***“Your father was ever virtuous, and holy men at their death have good inspirations”***

1. What pointed question is asked just before this speech? Who asks the question? 3

Ans. The pointed question is asked to Nerissa by Portia. The question is whether it was not hard that she could not choose one for her husband nor refuse none.

1. How does the speaker justify the actions of the ‘father’? 3

Ans. Nerissa says that Portia’s father was ever virtuous and such holy men at their death have good inspirations. This made Nerissa believe that lottery of the three caskets would be chosen correctly only by the one whom Portia shall rightly love.

1. What question is asked by the speaker at the end of the speech? 3

Ans. Nerissa asks Portia What warmth was there in her affection towards any of the suitors that had already come. She was trying to know what Portia felt about the suitors who had already arrived at Belmont.

1. Name the suitors mentioned in the scene. 3

Ans. The Neapolitan prince, County Palatine, the French Lord Monsieur Le Bon, The English Baron Falconbridge, the Scottish lord and the duke of Saxony’s nephew.

1. What does scene 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.

“***Ho, no, no, no, no; my meaning in saying he is good man is to have you understand me that he is sufficient***”

1. What misunderstanding does Shylock try to clear through this speech? 3

Ans. Shylock ties to clarify why he called Antonio a good man. He says his meaning in saying Antonio was a good man was that he was sufficient. This was necessitated by the way in which Bassanio had interpreted his previous statement.

1. Why does Shylock think that Antonio is not a reliable bet for the loan? 3

Ans. Shylock thinks that Antonio is not reliable for the loan as his means were in supposition. He had his argosies sailing in different parts of the ocean. But ships are just boards, sailors just men a. And there is a risk of land rats and water rats and pirates. Also, ships are subjects to risks of water winds and rocks.

1. What does Shylock want to do to be a little more reassured about giving the loan? What is Bassanio’s response to it? 3

Ans. Shylock wants to meet Antonio to be sure about giving the loan. Perhaps he is looking for an assurance straight from him. Bassanio invites him for dinner to introduce him to Antonio.

1. How does Shylock respond to Bassanio’s offer here? 3

Ans. Shylock is sarcastic in his response. He says that he wouldn’t go to smell pork. He could not eat of the habitation into which their prophet the Nazarite (Jesus) conjured the devil into. He says he doesn’t mind walking, talking and selling with the Christians but cannot eat, drink or pray with them.

1. In what manner does Shylock use a biblical story to justify charging of interest? 4

Ans. Shylock gives the biblical story of Jacob and Laban to justify charging o interest. Jacob and Laban had come to an agreement about the razing of Laban’s sheep. Laban would not pay him a regular salary for the same but all the eanlings that were streaked and pied were to fall as Jacob’s hire. Jacob smartly stuck the wands in front of the fulsome ewes. All the eanlings went to him. This was his way to thrive and any thrift is a blessing if not stolen by one.

***“In terms of choice I am not solely led by the nice direction of a maiden’s eyes”***

1. Explain “nice direction of a maiden’s eyes”. 3

In this context nice direction of maiden’s eyes means whatever is considered nice and suitable by a maiden for the purpose of marriage. What Portia means to say is ,she is not impressed by the factors considered by other maidens. There are other factors too that she would consider if the decision was in her hands.

1. What false assurance did Portia give Morocco? 3

Morocco is insecure about his colour and thinks that his colour may the reason of rejection from Portia’s end. Portia falsely assures Morocco that he stood a fair chance as any other suitor who had come for her affection. Had she not scanted and hedged by her father’s wit she could have got married to him.

1. What predominates Morocco at the start of the scene? How do we know it? 3

Morocco is predominated by his unsuitably due to his colour for winning Portia. He starts his discourse with that and tries to say that he is brave than any creature northward born and is willing to prove that by even making an incision for her love.

1. In what manner does Morocco view the ‘fairest creature’ of the north? 3

According to Morocco the ‘fairest creature’ of north is fair as Phoebus’ fire there is scarcely enough to melt icicles. He believes that the blood of this fair one would not be as red as his own blood. He is sure that the fair creature would be timid in his behaviour.

1. Why does Morocco mention the allusion of Hercules? 4

Morocco thinks that he is the most deserving one to win the hand of Portia. He is braver than any of the suitors around and is willing to prove that by doing daring things. But he understands that winning of Portia would happen because of fortune. To prove his theory, he says that even Hercules may not be able to prove himself better than his servant Lichas, if it was to be decided by a throw of dice. Similarly, as blind fortune is leading him, he may miss that which one unworthier may attain and die with grieving.

***Question 1:***

***The most important thing we’ve learned,***

***So far as children are concerned,***

***Is never, NEVER, NEVER let***

***Them near your television set.***

1. How do children behave when they are in front of a television screen?

Ans. When the children are in front of a television screen, they keep gaping at the screen, the loll, slop and lounge about and stare until their eyes pop out. They keep staring at the screen to such an extent that it looks like their eyes would pop out at any moment. They stare until they are hypnotized by it, until they’re absolutely drunk with all the ghastly junk.

