Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

1. What does Shylock mean to say when he says that Antonio is sufficient? What does he know about the argosies of Antonio? 3

Ans. Ans. When Shylock says that Antonio is a sufficient man, he means that he is financially sufficient to stand as a guarantor for the loan. Shylock knows that Antonio had an argosy bound to Tripolis, another for the Indies. He has learnt over the Rialto that is third argosy is at Mexico and fourth for England. There are other ventures which he has squandered abroad.

1. What reasons does Shylock give for hating Antonio? 4

Ans. Shylock hates Antonio because he is a Christian. Though he lives a life of low simplicity, Antonio lends out money gratis and brings down the rate of interest with the money lenders in Venice. Shylock says that he bears an ancient grudge towards Antonio as he hates their sacred nation and rails where merchants mostly congregate. He criticizes Shylock, his bargains and his well-won thrift which he calls interest.

1. What is Antonio’s first interaction with Shylock? 2

Ans. Antonio tells Shylock that he neither lends nor borrows by taking or giving excess (interest). But, to supply the ripe wamts of Bassanio he would break a custom and is willing to pay interest.

1. Mention any two analogies that Antonio gives to describe Shylock. 2

Ans. Antonio says that Shylock is like a devil who is citing Scripture for his purpose. He says that an evil soul producing holy witness is like a villain with a smiling cheek. He also compares Shylock to a goodly apple which is rotten at heart.

1. What reason does Shylock give to Antonio for delay in his decision about the loan? 4

Ans. Shylock tells Antonio that often he has berated him in the Rialto about his moneys and usances. He has borne it with a patient shrug, Antonio has called him misbeliever, cut-throat dog and spat upon his Jewish gabardine. He has done all this just because Shylock charges interest. Antonio also has spat on his beard and kicked him as one would spurn a stray dog over his threshold.

1. What is Antonio’s reaction to Shylock’s sarcastic outburst? 2

Ans. After Shylock’s sarcastic outburst, Antonio flares up even more and says that he was likely to call Shylock a dog, spit on him and spurn him again. If he would give them the loan, he should give it as an enemy and not as a friend.

1. In what way does Shylock convince Antonio to sign the bond? 3

Ans. Antonio says that, Christians because of their hard dealings suspect the thought of others. He says a pound of man’s flesh is not estimable or profitable as the flesh of muttons, beefs or goats. He says that he has offered the money only to buy his favour and be a friend.