Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Test: Merchant of Venice (Act 2 Scene 2)**

**The Lost Dollar, The Professor**

**Std IX Set A**

**Marks 20 30min**

**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. When Launcelot notices his father, he says that that was his true begotten father. He says that his father was more than sand-blind, high-gravel blind and so was not able to recognise him.

3. Black sheep is an idiom used to describe an odd and ill-reputed member in the family. The third son who is not doing well financially is referred here. The Professor feels regretful and consoles himself that all siblings do not attain similar position in the family.

4. Many Indians measure the success of a person by economic standards. A person may have done well academically and if he has not made much money, he is looked upon as a failure in society. The Professor’s pride in his two sons and resentment at the third one when he calls him a ‘black sheep’ are symbolic of the same.

5. The other person mentioned is Professor Sheth’s ex-student. The student was apparently very thin like a stick but currently he is a fat man and probably doing good financially in life.

6. While going to Bermuda, Todd asked the narrator if he could have a dollar. The narrator replied in a strong affirmative tone and asked if a dollar would be enough.The narrator knew at that time that Todd had meant to pay back.

7. The narrator was thinking of the dollar that he had lent Todd, the entire evening while talking of Bermuda. He could not make a direct reference to it though.