*Answer the following questions in full and complete sentences. Use support from the play as required.*

1. Antonio seems to have it all. Why, then, is Antonio so sad? Why doesn’t he know the cause of his sadness? What guesses do Solanio and Salerio have about the causes of his depression? What lifts his depression?
2. Bassanio lives well beyond his means. Why, then, does Antonio continue to lend him money willingly, even though Bassanio has yet to pay him back? Would you lend money to him?
3. Although he has condemned usury in the past, Antonio doesn’t need much convincing to go into debt for Bassanio. Why? What would he get out of granting him the loan?
4. Shakespeare often juxtaposes (placing seeming opposites near one another) scenes (and therefore characters, settings, ideas) for a purpose. Read I, ii carefully to see what purpose Shakespeare had in placing these scenes next to one another.
5. How does Portia and Nerissa’s relationship differ from Antonio and Bassanio’s? How is it similar? Look at the way they speak. How does Shakespeare show differences in their personalities and social stature through dialogue?
6. How does Portia feel about her deceased father’s method of selecting a husband for her? So far, how successful has it been in eliminating inappropriate suitors?
7. Examine Shylock’s speech patterns. What patterns do you notice? What figures of speech does he tend to use?
8. Describe Shylock. What stereotypical characteristics do you notice in the way Shakespeare’s words present Shylock’s character? What do you see that defies stereotypes?
9. Shylock directly confronts Antonio regarding the way Antonio has treated Shylock in the past. What wrongs has Antonio committed against Shylock?
10. What are Shylock’s terms of the loan? He says he grants it in terms of a “merry sport” (l.142). Is he joking or serious? How does Antonio take it? How does Bassanio? Give proof from the text.
11. What is the difference between Bassanio’s and Antonio’s perceptions of the loan terms? What accounts for those differences? Give proof from the text in your answer. Would Bassanio have done the same for Antonio?
12. Given this scene, what is important in Venice? Look for repeated word choices for evidence. How does the language reflect that values system?