Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Test: Merchant of Venice (Act 1 Scene 1), Nine Gold Medals, Old Man at the Bridge**

**Std IX Set B**

**Marks 20 30min**

**Answer Key**

1. The trucks were heading towards Barcelona. They were probably rescuing trucks taking the republican supporters to safety. Barcelona, then, was an area under Republican domination. When the old man is told this he responds by saying that he knew nobody in that direction.
2. The narrator calls the old man lucky on that Easter Sunday. As it was a cloudy overcast day and the ceiling was low, the fascist planes were not up that day. So the old man would remain alive at least that day. Also the fact that the cats know how to look after themselves is also called by the narrator to be a lucky thing for the old man.
3. Nestor was an old Greek general who fought in the Trojan War. He was a serious fellow who would not laugh even if the joke was good. He is mentioned to highlight the funniness of the joke.
4. A person’s visage with a permanent expression of melancholy is compared to the standing pond which creams and mantles. The pond develops this layer because of stagnation. Similarly a permanent frown would make the face reflect a permanent melancholic expression.
5. According to Gratiano, silence is commendable only if one has to eat the dried tongue of the neat(ox). The other situation when silence is appreciated is when a maid is not vendible.
6. When the race began, every contestant ran with all the efforts he could in order to win the race. But suddenly the youngest of them stumbled, staggered and fell down. There was a strange twist as unexpectedly all the remaining eight contestants stopped in their tracks , turned round and went back to help the boy who had fallen. They not only lifted him to his feet but also joined hands and finished the race walking together to the finishing line.
7. Alliteration- Starting sound of ‘h’ is repeated in words ‘holding’ and ‘hands’.