Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**FIRST TERM EXAMINATION**

**Std VIII-NES Set A**

**Marks 80 2 hrs**

Note:-Attempt **ANY SEVEN** questions from Q.1-Q.8

Last Question is compulsory.

**Question 1**

***When I heard the astronomer where he lectured…. 10***

* + 1. Who is ‘I’ here? Whom does he refer to? Where is the lecture taking place? [3]

1. How contrasting is the lecture for the speaker and the others? [3]
2. Mention the two figures of speech in the following line: [4]

In the mystical moist night-air, and from time to time;

1. Student.. he is the learned astronomer.. in the lecture-room
2. The speaker has become tired and sick; the other fellow students seem to be interested as they applause
3. Alliteration- starting sound ‘m’ is repeated

Repetition- the word ‘time’ is repeated

**Question 2**

***‘He did not know the names of the months of the year’***  ***10***

1. Why? Who is ‘he’ here? According to the narrator, what is a startling piece of news? [3]
2. Who comes to take his salary? Why? What was ‘his’ profession? [3]
3. Explain in brief how this story is a satire. [4]
4. He is illiterate. He couldn’t read and write. He is a cook here, kind of a kitchen worker. That nose has become a matter of dispute among intellectuals.
5. The mother, because his world was confined to the kitchen. Indifferent to things that happened outside. Kitchen worker/cook
6. The story mocks at the psychology of the masses. People tend to follow herd-mentality. They believe in concept of ‘majority wins’ and believe in what is shown to them rather than thinking rationally and logically.

**Question 3**

***‘What does it matter to me, if they can write...’ 10***

1. Who does the word ‘me’ refer to? Who are ‘they’ in the poem? Why is the speaker not bothered? [3]
2. What is the ‘brunt’ which the poet is talking about? [3]
3. Explain: ‘My pack of unruly hounds’. To whom does he call so? Why? [4]
4. The word ‘me’ refer to the teacher. They are the students here. The speaker is not bothered if the students learn or not.
5. The brunt refers to the books that lie out on the desks. There are 60 books of several insults of blotted pages and scrawl of slovenly work that the students have offered him.
6. The teacher calls his students as a pack of unruly hounds. The word pack means a group. Hounds are dogs who are unruly that is extremely wild and undisciplined in their behaviour.

**Question 4**

***“Maintaining Robutt isn’t cheap, either,”…*** ***10***

1. Who is the speaker? Whom are the words spoken to? Why? [3]
2. Where is the guest? How long have they not seen him? [3]
3. How did Robutt get its name? Mention two points how Robutt is different from the real dog? [4]
4. Mr. Anderson is the speaker. These words are spoken to Mrs Anderson. As Jimmy is a Moonborn and cant visit Earth, the father decides to bring a real dog. Mrs Anderson says that its costly enough. To which Mr Anderson says the given sentence.
5. The guest is at the rocket station. They have not seen a new dog since 15 years.
6. Robutt- was a Robot mutt. Mutt means a dog. It was a robotic dog who could hear Jimmy by radio. He didn’t need any spacesuit. He had four legs, a positronic brain, radar and was made up of tendons of steel.

**Question 5**

***‘What is your crest, by the way? 10***

1. Mention the two crests and the reason why there are two? [4]
2. How much money Bertie had in his pocket? Which other things were scattered on the seat beside him? [3]
3. Which parts of the story show us that it was written and is set in the past? [3]
4. A demi-lion holding a cross-crosslet in its paw, running greyhound. The demi-lion is the Saltpen crest and Running greyhound is Jago crest
5. He has six penny coin. A cigarette case, matchbox, key, silver pencil case and railway ticket
6. Empty railway carriage, carriage-window, four quid, corresponded several times , different sort of vehicle to the horse drawn carriage…

**Question 6**

***‘When the night comes, to lie down in peace….’ 10***

1. What has the poet expressed in the sentence that comes immediately after this? [2]
2. Who are envied? [3]
3. Explain: stranger’s shell [3]
4. What is the rhyme scheme of this poem? Mention the reason. [2]
5. The poet has said that as he sleeps maybe he will die in his sleep peacefully.
6. Those people who have house of their own, who can say that their feet rest in their house and who don’t live in stranger’s shell.
7. Stranger’s shell is a house which doesn’t belong to a person. It is someone else’s house and people stay there on rent.
8. Free verse. As no words rhyme with each other.

