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 H**

**Marks 40 1 hour**

**Q.1)**

**Ans i)** Antonio describes the world as a stage in which every man must play a part. He says that he is playing the role of a sad man/one. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** Gratiano wants to play the fool. He wants old wrinkles to come with mirth and laughter and would rather have his liver heat with wine than his heart cool with mortifying groans. He doesn’t believe in sitting like his grandfather’s alabaster statue and being passive like that. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** Elizabethans believed that being peevish and pale for a long time caused jaundice. He says that Antonio has been melancholic for a long time and would invite the same condition upon him. **3 marks**

**Q.2)**

**Ans i)** Nerissa says these lines. The word ‘they’ refer to the good sentences that are well pronounced. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** Portia says that if doing was as easy as saying then chapels would have been replaced by churches because all people would visit the churches to worship, making chapels too small. Similarly everybody knows their importance of hard work but not everybody is able to do it. Otherwise poor men’s cottages would have been princes’ palaces. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** The young baron of England doesn’t know Latin, French or Italian. Portia says that she is very poor at English about which anybody could swear even in an open court.Talking to him would be like talking to a dumb-show.

**3 marks**

**Q.3)**

**Ans i)** All other stanzas begin with ‘I believe’ while the last one begins with ‘But I firmly believe’. It shows the contrast that is contained in the last stanza compared to the others. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** The human angels are the human beings who are surrounded by the world’s treasures. They use these treasures given by Mother Earth to make life more comfortable for the fellow human beings. Anyone who uses these natural resources to ease our life is a human angel. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** The condition that is set forward by the poet in the first line is- if she would throw a pebble upwards she would be able to pierce the heavens. Once that is done she would be able to see angels playing in the heaven. **3 marks**

**Q.4)**

**Ans i)** Another means someone else who is in trouble. Our footprints can inspire a forlorn and shipwrecked brother. But looking at our footprints he may take heart again. This inspiration can lead him out of the state of despair and desolation. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** The poet doesn’t want us to be like a dumb, driven cattle. He doesn’t want that we should blindly follow whatever others have done with a herd mentality. He would prefer us to be a hero in the strife. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** In the last stanza of the poem, the poet tells us that we should be up and doing. We should actively participate in life and work hard to achieve success but we should be prepared for any fate. Even if we achieve things in life still we should continue the pursuit. After the labour sometimes the fruits of success get delayed. In such circumstances we should have patience.**3 marks**

**Q5)**

**Ans i)** Baldeo had fumbled before when he was about to leave his hut for the nightly errand. In the darkness, he wanted to light his lamp and so fumbled for the matches. **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** The frightening cry of a barking deer, crashing sound in the undergrowth. The listener that is Baldeo hurried. **3 marks**

**Ans iii)** Baldeo’s shadow leapt up and down on the soot-stained walls. His lamp was moving as he was walking.  **3 marks**

**Q6)**

**Points to be covered-**

The Maids of Honour hurrying up for the party shows selfishness

Mother’s punishment of not giving supper shows lack of empathy

The other princesses, calling Princess September by other names, their characters permanently embittered, conspired to buy another bird, trying to provoke Princess September to put the nightingale in the cage-jealousy

Princess September showing off the nightingale- pride