Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**3.2 SUBJECTIVE TEST ANSWER KEY C**

1. What is the only treason Bassanio confesses about?

Ans. Bassanio says that the only treason that he has, is of mistrust. This mistrust makes him fear that he would not be able to enjoy his love.

2. Who is Bassanio compared to as he approaches the caskets for choosing them? Explain the comparison.

Ans. Bassanio is compared to Alcides. Portia says that Bassanio is going to the choice of caskets with no less presence but with much more love than young Alcides. Hercules did redeem Princess Hesione from the sea-monster but he did it for the greed of her father’s horses. In this case, Bassanio was rescuing Portia, but it was because of love.

3. How is false bravery of cowards criticized by Bassanio?

Ans. Bassanio says that there are many cowards whose hearts are as false as stairs of sand. These people yet wear upon their chins the beards of Hercules and frowning Mars. If we search these people inward, their livers would be found as white as milk. But these people assume valour’s excrement to show themselves as fearful.

4. How does Bassanio address the silver casket?

Ans. Bassanio says that the silver casket was pale and a common drudge between man and man.

5. How did Gratiano woo Nerissa? What promise did he finally get from her?

Ans. Gratiano wooed Nerissa till he started to sweat. He swore oaths of love till the roof of his mouth was dry. Finally, Nerissa promised him that he could have her love provided Bassanio was able to win Portia.

6. What is Portia happy, happier, happiest about?

Ans. Portia is happy that she is not so old that she may not be able to learn. She is happier that she is not bred so dull that she cannot learn. She is happiest about the fact that her gentle spirit has committed itself to Bassanio. It would be directed by him and she calls him her lord, governor and her king.

7. What is Portia’s response when she realizes that the debt is only for three thousand ducats? What help does she promise? What is supposed to be done before Bassanio leaves?

Ans. Portia is surprised at the small amount of three thousand ducats that Antonio owed to Shylock. She tells Bassanio to pay him six thousand ducats and deface the bond. Then she mentions even six thousand can be doubled or trebled before a friend of this description shall lose a hair through Bassanio’s fault. Portia asks Bassanio to first go with her to church and call her wife before going to Venice.