**ACT 2 SCENE 1**

**Answer the following questions:**

**Question 1**

**a) Why is Alonso feeling disconsolate? How does Sebastian react to Alonso’s depressed mood**

Alonso thinks that his son Ferdinand has drowned and died in the sea.Words of comfort from Gonzalo and Francisco failed to appease him. When Gonzalo tries to comfort him, he feels irritated. He also feels upset about his daughter Claribel who has been married so far away that it would be impossible for her to come back to Naples if required.

Sebastian blames Alonso for the present state of affairs. He is rude and insensitive. Had Alonso not decided to get his daughter married to the King of Tunis, they would not be stranded on this island. He says that Alonso had been ‘kneel’d to and importun’d otherwise’ by them and also by Claribel. He stood his ground and refused to listen. Due to this marriage, Alonso has lost not only his son but also his daughter. There are more widows in Naples and Milan than they bring men to comfort them.

Finally we see that instead of comforting his brother, Sebastian chose to blame and find fault with him for everything.

**b) Who, other than Gonzalo comforts Alonso and how?**

Francisco, another courtier, tries to comfort Alonso when he was distraught.

He says that he saw Ferdinand beating the sea waves and trying to keep himself afloat.

He fought against the waves and managed to keep himself above the highest wave, disregarding their hostility.vHe kept his ‘bold head’ above the fierce waves.

Francisco says that he believes Ferdinand has come alive to the island. He oared himself with powerful strokes towards the island and must have reached the shore. He describes the eroded cliff on the shore as one that bends down in compassion on seeing his efforts. It seemed as if it was stooping to relieve him.

**c) Comment on Gonzalo’s idea of a commonwealth and its significance in the play.**

Gonzalo says that if he were the King of the island, he would create an ideal society. This was done with the purpose to divert Alonso’s attention from his grief over Ferdinand’s death and to give Antonio and Sebastian opportunity to laugh.

No traffic, that means no trade or business.

No name of magistrate, therefore no one in charge of administering law.

No letters would mean no education, learning or literature.

No riches and poverty.

No use of service.

No occupation.

No use of metal, corn or oil.

All men and women innocent and pure.

Everyone would be allowed access to everything – all things in common nature. Nature would provide food to feed the innocent people and there would be no sovereignty