Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Test: Dusk , A Prayer**

**Std VIII BB Marks 20 Duration: 30 mins**

**Answer the following with Reference to Context:**

1. ***Into that heaven of freedom, my Father , let my country awake***
2. **Who does ‘my’ refer to ? Who does ‘my father’ refer to ? (2)**

Ans: ‘My’ here refers to the poet , Rabindranath Tagore. ‘My father’ refers to God.

1. **What plea does the speaker make in this poem? (2)**

Ans: The poet prays to God to restore India’s pride and true power and enable Indians to progress fearlessly. He wants God to make India a free and an ideal nation.

1. **Define the phrase ‘heaven of freedom’. (3)**

Ans: The phrase ‘heaven of freedom’ means an ideal state and a place where people would live a life of dignity. They would be free from prejudices, always progressive, united and blissful. These are the blessings which the poet wants God to shower upon the fellow Indians.

1. **What does the poet mean by ‘let my country awake’? (3)**

Ans: The poet found that people are slaves of dead habits and they lived in fear. The poet wants to people to rise from their slumber of ignorance, and try to be free from all kinds of bondages and chains.

1. ***“I’ve done the silliest thing I’ve ever done in my life.”***
2. **Who said the above to whom? Where were both the people? (2)**

Ans: The above line was said by a young man who had come after the old man had left. He said it to the narrator, Gortsby. Bothe of them were sitting on a bench in a park.

1. Give a brief description of the speaker. (2)

Ans: The speaker young man, fairly well dressed but scarcely more cheerful than the elderly gentleman.

1. What is the ‘silliest thing’ that he had done? (3)

Ans: The young man said that he had come to the place that afternoon and had wanted to stay at Patagonian Hotel in Berkshire Square but unfortunately the hotel had been pulled down some weeks ago. The taxi driver recommended him to another hotel and the young man booked himself there. After sending a letter to his people, giving them the address, he went to buy some soap as he had forgotten to pack one and hated using the one provided by the hotel. After strolling about a bit he was about to return to the hotel but suddenly realized that he remembered neither the name of the hotel nor the street it was in. He didn’t have any money or friends in London and was wandering about with nowhere to go for the night. This was the silliest thing he had done.

1. **What according to Gortsby was the weak point in the man’s story? What did he tell him to do? (3)**

Ans: Though Gortsby told the young man that he believed his story, in reality he hadn’t. So he asked the young man to the produce the cake of soap which he had said was the whole reason to have come out of the hotel. The young man was unable to show him the soap as he couldn’t find it. The same soap which could have been an evidence to his story, turned out to be the weak point in it.