Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Test: Psalm of Life, Small in the chest**

**Std IX Duration: 30min Marks 20**

**Answer the following questions according to their weightage:**

1. According to the poet, ‘Dust thou art, to dust thou returnest’ was not spoken of

the soul. It was spoken only about the body. In saying this, the poet means that

though the body of the person is mortal, his soul remains immortal.

2. 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.

3. Our footprints can inspire a forlorn and shipwrecked brother. While sailing over, life’s solemn main (ocean), he may have faced disaster. But looking at our footprints he may take heart again. This inspiration can lead him out of the state of despair and desolation.

4. When the soldier was looking around to see if any another comrade could help him with water or first aid. He found out that there were big, deep craters in the earth and bodies were lying everywhere on the ground. One is the physical wound that the soldier had, caused by the injury. The second wound is the emotional wound experienced by the narrator.

5. The soldier asked the narrator if he would be able to help him. He added that a sip of water on that morning would surely do him good. The narrator helps the soldier by handing over his canteen to him. The soldier tells the narrator that he is grateful to him and gives a bright smile despite his pain.

6. The other details that the soldier shares about the war are that he was in a

contingent which had two hundred soldiers. As they cleared the crest of the

mountain that they were climbing, there was an explosion in the night. After this

explosion he found himself with a small pain in his chest.