

THE COURT OF JUSTICE

Note: The transactional processes suggested in CISCE curriculum are highlighted in grey.

Learning Outcomes

- To identify the importance of mercy
- To recognise and appreciate the value of trust and friendship
- To be able to study and enact the play

Pre-reading



This section focuses on *assessment for learning* as it informs the reader that the language in the text might be different from present day speech, since this is an extract from a Shakespearean play.

A. Discuss

Allow students to discuss the questions given in the Pre-reading section. Monitor the discussion and contribute your ideas where required.

B. Individual Activity – Anticipation Guide

Draw the columns on the board and ask students to respond to the statements.

	Agree / Disagree
When we sign a contract, we should follow it no matter what	
You can break a promise as long as you have a good excuse	
Revenge is good	
In courts there is only justice and no room for mercy	
Obeying rules is crucial in life.	

Have a discussion based on the class-response.

READING

Students read to comprehend, evaluate and apply

Instruct students to role-play the drama in parts and stop to explain, discuss or check comprehension.

- *Shylock had lent ... Antonio: I do.*

Explain:

- The setting.
- How Portia makes her appearance dressed as a young lawyer
- Why the designated lawyer is unable to come
- The letter of recommendation from Bellario

- How Portia makes her acquaintance with Antonio and Shylock

Ask students:

Why does Portia come to the court dressed as a lawyer? (To rescue her husband's friend) Does Portia know the background of the case to fight it? (Yes, Bellario's letter mentions it) What does Portia say about the case to Shylock? (That it is an unusual case)

- *Portia: Then must Shylock be merciful ... how I do honour thee!*

Explain:

- the famous short speech by Portia directed to Shylock.

Note: Portia tells Shylock to show compassion towards Antonio.

She talks about mercy being a noble and gentle quality that comes forth spontaneously from within. Such a quality not only bestows goodness upon the person showing it but, on the receiver, as well.

Mercy befits a monarch better than the crown he wears, for the power he wields is worldly but the quality of mercy is a God-given gift to mankind. What better way to use this worldly-power than with a show of mercy!

She has spoken, she says, to help Shylock rethink his demand for justice, because the court of Venice would be forced to pass sentence against Antonio.

- Shylock's reaction
- What Bassanio is willing to pay for his friend
- Portia's response to Bassanio's offer
- Shylock's reaction

Discuss:

Do you think we can change laws? Substantiate.

- *Portia: I pray you ... To give judgement.*

What does the agreement state? How does Portia try further to dissuade Shylock?

(By stating that there is three times the loan-money that is being offered as

compensation) *How does Antonio react to all this? (He stays calm and asks the court to pass judgement.)*

- *Portia: Why then, thus it is: ... sacrifice them all to deliver you.*

What does Portia state here? Why is Shylock all praise for the lawyer? What kind of a man is Shylock? What seems to excite him? (That he would be able to kill Antonio) What does Portia ask here? (If a balance to weigh the pound of flesh is ready and if a surgeon has been kept for Antonio at Shylock's expense) Does Shylock agree to have a surgeon at his expense? What does Antonio tell his friend Bassanio and what is his response?

- *Shylock: (to Portia) We're wasting ... I'll stay no longer in this court.*

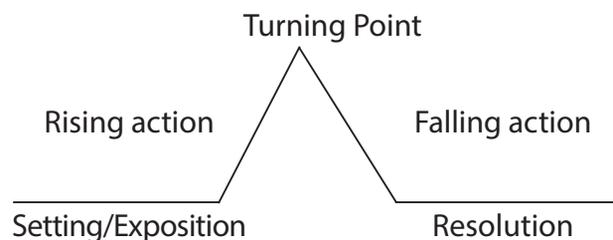
How does Portia cut short Shylock's joy? How does Shylock change his demand now? Is his demand fulfilled? How does the story end?

Discuss:

Did Shylock deserve to be let off?

Post-reading

Let students work in groups and map a plot diagram for the extract.



GRAMMAR

Active and Passive Voice

Revise direct and indirect objects.

Follow the inputs in the Reader for active and passive voice.

Activity

Call two students to the front of the class. Ask one student to give the other a piece of chalk or a pencil. Ask another student in the class what happened. When the student provides the answer using the simple past tense, write the answer on the board.

Ask students to go back to their places. Ask all the students to close their eyes. Bring two students to the front of the class. Make sure that the other students keep their eyes closed. Ask one student to give the same object to the other student. Let the student who gave the object go back to her/his place quietly and close the eyes.

Instruct students to open their eyes.

Ask students:

What does _____ have in hand?

Did you see who gave it to her/him?

How will you express this in a sentence?

