***Question 1:* *“Your father was ever virtuous, and holy men at their death have good inspirations”***

1. What pointed question is asked just before this speech? Who asks the question? 3
2. How does the speaker justify the actions of the ‘father’? 3
3. What question is asked by the speaker at the end of the speech? 3
4. Name the suitors mentioned in the scene. 3
5. What does scene tell you about the character of Portia? Substantiate. 4

Ans. The pointed question is asked to Nerissa by Portia. The question is whether it was not hard that she could not choose one for her husband nor refuse none.

Ans. Nerissa says that Portia’s father was ever virtuous and such holy men at their death have good inspirations. This made Nerissa believe that lottery of the three caskets would be chosen correctly only by the one whom Portia shall rightly love.

Ans. Nerissa asks Portia What warmth was there in her affection towards any of the suitors that had already come. She was trying to know what Portia felt about the suitors who had already arrived at Belmont.

Ans. The Neapolitan prince, County Palatine, the French Lord Monsieur Le Bon, The English Baron Falconbridge, the Scottish lord and the duke of Saxony’s nephew.

Ans. In the scene Portia seems to be in an irritated mood ad calls herself aweary of this great world. She thinks it is unfair that she cannot chose or refuse anyone. She seems to be philosophical in her speech about the difficulty in doing the right thing. She ridicules the suitors mentioned by Nerissa and seems to think low about them. But we see that in spite of being unhappy about the casket test she would abide by the conditions set by her father as she is an obedient daughter. Finally, we also see that she seems to be having a soft corner for Bassanio.

***Question 2 16***

***“Mislike me not for my complexion, the shadowed livery of the burnished sun to...”***

1. Who is the speaker of these lines? Whom are they spoken to? Where does the scene take place?3
2. Explain: The shadowed livery of the burnished sun 3
3. Is Morocco proud of his colour? Justify with examples from the scene. 3
4. How does Portia react to this speech of Morocco? 3
5. What does this scene tell us about the character of Morocco? 4
6. Prince of Morocco. These lines are spoken to Portia. A room in Portia’s house, Belmont.
7. He says that the dark complexion is given by the burnished sun to whom he is a neighbour. He calls this dark complexion as a shadowed livery.
8. Yes, Morocco says that he is proud of his colour and would not want to change it. The only situation in which he would be willing to change his colour would be to steal the thoughts of Portia.
9. Portia confesses to Morocco that the choosing of her husband is not in her hands. She had to depend on the conditions put by her father. If her father had not hedged her and scanted her by his wit, then Morocco stood a fair chance as any other suitor who had come for her affection.
10. Prince of Morocco considers himself to be brave and better than the fair people from the North. But if an incision is made in them, it would be easily proved whose blood is redder. He implies that he is Morocco says that the native girls of his country love the bravery which he has. This bravery has scared even the most valiant people around full of valour and bravery than any fair man. Morocco swears by his scimitar and brags that he would slew the Sophy and a Persian Prince who had won three battlefields against Sultan Solyman. Morocco says that he would overstare the sternest eyes that looked at him. And outbrave the most daring heart on earth. He would pluck the young sucking cubs from the she-bear to prove his bravery. He claims that he is a deserving candidate and compares himself to Hercules also thanks Portia for giving him a fair chance.

***Question 3: “Father in. I cannot get a service, no! I have never a tongue in my head”***

1. How does Launcelot describe his palm? What does his palm tell him about wives? 3
2. What instructions does Bassanio give Leonardo? How does he respond? 3
3. Who enters the scene at this point? What does he request Bassanio? 3
4. What is Bassanio’s response to this request? 3
5. How does Gratiano address Bassanio’s apprehensions? 4

Launcelot says that his palm was the luckiest palm in Italy to have offered to swear upon a book. His palm shows that he will have a small trifle of wives. He considers fifteen wives as nothing and would have eleven widows and nine maidens in his life too.

Bassanio tells Leonardo to think of whatever he has been told. He wants his to buy and orderly bestow it and return in haste as he is going to feast with his best esteemed acquaintance.

Gratiano enters the scene at this point. He requests Bassanio that he wants to accompany Bassanio to Belmont.

Bassanio nervously accepts the request made by Gratiano. He cautions Gratiano to behave himself s many a times he was rude wild ad bold of voice. These parts would not be appreciated at a new place and he may be misunderstood at the place he goes to. He may lose his hopes of winning Portia due to that.

Gratiano promises that he would put on a sober habit, talk with respect, swear but now and then look demurely. When grace is saying he would hood his eyes with a hat and sigh and say amen as well as carry prayer books in his pocket. He would use all observance of civility like one well studied in sad ostent to please anyone’s grandam. He tells Bassanio to never trust him more if he doesn’t do these things.

