ASSIGNMENT ACT V

Bassanio : Sweet Portia,  
If you did know to whom I gave the ring,  
If you did know for whom I gave the ring,  
And would conceive for what I gave the ring,  
And how unwillingly I left the ring,  
When naught would be accepted but the ring,  
You would abate the strength of your displeasure

(i) What was the importance of the ring in the relationship between Portia and Bassanio? Name the other couple for whom the ring created much trouble? (3)

The ring signifies the love and bond between the Portia and Bassanio. For the same Bassanio has taken oath that he will not part with it until his death.

The ring created such trouble for Nerissa and Gratiano.

(ii) To whom and for whom had Bassanio given the ring? For what had he given the ring? (3)

Bassanio gave the ring to the Doctor sent by Dr.Bellario and for saving Antonio's life from the clutches of the Jew(Shylock).

(iii) What were the three reasons stated by Portia that would have prevented Bassanio from parting with the ring?(3)

Reasons stated by Portia that would have prevented Bassanio from parting with the ring were:

1. The virtue of the ring

2. Half the worthiness of the ring

3. His own honour to contain the ring

(iv) A little later, Lorenzo says,’ Fair ladies, you drop manna in the way of starved people’. Give the meaning of ‘manna’. What was the ‘manna’ dropped by the ‘fair ladies’ ‘in the way of starved people’?(3)

Manna was the divine food sent by the God to the wandering Jews in the desert which they found lying on the ground in answer to Moses' prayers.

The manna dropped by the fair ladies was the deed that stated that all the possessions of the Jew would go to Lorenzo and Jessica after his death for they had no possessions since they ran from Venice.

(v) State any two qualities of Portia, giving relevant examples.(3)

Qualities of Portia were:

1. She was a generous and fair woman as she helped Antonio free from the clutches of the devil and even provided Bassanio with money to give to Shylock paying off the debt.

2. She was a clever woman as she fought for the life of her husband's friend though disguised and saved Antonio.