Write some of the answers on the board. If no one gives the passive simple past version of the sentence, write it on the board. Point out that this construction is called the passive simple past.

Tell students that the passive simple past is used when:

- you do not want to say who performed the action.
- you do not know who performed the action.
- it does not matter who performed the action.

Explain: The focus is on the action and not on the doer of the action. The object of the active sentence is the subject of the passive sentence. The subject of the active sentence is either done away with completely, or it becomes the object of the passive sentence.

Write the given sentence on the board.

She told me the story.

Assist students to transform the sentence into the passive form in three steps.

1. Take the object and put it in place of the subject. (with the articles, if any).
2. Move the subject to the object place.
3. Change the verb to past participle and add the auxiliary verb based on the tense form. Add the word *by* after the past participle.

VOCABULARY

Word chunks

Tell students that

- word chunks involve breaking down of difficult text into more manageable pieces and rewriting these “chunks” in your own words.
- this method is used with challenging texts of any length.
- chunking helps students identify key words and ideas, develops their ability to paraphrase, and makes it easier for them to organize information.
- a reader uses their knowledge of chunks to help them predict.

Examples of chunks of words/phrases:

- fixed collocations: *pay attention*
- certain grammatical structures: *at the end of the play*
- lexical phrases, set phrases, and fixed phrases: *make + a noise* , adverb + adjective – *utterly stupid*

Pair work

Encourage pairs to choose any part of the text and find word chunks. Tell them to guess the meaning and make sentences with the word chunks.

Follow the input given in the Reader.

LISTENING

While listening – speech

Play the audio track. Let students do the task while they listen.

Play the track a second time so that students check their work / complete their work.

Review the answers.

SPEAKING

Discussion – analysing contemporary issues

This task can be used for *assessment as learning*. Students discuss contemporary issues. The activity focuses on *logical, interpersonal and verbal intelligence*.

Discussion

Explain to the class some rules that one has to follow during a discussion:

1. Prepare for the discussion – know your topic of discussion and briefly note relevant points to be discussed.
2. Maintain a good posture.
3. Be to the point and intervene if another candidate takes up too much time.
4. Do not show aggression. Be polite.
5. Be a good listener

WRITING

Diary-entry

What are diary entries?

Diary Entries have features of a personal form of writing

For whom do I write my diary entries?

For myself



Why do I write them?

To keep a record of things that happens in my life

How do I write diary-entries?

Follow a format:

1. Day, Date, Time and Year of Entry to be able to recall the mood of the moment: *Sunday Morning, 5th July, 1942*
2. Only significant dates are entered to keep away unnecessary daily routine: *5th July, 8th July, 9th July, 2018*
3. In the first person – to document feelings: *I couldn't have hoped for better ... I'm well and happy ...*
4. Informal, conversational style covering the questions: When? How? Where?
5. Addressing the diary as a person.
6. Free expression of feelings to be honest to oneself: *Alas, I was sad that I couldn't do anything to help the little girl.*
7. Detailed comprehensive entries to recreate the situation in the future: *At six o'clock, the doorbell rang, and there stood Dad, tired after a hard day at work; yet smiling from ear to ear, as he held the birthday gift, he had got me.*

STUDENTS' BOOK ANSWER KEY

The Court of Justice

Pre-Reading

Suggested answers (accept any logical answer): 1. Yes, he says what is very true, in a few words (the second line) and/or in a beautiful, poetic way (the fourth line). 2. Yes.

Comprehension

- A.**
1. Antonio had borrowed some money from Shylock, but he had been unable to return the money. As a result, as per the terms of the contract, Shylock could claim a pound of Antonio's flesh. But that, of course, put Antonio's life in danger. That case was being tried before the court.
 2. Dr Bellario was supposed to have come to the court. But in his place, Portia came to the court disguised as a lawyer called Balthasar, carrying Bellario's letter.
 3. When Portia came and confirmed the situation, she said that Shylock must be merciful and gave a moving speech describing how the quality of mercy benefits both him who shows it and him who receives it. She tried to explain to Shylock that while justice was necessary, it was also important to balance justice with mercy. She reminded Shylock that he could take thrice the money instead of Antonio's flesh. Later, she asked Shylock to arrange for a doctor who could look after Antonio if his life was endangered while taking the flesh. However, Shylock did not listen to any

of her suggestions of kindness and only insisted upon following the contract. He would neither accept money nor arrange for a doctor.

