Vikram ’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Pre-Preliminary Exam: Test 1**

**Short Stories Poems Drama**

1) Princess September 1) I Believe Merchant

Of

2) A Tiger in the Tunnel 2) Psalm of life Venice (Act I)

**Std X Set G**

**Marks 40 1 hour**

**Q.1**

**Ans i)** Antonio. Bassanio is doing him more wrong in making question of his uttermost than he would even if he had wasted his entire wealth.

**Ans ii)** Bassanio calls Portia as rich, fair and virtuous. He says that this Portia is not less in value to Cato’s daughter Portia. The world is not ignorant of her worth and renowned suitors come from all the four directions. Her sunny locks hang on her temples like a golden fleece and Belmont has become Colchis’ strand. Many Jasons come in quest of Portia and he believed because of the fair speechless messages that she had given, he would be the one who would be fortunate to marry her.

**Ans iii)** Antonio tells Bassanio to go ahead and try whatever his credit could do in Venice. He asks Bassanio to borrow as much money as he can get. He would not make any question and would say that it was for his purpose and his guarantee.

**Q.2**

**Ans i)** Shylock tells Antonio to meet him at the notary’s office and give him direction about their merry bond.

**Ans ii)** After having said this, the speaker said that he would go and purse the ducats straight and join him at the office of the notary. He would also check on his house which was left in the fearful guard of an unthrifty knave.

**Ans iii)** No, Bassanio is not comfortable with the condition of the bond. He does not trust Shylock would ever offer friendship without any malicious intent. Antonio tells Bassanio not to fear as he would not forfeit the bond. He expected in two months a return of three times the value of the bond. That was a month before the bond would expire.

**Q.3**

**Ans i)** ‘Can’ is the modal auxiliary used. It signifies the poet’s capability or capacity to rise to the heights.

**Ans ii)** According to the poet, she could soar to the heights and reach the sky. There she would be able to touch the silky clouds and feel the stars. The symbolic meaning is she had high ambitions and is confident that she would be able to achieve them.

**Ans iii)** She has to complete the role assigned to her by God. This role is especially important in the land where she dreams and breathes. By this, she means to say that one must not forget one’s responsibilities and duties towards Mother Earth and the Motherland in the quest of our ambitions.

**Q.4)**

**Ans i)** The poet says that he doesn’t want to hear the repeated saying that life is just an empty dream. This is usually spoken in mournful numbers.

**Ans ii)** Three stages of life like ‘Present’, ‘Past’ and ‘Future’ are given. Present is called living, Past is referred to as dead, whereas Future is called pleasant but untrustworthy. 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.

**Ans iii)** Not enjoyment and not sorrow: Two opposite words ‘antithesis’ and ‘sorrow’ are mentioned.

**Q.5)**

**Ans i)** He is the King of Siam. He stated that twelve daughters were enough for any man and after the birth of December he would be reluctantly compelled to cut of Queen’s head. This would be perhaps as thirteen is an unlucky number, the birth of the thirteenth daughter was avoided in that culture.

**Ans ii)** When the Queen told the King that they would have to begin renaming the daughters after December is born, he disagreed with her. He stated that twelve daughters were enough for any man and after the birth of December he would be reluctantly compelled to cut of Queen’s head. This would be perhaps as thirteen is an unlucky number, the birth of the thirteenth daughter was avoided in that culture.

**Ans iii)** The King of Siam had a habit that instead of receiving presents on his birthday, he gave them. According to the narrator, this habit could be usefully imitated in Europe. The affluence of Europe would make the people of other countries happy.

**Q.6)**

**Points to be covered-** Rumours about man-eating tiger, Baldeo’s walking towards the tunnel, sleeping, train late, woken up by the grunt of the tiger, the duel between Baldeo and the tiger, the tiger injured and entered the tunnel, expecting to escape from the other end, dead in the tunnel, dashed by the train.