Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**SECOND TERM EXAM**

**Std IX-NES Duration: 1 hour 30 min Marks 60**

**Solve any five of the given questions. All questions carry equal marks.**

**Section A- Drama**

**Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

***Question 1 12***

***“Mislike me not for my complexion, the shadowed livery of the burnished sun to...”***

1. Who is the speaker of these lines? Where does the scene take place? 2
2. Explain:- The shadowed livery of the burnished sun 3
3. Is Morocco proud of his colour? Justify with examples from the scene. 3
4. What does this scene tell us about the character of Morocco? 4
5. Prince of Morocco. A room in Portia’s house, Belmont.
6. He says that the dark complexion is given by the burnished sun to whom he is a neighbour. He calls this dark complexion as a shadowed livery.
7. Yes, Morocco says that he is proud of his colour and would not want to change it. The only situation in which he would be willing to change his colour would be to steal the thoughts of Portia.
8. Prince of Morocco considers himself to be brave and better than the fair people from the North. But if an incision is made in them, it would be easily proved whose blood is redder. He implies that he is Morocco says that the native girls of his country love the bravery which he has. This bravery has scared even the most valiant people around full of valour and bravery than any fair man. Morocco swears by his scimitar and brags that he would slew the Sophy and a Persian Prince who had won three battlefields against Sultan Solyman. Morocco says that he would overstare the sternest eyes that looked at him. And outbrave the most daring heart on earth. He would pluck the young sucking cubs from the she-bear to prove his bravery. He claims that he is a deserving candidate and compares himself to Hercules also thanks Portia for giving him a fair chance.

***Question 2 12***

***“The first, of gold, who this inscription bears; who chooseth me shall gain what many men desire.”***

i. Who chose this casket? Which word does he focus on? Why? 2

ii. How does the suitor interpret the words inscribed on this casket? 3

iii. What is spoken about the watery kingdom? 3

iv. Summarise the scroll found by the speaker. 4

1. The Prince of Morocco chose this casket. He focuses on the word ‘desires’ and reasons that the world desired her.
2. The suitor Morocco focuses on the word ‘desires’. He states that the world desires Portia and the suitors are coming from the four corners of the world to woo Portia. The Hyrcanian deserts the wilds of Arabia and the watery kingdom the ocean is no barrier to stop these suitors from coming to Belmont.

1. The water kingdom refers to the ocean. It is called as spitting in the face of heaven. The meaning implied is that the rough sea is no barrier to the suitors and they cross the ocean as if it a brook to see fair Portia.
2. The scroll informs the reader that all that glisters is not gold. It is a very common saying. Many people have sold their life to just behold the gold casket. Even if the tomb is gilded it infolds worms. If the person choosing the casket was wise and not just bold and had the judgement of an old person and not just young limbs his answer would not have there in the form of a scroll. Finally the scroll wishes the reader a farewell and says that his suit is cold.

***Question 3 12***

***Continuous as the stars that shine and twinkle on the Milky Way,***

1. What are continuous like stars? Which other term means ‘continuous’ that is given in the same stanza? 2
2. Why did the daffodils seem to be gleeful? 3
3. Describe in your own words the poet’s feelings when he sees the host of golden daffodils? 3
4. What does the term ‘bliss of solitude’ mean? In what context has the poet used the term in the poem? 4

Daffodils are continuous like the stars. Another term for continuous in the same stanza is ‘never ending’

The daffodils, lined up in a vast expanse on the shore of a lake, were dancing with the breeze. The waves of the lake too seemed to be dancing. But the dance of the daffodils was more lively and cheerful so they were extremely happy feeling a sense of victory. Thus, they seem to be gleeful.

The poet was initially feeling lonely while wandering along the bay of the lake. Suddenly, he saw a host of daffodils dancing in the breeze. The daffodils seemed extremely cheerful as they had outdone the dancing waves of the lake. The poet too felt very happy in the company of such cheerful flowers. His loneliness is replaced by feelings of happiness.

This term refers to the time when the poet is alone and his mind is not clustered with worldly thoughts. The poet uses the term in the last stanza. He says that whenever he is resting on a couch and his mind is either void of thoughts or he is in a pensive mood, the beautiful vista of the daffodils which were impregnated in his mind, suddenly flash across his inward eye.

