the agreement, they went to Jacob.

1. **Why does the speaker use this analogy? [3]**

**Ans:** He uses this analogy to justify his way of winning thrift. He says that any thrift is a blessing if men steal it not. So his charging of interest is justified too.

1. **How does Antonio contradict the speaker immediately after this speech? What differences does he highlight in the situations? [3]**

**Ans:** Antonio says that Jacob served for this venture. Apart from that, the birth of eanlings as streaked and pied was a thing which was not in his power to make happen. The eanlings born as streaked and pied were swayed and fashioned by the hand of heaven.

1. **What analogies does Antonio give to substantiate his point? [3]**

**Ans:** Antonio says that Shylock is like a devil who is citing Scripture for his purpose. He says that an evil soul producing holy witness is like a villain with a smiling cheek. He also compares Shylock to a goodly apple which is rotten at heart.

1. **What does Shylock’s bitterness stem from if we go by his speech a little later in the scene? Is it justified according to you? [4]**

**Ans:** Shylock tells Antonio that often he has berated him in the Rialto about his moneys and usances. He has borne it with a patient shrug. Antonio has called him misbeliever, cut-throat dog and spat upon his Jewish gabardine. He has done all this just because Shylock charges interest. Antonio also has spat on his beard and kicked him as one would spurn a stray dog over his threshold.

**Question 2.**

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

***“Never did I know a creature that did bear the shape of man,***

***so keen and greedy to confound a man”***

1. **Who is the speaker of these lines? Whom are they spoken to? About whom? [3]**

**Ans:** Salerio is the speaker of these lines. They are spoken to Bassanio. The lines are about Shylock.

1. **What has Bassanio confessed to Portia earlier to this speech? [3]**

**Ans:** Bassanio confesses to Portia that when he first had imparted his love to her, he had told her that his wealth ran in his veins. He was a gentleman. Though whatever he had said was true he says that he was a braggart. He finally confesses to her that his estate was worse than nothing as he had engaged himself to a dear friend.

1. **What does Shylock do according to the speaker? [3]**

**Ans:** Shylock plied the Duke at morning and night to give him justice. Twenty merchants, the Duke and magnificoes of the greatest port had tried to convince Shylock without success. He still insists upon having his bond. He still insists upon having his bond.

1. **What information does Jessica share at this juncture? [3]**

**Ans:** Jessica shares the information that she had heard Shylock swear to Tubal and Chus that he would rather have Antonio’s flesh than even twenty times the sum which was owed to him. She says that if law authority and power do not deny Shylock, it would go hard with poor Antonio.

1. **In what way do you see the character of Portia as visible at the end of the scene? Substantiate [4]**

**Ans:** After Bassanio chooses the right casket, Portia is very happy and they get married to each other. But when Portia notices that the content of the letter has stolen colour from Bassanio’s cheeks. She realises that it would contain the news about some dear friend dead. She is generous and tells Bassanio to pay him six thousand and deface the bond. Then she mentions even six thousand can be doubled or trebled. Portia proves to be selfless and sacrifices the company of her husband by giving him the permission to leave and save Antonio’s life.

**SECTION B- POETRY**

*A Collection of Poems*

**Question 3.**

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

***‘Not enjoyment and not sorrow is our destined end or way.***

***But to act that each tomorrow finds us farther than today’***

1. **Mention and explain the figure of speech in the given line [3]**

**Ans:** Antithesis; Words of opposite meaning ‘enjoyment’ and ‘sorrow’ are given in the same line.

1. **Just before the given extract which saying is given? Explain the same. [3]**

**Ans:** Dust thou art, to dust thou returnest was spoken of the soul. These lines are taken from the Bible and in saying this, the poet means that though the body of the person is mortal, his soul remains immortal.

1. **What are our hearts called? Why are they called so? [3]**

**Ans:** Our hearts are called stout and brave in the poem. The beating of the heart is compared to a muffled drum. Just as if the drum is covered up, its beating is barely audible similarly our heartbeat is barely audible because of our body it covers it up.

1. **What should the heart beat remind us of? [3]**

**Ans:** Our heartbeat ought to remind us of death. The beat here is compared to a marchpast.

This march-past is steadily taking us to our grave. That is the reason we need to use our time well.

1. **Give and explain at least two metaphors used in the poem for life. Can you give any other metaphor for life? What it is? Justify. [4]**

**Ans:** Life is but an empty dream- life is indirectly compared to an empty dream

In bivouac of Life- Life is compared to bivouac which is a temporary shelter used by the soldiers in a battlefield.

*Personal Response*

**Question 4.**

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

***‘Whose woods these are I think I know.***

***His house is in the village though’***

1. **What effect does the word ‘though’ have on the meaning of the first stanza? [3]**

**Ans:** The narrator stopped in the middle of the woods as he was fascinated by the beauty around. The narrator knows the owner of the woods but the owner stays in the village. Hence, he cannot enjoy the serene atmosphere and landscape as the narrator can.

1. **What emotions can you judge in the narrator as he says these lines? Why? [3]**

**Ans:** The narrator has two emotions towards the owner of the woods. At one level, he has a little sympathy towards him as he is not able to enjoy the beauty of his own woods filling up with snow. On the other hand, there seems to be a sense of relief too as he is trespassing into somebody else’s land and is relieved to know that he wouldn’t be caught.

