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 C**

**Marks 40 1 hour**

**Q.1)**

**Ans i)** Young German, the Duke of Saxony’s nephew. He will choose the casket which has a glass of Rhenish wine placed over it. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** The Young German, the Duke of Saxony’s nephew is a drunkard and she compares him to be like sponge. He is worse than a man when he is his best and when he is the worst, he is little better than a beast. She also calls him vile. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** Portia and Englishman have nothing in common. She doesn’t understand English and he can’t speak Italian, French or Latin. Thus, although he is handsome she doesn’t want to marry a dumb-show. **3 marks**

**Q.2)**

**Ans i)** Father Abram is the founder of the Jewish race. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** The unthrifty knave is Launcelot, Shylock’s servant. He is called unthrifty by shylock as thinks that perhaps he is careless in his work and he cannot trust his house under the charge of Launcelot. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** Shylock convinces them by saying that a single pound of flesh of a man will not fetch him money like he can get from flesh of mutton, goat or beef. He has said so to extend his friendship. **3 marks**

**Q.3)**

**Ans i)** He refers to the King of Siam, present day Thailand. The King has a strange idea of naming his children in a particular methodical way. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** The names of the two eldest daughters had been changed the most. Their characters or natures were permanently embittered by having to change their names many times. **2 marks**

**Ans iii)** When the King had two daughters he named them Day and Night. When two more were added he named them Spring, Autumn, Winter and Summer. Thus he gave the name of days to his daughter when there were seven of them and on the arrival of the eighth daughter, he named them again by the names of the months and in this process his ninth and last daughter was named September. **4 marks**

**Q.4)**

Baldeo’s responsibility, going to show the signal every night .Walking through the forest- is aware about the rumours of a man eating tiger frequenting the place-has encountered other wild animals-proud of his axe-that night he sleeps- woken by a grunt- realises that it could be only a tiger- later hears the thump and rattling of stones which tells him that the tiger has jumped into the tunnel- gets ready to fight. Agile leap- jumps away- with a true aim injures the tiger- second blow to the tiger- axe stuck up in tiger’s bone- loses grip- weapon less- killed in the end- heroic end in the line of duty. **8 marks**

**Q.5)**

**Ans i)** The lives of great men teach us the nobility of life. These great men inspire us and make our lives more meaningful. They teach us that we can make our life too sublime like them. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** The poet expects our life to have a purpose in life. Everyone should make it worthy and proving ourselves to be an example. Leave foot prints on the sand of time for others. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** No, the poet does not promote the supremacy of death in the poem. In fact he suggests that only the physical body meets death and it cannot touch our soul. The poem speaks of meaningfulness of life. **3 marks**

**Q.6)**

**Ans i)** Touching the silky clouds mean soaring to heights of success in life. Silky clouds indicate the white clouds. They are called silky as they smoothly pass by and look lustrous. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** The extract doesn’t simply talk about the heights and clouds. But also the heights of success and prosperity in one’s life. The poetess here expresses her confidence and her self-belief. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** The poetess seems to be a person of strong will power and firm determination. She believes in dreams and desires strongly to make them true. Here her motive is to achieve heights of impossible destination. But she is also a realist who wants to fulfil her responsibilities in life and not just live in a dream make believe world. **3 marks**