Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

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

**(Act 2 Scene 1, Scene 2)**

**Std: IX-EURO Duration: 1 hour Marks: 40**

**Answer Key**

1. Launcelot listens to the fiend which is encouraging him to escape from his master. The reasoning he gives is that, his conscience is a hard conscience to offer to counsel him to stay with the Jew. It is ironical that the conscience is telling him to stay with the devil whereas the devil (fiend) is telling him to escape from the devil (Jew). He says that the fiend gives him a more friendly advice and he would listen to it.
2. Gobbo is surprised that his son Launcelot has got a big beard. He actually touches the scalp of his son but thinks it is his chin. He compares his son’s beard to the tail of his fill-horse Dobbin.
3. Launcelot informs his father that his son is deceased or has gone to heaven. He says that it is according to fates and destinies and such odd sayings and has been decided by the three sisters of fate and such branches of learning.
4. Gobbo says that God forbid that the news be true. He calls his son as the only staff of his old age and his only prop.
5. Morocco says to Portia that the fair creatures of the north are fair because the Phoebus’ fire is scarcely enough to melt the icicles there. But if such a creature is brought and an incision is made in him and the creature, it would be easily proved whose blood is redder. He implies that he is more full of valour and bravery than any fair man.
6. Morocco says that he would overstare the sternest eyes that looked at him. And outbrave the most daring heart on earth. He would pluck the young sucking cubs from the she-bear to prove his bravery. He would even mock the lion when he roars for prey to win her.
7. Morocco says that he is proud of his colour and would not want to change it. The only situation in which he would be willing to change his colour would be to steal the thoughts of Portia.
8. Portia tells Morocco that he has to take his chance and either not attempt to choose at all or swear before he chooses that if he chose the wrong casket never to speak to a lady afterward in way of marriage.
9. The poet wanders lonely as a cloud in the beginning of the poem. For some reason, he is depressed and is alone. But, at the end of the poem, as the daffodils flash upon his inward eye, he experiences bliss of solitude which fills his vacant heart with pleasure and dances with the daffodils.
10. Daffodils are compared to the continuous stars that are shining and twinkling in the Milky Way. Also, the dance of daffodils is compared to the dance that sparkling waves do beside them.
11. The poet says that he saw ten thousand daffodils at a glance. It was not possible for him to count the flowers that too in one glance. He says so to emphasize the fact that there were countless daffodils lined along the border of the bank of the lake. This is an exaggerated statement and thus it is a Hyperbole.
12. The narrators finally told the old man that he should get up and try to walk. The old man says a ‘Thank you’ and gets to his feet. He swayed side to side and then sat down backwards in the dust. Perhaps he did not have the strength to walk.
13. The bridge, described here, is a pontoon bridge. It is made on a floating structure like a flat bottomed boat. The purpose of the bridge is to facilitate carts, trucks, men,women and children to cross it.
14. 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.