Vikram’s English Academy (ICSE)

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

**(Act 1 Scene 3)**

**Std: IX-NES Duration: 30 min Marks: 25**

Answer the following questions based on their weightage:

1. Why does the poet call the tree a ‘heaven anigh’? (3)

Ans: 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.

1. Explain the term ‘growth from sea to sea’. Explain its relevance in the poem. (3)

Ans: 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.

1. Explain the meaning of ‘far cast thought of civic good’. Is the planter’s work a blessing? If yes, why and for whom? (4) Ans. Far cast thought of civic good means the futuristic visionary for the good of society and their surroundings. Yes, the planters work is blessing as by planting a tree he is benefiting the neighbourhood and like god he is the one who holds the responsibility of growth and success in his hollow hands. It is beneficial for all the people on earth.
2. What are the reasons that Shylock gives for hating Antonio? (4)

Ans: 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.

1. What does Shylock say when Bassanio asks him to dine with them? (3)

Shylock says that Christians smell pork, eat of the habitation which their prophet the Nazarite conjured the devil into. He tells Bassanio that he will buy with them, sell with them, talk to them but will never eat, drink or pray with them.

1. How does Antonio react when Shylock taunts him about his behavior towards him?

(3)

Antonio tells Shylock that he is likely to call him a dog again, spit on him and spurn him too. Shylock tells him that if he lent money, let it not be as friends because in friendship nobody takes a breed for barren metal of his friend. He tells Shylock to rather lend him the money as to an enemy for if he failed to keep this bond one can exact the penalty with a better face.

1. How does Antonio comfort Bassanio about this insecurity? (2)

Antonio tells Bassanio not to fear as he would not forfeit the bond. He expected in two months a return of three times the value of the bond. That was a month before the bond would expire.

1. How does Shylock convince Antonio to sign this bond? (3)

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.