Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Test: MOV Act 1 Scene 3, The Heart of the Tree**

**Std IX-NES Set A**

**Marks 25 30min**

**Answer Key**

1. Antonio has an argosy bound for Tripolis, another bound for Indies.

He has learnt upon the Rialto that his third argosy is at Mexico and fourth for England. There are other ventures which he has squandered abroad.

1. Shylock hates Antonio because he is a Christian. Though he lives a life of low simplicity, Antonio lends out money gratis and brings down the rate of interest with the money lenders in Venice. Shylock says that he bears an ancient grudge towards Antonio as he hates their sacred nation and rails where merchants mostly congregate. He criticises Shylock, his bargains and his well-won thrift which he calls interest.
2. Shylock says when Jacob, the third possessor of Holy Abram, grazed his uncle Laban’s sheep, he did not take any salary. Rather, they were compromised that all the eanlings which were streaked and pied should fall as Jacob’s hire. Jacob pilled certain wands and stuck them in front of the fulsome ewes and eanlings were born as streaked and pied. This was his way of winning thrift. He justifies it saying that any thrift is a blessing if men steal it not.
3. Shylock expects Antonio would feel ashamed after this outburst. But, Antonio flares up even more and says that he was likely to call Shylock a dog, spit on him and spurn him again. If he would give them the loan he should give it as an enemy not as a friend.
4. The tree is towering high into the sky. Moreover, there is a lot of harmony and peace surrounding the tree. The birds nest in the tree and sing in twilight and this fills the atmosphere with music that is very soothing. All this makes the tree like a heaven close by.
5. When a person plants a sapling , it grows into a tree and slowly this leads to the generation of forests in the nation as well as the whole world . So it is this desire to good to humanity and benefit the world that stirs in the heart of the person.
6. A tree is beneficial to the current generation due its multiple advantages. The planting of one tree gives birth to another slowly growing into a forest ensuring that future generations also reap the benefits. Planting of a tree has a ripple effect as it leads to forests which spread across the boundaries of a single nation thus benefitting the world at large. All these various benefits inspire a person to plant a tree.
7. This poem strongly conveys the message that planting of trees is very important for the growth and welfare of humanity at large. This poem was written long ago when there wasn’t so much of a threat to our planet as it is today, yet the poet highlighted the importance of planting trees. In today’s modern times it is required even more because it is a well-known fact that excessive deforestation has posed a great threat to the survival of the planet.