Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Test: The Heart of the Tree, Merchant of Venice**

**(Act 1 Scene 2)**

**Std IX- SSRVM Marks 20 Duration: 30 min**

**Answer Key**

Q1) In the first stanza, the poet says that he who plants a tree establishes a friendship of the tree with the sun and the sky. The tree looks like a shaft of beauty with its colourful blossoms and beautiful leaves. The tree houses many birds who create harmonious music with their crooning.

Q2) In the second stanza the poet highlights the fact that a tree planted by one generation impacts many future generations. The sapling will grow tall and provide cool shade and cause tender rain benefitting the environment. It will bear seeds and buds which will give birth to more trees leading to dense forests. This is symbolic of the process of birth, death and regeneration.

Q3) The term ‘growth from sea to sea’ refers to the growth of the entire world. A person who plants a tree plants the seed of growth and prosperity. Trees are the symbol of life as they purify the air and maintain ecological balance. One tree gives rise to many more leading to growth of forests across all the nations of the world.

Q4) Portia says that if doing was as easy as saying then chapels would have been replaced by churches because all people would visit the churches to worship, making chapels too small. Similarly everybody knows their importance of hard work but not everybody is able to do it. Otherwise poor men’s cottages would have been princes’ palaces.

Q5) According to Portia, Count Palatine does nothing but frown. The expression is as if he wants to say that if Portia does not choose him, she can choose anyone else. He hears merry tales but does not smile and Portia fears that he would prove to be a weeping philosopher (Heraclitus) when he grows old. She says that she would be rather married to a skull than to him.

Q6) Nerissa says that those people who surfeit with too much are as uneasy as people who starve with nothing. Therefore it is no mean happiness to be seated in the mean. She also says that superfluity brings about white hair sooner than competency which lives longer.