Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**SET B ANSWER KEY**

1. Why does Portia want Bassanio to wait before making the choice of the casket? How long does she want him to wait?

Ans. Portia asks Bassanio to pause a day or two. She asks him to do so because she fears that if he chooses the wrong casket, she might lose him company.

1. Why does Portia call the times as naughty?

Ans. Portia calls the times as naughty because it is putting a bar between the owners and their rights. What she means to say is that Bassnaio already owns her. She says that there is a barrier between her and Bassanio because of time.

1. What role will the music play if Bassanio makes the right choice of casket?

Ans. If Bassanio chooses the right casket, then the music would do the role of a flourish when the true subjects bow down to a newly crowned monarch. These sounds can also be compared to the dulcet sounds which creep during the dawn into the dreaming bridegroom’s ear summoning him to his marriage.

1. In what manner does Portia give away the ring to Bassanio?

Ans. While giving the ring to Bassanio, Portia tells him that if he loses parts from it, loses it or gives it away then it would be the presage of his love and be her vantage to exclaim on him.

1. How does Bassanio describe his confusion after the ring is gifted to him?

Ans. Bassanio’s says that Portia had bereft him of all the words. He says that only the blood in his veins is able to talk to her. He expresses this by the example of the pleased multitude of subjects after a fairly spoken oration by a beloved prince. Though the subjects have not understood the speech well they are aware about the eloquence of the speech. Bassanio compares this situation to himself.

1. What does Bassanio confess to Portia after reading the letter?

Ans. Bassanio confesses to Portia that when he first had imparted his love to her, he had told her that his wealth ran in his veins. He was a gentleman. Though whatever he said was true he says that he was a braggart. He finally confesses to her that his estate was worse than nothing as he had engaged himself to a dear friend.

1. What does Jessica testify to Portia and Bassanio?

Ans. Jessica shares the information that she had heard Shylock swear to Tubal and Chus that he would rather have Antonio’s flesh than even twenty times the sum which was owed to him. She says that if law authority and power do not deny Shylock, it would go hard with poor Antonio.