Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**SECOND PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2016-2017**

**LITERATURE IN ENGLISH**

**ENGLISH Paper- 2**

**Set II-B *(Two hours)***

**Question 1.**

1. **Ans:** Vile squealing means useless noise. The noise made by the fife is called vile. It’s called useless because the puritan Jews don’t enjoy music.

1. **Ans:** The meaning of wry necked fife is bent neck fife. It’s called as bent neck as the instrument is played with a bent neck.
2. **Ans:** Shylock swears by Jacob’s staff that he has no mind of feasting that night. But he would still go to feast upon the prodigal Christian. He also wants to check if there is any ill brewing against him.
3. **Ans:** Launcelot tells Jessica to do all those things which were forbidden by her father. He wants her to look through the window on hearing the masque approaching. He says that a Christian will come by who will worth the eye of the Jewess.
4. **Ans:** Jessica does not seem to be a good daughter in the scene. We see that she has already plotted her escape with Lorenzo. She also manipulates when Shylock has overheard the conversation between her and Launcelot. She lies to her father saying that he had only said a farewell to her. At the end of the scene we see that she is hoping that her fortune is not cross with her and she is able to go away from Shylock.

**Question 2.**

1. **Ans:** Bassanio is the speaker of these lines. These lines are spoken in context to Portia’s portrait being found in the lead casket. Bassanio is very happy to find Portia’s portrait that looks realistic and is close to the actual creation.
2. **Ans:** He says that the person who has painted the portrait would be a demi-god. This is because he has realistically come very near to the actual creation.
3. **Ans:** Bassanio compares the painter to a spider, as in making the golden hair of Portia the painter has weaved a web. This golden mesh entraps the hearts of men faster than the spider’s web can trap gnats.
4. **Ans:** Bassanio is surprised that Portia has two eyes in the portrait. According to him, after making the beautiful first eye, the painter would have lost both his eyes. Sothe first eye should have been left unfurnished.
5. **Ans:** The scroll within the lead casket has a message for the person making that choice. It says that as he has not chosen by the view, chance would always be fair to him and he would always choose in the true manner. Since this fortune has fallen to that man, he should be content and seek no new partner. If he is well pleased with this development and holds his good fortune responsible for it, he should turn towards the lady and claim her with a loving kiss.

**Question 3.**

1. **Ans:** Professor Sheth is conversing with his ex-student in the poem. This poem is a monologue as it is only the Professor who speaks even on behalf of his ex-student.

1. **Ans:** Do you remember me? / I have retired/ my wife died some years ago/ Other one is Bank Manager/ How many issues do you have?/ I am not against it/ The whole world is changing/ We are progressing/ Everything happens in leaps and bounds/I rarely go out/ This is the price of old age/ How are you keeping? / How is your health? / I have turned …/ I will turn…. If you come again this side by chance / Please also visit my humble residence / I live just behind this house
2. **Ans:** His wife died a few years ago. His daughters are Sarala and Tarala. Their husbands are very nice boys. According to the Professor, he probably means that their husbands are doing financially quite well.

1. **Ans:** According to the Professor, one should change with changing time. He says so because one should keep up with the changing world and one should progress too. New values replace the old ones in leaps and bounds.
2. **Ans:** The Professor thinks he would live till the age of hundred. He says this on the basis of the sound habits he followed in his youth. Sound habits basically mean a healthy diet and abstinence from alcohol and tobacco. Though he has usual aches and pains, he takes pride in saying that he doesn’t have any major ailments like diabetes, blood pressure or heart attack.

**Question 4.**

1. **Ans:** The narrator of the poem is a Japanese doctor who was victim of Hiroshima nuclear attack. The narration is first person direct speech.
2. **Ans:** ‘Him’, here, is a beheaded man who was crushed under the gate. The narrator, on accidentally kicking him, gasped and asked for forgiveness. He did not realize that the man had already been dead.
3. **Ans:** The house standing before the narrator tilted, swayed, toppled and crashed in front of them. Fire sprang up in the dust and spread by the wind.
4. **Ans:** The narrator’s drawers and undershirt disappeared. A splinter jutted from his mangled thigh, his right side bled, his cheek was torn and he detachedly removed a piece of glass. When he shouted to call his wife, blood gushed out from his neck. His artery had ruptured.
5. **Ans:** The poetic device that we see dominating in the poem is visual imagery. By the vivid description of the wounds of the narrator, torn cheek, glass jutting out from his mangled thigh, artery in the neck bleeding, the poet is able to communicate effectively the misery that war can bring about. Also people walking naked on streets like ghosts or scarecrows indeed scares the daylight out of us.

**Question 5.**

1. **Ans:** Alagu purchased a pair of fine bullocks from the Bateshwar fair. They had long curved horns and were of western breed and were for months the envy and the rage of the whole village.
2. **Ans:** Jumman reasoned that the bullock had died because God’s punishment had overtaken Alagu for his treacherous conduct. Alagu on the other hand, began to connect the bullock’s sudden death with Jumman. He suspected that Jumman had poisoned it. His wife openly went about accusing Jumman of the crime.
3. **Ans:** Samjhu Sahu who made a living out of trading of commodities between the town and village had an eye on the lone bullock that was left out. With his old bullock he could make only one or two trips to the town market. But looking at the hefty bullock of Alagu, he thought he would be able to make at least three or four trips to the town and back and thus swell his profits. With that purpose he negotiated for the purchase of Alagu’s bullock.
4. **Ans:** Sahu told Alagu that he had used his bullock only for a month. If he still insisted on his claim for money, it would be better if Alagu took away Sahu’s bullock and used it for two months instead of one. This is the maximum that they could do.
5. **Ans:** The bullock which was bought by Samjhu had already made three trips to the town.On the fourth trip, Samjhu loaded the cart with twice the normal weight. Jaded and tired out the poor animal strained its utmost to move the cart but failed. After receiving blows from Samjhu, on account of the severe punishment it received and the overstrained tired limbs, the bullock tottered and collapsed. Samjhu went on belabouring the poor animal till death came as a welcome release.

**Question 6.**

**Ans:** Yes, reading does change a person’s mind. The lawyer was introduced to books because of the strange bet. Started with light reading. Graduated to the classics. In the second half of the sixth year he started zealously reading languages, Philosophy, History. Read six hundred volumes in four years. That was followed by the Gospel. Finally indiscriminate reading to pass time. Though he had not left the confines of the lodge, he had experienced a lot. He claims in the letter that he has drunk fragrant wine, sung songs, hunted stags and wild boars, have loved women. He also has climbed the peaks of Elburz and Mont Blanc and seen the sun rise and set from there He has seen the lightning flashing over his head and cleaving the storm clouds. Green forests, fields, rivers lakes towns and touched the wings of comely devils. He claims to have got of wisdom from the books. They teach the lawyer that everything is ephemeral and nothing is permanent in the world. It is deceptive like a mirage. Though he hasn’t moved from the lodge he has very much travelled the world through the books. The lawyer was greedy and materialistic when he staked his freedom. But after fifteen years, reading did change his mind. In the letter that he wrote to the banker, he specified that the banker had lost his reason (logic) and had taken the wrong path. He had taken lies for truth and hideousness for beauty. To prove that in action how much he hated wealth and money, he renounced the two million of which he had dreamed as of a paradise. He deprived himself of the right to the money by leaving five hours earlier from the time fixed so to break the contract.