1. What insecurities does Salarino (Salerio) mention about, if he were to see a sandy-hour glass? 2

Ans. If Salerio were to see the sandy hour-glass run, he would think of shallows and flats and visualise his wealthy Andrew docked in sand, vailing her high top lower than her rib to kiss the burial.

1. In what way do Salanio (Solanio), Salarino (Salerio) and Antonio part from each other? 3

Ans. When Solanio notices Bassanio, Lorenzo and Gratiano entering, he says that they would leave Antonio with better company. Salerio says he would have stayed till he had made Antonio merry if worthier friends hadn’t prevented him. Antonio replies that their worth was very dear in his regard and he took it that their own business was calling on them and they were embracing the occasion to depart.

1. Which childhood example does Bassanio give to substantiate his demand for more money? 4

Ans. Bassanio gives the example that in his school days, when he had lost one shaft, he shot his fellow of the self-same flight, the self-same way with a more advised watch to find the other one and by adventuring both, he often found both. He gives the example to tell Antonio that if he is willing to give Bassanio a second loan, then he would be more careful and would either return both or at least the second loan back.

1. How does Bassanio describe Portia? 4

Ans. Bassanio calls Portia as rich, fair and virtuous. He says that this Portia is not less in value to Cato’s daughter Portia. The world is not ignorant of her worth and renowned suitors come from all the four directions. Her sunny locks hang on her temple like a golden fleece and Belmont has become Colchis’ strand. Many Jasons come in quest of her and he believed, because of the fair speechless messages that she had given, he would be the one who would be fortunate.

1. What is the tree compared to, in the first stanza? 2

Ans. The tree is compared to a flag of free breeze as the leaves and branches flutter like a flag which sways in the breeze. The poet also says that the tree is like a shaft of beauty, as it towers high and looks beautiful with flowers and leaves.

1. Explain: ‘And years that fade and flush again’ 3

Ans. Here the poet refers to the never ending cycle of life. Once a seed or a sapling is planted, it sprouts into a plant, grows and gives birth to buds and blossoms, fruit and seed. That tree may become old and perish one day but the seeds give birth to more trees. Thus, the cycle continues.

1. Who does the ‘unborn eyes’ refer to? What will they see? How will they react? 3

Ans. The ‘unborn eyes’ refer to the unborn children of the future generations. These children will see the tree planted by its ancestors now fully grown, and then they will be filled with joy.

1. Do the trees provide for the harvest of the following years? If yes, in what way? 4

Ans. Yes, the trees provide for the harvest of the following years. When a sapling is planted, after some years it turns into a fully grown tree. This tree will be beneficial to mankind due to it umpteen uses. The person planting the tree may not benefit immediately but the future generations will yield the benefits. Thus, the trees provide for the harvest of the following years.

An English-speaking friend wants to spend a two-week holiday in your region and has written asking for information and advice. Write a letter to your friend, suggesting him about the same.