***Question 4 16***

***“In hushed and happy twilight heard”***

1. Which question does the poet ask? Why does he ask the question repeatedly?
2. What does the poet mean by ‘mother-croon’? Why is it sung in hushed voice?
3. In the third stanza, what does he plant who plants a tree? What stirs in the heart of the man who plants a tree?
4. What does “far-cast thought of civic good” mean? Why does the poet say that the man who plants a tree “holds the responsibility of all our land”?
5. Why does the poet say that the nation’s growth depends upon the wealth of the trees?

Ans. The poet has asked “What does he plant who plants a tree?” The poet has asked the question repeatedly to emphasize that when a person plants a tree, he actually plants a lot of things along with it which have an everlasting positive effect on mankind.

Ans. ‘Mother-croon’ refers to the sweet and gentle song of the mother bird which is like a lullaby to its young one. The mother bird is singing in twilight in order to put its baby to sleep and thus she sings in a hushed voice.

Ans. He plants in sap, leaf and wood which are used for making for various things like paper, medicines, rubber, etc. the man who plants a tree is actually doing so for the welfare of humanity. He desires to bring about the growth of not only his nation but also the whole world. It is this strong desire that stirs in the heart of the man.

Ans. Far-cast thought of civic good means the something which is done to benefit the society, for the good of the society. The poet says that the man holds the responsibility of all the land because, by planting a tree he is benefitting the neighbourhood. He is the one, who like god holds earth in the hollow of his hands, the responsibility of growth and success in his hands.

Ans. Trees are the lifeline of a nation playing an important part in maintaining its ecological balance. They purify the air by absorbing carbon dioxide and other polluted gases and providing oxygen. They have a cooling effect on the surroundings and are also instrumental in a good rainfall. Trees act like a canopy and are homes to the birds for whom they are like a heaven on earth. It is these endless benefits due to which the poet says that a nation’s growth depends upon the wealth of the trees.

***Question 5 16***

***“Each one possessed a stick of wood or the story’s told”***

1. What is the significance of the word ‘trapped’ used in the first line? 3
2. Who is the first person mentioned in the poem? Who is sitting opposite to her? Why does the person hold back their log? 3
3. Why did the second person not give his log? What do we understand about him? 3
4. Did the black man give his stick of wood? Why? 3
5. How is the title of the poem significant? 4

Ans. He word ‘trapped’ means to be caught in a difficult situation from which one cannot escape. Here the six humans did not want to be together as each one hates some other in the group. They seem to be together coincidentally and so seemed to be ‘trapped’.

Ans. The first person in the poem is a white lady. A black man is sitting opposite to her. She was a racist, and did not want to give her log in the fire which would benefit the black man also.

Ans. The second person refuses to give his log as he sees that in the group there is a person who does not belong to his church or his community and so he does not want to help him. This person seems to be a classist, a bigot or a fanatic who is intolerant of other religions or communities.

Ans. No, the black man did not give his stick of wood. There was a white lady in the group and he was full of hatred and vengeance towards the white. He thought that his stick of wood was the only way to take revenge. Thus, he refused to give his tick of wood.

Ans. The poet has clearly woven a story of six strangers trapped in biting cold. They had the opportunity to save themselves, if they had given their logs to the dying fire, the only chance of their survival. They refused to do so due to their irrational prejudices. Finally, it was the cold within their hearts and not without that spelt their doom. The poet has aptly titled his poem ‘The cold within’.

**Question 5.**

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

***I gazed and gazed but little thought***

***What wealth the show to me had brought.***

1. What did the poet see at once? Where? What was he doing then? 3
2. Who else dances with the daffodils? Who was better? How does he feel with these daffodils? 3
3. What are the daffodils compared to, in the second stanza? How? 3
4. Explain: ‘flash on that inward eye’ 3
5. Bring out the contrast of emotions that the poet feels in the beginning and at the end of the poem. 4

The poet sees a crowd, a host of golden daffodils at once. He sees them beside the lake, beneath the trees, fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

The waves beside the daffodils also danced. The daffodils outdid the sparkling waves in glee. The poet feels only gay in such a jocund company.

The daffodils are compared to the stars in the second stanza. The continuity of the stars that shine and twinkle on the Milky Way is compared to the daffodils that stretch in never-ending line.

The ‘inward eye’ refers to the imagination or the soul of the poet. Whenever he is thoughtless or in a pensive mood, the image of these daffodils flash upon his inward eye filling him with cheer. Thus the ‘inward eye’ is mentioned to convey the fact that the version of the beautiful flowers was etched in the memory of the poet.

In the beginning the poet is extremely dejected as he wanders lonely as a cloud. He suddenly sees ten thousand of daffodils and feels only gay in that jocund company. At the end we see that even in his solitude he is blissful. It happens as the daffodils flash on his inward eye and his heart fills with pleasure.