1. Why do parents allow their children to watch the television?

Ans. Parents allow their children to watch television as it keeps them still. They do not climb out of the window sill and they never fight, kick or punch. They allow their parents to do their work peacefully, they leave them free to cook the lunch and wash the dishes in the sink.

1. What will children do if their parents throw away the television set?

Ans. If the parents throw away the television sets, they will throw tantrums at them. They will give their parents dirty looks and will scream and yell at them. They will also go to the extent of biting and kicking and hitting their parents with sticks.

1. How according to the poet should parents respond to their tantrums? Why?

Ans. The parents should ignore their tantrums and not worry. He asks them to do so because he knows that it was a temporary reaction of their children, and having nothing to do in a week or two, they will start reading and as they continue to do so they will enjoy the activity and finally love their parents more for giving them the gift of reading.

1. Discuss how the mind of a beloved tot gets affected by television.

Ans. It rots the sense in the children’s head and kills their imagination dead. It clogs and clutters up their mind. It makes a child so dull and blind that he can no longer understand a fantasy, a fairyland. His brain becomes as soft as cheese and his powers of thinking rust and freeze. The child cannot think, he only sees.

**Question 6.**

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

***When all at once I saw a crowd,***

***A host of golden daffodils;***

1. Where and when does the poet find daffodils? Mention the figure of speech used in the last line of the same stanza. [3]

The poet was wandering lonely as a cloud when he saw a crowd, a host of golden daffodils. These daffodils were beside the lake, beneath the trees. The figure of the speech mentioned in the last line of the same stanza is Onomatopoeia: (fluttering is the sound created by the word), Tautology (fluttering and dancing mean the same that is to move)

1. How does the poet describe the movement of the daffodils? To what does the poet compare the daffodils to show that the flowers grow over a continuous stretch? [3]

The movement of the daffodils is said to be fluttering and dancing in the breeze. The poet compares the daffodils to the continuity of the twinkling and the shining stars that are there on the Milky Way.

1. Did the experience of seeing the daffodils have a long-lasting effect on the poet? How? [3]

Yes, the experience of seeing the daffodils did have a long lasting effect on the poet as the poet in the beginning was upset and depressed. He compares his wandering to the floating of a cloud in the beginning. However, he mentions in the last stanza that very often when he is lying on his couch in a vacant or in pensive mood, the daffodils flash on his inward eye which is the bliss of solitude.

1. What attracts the poet to the daffodils and makes him gaze at them? How does he feel when he sees this sight? [3]

The thought that what wealth the show of the daffodils bring to him makes him gaze at him. He feels attracted to the daffodils as he believes that in such a jocund company any poet can only feel happy.

1. Is William Wordsworth a lover of nature? Discuss this by referring to the theme of the poem. [4]

Yes William Wordsworth is a lover of nature. The readers can see a transition in his mood. In the beginning he is upset and depressed. On encountering the golden daffodils; ten thousand of them in a glance.

**Question 5.**

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

***He plants, in sap and leaf and wood,***

***In love of home and loyalty***

***And far-cast thought of civic good…***

1. What does ‘His blessings’ refer to? Who is blessed in this extract? [3]

His blessings refer to the blessings of the person who does a noble deed of planting a tree and showers blessings on humanity. He said to be God-like persona or the Saviour as he grants life to every human being by planting. All those people who are in the neighbourhood and who benefit from the planting of the tree are blessed.

1. Why is the tree considered to a friend to the sun and sky? Mention why the tree is compared to a flag of breezes? [3]

The tree towers high towards the sky and appears as if it is extending its hand of friendship to the sun and the sky. The tree is a friend in the true sense of the word because it is beneficial to the environment as it reduces the temperature and purifies the atmosphere.

1. According to the poet how does a nation grow? [3]

A person who plants a tree plants the seed of growth and prosperity. Trees are the symbol of life as they purify the air and maintain ecological balance. One tree gives rise to many more leading to growth of forests across all the nations of the world. That’s how the nation grows.

1. Out of which emotions does the planter plant a tree? Mention the three benefits which are related to civic good. [3]

The planter plants a tree in love of home, in loyalty and far-cast thought of civic good. The three benefits that we get by planting a tree are; sap, leaf and wood.

1. Why is the first line of each verse repeated? Do you think the title of the poem is appropriate? Justify.

[4]

In the beginning of every stanza the poet asks ‘what does he plant who plants a tree’. He answers his own question by enlisting the several benefits of planting a tree. He repeatedly asks the question to emphasize that when a person plants a tree, he actually plants a lot of things along with it which have an everlasting positive effect on mankind.

