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

Ans. Antonio is melancholic at the start of the scene. He wishes to learn how he caught it, found it, came by it and what stuff it is made up of and whereof it is born.

1. What does Salarino (Salerio) swear by the two-headed Janus? 3

Ans. Salerio swears by the two headed Janus that nature had framed strange fellows. Some people would evermore peep through their eyes and laugh like parrots at bagpiper. The others of such vinegar aspect that they would not show their teeth to smile even though Nestor swears that the jest is laughable.

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

Ans. Gratiano wants to play the fool. He wants old wrinkles to come with mirth and laughter and have his liver heat with wine than his heart with mortifying groans. He says that why should a man sit like his grandfather’s alabaster statue and be passive like that, sleep when he wakes and creep into jaundice by being peevish.

1. What examples does Portia give to prove her point that doing is not as easy as saying? 2

Ans. Portia says that if doing was as easy as saying then chapels would have been churches and poor men’s cottages would have been prince’ palaces.

1. Mention the names of the six suitors described by Portia. 3

Ans. Neapolitan prince, Count Palatine, French Lord (Monsieur Le Bon), Falconbridge (Young baron of England), Scottish Lord, Duke of Saxony’s nephew.

1. What does Nerissa inform Portia to ease her anxiety as far as the suitors are concerned? 2

Ans. Nerissa informs Portia that the suitors had acquainted her with their determinations. They have not decided to continue with the suit and return back home without choosing the casket.

1. Which question does the poet ask? Why? 2

Ans. The poet asks ‘What does he plant who plants a tree?’ He repeatedly asks the question to emphasize that when a person plants a tree, he actually plants a lot of things which have an everlasting positive effect on the mankind.

1. Explain: ‘He plants the forest’s heritage’. 3

Ans. When a person plants a sapling, it grows into a tree after some years. The seeds enclosed in the fruit of the tree get scattered and give birth to more trees resulting in the creation of forests. This cycle continues and thus the tree passes on a legacy in the form of a forest.

1. The poem ‘The Heart of the Tree’ was written long ago. Does the message hold good even today? Why? 4

Ans. The poem strongly conveys the message that planting trees is very important for the growth and welfare of humanity at large. This poem was written long ago when there wasn’t so much of a threat to our planet as it is today, yet the poem has highlighted the importance of planting trees. In today’s modern times it is required even more because it is a well-known fact that excessive deforestation has posed a great threat to the survival of the planet.

Your parents will be celebrating their 20th anniversary next month. You are planning a big celebration, but you are not sure how to make the occasion really memorable. Write a letter to your cousin, who is a professional event planner, asking suggestions for the same.