Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Test: Old Man at the Bridge,**

**Merchant of Venice (Act 1 Scene 1)**

**Std IX-PPS Set D**

**Marks 20 30min**

**Answer Key**

1. The old man was wearing dusty clothes and steel rimmed spectacles. He sat by the side of the road. He was seen near a pontoon bridge by the Ebro river. Though the other people were crossing the bridge and moving ahead, the old man sat there without moving and seemed too tired to walk any further.
2. The old man had said that he was taking care of animals and was the last one to leave from Saint Carlos. The contrast that the narrator noticed was that he did not look like a shepherd or a herdsman.
3. The old man was from Saint Carlos. He had left the place because he was advised by the captain to leave due to the artillery.
4. This is symbolic of all those voiceless innocent people who are the victims of wars. Such people neither support nor understand reasons and futility of war. Without politics, such people are only concerned about their daily chores like ‘taking care of animals’. They seem to be completely lost in such adverse situations.
5. Elizabethans believed that being peevish and pale for a long time caused jaundice. He says that Antonio has been melancholic for a long time and would invite the same condition upon him.
6. Bassanio says that in his school days when he had lost one shaft he would shoot another in the same self-flight and the same self-way as the first. By risking the first, he frequently would find both of them. Similarly if Antonio is willing to give him a second loan he would be more careful and would either return both or at least the second loan back.
7. Antonio says that Bassanio knows him well and is spending time to wind about his love with circumstance. He says that out of doubt Bassanio is doing him more wrong in making question of his uttermost than he would even if he had wasted his entire wealth.