**Question 7.**

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

***The boy appeared to be crying.***

***His head hung down, he held his face in his hands,***

1. How can one identify that he was a school boy? Where was he sitting?

What was he not supposed to do? [3]

**Ans:** One can identify that he was a school boy as he was wearing a school cap which was their uniform. He was sitting alone on a rock. He was not supposed to be out after dark.

1. What happened due to the strong wind? How different was Mr Oliver? [3]

**Ans:** Due to the strong wind, the pine trees made sad, eerie sounds that kept most people to the main road. Mr Oliver was not a nervous or imaginative man.

1. What was Mr Oliver carrying? What was the problem with it? [3]

**Ans:** Mr Oliver was carrying a torch and its gleam moved fitfully down the narrow forest path. Its batteries were running down. Also, its light was flickering.

1. Where was the school located? How is the school described in the media? Name the medium. [3]

**Ans:** The school was located on the outskirts of the hill-station of Simla. Life magazine, in a feature on India, had once called it the ‘Eton of the East.’

1. What did Mr Oliver do when he saw the boy’s face? What happened then? [4]

**Ans:** When Mr Oliver saw the boy’s face, he was so shocked that the torch fell from his trembling hand. He turned and scrambled down the path, running blindly through the trees and calling for help. He kept running towards the school buildings when he saw a lantern swinging in the middle of the path.

**Question 8.**

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

***Now the red man implored, “Please, please I will speak slowly, please try to***

***understand me. Can’t you understand even a simple word of English?***

***Everyone in this country seems to know English.”***

1. Where was Muni when this man met him? What was Muni doing? Which village did he belong to? [3]

Muni was sitting at the foot of the statue. He was watching his two goats graze in the arid soil among the cactus and lantana bushes. He belonged to a village named Kritam.

1. What did this man stop there? What caught his attention? [3]

This man i.e. the American stopped there as the fuel of his car had got over. He wanted to know if there was any gas station nearby or whether he would have to wait until another car comes. His attention was caught by the marvellous statue of a horse.

1. What had Muni just finished telling this man? [3]

Muni had just finished telling this man that he knew nothing about the murder. He also added that they would hold the man for him if they happened to see any bad character around. They would bury him up to his neck in a coconut pit if he tries to escape. He also assures that his village has always had a clean record and he speculates that it must be definitely another village.

1. What is Muni’s response? Did Muni know any English? How did Muni introduce himself? [3]

Muni made some indistinct sounds in his throat and shook his head. No, he only knew ‘yes’ and ‘no’. Muni introduced himself with his name and that those two goats were his and no one could gainsay that. He added that his village is full of slanderers who would not hesitate to say that what belonged to a man didn’t belong to him.

1. What information does this man give Muni about himself? How does this extract show the misconception foreigners have about people in this country? [4]

The American man describes his experience when he was working in shirt sleeves in the office on the fortieth floor of the Empire State Building. They had the hottest summer in history and they had a power failure one day and they got stuck up for four hours with no elevator and no air-conditioning. He wanted to visit other civilisations and wondered how other people in another part of the world survived without basic needs of life. The misconception he probably had was that India was one of those countries that lacked basic facilities like electricity.

**Question 9.**

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

***As they passed down the aisle of the coach the only vacant seat offered***

***was a reversed one facing the attractive young woman.***

1. Describe the appearance of the linked couple. [4]

Among the newcomers in the coach there were two young men. One of them was a handsome man with a bold and frank facial expression and manner. The other one was a ruffled, serious looking person, heavily built and roughly dressed. They were handcuffed together and therefore are referred to as the ‘linked couple’.

1. In your opinion state how minor characters play an important role in the story? [4]

It is the minor characters i.e. the two other passengers in a seat nearby who had heard most of the conversation reveal the truth. One of them subtly brings out the truth that Easton is the prisoner and the glum-faced man the marshal. As a marshal’s right hand is never handcuffed it is very clear that Easton is the prisoner and the glum-faced man a marshal. A prisoner’s right hand is handcuffed in order to restrict his movements.

1. O. Henry presents various ironical situations in the story. Comment. [8]

The two men who enter are judged by their appearances. Mr Easton is of handsome presence with a bold, frank countenance and manner; the other is a ruffled, glum-faced person, heavily built and roughly dressed. The readers just like the lady immediately accept this as the truth due to the appearances of the two men. O. Henry thus clearly brings out the fact that ‘appearances can be deceptive’. Later in the story from the conversation of the other two passengers one realises that Mr Easton was actually the criminal and glum-faced man was the Marshall. O. Henry does drop subtle hints from the start to suggest the actuality of both’s characters. One, when Mr Easton says that his butterfly days are over and also when glum-faced man was observing the girl’s countenance with veiled glances from his keen, shrewd eyes. It is a typical characteristic of a policeman to do so.