Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

**Test: Merchant of Venice (Act 2 Scene 2, The Kabuliwala)**

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

**Answer Key**

1. His request is that Bassanio should take his son Launcelot in his service. Bassanio says Launcelot has obtained his suit. He tells Launcelot that his master Shylock had spoken with him and had preferred him. He does not know if it can be called preferment to leave a rich Jew’s service to become a follower of a poor gentleman like himself.

2. Bassanio instructs his servants to give Launcelot a livery which is more guarded than his other fellows. It means that it would have more frills than them. This kind of livery is suitable for a clown and Launcelot fits the bill with his wit.

3. Gratiano assures Bassanio that he would put on a sober habit, talk with respect and swear rarely. He would wear prayer-books in his pockets, look around demurely and while grace is being said hood his eyes with his hat, sigh and say ‘Amen’. He would use all observances of civil behaviour like a person well-studied in sad ostent. Nobody’s grandmother would be able to gauge that this is not his real behaviour. If he fails to do that, then Bassanio should never ever trust him in future.

4. Yes, Mini is a very talkative girl who likes to talk all day long. The narrator says that she started talking at about the age of one and since then she has not wasted a single wakeful moment of her life remaining silent.

5. The two friends had a few stock phrases and jokes which were repeated in their conversations. For example, the moment she saw Rahamat my daughter would ask with a hearty laugh, ‘Kabuliwala, O Kabuliwala, what is in your sack?’ Adding an unnecessary nasal tone to the word ‘Rahamat would roar, ‘Hanti’.

6. No, the narrator is not wayfarer as he has never been away from Kolkata. He calls himself an exile in his own home as his mind constantly likes to travel and his mind wants to visit every country he hears of.

7. Mini was to get married during the Durga puja holidays. The narrator says that this event would take the joy of their household to her in-laws’ house leaving them in darkness.