Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**9TH PPS ANSWER KEY**

1. Who does Portia call a ‘sponge’? Why? What else does she say about him? 3

Ans. Portia calls the German lord a sponge as he is a drunkard. She says that he is very vilely in the morning when he is sober and most vilely when he is drunk. In his best behavior he is a little worse than a man and in his worst behavior he is a little better than a beast.

1. How does Shylock respond to Bassanio’s invitation for dinner? 3

Ans. Shylock is very bitter and sarcastic in his response to the invitation given by Bassanio. He says that he is being expected to eat of the habitation which the Nazarite prophet conjured the devil into. He declares that he would buy, sell, talk and walk with the Christians but cannot be expected to eat, drink or pray with them.

1. Give the reasons mentioned by Shylock for hating Antonio. 4

Ans. Shylock hates Antonio because he is a Christian. Though he lives a life of low simplicity, Antonio lends out money gratis and brings down the rate of usance with the money lenders in Venice. Shylock says that he bears an ancient grudge towards Antonio as he hates their sacred nation and rails where merchants mostly congregate. He criticizes Shylock, his bargains and his well won-thrift which he calls interest.

1. Who is the third person mentioned in the poem ‘Cold within’? What did he do? Why? 3

Ans. The third person in the group is a poor man with tattered clothes He gave his coat a hitch as the torn clothes did not give him any warmth compared to the others in the group. He then sees the rich man whom he hates and does not give his log of wood seeing him. His action of pulling his coat together giving it a hitch also signifies hat he was trying to cut himself away from the rich man.

1. What did Muni want to do when he saw the red-faced foreigner? 3

Ans. Muni wanted to run away on seeing the red-faced foreigner as he wore khaki clothes and was evidently a policeman or soldier. Muni did not want to be questioned by him about the murder that had taken place and since he didn’t understand what he was asking, Muni wanted to run away.

1. What made the foreigner believe that the horse belonged to Muni? 2

Ans. The foreigner thought that the horse belonged to Muni by the way he sat on its pedestal. The foreigner had observed how other souvenir sellers in the country presided over their wares.

1. What was Muni’s first reaction on seeing the hundred rupee note? Why? 2

Ans. Muni, on seeing the hundred rupee note, peered closely at the currency as he had never seen the like of it in his life. He knew the five and ten rupee notes by its colours although in someone else’s hand.