**Question 7.**

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

***The boy appeared to be crying.***

***His head hung down, he held his face in his hands,***

1. How can one identify that he was a school boy? Where was he sitting?

What was he not supposed to do? 3

**Ans:** One can identify that he was a school boy as he was wearing a school cap which was their uniform. He was sitting alone on a rock. He was not supposed to be out after dark.

1. What happened due to the strong wind? How different was Mr Oliver? 3

**Ans:** Due to the strong wind, the pine trees made sad, eerie sounds that kept most people to the main road. Mr Oliver was not a nervous or imaginative man.

1. What was Mr Oliver carrying? What was the problem with it? 3

**Ans:** Mr Oliver was carrying a torch and its gleam moved fitfully down the narrow forest path. Its batteries were running down. Also, its light was flickering.

1. Where was the school located? How is the school described in the media? Name the medium. 3

**Ans:** The school was located on the outskirts of the hill-station of Simla. Life magazine, in a feature on India, had once called it the ‘Eton of the East.’

1. What did Mr Oliver do when he saw the boy’s face? What happened then? [4]

**Ans:** When Mr Oliver saw the boy’s face, he was so shocked that the torch fell from his trembling hand. He turned and scrambled down the path, running blindly through the trees and calling for help. He kept running towards the school buildings when he saw a lantern swinging in the middle of the path.

***Question 8:***

***“Death touches the spring of our common humanity.***

***This woman had been despised, scoffed at and angrily denounced***

***by nearly every man, woman and child in the village.***

1. How did the people of the village treat the woman during her life? What was their attitude towards her after her death? [3]

This woman had been despised, scoffed at, and angrily denounced by nearly every man, woman and child in the village. After her death, the news of her death was passed from lip to lip in subdued tones. Pity took the place of anger and sorrow of denunciation.

1. How and where did the mother die? How many children did she have? [3]

The mother had fallen upon the threshold of her own door in a drunken fit and died in the presence of her frightened little ones. She had three children; John, Kate and Maggie.

1. What did people carry with them when they visited the woman’s house on her death? Why did no one follow the dead cart? [3]

They carried a grave-cloth for her and some food for the three half-starving children. Some women also brought some cast- off clothes and changed the soiled and ragged clothes of Maggie, who was bedridden. Nobody followed the dead cart as it bore the unhonoured remains to its pauper grave.

1. Who was the dead woman’s youngest child? How had she become a disabled person? [3]

The youngest child was Maggie. She was hopelessly diseased. Two years before a fall from a window had injured her spine and she had not been able to leave her bed since.

1. Who was Joe Thompson? What type of a person was he? What doubt did Joe Thompson have when he decided to take the youngest child home? [4]

Joe Thompson was a wheelwright. He was rough in exterior but he had a heart and was very tender in some place. Being childless, Joe would be pleased to have the children come to his shop where sleds and wagons were made or mended. Joe’s wife Mrs Jane Thompson was not a woman of saintly temper, nor much given to self-denial for others’ good and he had well grounded doubts touching the manner of greeting he should receive on his arrival.

**Question 9.**

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

***As they passed down the aisle of the coach the only vacant seat offered***

***was a reversed one facing the attractive young woman.***

1. Describe the appearance of the linked couple. 4

Among the newcomers in the coach there were two young men. One of them was a handsome man with a bold and frank facial expression and manner. The other one was a ruffled, serious looking person, heavily built and roughly dressed. They were handcuffed together and therefore are referred to as the ‘linked couple’.

1. In your opinion state how minor characters play an important role in the story? 4

It is the minor characters i.e. the two other passengers in a seat nearby who had heard most of the conversation reveal the truth. One of them subtly brings out the truth that Easton is the prisoner and the glum-faced man the marshal. As a marshal’s right hand is never handcuffed it is very clear that Easton is the prisoner and the glum-faced man a marshal. A prisoner’s right hand is handcuffed in order to restrict his movements.

1. O. Henry presents various ironical situations in the story. Comment. 8

The two men who enter are judged by their appearances. Mr Easton is of handsome presence with a bold, frank countenance and manner; the other is a ruffled, glum-faced person, heavily built and roughly dressed. The readers just like the lady immediately accept this as the truth due to the appearances of the two men. O. Henry thus clearly brings out the fact that ‘appearances can be deceptive’. Later in the story from the conversation of the other two passengers one realises that Mr Easton was actually the criminal and glum-faced man was the Marshall. O. Henry does drop subtle hints from the start to suggest the actuality of both’s characters. One, when Mr Easton says that his butterfly days are over and also when glum-faced man was observing the girl’s countenance with veiled glances from his keen, shrewd eyes. It is a typical characteristic of a policeman to do so.

world of her spouse and her heart is filled with passion and desire. On the other hand, she is also sad that she has to leave the comfort and protection of her parents’ house and the company of her siblings and her friends. The tinkling sound made by the bangles and their lustre are like her laughter soothing. Whereas, the tender and clear texture of her bangles is like tears.