Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Pre-Preliminary Exam: Test 3**

**Stories Poems Drama**

1) India’s Heroes 1) Stopping by woods Merchant

Of

2) The Last Leaf 2) The Professor Venice (Act III)

**Std X Set C**

**Marks 40 1 hour**

**Q.1)**

**Ans i)** The speaker of these lines is Jessica. The appreciation of Portia according to her is beyond expression. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** According to the speaker Bassanio should now lead a very upright life. He is lucky to have got a wife in the form of Portia though he perhaps does not deserve her. So it is to be expected from him that he should lead a virtuous life.

**3 marks**

**Ans iii)** Jessica says that if two gods are playing some heavenly match in heaven, and on hand if Portia is staked by one of them, then the other god will have to stake something else apart from the other lady being staked in return. This is because there is no one according to Jessica on earth who can match Portia. Only thus will the two sides be equal in the wager. **3 marks**

**Q.2)**

**Ans i)** The speaker Bassanio claims to be bereft of all words as Portia has very eloquently expressed her love towards Bassanio. She has just given him a ring as a token of her love and expressed her pleasure at the company of Bassanio.

**2 marks**

**Ans ii)** Bassanio says that he is speechless and only the blood in his veins is communicating to her. He says after good speech of oration by a much loved prince the audience is left buzzing in happiness, but together the buzzing sounds like confusion. He describes himself in this kind of confusion because of his happiness. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** Bassanio assures Portia at the end of this speech that he will ensure that the ring is always on his person. He goes on to claim if the ring parts from him ever then she can draw a conclusion that he is dead. **3 marks**

**Q.3)**

**Ans i)** ‘He’ mentioned here is the horse of the narrator. He shakes his bell to remind the narrator that perhaps they have stopped at the wrong place. There is no farmhouse near and they have stopped in the middle of the forest on a dark evening. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** The poet reminds himself at the end of the poem that though there are beautiful sights around him, he is supposed to remember the promises he has made is supposed to fulfill them. This essentially means that one may have many distractions in life but he must be able to pull himself away from these and focus on doing the bigger and the more important things in life. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** The poem ends with Refrain. This poetic device is used when we notice the repeating of a line to reinforce the message. In this poem the repeated lines are ‘And miles to go before I sleep, and miles to go before I sleep’ **3 marks**

**Q.4)**

**Ans i)** The professor has 5 children. 3 sons and two daughters. In all he has 11 grandchildren. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** The third son is called the black sheep of the family. The other two sons are told to be managers and have cars. The third one does not seem to be financially as well settled. So in worldly term she is not supposed to be well steeled and is called the black sheep of the family. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** The professor says that these are the days of family planning. He says he is not against it but it seems he has not followed it in his life nor does he seem a strong propend of the theory. He attributes the changes to the changing world and its values. **3 marks**

**Q.5)**

**Ans i)** Mrs Baruah had given a home assignment to the class. When she asked if they had done it all hands went up together. She was chirpy as she noticed that the exercise had not been a drudge for the kids. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** The first to speak was Ajit Basu who said that his hero was Sachin Tendulkar. The second to speak was Anjali Chhabra who wanted to be a social worker like her mother. The third to speak was Sanjay Damle who wanted to be a pilot. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** Kabeer was very nervous as he got up to speak. His hands were shaking slightly and there were beads of perspiration on his forehead. This was as he was not accustomed to making speeches and considered that he did not have the flair for public speaking. **3 marks**

**Q.6)**

Yes. Johnsy was completely whimsical- stupid notion that when all the leaves of the ivy vine would fall down she would die too- started counting them- hundred leaves- related the countdown to her life- last leaf falling down she imagined herself sailing away from life- Sue tried to reason wither but did not succeed- very harsh on Sue. Sue wanted to finish her assignment, she was asked to do that in other room- morning came Johnsy ordered the curtain to be drawn up- did not heed the pleas of Sue to think about her and what would she do without Johnsy- last leaf refused to go down, Johnsy realised the hidden message in it- got inspired and started to recover- Behrman braved cold weather and rain to paint the last leaf. knew that it would have a soothing effect on her nerves which it did. he caught Pneumonia and lost his life. His death can be directly attributed to the whimsical behavior of Johnsy. **8 marks**