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Subject: English Communicative (Class X)

Max. Marks: 40

Chapter: Two Gentlemen of Verona (A.J. Cronin)

Time Allowed: 1.5 Hours

CLASS IX/X FORMATIVE EVALUATION WORKSHEET

SECTION A: MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (1 MARK EACH)

Q1. The driver, Luigi, did not approve of the narrator purchasing wild strawberries from the two boys because: [1]

- (a) the strawberries looked overripe and were not fresh
- (b) the boys were untidy, shabby, and poorly dressed
- (c) the boys were demanding an unreasonably heavy price
- (d) he structurally disapproved of small young children working

Q2. Nicola was visibly displeased and annoyed when Jacopo asked the narrator to drive them to Poleta in his car because Nicola: [1]

- (a) did not want a complete stranger to become involved with their secret plans
- (b) preferred traveling by train so they could enjoy the Italian countryside scenery
- (c) possessed deep pride and did not want to ask anyone for unnecessary favours
- (d) felt highly uncomfortable taking assistance from someone they did not know well

Q3. What primary quality or attribute of Nicola and Jacopo struck the narrator and his companion most significantly during their stay in Verona? [1]

- (a) Their intense desire to amass money rapidly
- (b) Their infinite willingness and absolute commitment to work
- (c) Their natural entrepreneurial ability to perform diverse, complex tasks
- (d) Their child-like sense of fun and vibrant humor despite their environment

Q4. The narrator decided to remain waiting outside and did not enter Lucia's hospital room primarily because: [1]

- (a) he did not want to intrude into the deeply personal privacy of a family reunion
- (b) he was certain that the two boys would explicitly object to his presence
- (c) the nurse explicitly informed him that Lucia would never welcome a total stranger
- (d) he feared the boys would feel he was aggressively spying on their domestic matters

Q5. Nicola and Jacopo were among the very first individuals to actively join the underground resistance movement against the occupying German forces because: [1]

- (a) the German soldiers had directly injured their elder sister's spine
- (b) they deeply resented the strict military rule imposed upon their city
- (c) the brutal realities of the war and the Germans had entirely ruined their family
- (d) a targeted bombing raid by the Germans had destroyed their family home

SECTION B: REFERENCE TO CONTEXT (EXTRACT BASED) (5 MARKS EACH)

Q6. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

"We do many things, sir," Nicola answered seriously. He glanced at us hopefully. "As a matter of fact, we do a lot of things for a living... We show tourists round the town... to Juliet's Tomb... and run errands."

- (i) Why was the narrator initially surprised when he saw the boys working as shoeshine boys in the public square? [1]
- (ii) What does Nicola's serious tone reveal about his attitude towards performing menial or low-paying jobs? [1]
- (iii) Why did Nicola glance at the narrator and his companion "hopefully"? [1]
- (iv) List any two distinct services the boys offered to the narrator during his stay in Verona. [1]
- (v) Find a word/phrase in the extract that means the same as "short journeys or tasks undertaken to deliver or collect something". [1]

Q7. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

He coloured deeply under his sunburn, then grew pale. He smiled uncomfortably. "Just plans, sir," he answered in a low voice. "We have current plans, which we are not ready to share."

- (i) Who is the person referred to as "He" in the above extract, and what caused him to change color? [1]
- (ii) What theory or assumption had the narrator just proposed that made the speaker feel so uneasy and embarrassed? [1]
- (iii) Why does the speaker answer in a "low voice" and offer an evasive reply like "Just plans"? [1]
- (iv) What does this level of evasiveness reveal about the boys' fundamental character traits? [1]
- (v) What were their actual, secret "plans" that they were fiercely protecting from public disclosure? [1]

SECTION C: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (3 MARKS EACH)

- Q8.** In spite of their regular, multi-faceted earnings from various odd jobs, Nicola and Jacopo chose to live an extremely frugal lifestyle, wearing ragged garments and eating cheap meals. What did the narrator initially surmise or assume about their motives from this behavior? [3]
- Q9.** The author asks the boys, *"Must you work so hard? You both look rather tired."* To this, they simply reply, *"We are not complaining, sir."* Analyze what this concise response teaches the reader about the internal resilience and psychological fortitude of these children. [3]
- Q10.** Briefly describe how the devastating impacts of the war structurally transformed and disrupted the comfortable early childhood and family structure of Nicola, Jacopo, and Lucia. [3]
- Q11.** Why did the narrator choose *not* to speak to the boys about what he discovered from the nurse at the hospital, keeping his knowledge entirely hidden on their return journey back to Verona? [3]

SECTION D: LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (6 MARKS EACH)

- Q12.** *"Appearances are deceptive. Behind their shabby, untidy exteriors were hidden two noble souls whose absolute selflessness promises a new hope for a fractured human society."* Elaborate and critically evaluate this statement with explicit reference to the actions, values, and character sketches of Nicola and Jacopo as depicted by A.J. Cronin. [6]

Q13. Imagine you are the narrator of the story. After returning from Poleta and completing your journey through the foothills of the Alps, you sit down in your hotel room at night, deeply moved, unable to sleep. [6]

Write a detailed **Diary Entry** capturing your evolving impressions of the two boys, from your initial casual encounter to the profound revelation of their sacrifice.