Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Pre-Preliminary Exam: Test 1**

**Short Stories Poems Drama**

1) Princess September 1) I Believe Merchant

Of

2) A Tiger in the Tunnel 2) Psalm of life Venice (Act I)

**Std X Set B**

**Marks 40 1 hour**

**Q.1)**

**Ans i)** The speaker is Solanio. They are spoken to Antonio. **2marks**

**Ans ii)** If the speaker had similar business he would be obsessed by the risk to his business. He would be plucking the grass to know the direction of the wind and then look into the map to see the nearest port, piers and roads. Any object posing a risk to his ships would make him sad. **3marks**

**Ans iii)** The listener (Antonio) says that luckily for him the ships don’t worry him much. He says that all his money is not invested in one ship or the ships in one direction. Also his fortune does not totally depend on the income of the current year. **3marks**

**Q.2)**

**Ans i)** Portia is the speaker. Spoken in a room of her palace.  **2 marks**

**Ans ii)** The lines mean even if she grows really old like Sybilla. She would die holy like Goddess Diana if not won by the condition set by her father. This means there was no other way to get married to her apart from the condition set by her father.

**3marks**

**Ans iii)** Immediately after the dialogue Bassanio is introduced. He is introduced as a Venetian who was a scholar and soldier and had visited Belmont in the company of Marquis of Montferrat. **3marks**

**Q.3)**

**Ans i)** The word ‘that’ means the reason why the nightingale had not returned back. **2marks**

**Ans ii)** The bird says that he was late as his father in law was giving a party and all the other birds wanted him to stay back. Though he managed to leave, this reason delayed him. **2marks**

**Ans iii)** The remark made by the bird was that he nearly did not come back at all. It is called unfortunate as Princess September’s mind had already been poisoned by her sisters and she had spent uncomfortable moments waiting for the bird to return. As a result of the remark the bird was caged. **4 marks**

**Q.4)**

Yes. Fate plays a very important role. The train was delayed that day if the train had come on time, Baldeo would have already reached home after showing the signal. The delay of the train delayed Baldeo and he was waiting at the mouth of the tunnel for the train to pass. It was then that the tiger jumped into the cutting. Also again fate played an important role when the tiger came in the direction of the tunnel and did not go towards the hut where Tembu was sleeping alone. We also see the role played by fate when Baldeo refuses Tembu permission at the start of the story from accompanying him to the tunnel as it was cold. And finally when the axe gets stuck up in the bone of the tiger it is Fates’ way of disarming Baldeo who then loses his life to the tiger. Had these things not been there the end of the story would have been different. **8marks**

**Q.5)**

**Ans i)** Life is referred to as real and earnest in the stanza previous to this. The goal of life is not grave. **2marks**

**Ans ii)** It is written in the bible that we are made up of dust and will return to dust (Grave). The poetess explains that these lines in the bible are meant for the body of a person. They don’t apply to the soul which is immortal. **3marks**

**Ans iii)** Enjoyment or sorrow should not be our destined end or way. We have to work to make sure that each tomorrow is better than our today. The action to make this possible should be stressed upon. Joy and sorrow are just parts of the journey not the destination. **3marks**

**Q.6)**

**Ans i)** Brucellish K Sangma is the poet of the said lines. They were originally written in Garo language. **2marks**

**Ans ii)** Those people who use the natural resources to make human life more comfortable are called human angels. It is because of these angels that our life becomes fulfilling and we are more at ease with our surroundings. **3marks**

**Ans iii)** The poet believes that she can find priceless gems in the belly of the earth. Using these she says that she can adorn herself i.e. make herself look more attractive. **3marks**