Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Test: The Merchant of Venice Act 1 - Scene 1, Scene 2, Bangle sellers**

**Std: IX JK Duration: 45 Mins Marks:30**

Answer the following questions based on their weightage:

1. How does Antonio assure Salerio and Solanio that the reason behind his melancholy were not his ships? 2

Ans. When Salerio and Solanio share their insecurities, Antonio tells them that the reason behind his melancholy were not his ships. His ventures are not trusted in one bottom or in one place. Even his whole estate is not upon the fortune of that year. Therefore, his merchandise did not make him sad.

1. Why is people’s opinion compared to a 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. In what way does Gratiano want to life his life? 3

Ans. Gratiano wants to play the fool. He wants old wrinkles to come with mirth and laughter and would rather have his liver heat with wine than his heart cool with mortifying groans. He doesn’t believe in sitting like his grandfather’s alabaster statue and being passive like that, sleep when he wakes and creep into jaundice by being peevish.

1. Which childhood example does Bassanio give to Antonio? Why? 3

Ans. Bassanio says that in his school days, when he had lost one shaft he would shoot another in the same self-flight and the same self-way as the first. By risking both, he often found both. Bassanio gives this example to Antonio to substantiate his demand for more money. If Antonio is willing to give him a second loan, he would either return both the loans or at least the second loan back.

1. How does Nerissa try to convince Portia that the condition kept by her father would indeed be a fair one? 3

Ans. Nerissa says that Portia’s father was ever virtuous and therefore would have had good inspiration at his death. The lottery that he had devised in those three caskets would no doubt be chosen by anybody rightly than the one whom she would love.

1. What does Portia say about the Count Palatine? 3

Ans. According to Portia, Count Palatine does nothing but frown. The expression is as if he wants to say that if Portia doesn’t choose him, she can choose anyone else. He hears merry tales but doesn’t smile and Portia fears that he would prove to be a weeping philosopher (Heraclitus) when he grows old. She says that she would be rather married to a skull than to him.

1. How does Portia react when Nerissa mentions about the French lord? 4

Ans. Portia says that God has made the French Lord, so she considers him to be a man. He talks about the horse more than the Neapolitan prince and frowns more than Count Palatine. The moment a throstle bird sings he starts dancing and he would even fence with his own shadow. If Portia marries him, it would be like marrying twenty husbands. If he despises her she would forgive him but if he loves her she would never be able to requite him.

1. How are the bangles described in the first stanza of the poem ‘Bangle Sellers’? 3

Ans. The bangles are described as shining loads, delicate and bright and as rainbow tinted circles of light. The bangles are also called as the lustrous tokens of radiant lives.

1. Which coloured bangles does a bride wear? How are the bangles described in this

stanza? 4

Ans. A bride wears either bright green/yellow (golden) or bright red bangles on the day of her marriage. The green bangles are compared to the vast fields of sunlit corn. Tinkling, luminous, tender and clear.

1. Explain: ‘And serves her household in fruitful pride.’ 3

Ans. Once a woman gets married, she has to take care of her house and family. She has to perform a lot of duties and meet the expectations of her husband, in laws and her children. When she successfully shoulders all her responsibilities, she feels a sense of pride.