Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

First Terminal Examination

Std VIII EURO Duration: 2 Hrs Marks 80

**Section A- Novel**

**Read the given extracts and answer the questions that follow:**

**Question 1 (16)**

***She had been with us ever since Jem was born***

1. **Whom does ‘she’ refer to? Whom does ‘us’ refer to? Who says the above line? 4**

Ans: ‘She’ refers to Calpurnia, the cook at the narrator’s house. ‘Us’ refers to the narrator , Scout or Jean Louis Finch, and her brother Jem or Jeremy Finch. The above line is said by Scout , the narrator.

1. **Describe the person referred to as ‘she’. 4**

Ans: Calpurnia was a cook at the narrator’s house. She was a black woman , all angles

and bones. She was near-sighted; she squinted ;her hand was very wide and hard.

1. **How was the narrator’s relation with her? 4**

Ans: The narrator did not share a cordial relation with Calpurnia. She was always ordering the narrator out of the kitchen, asking her why she couldn’t behave as well as Jem when she knew he was older than her. Calpurnia would always keep calling her home when she was playing though she was not ready to go. Their battles were epic and always one-sided as the narrator’s father always took her side. The narrator had felt her tyrannical presence as long as she could remember.

1. **When did the narrator’s mother die? How did it affect her and Jem? 4**

Ans: The narrator was two years old and Jem was six when their mother died. As the

narrator was only two, she did not feel her mother’s absence. Jem missed the mother

more. He remembered her clearly and sometimes in the middle of a game he would sigh

at length and then go off and play by himself behind the car – house.

**Question 2 (16)**

***I suppose she chose me because she knew my name;***

1. **Whom does ‘she’ refer to? Write at least 3 points to describe her.** Ans: ‘She’ refers to the narrator’s class teacher , Miss Caroline Fisher.She was around twenty-one. She had bright auburn hair, pink cheeks and wore crimson fingers and nail polish. She wore high-heeled pumps and a red-and-white striped dress. She looked and smelled like a peppermint drop.
2. **What did she chose the narrator for? Was the narrator able to do what she was asked to? What did ‘she’ tell the narrator after that? 4**

Ans: Miss Caroline printed the alphabet on the blackboard and asked the class if anybody

knew what those were. She chose the narrator to read them as she knew her name. Yes,

the narrator could read the alphabet. Miss Caroline told the narrator to tell her father not

to teach her any more as it would interfere with her reading.

1. **How did the narrator react when she was told to tell her father not to teach her? 4**

Ans: When Miss Caroline told the narrator that her father had taught her to read, she

was quite surprised. She told her teacher that her father had no time to teach her

anything. She added that he would be so tired at night that he would just sit in the living

–room and read.

1. **How had the narrator developed the habit of reading? 4**

Ans: Scout never deliberately **learned** to read, but somehow she had been indulging illicitly in the daily papers during the ling hours of church. Reading just came to her as easily as learning to fasten the seat of her union suit or tying her shoe laces in bows. When she crawled into her father’s lap while he would be reading , she would follow the words too.

**Section B- Poetry**

**Read the given extracts and answer the questions that follow:**

**Question 3 (16)**

***Old Kaspar took it from the boy?***

***Who stood expectant by***

1. **Who is the ‘boy’ mentioned above? Where was Old Kaspar when the above incident happened? What was he doing? Who else was with Old Kaspar? 4**

Ans: The boy is Peterkin, Old Kaspar’s grandson. Old Kaspar was sitting in the sun before his cottage door one summer evening after he had finished his work. Wilhelmine, Old Kaspar’s granddaughter was also with him.

1. **What does ‘it’ refer to? Who found it and where? What did Old Kaspar do after taking ‘it’? What did he say? 4**

Ans: ‘It’ refers to a smooth , large and round object ,(a skull). Peterkin had found it near the rivulet while he was playing there. When Old Kaspar saw the object which Peterkin had found, he shook his head and gave a natural sigh. He said that it was the skull of someone who had died fighting in the Battle of Blenheim.

