Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Test: The Merchant of Venice Act 1- Scene 2, Scene 3, Cold Within, A Horse and Two goats**

**SET:D**

1. What does Act 1, Scene 2 tell you about the character of Portia? Substantiate. 4

Ans. In the scene Portia seems to be in an irritated mood ad calls herself aweary of this great world. She thinks it is unfair that she cannot chose or refuse anyone. She seems to be philosophical in her speech about the difficulty in doing the right thing. She ridicules the suitors mentioned by Nerissa and seems to think low about them. But we see that in spite of being unhappy about the casket test she would abide by the conditions set by her father as she is an obedient daughter. Finally, we also see that she seems to be having a soft corner for Bassanio.

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

Ans. Shylock is very bitter and sarcastic in his response 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. Mention the condition placed by Shylock in order to give Antonio an interest free loan. 3

Ans. Shylock says that Antonio should accompany him to the notary and seal with him his individual bond. The bond would be in a merry sport and would mention that if Antonio is unable to repay him on a particular day, a particular place the amount specified in the condition then the bond would be forfeit. The forfeit would be nominated by one pound of Antonio’s flesh to be cut off from any part of his body that pleases Shylock.

1. Which figure of speech is used in the line ‘bleak and bitter cold’? 2

Ans. Here the line is ‘Alliteration’ as the sound ‘b’ is repeated. It is also an example of ‘Tautology’ as the words ‘bleak’ and bitter’ have similar meaning.

1. Who is the fourth person mentioned in the poem ‘Cold within’? Why does he refuse to give his log? 3

Ans. The fourth man is a rich man. He sees a poor man in the group and hence refuses to give his log. He thinks that the poor are lazy and shiftless and lacked ambition.

1. What ingredients does Muni’s wife ask him to get? 2

Ans. She tells him to buy a measure of rice or millet, dhall, chilly, curry leaves, mustard, coriander, gingelley oil and one large potato.

1. Describe the shop that Muni dreamt of setting up. 3

Ans. Muni had often dreamt how he would put up a thatched roof, spread a gunny sack out on the ground and display on it fried nuts and coloured sweets and green coconut for the thirsty and famished travellers.