

CLASS VII ENGLISH II

LESSON 5 THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

COMPREHENSION ANSWERS

Q1. Why did Bassanio need to take a loan from Shylock?

Ans. Bassanio planned to travel to Belmont to win over a lady named Portia. He did not have sufficient money and needed to borrow it to appear as a wealthy man to Portia. Since his friend Antonio could not lend him money, Bassanio needed to take a loan from Shylock.

Q2. What were the terms of the bond signed by Shylock and Antonio?

Ans. According to the terms of the bond signed Shylock and Antonio, if Antonio failed to pay the amount on the said date, he would need to cut out a pound of his flesh equivalent to the money and give it to Shylock.

Q3. What is the information that we have about the three caskets?

Ans. Portia's father had left her three caskets made of gold, silver and lead respectively. The suitors of Portia had to go through a test and choose the correct casket in order to marry her.

Q4. What happened to Antonio's ships? Why was he summoned to the court?

Ans. Antonio's ships sunk and got lost in the sea. He was summoned to the court in the matter of repayment of Shylock's loan could be settled.

Q5. What did the Duke tell Shylock about the bond?

Ans. The Duke told Shylock that everyone present in the courtroom was certain that the heartless terms of the bond were only to make Antonio feel scared. Antonio faced a huge loss and thereby it was expected of Shylock to show mercy to Antonio.

Q6. Who went disguised as the young judge and why?

Ans. Portia went disguised as the young judge because she was a wealthy and intelligent lady who offered to pay the money on Antonio's behalf. When she heard that the matter had gone to court she wanted to save Antonio, the close friend of her suitor, Bassanio.

Q7. How did Shylock meet his doom?

Ans. Shylock lost the case against Antonio. He had to give away one half of his property as fine to the court and the other half to Antonio so that he could repay the gentleman who had recently got married. Therefore, instead of being able to take revenge from Antonio he himself became a broken and a devastated soul.

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REFERENCE TO THE CONTEXT(answers)

1.

(a) Who is the speaker?

Ans. The speaker is Shylock.

(b) What is he charging three thousand ducats for? Whom is he charging it from?

Ans. He is charging Antonio to pay a pound of his own flesh equivalent to the three thousand ducats, Shylock has lent him.

(c) Who needed this amount and why?

Ans. Bassanio needed the money since he planned to travel to Belmont to marry his new-found love, Portia. But being extravagant he had run out of adequate funds. Antonio failed to lend him the money, he had to borrow it from Shylock.

2.

(a) Who is the speaker of these lines?

Ans. Shylock is the speaker of these lines.

(b) Why is a reference made to the holy Sabbath?

Ans. Reference to the Holy Sabbath is found in the Ten Commandments of the Hebrew Bible which asks a person to work hard for six days and rest on the seventh day which is regarded as a holy day when the God gives his blessings

(c) What penalty is he referring to?

Ans. He is referring to the terms of the bond he signed with Antonio in which it was mentioned that if Antonio failed to pay him his money then he shall cut out a pound of his own flesh equivalent to the money as a penalty of his failure to repay.

3.

(a) Who speaks these lines in the play?

Ans. The speaker of these lines is the Duke of Venice.

(b) Who is "him" in these lines?

Ans. Him' refers to Portia in disguise of a young lawyer who has been sent by Bellario to the court.

(c) What are the contents of Bellario's letter?

Ans. In the letter sent by Bellario to the Duke, it is mentioned that Bellario had fallen ill and therefore would not be able to attend the hearing of Antonio and Shylock's case. Bellario adds in his letter that he has discussed the case with the lawyer and both agree on the same lines.

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Word web

Given below are some words and phrases used by Shakespeare. See if you can find what they mean.

1. Alike bewitched (Romeo and Juliet)-This appears in the prologue of Act 2 of the play and it refers to the fact that Romeo and Juliet are falling in love with each other and are charmed by each other's looks.
2. Apparent prodigies (Julius Caesar)-The phrase means 'strange signs'.
3. As thou list (The Temper)-The phrase means 'go to hell'.
4. Blinking idiot (The Merchant of Venice)- These words means 'a bloody fool'.
5. Checking at (Hamlet)-Claudius said these words in Act 4 scene 7 of the play which refers to Hamlet's plan to return to Denmark without going further with his voyage.

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Identify and underline the main clause and circle the subordinate clause in each sentence.

PART UNDERLINED IS MAIN CLAUSE AND THE REST PART IS SUBORDINATE CLAUSE.

1. This is a novel that I read last night.
2. After you finish your work, I will give you a chocolate.
3. The poor man slept on the road since he had no house.
4. Whenever he eats ice cream , he catches a cold.

5. Please buy an umbrella before it starts raining.
6. Whenever I dust the books, I sneeze a lot.
7. We didn't go to Amala's birthday party as we were out of town.
8. My uncle stays with us whenever he is in town.
9. After we cooked lunch, we hurried to the class.
10. When you reach at the end of the road, turn left.
11. Please keep these clothes in the cupboard after you fold them.
12. The lady whom you met is my teacher.