Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Test: Old Man at the Bridge, The Cold Within**

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

Answer the following questions based on their weightage:

1. What did the first person notice? What did she do? Why? (3)

ANS- The first person noticed that there was a black among the people around her. She held on to her log as she did not want to help a black person. Her racist attitude stopped her from contributing to keep the fire burning.

1. What did the poor and the rich man think of each other? How did they prove it? (4)

ANS-The poor man saw a rich man in the group. He hated the rich as he thought they were idle and had earned all the wealth only by exploiting the poor. On the other hand, the rich man was only thinking of the wealth in his store and wanted to protect it from the poor who, he thought, were lazy and lacked ambition. As a result, both of them held on to the logs each possessed instead of using them to save the fire.

1. Do you the people could have saved themselves? If yes, how? (3)

ANS- If each of them would have given their log to the dying fire, they would have survived the bleak and bitter cold. Symbolically if they had given up their sins of hatred and differences, they could have kept alive the fire of love and saved themselves from destruction.

1. Explain the symbolism of Easter Sunday. (3)

ANS- Easter Sunday is the day of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the third day after his crucifixion. Good Friday is the day that the innocent Christ sacrificed himself for humanity. Here the writer is juxtaposing the sacrifice of this old man on the day of Christ’s resurrection.

1. What do the animals symbolise or represent about people or situations? (4)

ANS- The animals used in the story are all symbolic. The old man is not worried about the cat as it can take care of itself and is supposed to have nine lives. The doves are supposed to be symbols of peace and are expected by the narrator to fly away which would be the case when war is on). The goats are the animals he is worried about. Goats are supposed to be symbols of sacrifice and in this case too they are being sacrificed without any fault. Like them the old man is being sacrificed too because of no fault.

6. What was the name of the Old Man’s town? Why was he told to leave it? (2)

ANS-The name of the old man’s town was San Carlos. The old man claimed that he was told to leave San Carlos by caption of the army because of the artillery.

7. How old was the man? For how long had he walked? Why does he not want to go to

Barcelona? (2)

ANS- The old man was seventy six years old. He had walked for twelve kilometres. He did not want to go to Barcelona because he was tired of walking and he knew no one there.