1. **How did the object happen to be there? Which battle is referred to here ? Between whom was the battle fought? Who won it? 4**

Ans: The object was a skull of someone who had died in a battle that had taken place in that area. It was the Battle of Blenheim.It was fought between the English and the French. The English had won the battle due to the valour of the Duke of Marlbro.

1. **Highlight the destruction caused by war mentioned in the poem? 4**

Ans: The battle caused a lot of death and destruction. Several homes was destroyed and people had to flee to save their lives. Even women who were pregnant as well as their new born babies were ruthlessly killed. Days after the battle, the bodies of soldiers were strewn across the battlefield and lay rotting in the sun.

**Question 4 (16)**

***Whate’er the theme, the maiden sang***

***As if her song could have no ending***

1. **Who is the ‘maiden’ that the poet refers to? Where did he see her? What is she doing? 4**

Ans: The ‘maiden’ referred to by the poet is a Highland lass. He saw her in a field where she was reaping and singing by herself.

1. **What kind of a song was the woman singing? Did the poet understand the words?**

**What are the different assumptions that the poet makes about the theme of the poem? 4**

Ans: The woman was singing a melancholy strain or a sad song. No, the poet did not

understand the words. The poet assumes that the plaintive numbers flow probably

for old unhappy far-off things and battles long ago or maybe they must be due to

some natural sorrow, loss or pain of to-day.

1. **The maiden’s song is compared to which two birds? Why? 4**

Ans: The maiden’s song is compared to a nightingale. Her song is more soothing than that of the nightingale , whose welcome notes soothe the weary bands of travellers in Arabian sands. It is also compared to the song of a cuckoo-bird. The reaper’s voice is more thrilling than the cuckoo bird ,which breaks the silence of the seas of Hebrides.

1. **What impact did the song have on the poet? 4**

Ans: The song did created an everlasting effect on the poet. As the woman continued to sing the narrator mounted up the hill but the music still echoed in his heart even long after it was heard no more.

Se**ction C- Prose**

**Read the given extracts and answer the questions that follow:**

**Question 5 (16)**

***‘Go to your place, quickly.’***

1. **Who said the above line to whom? Why did the speaker tell the person to go quickly? 4**

Ans: Monsieur Hamel, the French teacher said the above line to the narrator, Franz. The narrator had entered late and M Hamel wanted to start the class, which was to be his last one. So he told Franz to go quickly to his place.

1. **What did the listener do after the speaker mentioned the above line? What did he notice about the speaker? 4**

Ans: The listener, Franz sat down at his desk. He noticed that the speaker, M Hamel had worn his beautiful green coat, his frilled shirt and the little black silk cap.

1. **How did the school normally begin? What was unusual about the school that day?**

Ans: Usually at the beginning of school, there was a great uproar which could be heard in the street – desks opening and closing, lessons repeated aloud in unison and the teacher’s stout ruler beating on the desk. It was not the same that day as everything was quiet.

1. **What is the significance of the day mentioned in the lesson? What was the reason for the change that was to happen that day? Where was such news put up? Who gave the children the news? 4**

Ans: That day was the last day of M Hamel and so it would be the last French class as there were orders from Berlin to teach only German in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine. Such news was put up on the bulletin-board of the town house. Monsieur Hamel , their teacher , himself gave the news to the children.

**Question 6 (16)**

**‘Wully, fetch them in.’**

1. **Who said the above? Whom does ‘them’ refer to? 2**

Ans: The above line was said by Robin, the master of Wully. ‘Them’ refers to the sheep that were being taken to the Yorkshire moors and markets.

1. **Where had ‘they’ gone? Where was Wully supposed to fetch them? 2**

Ans: ‘They’ , referring to the sheep, had gone in 374 different directions away from South Shields fearing a Cheviot storm. Wully was supposed to fetch them back to South Shields.

1. **What impressive qualities does Wully display during the course of the story? Do you think Robin, his master deserved him? Give reasons for your answer. 12**

( Ans : Ṇote the answer must be written using 9 points . Kindly use the following points for framing the answer.)

* Highlight the qualities of Wully like his intelligence, skill as a sheep dog, unconditional loyalty to his master, determination to search for his master.
* Highlight the qualities of lack of them in his master – Robin
* Justify why Wully deserves a better one using the above points