



Topic: The Merchant of Venice, Act I, Scene iii

Name: _____

Class: IX

Date: _____

The answer to the following is to be written out in your English register.

Shylock :

When Jacob grazed his uncle Laban's sheep—

This Jacob from our holy Abram was,

As his wise mother wrought in his behalf,

The third possessor, ay, he was the third—

Antonio:

And what of him? Did he take interest?

Shylock:

No, not take interest—not as you would say

Directly interest. Mark what Jacob did:

When Laban and himself were compromised

That all the eanlings which were streaked and pied

Should fall as Jacob's hire, the ewes, being rank,

In the end of autumn turnèd to the rams.

(a) What is referred to in the extract? Who were Jacob and Abraham?

(b) Give the story of Jacob who got his share as his payment from Laban.

- (c) What is the difference between taking interest and receiving payment for one's labour?
- (d) How does Antonio interpret Jacob's success after this extract?
- (e) Give an estimate of your understanding of the character of Antonio on the basis of your reading of the play so far.