1. **Who would find the going silly? Why? [3]**

**Ans:** The horse of the narrator would find it silly or queer that the narrator has stopped between the woods and the frozen lake. There is no farmhouse nearby and it is a dark and cold evening.

1. **What does he do to alert the narrator? Does it have any effect on the narrator? [3]**

**Ans:** The horse thinks that the narrator has stopped at that place by some mistake. He gives his harness bells a shake to alert the narrator. No, there isn’t any immediate effect on the narrator but later he is alerted and awakened from his desires into the world of duties. He realises that although the woods are lovely, dark and deep. He has promises to keep and miles to go before he sleeps.

1. **Whom does the horse represent in the broader sense? Do we have such voices in our life? What do they do? [4]**

**Ans:** The horse symbolizes the human conscience. Whenever we get swayed away by distractions, it is the conscience that pulls us back and reminds us about our impending duties . Yes, we do have such voices in our lives. We call them ‘inner voice’ or ‘conscience’. They remind us of our impending duties and responsibilities and keep us away from our distractions to achieve our goal.

**SECTION C- PROSE**

*Collection of Short Stories*

**Question 5.**

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

***‘In a little district west of Washington Square***

***the streets have run crazy and broken themselves into small strips called ‘places’.***

***These ‘places’ make strange angles and curves.***

1. **What is called as a valuable possibility? Who discovered it? Why? [3]**

**Ans:** A valuable possibility an artist discovered in Greenwich was that in the maze of streets if a collector with a bill for paints, paper and canvas should traverse that route. Then he would return back without getting even a cent of credit paid on account.

1. **Which three aspects brought the two friends together? [3]**

**Ans:** The two friends; 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.

1. **Mention the aspects in which Pneumonia has been personified. [3]**

**Ans:** Pneumonia is personified as a cold unseen stranger who stalked about the colony touching one person or the other with his icy fingers. On the East Side this ravager (pneumonia) strode boldly smiting his victims by scores. However, he walked slowly through the narrow maze of moss-grown ‘places’. Pneumonia is also personified as a non-chivalric gentleman who was a red-fisted, short-breathed old duffer.

1. **In what way according to the Doctor the entire Pharmacopoeia looks silly? Was that the situation here? [3]**

**Ans:** Giving up the willingness to live, is the way people line up on the side of the undertaker, and it makes the entire pharmacopoeia look silly. He guessed that Johnsy had made up her mind that she was not going to get well. Yes, the situation was here too in Johnsy’s case. The strange fancy that possessed Johnsy was that when the last leaf would fall down, she would die.

1. **After the doctor leaves Sue shows some signs of maturity. In what way is the maturity visible while taking care of Johnsy? [4]**

**Ans:** 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. She substantiates it by saying that it was as good a chance as one would have in New York while riding on the street cars or walking past a new building.After the doctor leaves, Sue cried a Japanese napkin to a pulp but in front of Johnsy she swaggered into Johnsy’s room with her drawing-board whistling ragtime.

**Question 6.**

**The journey across the second river was in itself a tough journey in the story ‘Journey by night’. Do you agree with the statement? Substantiate with examples. [16]**

Yes, the journey across the second river as in itself a tough journey. While crossing the first, Sher Singh envisaged the bridge over the second river. But unfortunately when he reached the second river, Sher Singh saw that from bank to bank the river foamed. He could not see the bridge as it was submerged. A fierce crest of water showed where the bridge lay, which was confirmed by a drowned goat held against it by the torrent. He could see branches rising like dying arms in the vortex and

caught against the bridge and feathering the wild glissade of water. The entire tree was churning over and over on the cataract. It gathered speed and crashed against the drowned bridge. There was a thundering noise followed by a loud tearing sound. The bridge moved like a monster heeled over and broke, throwing up its bamboo ribs like a fan. The question that crossed the mind of Sher Singh after the bridge was broken, was how to cross the bridge. There was no chance to swim, even alone he would be lost in the current but he guessed that perhaps among the wreck of the bridge there would be a way. Sher Singh gathered grass and plaited it into a rope. The blades of the grass were sharp and cut his fingers. He tied the rope around his brother and himself so that they would keep together. The moment Sher Singh entered the second river, he and Kunwar were seized and flattened against the wreck by the current of water. Initially Sher Singh could not move but then he began to edge forward into the maelstrom holding on to anything that he could lay his hands on. He was feeling forward for things to hold and finding the split ends of bamboo that were sharp enough to disembowel a man. Sher Singh was deafened by the deluge. Timber banged and bruised him. He could hardly keep his hold because of the cold water. He could not get his breath in the spray and water poured past and over him in one long icy cascade. He was deaf, blinded, frozen and drowned. Sher Singh was so numb after crossing the second river that he could not even wring out his dhoti. The cloth clung to his loins and chilled him. He was cold as the water in the second river was ice-cold. Sher Singh was numb because of coldness and his nose hurt with water inside it. He still stumbled on, walking and walking. His knees bent and trembled. They gave way and he was almost crawling till he reached a better road and later a village.