Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

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

**(Act 1 Scene 3)**

**Std IX- NES Set B**

**Marks 25 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) The term that refers to ‘next generation’ is the ‘Unborn eyes’. These children will see the tree planted by its ancestor now fully grown and will be filled with joy.

Q5)The figure of speech mentioned in the above line is Antithesis as two opposites ‘fade’ and ‘flush’ are used in the same line./ The figure of speech mentioned in the above line is Alliteration as the starting sound is repeated in the two words ‘fade’ and ‘flush’.

Q6) Shylock is very bitter and sarcastic in his response to the invitation given by Bassanio. He says that he is being expected to eat of the habitation which the Nazarite prophet conjured the devil into. He declares that he would buy, sell, talk and walk with the Christians but cannot be expected to eat, drink or pray with them.

Q7) Antonio says that, Christians because of their hard dealings suspect, the thoughts of others. He says a pound of man’s flesh is not estimable or profitable as the flesh of muttons, beefs or goats. He says that he has offered the money only to buy his favour and be a friend.

Q8) 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.