Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

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

**Std IX- JK Set B**

**Marks 30 45 min**

**Answer Key**

1. **The daffodils, lined up in a vast expanse on the shore of a lake, were dancing with the breeze. The waves of the lake too seemed to be dancing. But the dance of the daffodils was more lively and cheerful so they were extremely happy feeling a sense of victory.**
2. **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.**
3. **The ‘inward eye’ refers to the imagination or the soul of the poet. Whenever he is thoughtless or in a pensive mood, the image of these daffodils flashes upon his inward eye filling him with cheer. Thus the ‘inward eye’ is mentioned to convey the fact that the version of the beautiful flowers was etched in the memory of the poet.**
4. **Whenever the poet’s mind is vacant or in a pensive mood and he is lying on his couch, the image of the daffodils would flash upon his mind. This would cheer him up and fill his heart with immense pleasure and it would break into a dance with the daffodils.**
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. **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.**
7. **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.**
8. **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.**
9. **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.**
10. **Antonio claims that sadness has made him a want-wit. It is because he is at his wit’s end to understand why he was melancholic.**