Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

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

**The Lost Dollar, The Professor**

**Std IX Set D**

**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. Launcelot says that even if he had his eyes he would not be able to recognise him. He uses a proverb which implies that it is a wise father who can recognise his own child. He further goes on to say that truth will come to light and murder cannot be hidden for long. A man’s son may try to hide the truth but in the end truth will come out.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. The narrator used many indirect ways to give a hint to Todd. Firstly he suggests that they should take a taxi to the club. Later, he asked about the currency used in Bermuda and whether the American dollar was at par in Bermuda. He emphasised on the word ‘dollar’ but Todd took no heed. The narrator could not bring himself to ask him directly.

6. 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.

7. Sarala and Tarala are the two daughters of the Professor. The names of the two daughters are rhyming. It is a common practice in our society.