***Question 4 12***

***One half their lives was reading books! The nursery shelves held books galore!***

1. What does the word ‘their’ refer to? Where else were the books kept? Why? 2
2. Which writer’s name is mentioned in the poem? Enlist any two names of the characters and two short stories. 3
3. What epithets has the poet used for the television screen? Why? 3
4. Despite the children throwing tantrums, why does the poet advise the parents not to fear? 4
5. The word ‘their’ refers to the children in olden days when the monster ‘television’ was not invented. Apart from nursery shelves, the books were scattered on the nursery floor and kept in the bedroom by the bed
6. Beatrix Potter is the name of the writer. Following are the names of the characters- (Any two)- Mr Tod, the dirty rotter, Squrrel Nutkin, Piggling Bland, Mr. Toad, Mr. Rat and Mr. Mole, Mrs. Tiggy-winkle are the names of the characters.

‘Just How The Camel Got His Hump’ and ‘How The Monkey Lost His Rump’ are the names of two short stories.

1. The poet calls the television ridiculous, nauseating, foul and unclean. The poet is convinced that watching television is a useless activity which kills the thinking power and creativity of children. It eventually engulfs the child as he gets completely hooked on to the idiot box.
2. When the television is replaced by a bookshelf, initially the children will retaliate by screaming at and hitting their parents. The poet advises the parents not to fear because he is sure that this is a temporary reaction of the children. He knows that in a week or two the children will start reading and as they continue to do so they will enjoy the activity and finally love their parents more for giving them the gift of reading.

***Question 5 12***

***“As they passed down the aisle of the coach…”***

1. Who are ‘they’ here? What happened hereafter? 3
2. Explain ‘linked couple’. Give a short description. 3
3. What role do ‘hearts and hands ‘play in the plot of the story? 4
4. What did Mr. Easton say to the young woman when she spoke to him? How did he greet her? Why did he use his left hand? 2
5. ‘They’ here are Mr Easton and the glum-faced man. Hereafter, they seated themselves on the vacant seat that was reverse and which was facing the attractive young woman.
6. Mr. Easton and glum-faced man are called a linked couple because they are bound by a silver bracelet i.e. the handcuffs.
7. The hearts here could be with reference to the hearts of the old friend, Miss Fairchild and Mr. Easton as well as the heart of the glum-faced man. The story clears establishes a close-relation between Fairchild and Easton, who meet after a long time. On the other hand, the glum-faced man has a heart of gold. When he sees the discomfort of Miss Fairchild at the sight of Easton being handcuffed to him, he intervenes to save the situation. He tells her that Easton is the marshal and he the prisoner. Though the hearts of Miss Fairchild and Miss Easton are together he has to go away as his hands are tied up.
8. When the young woman spoke to Mr Easton, he rose from the seat and held the fingers of her extended hand with his left hand. He did so because his right hand was handcuffed to the other man with him.

***Question 6 12***

***“The torch fell from his trembling hand.***

1. Who is ‘he’ here? What did he immediately do after the given line? 3
2. What happens at the end of the story? 3
3. Did Mr. Oliver prove himself to be as described by the writer? 4
4. What kind of an aura prevailed when Oliver was returning to his school, after dark? 2
5. ‘He’ here is Mr Oliver. He turned and scrambled down the path running blindly through the trees and calling for help.
6. On Mr.Oliver’s narration of the faceless boy, the watchman raises the lamp to his own face. To the horror of Mr. Oliver, he too had no eyes, no ears, no features and not even an eyebrow. Exactly that time the wind blew the lamp out.
7. No, the author of the story described Mr. Oliver as not a nervous or imaginative man. On the contrary, his strength and clarity wore away under pressure. When he saw the boy, without a face, his hands trembled and he ran blindly through the trees and called for help too. When he saw the watchman, he gasped and stammered too. That showed that he was scared and nervous contrary to the previous description.
8. An uncanny aura prevailed when Oliver was returning to his school, after dark. There was a strange wind and the pine trees made sad and eerie sounds.