**Question 7**

***‘I am sorry,’ said I ‘but the matter cannot be delayed’ 10***

1. Which ‘matter’ is mentioned in the story? Why is the speaker sorry? [3]
2. What happened when the friend’s name was mentioned? [3]
3. Which details, not including the revelation that he is a murderer, create the impression that Culverton Smith is an unpleasant person? [4]
4. Matter of Culverton Smith accompanying Watson for Sherlock Holmes’ treatment cannot be delayed.
5. When friend’s name was mentioned there was an extraordinary effect upon the little man. The look of anger passes in an instant from his face and his face became tense and alert.
6. When Dr Watson goes to Mr Smith in order to request him to see Holmes, Mr Smith responds in a rude manner. He tells his brother that he was a busy man and that his work shouldn’t be hindered indicating that he had very high self-importance and would not trade his needs for anyone even if that person was sick. He also shouts at Watson when he forcibly enters his room to meet Mr Smith. Watson also notices a sly and malicious smile on the man’s face when he mentions that Holmes was ill indicating that he enjoyed another person’s discomfort.

**Question 8**

***‘It’s song to a man’s soul, brother, fire to a man’s brain.’ 10***

1. What does the word ‘its’ refer to? [2]
2. How is the west land described in this stanza? [3]
3. Explain the line ‘fire to a man’s brain’ [2]
4. How differently is the word ‘warm’ mentioned in the poem? [3]
5. To hear the wild bees and see the merry spring again is referred here.
6. There is young corn in the fields where rabbits run, sky is blue. The clouds are white, warm rain and sun.
7. Rain/wind is described as warm which is pleasant in the spring. People have warm hearts- full of love, compassion.

***Question 9***

***“Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widening thought and action…” 10***

i. Who is ‘thee’ in the poem? To whom is the poem addressed? [3]

ii. What has the poet expressed in the line previous to this one? [3]

iii. Explain: ‘knowledge is free’ [4]

1. ‘Thee’ refers to God. He wants God, the Father or the Almighty.
2. ‘Dreary desert sand of dead habit’ refers to ritualistic behaviour and blind beliefs. They are illogical and are like desert, unproductive. There can be no progress if one does not follow reason and logic and continue to move in the rut of old customs.
3. By the words ‘Where the knowledge is free’, the poet wants to say that in his country everyone should have the freedom to acquire knowledge without any restrictions. The restrictions imposed on the spread of knowledge include the prejudices based on wealth, caste and religion. Knowledge was a monopoly only of the higher castes and the elite.

***Question 10 10***

1. What is the ‘sandy-hour glass’? What would it remind Salarino of? [2]
2. What is meant by ‘I am Sir Oracle’ and ‘let no dog bark’? [2]
3. Give meanings of: [6]
4. Plucking the grass to know where sits the wind
5. And other of such vinegar aspect
6. Do cream and mantle like a standing pond
   * 1. Sandy hour glass is an apparatus used to indicate time. It would remind Salarino of the dangers from hidden banks of send at sea on which a ship may run aground.
     2. I am Sir Oracle means ‘I speak with the authority of the Greek Oracle’. The Greek Oracle made the will of Gods known and were received by all without questions. Let no dog bark means let no one speak. It refers to the attitude of those men who consider themselves as the fountain of wisdom and want that when they speak others should remain silent.
7. Plucking of grass and casting them in the air to see which way the wind blew.
8. The second type people who are grave and serious
9. Some men overcast their faces with pale expression and unchanging that forms on the surface of milk and scum that forms on the surface of a stagnant pond.