Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Test: 1st Term Examination**

**Std: IX-JK Duration: 1.5 hr Marks: 60 marks**

**Note:-Attempt five questions in all (One question from each section compulsory)**

**Section A- Drama**

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

**Question 1**

***“Let me play the fool: With mirth and laughter let old wrinkles come, and let my liver…” 12***

1. Who is the speaker of these lines? Whom is the speaker addressing? Where is the scene taking place? 3
2. Explain the metaphor that is used by the speaker in this dialogue. 3
3. What does the speaker say about the ‘reputed wise’? 3
4. What according to the speaker should not be done by Antonio? Why? 3

1. The speaker of these lines is Gratiano. He is addressing Antonio. The scene is taking place on a street in Venice.
2. Gratiano compares the people with visages full of melancholy to a standing pond. He says that just as these visages cream and mantle like a standing pond similarly some people do entertain a wilful stillness because they want to be dressed in opinion of wisdom ,gravity and profound conceit. This stillness the fixed expression of melancholy on their face.
3. The speaker says that he knows people who are reputed to be wise only for speaking nothing. If these people were to talk they would damn those ears who listening them would call their brothers fools.
4. According to the speaker Antonio should stop using melancholy as a bait to fish for the opinion of people that he has wisdom, gravity and profound conceit. Developing this opinion is like catching a gudgeon fish which does not require any bait.

***Question 2: 12***

***“God made him, and therefore let him pass for a man”***

1. About whom is the extract spoken? Mention the context. 3
2. Why is the speaker averse to this gentleman? 3
3. What should the marriage to this gentleman be like? What would be Portia’s response if this gentleman hates or loves her? 3
4. How does Portia respond when she is told that these suitors are interested in marrying her without taking the condition of the caskets? What is Portia glad about? Why? 3
5. The extract is spoken about Monsieur Le Bon the French lord. Portia is being asked by Nerissa about her opinion of the lords that have already come. Portia says that she would describe them and according the description she can level at her affection.
6. The speaker is averse to this man as he speaks of a horse better than the Neapolitan prince. He also frown more than count Palantine. He is every man in no man. If a throstle sings he straightaway starts capering and would even fence with his own shadow.
7. According to Portia getting married to this man would be like getting married to twenty people. If this gentleman hates Portia she would forgive him but if he loves her to madness she would never be able to requite him.
8. Portia says that even if she grows as old as Sibyilla she would die as chaste as Diana unless she be won in the manner of her father’s will. She is glad that this parcel of wooers is so reasonable to return by themselves. There was no suitor whom she would dote on in his absence.

**Section B- Poetry**

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

***Question 3 12***

***“Lustrous tokens of radiant lives, for happy daughters and happy wives”***

1. Who is the narrator of the poem? What are they carrying? Where are they going? 3
2. How have they described these tokens in the previous lines? Explain the figure of speech. 3
3. Which bangles does a bride wear? What are these compared to? Why? 3
4. Explain: And serves her household in fruitful pride. 3
5. The narrator of the poem is one of the bangle sellers who bear their shining loads (bangles) to the temple fair.
6. The tokens meaning bangles are said to be delicate, bright and rainbow-tinted circles of light. Metaphor. The bangles are indirectly compared to the rainbow tinted circles of light.
7. A bride wears either bright green or bright red bangles on the day of her wedding. The green bangles are compared to the vast fields of corn which shine brightly in the sunlight. The bright red ones are like the flame of her marriage fire. The red colour also symbolises the passion of the newly wed. The sound of these bangles is like the laughter of the bride whereas the texture is as clear and tender as her tears.
8. Once a woman gets married, she has to take care of her house and family. She has to perform a lot of duties and meet the expectations of her husband, in laws and her children. When she successfully shoulders all her responsibilities, she feels a sense of pride

***Question 4 12***

***“The waves beside them danced; but they…”***

1. Explain the word ‘them’. What are ‘they’ compared to, in the previous stanza? How? 3
2. Explain: ‘a poet could not but be gay’. What does Wordsworth mean by ‘a poet’ here? Which figure of speech is given in the next line? 3
3. What did the poet see while he was wandering? Where were they? What were they doing? 4
4. Give an example of Simile from the poem and explain. 2
5. The word ‘them’ refers to the daffodils. They are compared to the continuous stars that shine and twinkle on the Milky Way. William Wordsworth had seen a crowd of daffodils that fluttered and danced in the breeze. This made him compare the ten thousand daffodils to the continuous stars.
6. The phrase means that when the poet saw the daffodils, the joy and pleasure was so contagious that the poet too felt extremely happy. Thus, the poet says that any poet would feel the ecstatic in such joyous company. ‘A poet’ here means any person who is inspired by nature and feels at peace will only be happy in its company. Personification- human quality of giving a company is given to the inanimate daffodils.
7. While wandering, the poet saw a crowd, a host of daffodils. They were beside the lake and beneath the trees fluttering and dancing in the breeze.
8. Continuous as the stars that shine and twinkle on the Milky Way- is an example of Simile in the poem. A large number of daffodils are compared to the continuous stars with the word ‘as’ in the poem.

**Section C- Prose**

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

***Question 5 12***

***“She pulled one out… scr-r-ratch!- how it spluttered and burnt…”***

1. What does the word ‘one’ mean? Where did she strike it? Describe how the flame was. 3
2. State two reasons why the little girl dared not go home. 4
3. Describe the Christmas tree that the little girl had imagined. 3
4. How is the New Year’s Eve described? 2
5. The word ‘one’ means a small match stick. She struck it against the wall. The flame spluttered and burnt. It had a warm, bright flame like a tiny candle.
6. The little girl dared not go home for she had sold no matches and earned not a single penny. Her father would be sure to beat her and besides it was very cold at home. They had nothing but the roof above them and the wind whistled through it, even though the largest cracks were stuffed with straw and rags.
7. The Christmas tree that the little girl had imagined was much larger and lovelier than the one she had seen the previous year through the glass doors of the rich merchant’s house. A thousand candles lit up the green branches and gaily coloured balls like those in the shop windows that looked down upon her.
8. The New Year’s Eve, the last evening of the year, was bitterly cold and gloomy. Snow was falling and darkness was gathering everywhere.

***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. Who were the two people Mr. Oliver met in the pine forest? What was common between them?

3

1. How did Mr Oliver realise that the miscreant was from his own school? What did the school uniform comprise of? What was featured in the ‘Life’ magazine? 3
2. ‘He’ here is Mr Oliver. He turned and scrambled down the path running blindly through the trees and calling for help.
3. 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.
4. The two people Mr Oliver met in the pine forest were the watchman and the school boy. Both of them didn’t have eyes, ears, eyebrow or even any features.
5. Mr. Oliver saw that the miscreant was wearing a school cap. It was a part of the uniform which consisted of blazers and ties too. The school in which Mr Oliver taught was called ‘Eton of the East’ by Life magazine.