***Question 1***

1. Bassanio compares finding meaning in Gratiano’s speech to searching of two grains of wheat in two bushels of chaff. Even if you find them after a day’s search they are not worth the effort. Similarly even if you find meaning in the nonsensical talk of Gratiano, it is not worth the effort to listen to the nonsense.
2. Gratiano tells Antonio that his melancholy should not be used as a bait. He says that many people use it to develop an opinion of wisdom, gravity and profound conceit. But this opinion is like trapping a fool gudgeon and is not worth the effort.
3. The merchant vessels of Antonio are described as signiors and rich burghers of the flood. It seems their movement is like a pageant of the sea as they overpeer the petty traffickers which are the smaller boats. It seems that they do curtsy to Antonio’s vessels when they fly by them with their woven wings
4. Gratiano says that Antonio does not look well. He has too much respect upon the world those people who buy it with much care lose it. He also says that Antonio looked marvellously changed.
5. Bassanio calls Portia as rich, fair and virtuous. He says that this Portia is not less in value to Cato’s daughter Portia. The world is not ignorant of her worth and renowned suitors come from all the four directions. Her sunny locks hang on her temples like a golden fleece and Belmont has become Colchis’ strand. Many Jasons come in quest of Portia and he believed because of the fair speechless messages that she had given, he would be the one who would be fortunate to marry her.

***Question 2***

1. Nerissa is the speaker of these lines. Neapolitan Prince, Count Palatine, Falconbridge, Scottish Lord, the Duke of Saxony’s nephew, Monsieur Le Bon
2. The English lord is called as a dumb-show. He is oddly suited with his doublet bought from Italy, his round hose bought from France, his bonnet from Germany. His behaviour has been borrowed from everywhere according to her.
3. The Neapolitan Prince is described as a colt because he does nothing but talk of his horse. He makes it a great appropriation to his qualities that he can shoe the horse himself. She fears that his mother played false with a smith.
4. We are aware that Portia is not happy about the condition of the caskets but she still decided to abide by it. She says that even if she grows as old as Sibylla, she would die as chaste as Diana unless she can be obtained by the manner of her father’s will.
5. Nerissa believes that ideal happiness would be if a person is seated in the mean between extreme joy and extreme sorrow. She is aware that extreme joy can also lead to surfeit which would not allow the person to be really happy. She says superfluity comes sooner by white hair but it is the competency that lives longer.

***Question 3***

* + - 1. The narrator of the poem is one of the bangle sellers. They are carrying shinning loads. They are going to the temple fair.

1. The narrator says that the bangles are delicate and bright. Moreover, they are round in shape, multi-coloured and very luminous. Thus, he compares them to rainbow-tinted circles of light. As these bangles are adorned by young cheerful women, the narrator says they symbolize radiant lives.
2. Silver and blue and pink bangles are suitable for a maiden’s wrist. The silver and blue colours are compared to a mountain mist. The pink bangles are compared to the buds that are found on the peaceful banks of a stream flowing in a forest.
3. Some brides wear red bangles on the day of their marriage. In the Indian traditional marriage ceremony, the bride and the groom take seven vows around a fire. The bright red bangles of the bride are like the amber coloured flame of the marriage fire.
4. A bride wears either bright green or bright red bangles on the day of her wedding. The green bangles are compared to the vast fields of corn which shine brightly in the sunlight. The bright red ones are like the flame of her marriage fire. The red colour also symbolises the passion of the newly wed. The sound of these bangles is like the laughter of the bride whereas the texture is a clear and tender as her tears.

***Question 4***

1. The narrator says that the bangles are delicate and bright. Moreover, they are round in shape, multi-coloured and very luminous. Thus, he compares them to rainbow-tinted circles of light. As these bangles are adorned by young cheerful women, the narrator says they symbolize radiant lives.
2. Silver and blue and pink bangles are suitable for a maiden’s wrist. The silver and blue colours are compared to a mountain mist. The pink bangles are compared to the buds that are found on the peaceful banks of a stream flowing in a forest.
3. Some brides wear red bangles on the day of their marriage. In the Indian traditional marriage ceremony, the bride and the groom take seven vows around a fire. The bright red bangles of the bride are like the amber coloured flame of the marriage fire.
4. In the last stanza, the poet mentions the women who have experienced all aspects of womanhood. As they have accomplished all their duties, there is a sense of pride they feel. Thus, purple and gold bangles are suited for them. Also, these bangles are spotted with grey which is a colour symbolising maturity.
5. A newly wed bride goes through a medley of emotions. She is happy because she is on the threshold of a new life anticipating a beautiful relationship with her husband. Thus, the term ‘bridal laughter’ is used to show her happiness. At the same time, she is also very anxious about a new beginning and sad to leave her family and maiden home. Thus ‘bridal tear’ symbolises her worry and sadness.

***Question 5***

1. ‘He’ here is Mr Oliver. He turned and scrambled down the path running blindly through the trees and calling for help.
2. On Mr.Oliver’s narration of the faceless boy, the watchman raises the lamp to his own face. To the horror of Mr. Oliver, he too had no eyes, no ears, no features and not even an eyebrow. Exactly that time the wind blew the lamp out.
3. The flickering light fell in the figure of a boy. He was sitting alone on a rock. Mr. Oliver asked him very sternly why he was out as boys were not supposed to be out after dark.
4. Yes, first when Mr. Oliver asked he was sharp as it was not the time for the boys to be out. As the boy didn’t answer anything, Mr. Oliver mellowed down and realised that the boy must have been in some serious trouble and his anger gave way to concern.
5. No, the author of the story described Mr. Oliver as not a nervous or imaginative man. On the contrary, his strength and clarity wore away under pressure. When he saw the boy, without a face, his hands trembled and he ran blindly through the trees and called for help too. When he saw the watchman, he gasped and stammered too. That showed that he was scared and nervous contrary to the previous description.

***Question 6***

Following points to be mentioned:

Muni lived in a small hut which was the last house in the fourth street. Muni’s fortunes declined gradually, from flock of forty now the stock had come down to two goats. When his financial condition was relatively better his wife boiled water in the mud pot, threw into it a handful of millet flour and added salt and would give him the first nourishment of the day. She would also pack a lunch once again the same millet cooked into a little ball which he could swallow with a raw onion at midday. Now, they had to be content with drumstick leaves alone which were boiled in water and some salt was added. When Muni had a craving to chew the drumstick out of sauce, his wife said that it is an unholy craving as the store was empty. Muni would ask for one or two items of food from the shop man promising repayment later. Muni hadn’t cleared the previous debt of five rupees. Muni always wanted to smoke a cigarette and once the shop man gave him one on credit. Muni peered closely at the currency note, the like of which he had never seen in his life, he knew the five and ten by their colours although always in other people’s hands as his own earning was in coppers and nickels. He laughed to himself at the notion of anyone coming to him for changing a thousand or ten-thousand rupee note. Muni hurried homeward with the cash securely tucked away at his waist in his dhoti as it was the first time that he carried so much of money. When Muni’s wife counted the money she thought he had been stealing as never before did they have so much of amount.