

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

9th Avenue, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi – 110092

Session: 2025- 2026

NOTES

Class - VIII
(PLAY)

Subject - English

Topic - THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

Q1. RTC-

1.

- a) Shylock says this to Portia.
- b) His response revealed that he was a cold-hearted, evil, and selfish man.

2.

- a) Portia said these words.
- b) Portia was responding to Bassanio's appeal to the Duke. The response was expected from the Duke.
- c) 'That' refers to the bending of the law that Bassanio requested from the Duke.
- d) Portia said that if an established decree is changed, the change will be recorded as a precedent, and many wrong legal decisions will result from it.

3.

- a) Antonio said these words.
- b) Antonio made this request when Shylock declared that there was no person in the world who could make him change his mind.
- c) The speaker was in great haste for the judgement to be declared so that he could cut off a pound of flesh from Antonio's body as was written in their agreement.

4.

- a) Shylock asked this question.
- b) The question was addressed to Portia.

c) Shylock is asking this question in response to Portia's statement that he should call a surgeon so that Antonio does not bleed to death after a pound of flesh is cut off from his body.

Q2. Answer the following questions briefly -

1. Shylock refused to have a surgeon attend to Antonio because he did not want him to save Antonio after he had cut off his pound of flesh from Antonio's body.
2. Portia used Shylock's terms of agreement to save Antonio's life by telling Shylock that he could only cut off a pound of flesh from Antonio's body without shedding even a drop of blood, as it was not mentioned in the agreement. If the measuring scale changed by even so much as a hair from his promised one pound. Shylock would have to die and all his property would be confiscated.
3. Yes, Shylock's opinion of Portia as the 'most learned judge' changed when she turned the tables on him. by telling him that he could take his pound of flesh from Antonio's body without shedding even a drop of blood, as per their agreement. If he did so, he would face the appropriate punishment under the laws of Venice.
4. Portia insisted on the penalty and the agreement' to save Antonio's life as she knew that Shylock could not cut off a pound of flesh from Antonio's body without spilling any blood. However, since the agreement did not mention anything about the spilling of blood, and Shylock had insisted from the beginning that the agreement should be honoured, Portia trapped him in his own agreement terms. If he violated the agreement, the penalty would be his death and the confiscation of all his property.
5. The Duke was merciful because he pardoned Shylock and spared his life, even though he had tried to kill Antonio. The Duke was also just as he ordered half of Shylock's wealth to go to Antonio and half of it to the state. He also agreed to reduce the penalty to a fine if Shylock showed proper humility.