Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Test: The Merchant of Venice Act 1- Scene 3, Act 2, Scene 1**

**Batch: IX NES Duration:35 Mins Marks: 25**

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. 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. How does Shylock react to Bassanio’s invitation for dinner? 3

Ans. Shylock reacts in a very bitter and sarcastic manner to the invitation given by Bassanio. He says that he is being expected to eat of the habitation which the Nazarite prophet conjured the devil into. He declares that he would buy, sell, talk and walk with the Christians but cannot be expected to eat, drink or pray with them.

1. What analogy does Shylock give to Antonio to justify charging of interest? 4

Ans. Shylock says when Jacob, the third possessor of Holy Abram, grazed his Uncle Laban’s sheep, he did not take any salary. Rather, they were compromised that all the eanlings which were streaked and pied should fall as Jacob’s hire. Jacob pilled certain wands and stuck them in front of the fulsome ewes and eanlings were born as streaked and pied. This was his way of winning thrift. He justifies it saying that any thrift is a blessing if men steal it not.

1. What is Antonio’s reaction to Shylock’s sarcastic outburst? What had Shylock expected from him? 3

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. Shylock had expected Antonio to feel ashamed after his outburst.

1. Why according to the Prince of Morocco, should Portia not dislike him? 2

Ans. According to the Prince of Morocco, Portia should not dislike him for his complexion. He says that the dark complexion is given by the burnished sun to whom he is a neighbor. He calls this dark complexion as a shadowed livery.

1. What does the Prince of Morocco tell Portia to prove his point that he is superior to the fair creatures? 3

Ans. Morocco says to Portia that the fair creatures of the north are fair because the Phoebus’ fire is scarcely enough to melt the icicles there. But if such a creature is brought and an incision is made in him and the creature, it would be easily proved whose blood is redder. He implies that he is more full of valour and bravery than any fair man.

1. What limitations does Portia confess in the case of her marriage? 3

Ans. Portia says that in terms of choice, she is not solely led by the nice direction of maiden’s eyes. Apart from that, the lottery of her destiny bars her the right of voluntary choosing. If her father had not scanted or hedged her by the condition of the caskets, she would have been able to choose her husband herself.

1. How does the Prince of Morocco boast about his bravery? 4

Ans. Morocco swears by his scimitar, which slew the Sophy, and a Persian Prince that won three fields of Sultan Solyman, that he would over stare the sternest eyes that look, outbrave the most daring heart on the earth. He also says that he would pluck the young sucking cubs from the she-bear, mock the lion when he roars for prey to win Portia.