Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Test: MOV 1.1, The Heart of the tree, Old man at the bridge.**

**BATCH: IX VCR Duration: 1 Hour Marks: 40**

**ANSWER KEY**

1. What does Antonio wish to learn at the start of the scene? 2

Ans. Antonio wishes to learn the origin of his melancholy, how he caught it, came by it, what stuff it is made of and whereof it is born.

1. What insecurities would come to Salerio if he were to see the sandy hour glass and the church? 3

Ans. If Salerio were to see the sandy hour glass run, he would think of shallows and flats and would see his wealthy Andrew docked in sand, vailing her high top lower than her ribs, to kiss her burial. When he would go to the Church and see the holy edifice of stone, it would remind him of the dangerous rocks which could touch his gentle vessel’s side and shipwreck them.

1. According to Salerio, which are the two kind of people framed by nature? 3

Ans. Salerio swears by two-headed Janus, and says that nature had framed strange fellows. Some that would evermore peep through their eyes and laugh like parrots at a bag-piper. The others of such vinegar aspect that they would not show their teeth in way of smile, though Nestor swears that the jest is laughable.

1. How does Antonio describe the world? What role does he see himself playing? 2

Ans. Antonio describes the world as a stage in which every man must play a part. He says that he is playing the role of a sad one.

1. What role does Gratiano want to play? How does he want to live his life? 4

Ans. Gratiano want to play the fool. He wants old wrinkles to come with mirth and laughter, and have his liver heat with wine than his heart cool with mortifying groans. He says that why should a man, whose blood is warm within, sit like his grandsire cut in alabaster, sleep when he wakes and creep into jaundice by being peevish.

1. Why is people’s opinion compared to fool gudgeon? 2

Ans. A gudgeon is a fish which is supposed to be foolish and doesn’t require any effort to catch. Similarly, impressing people’s opinion is a very simple task and doesn’t require any special effort.

1. How does Bassanio describe Portia? 4

Ans. Bassanio calls Portia as rich, fair and virtuous. He says that this Portia is not less in value to Cato’s daughter, Brutus’ Portia. The world is not ignorant of the worth and renowned suitors come from all the four directions. Her sunny locks hang on her temples like a golden fleece and Belmont has become Colchis’ strand. Many Jasons come in quest of Portia and he believed because of the fair speechless messages that she had given, he would be the one who would be fortunate to marry her.

1. For whom is the tree a home? What kind of a home is it? 3

Ans. The tree is a home to many birds which nest in the tree. These birds feel a sense of belongingness and protection in their abodes built in the tree. They give birth to their young ones, feed them and sing a lullaby in these nests. Thus, the tree is like a heavenly home for them.

1. How is ‘planting a tree’ the harvest of a coming age? 2

Ans. When a person plants a tree, he may not be able to benefit from it immediately because the tree will take time to grow and blossom. But the future generation will surely benefit from it. Thus, the planting of a tree is said to be the harvest of a coming age.

1. Do you think that the title of the poem is appropriate? Justify. 4

Ans. Yes, the title of the poem is appropriate. In the poem, the poet has focused on the unlimited uses of a tree which contributes to the growth of a nation. The poet has subtly personified the tree by saying that it is generous and giving. It provides shade, food, pure air and shelter to birds and many other things to mankind. The fact that it is so benevolent shows that it has a heart. Thus, ‘The Heart of the tree’ is an appropriate title given to the poem.

1. Describe the old man in the first paragraph of the story. Where was he sitting? 2

Ans. The old man was wearing dusty clothes and steel rimmed spectacles. He sat by the side of the road, near a pontoon bridge by the Ebro river.

1. What reason does the old man give for leaving San Carlos? Who had advised him to do so? 2

Ans. The old man says that he had left San Carlos because of artillery. He was advised to leave by the captain.

1. Where were the truck heading to? Why? What response does the old man give to the same? 3

Ans. The trucks were heading to Barcelona. They were probably rescuing trucks by taking the republican supporters to safety. Barcelona, then, was an area of Republican domination. When the old man was told about this, he responded by saying that he knew no one in that direction.

1. Explain the symbolism of animals and the people or situations they represent. 4

Ans. The animals used in the story are all symbolic. The old man is not worried about the cat as it can take care of itself and is supposed to have nine lives. The doves are supposed to be the symbols of peace and are expected by the narrator to fly away (which would be the case when the war is on). The goats are the animals he is worried about. Goats are supposed to be the symbols of sacrifice and in this case too they are being sacrificed without any fault. Like them, the old man is being sacrificed too because of no fault.