Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Test: Daffodils, Merchant of Venice (Act 1 Scene 1)**

**Std IX- JK Set A**

**Marks 30 45 min**

**Answer Key**

1. The term ‘sprightly dance’ means a dance which is full of life and energy. The daffodils that the poet saw along the bank of the lake were moving their heads from one side to another very energetically and happily and this movement looked like a very enthusiastic dance. Thus, the poet has used the term ‘sprightly dance’ for the daffodils. This is a ‘Personification’ as a non-human object (daffodils) is given a human characteristic of ‘dancing’.
2. The poet saw the daffodils beside the lake and beneath the trees. They were fluttering and dancing with the breeze which seemed to be blowing with a rhythm. The poet says that he saw ten thousand daffodils at a glance.
3. The daffodils, which were lined up endlessly along the lake, were dancing with the breeze. Their dance was very energetic and cheerful. Further they also were gleeful as they outdid the dancing waves. Their joy and pleasure was so contagious that the poet too felt extremely happy. Thus, the poet says that any poet would feel the ecstatic in such joyous company.
4. The poet was initially feeling lonely while wandering along the bay of the lake. Suddenly, he saw a host of daffodils dancing in the breeze. The daffodils seemed extremely cheerful as they had outdone the dancing waves of the lake. The poet too felt very happy in the company of such cheerful flowers. His loneliness is replaced by feelings of happiness.
5. 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 her burial. The church building would remind him of dangerous rocks which could touch his gentle vessels’ side and shipwreck them.
6. Salerio says that he is sad just because he is not merry. Suddenly he would laugh and leap and say that he is merry because he is not sad. He swears by two-headed Janus that nature had framed strange fellows. Some would evermore peep through their eyes and laugh like parrots and a bagpiper. The others are of such vinegar aspect that they would not show their teeth to smile even though Nestor swears that the jest is laughable.
7. Gratiano tells Antonio that his melancholy should not be used as a bait. He says that many people use it to develop an opinion of wisdom, gravity and profound conceit. But this opinion is like trapping a fool gudgeon and is not worth the effort.
8. 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 had not 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.
9. Antonio describes the world as a stage in which every man must play a part. He says that he is playing the role of a sad man/one.
10. Salerio says that perhaps Antonio’s mind is tossing on the ocean where his argosies are sailing with portly sail. The anxiety about his ships is making him anxious.