Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

1. Why according to Antonio would the duke not be able to deny the course of law? 3

Ans. Antonio says that the Duke cannot deny the course of law. He says that foreigners do have a lot of commodity with them in Venice. If the bond is denied, it will impeach the justice of the state. Since trade and profit of Venice consists of all nations the Duke cannot refuse to allow a legal bond to be executed

1. What reason does Antonio suggest for Shylock’s unrelenting attitude? 3

Ans. Antonio decides to leave Shylock alone and not follow him anymore with bootless prayers. He knows that Shylock seeks his life and is also aware about his reasons for the same. Antonio has often delivered many people who made moan to him about Shylock’s debts from Shylock’s forfeitures. Therefore, he hates him.

1. How does Solanio try to bring hope to Antonio regarding the bond? 2

Ans. Solanio calls Shylock as the most impenetrable cur that ever kept with men. He also says that he is sure that the Duke would never grant that kind of forfeiture to hold.

1. Explain: To see me pay his debt. 3

Ans. Antonio has lost all the hopes and is ready to pay the debt to his bloody creditor, Shylock. He says that he does not care about anything else, but only wants Bassanio to come and see him pay his debt. He wanted Bassanio to know that how much he meant to him.

1. What vow does Portia claim to have taken? 3

Ans. When Portia commits into Lorenzo’s hands the husbandry and management of her house, she tells him that she had breathed a secret vow towards heaven to live in prayer and contemplation till her husbands’ return and She would abide at a monastery two miles away, attended only by Nerissa.

1. Who are ‘my people’? What has Portia instructed them to do? 3

Ans. Portia refers to her servants as ‘my people’. Portia has instructed her servants to treat Lorenzo and Jessica as the lord and the lady of the house. This is because they are already aware about Portia’s desire of going away from the house and leaving the house under the charge of Lorenzo and Jessica.

1. What instruction does Portia give Balthazar? 3

Ans. Portia instructs Balthazar to take the letter and use all possible endeavour of a man in speed and go to Padua. The letter had to be delivered to her cousin Doctor Bellario who would give some notes and garments to him. He is supposed to get those with imagined speed unto the traject, to the common ferry which trades to Venice.

1. What is Jessica’s only hope for saving herself? 2

Ans. Jessica hopes that she would be able to save herself from the sins committed by her parents. This belief stems from the fact that she is getting married to a Christian because of which she would be saved.

1. According to Jessica, how should Bassanio live his life? Why? 4

Ans. According to Jessica, Bassanio should live an upright life. He has got a blessing in the form of his wife, Portia. He finds the joy of heaven here on earth and if does not merit it on earth he would never come to heaven. She goes on to say that this poor rude world doesn’t have a fellow like Portia.