4. Bassanio had brought the money that Antonio had failed to return to Shylock. In fact, he offered to pay twice or many times the sum to save his friend. He also requested the court to ignore the contract for once in order to save a man's life.
 5. While saying goodbye to Bassanio, Antonio held his hand and asked him to not blame himself for the situation. (Antonio had borrowed the money to help Bassanio.) He said that he was actually fortunate that he was not going to live too long, and live a difficult life. He asked Bassanio to speak of him to his wife and tell her how he died; to tell his wife how much he had loved Bassanio so that she knew that Bassanio had had a true friend. He also said that he was not sorry to have helped Bassanio and was now ready to die.
 6. Portia pointed out that since Shylock was insistent upon following the exact terms of the contract, he could cut off a pound of flesh from Antonio's chest. However, he could not shed a drop of blood in the process. If he did, then his lands and goods would be taken by the state. She also pointed out that if Shylock cut off even a hair's weight more than one pound, he would die and his goods would be seized. Shylock could not be so exact or avoid shedding blood, so he no longer wanted to take the pound of flesh.
 7. We know that Gratiano was against Shylock because when Portia finally pointed out that Shylock could not try to take Antonio's flesh without putting himself in danger, Gratiano was very pleased and exclaimed 'upright judge', 'learned judge' and 'a second Daniel'. Previously, Shylock had used these terms to praise Portia when he had thought that Portia was supporting him. Now, Gratiano used them to mock Shylock when he saw that Shylock was trapped and defeated.
 8. When Shylock realised that he could not harm Antonio, he must have been surprised and taken aback and even disappointed. He agreed to take thrice the money and end the case. But Portia said that since he had wanted justice, that is what he would get. Shylock then agreed to take only the principal—the original amount that he had lent to Antonio—but Portia did not let him take even that, since he had previously refused to take it in the court. So Shylock could not get his money since Portia said he could only take what he had asked for—a pound of Antonio's flesh—but at the risk of losing all his lands and goods.
- B.**
1.
 - a. Portia said this to Shylock.
 - b. According to the speaker, Portia, mercy is not forced. It drops as gently and easily as rain from the sky. It blesses the person who shows mercy as well as the one who receives it. Mercy is the most powerful quality in a powerful person. It suits a king better than his crown. The power of men and women look most like the power of God when they can balance justice with mercy. Since we all hope for mercy, we should also be merciful toward others.
 - c. The listener, Shylock, responded by saying that he was responsible for his actions. He wanted only the law and the fine or penalty that he deserved according to the contract.

2.
 - a. Shylock said this. Portia had replied to Bassanio's request for ignoring the contract saying that a decree could not be altered; it would be recorded and could be cited in the future as an example and many wrong decisions could be made following that example. Shylock was very happy to hear her say this, so he called her a Daniel.
 - b. Yes, Gratiano later made the same reference; he also called Portia a second Daniel on purpose because Shylock had used that expression. Gratiano made the remark when Portia pointed out that Shylock could not take Antonio's flesh without putting himself in danger. He used it to mock Shylock when Shylock was defeated.
 3.
 - a. Portia said this to Shylock.
 - b. Just before this, the listener, Shylock, had asked if it was indeed the law that if he shed a drop of Antonio's blood while taking his flesh, he (Shylock) would lose all his lands and goods.
 - c. The speaker, Portia, meant that since Shylock had so far insisted on the law and justice, and demanded that the contract be followed even if it meant killing Antonio and even though more money was offered to him, so Shylock shall be treated with only cold and hard justice, no mercy. He shall have justice more than he wanted, because just as he had wanted to follow the law and the contract strictly, the law shall now be followed so strictly that Shylock would lose, but he would not be able to say that the court had been unjust.
- C.**
1. From this excerpt of the play, we can understand Portia to be very intelligent, helpful and wise. She had decided to help Antonio since he was Bassanio's friend and was in danger. But she appeared in disguise so that none of them could recognise her. At first, she tried to convince Shylock to show mercy, accept the money and let Antonio go. She also asked him to at least arrange for a doctor. Yet, she knew the law and respected it, so she did not support Bassanio's request that the court should ignore the contract. She was a talented speaker, for she gave an excellent and moving speech on mercy. Finally, when she could not make Shylock behave kindly, she pointed out the flaws in the contract and managed to save Antonio. She could save his life without breaking any rule, bending the law or ignoring the contract. She was also strict with Shylock and did not let him have the money, just as Shylock had refused to spare Antonio's life earlier.
 2. *Suggested answers (accept any logical answer):*
 - a. It does seem like Shylock wanted to harm Antonio. If he had wanted his money back, he could have had it; he could even have taken twice or thrice the sum because Bassanio offered it. But he kept insisting on following the contract and would not even arrange for a doctor, saying that it was not mentioned in the contract. He would not have been so careful of the contract if he had any sympathy or respect for Antonio.
 - b. Antonio must have agreed to the contract for two reasons: one, he wanted to help his friend Bassanio who needed the money; and two, he must have been very confident of being able to repay the money. He did not think that there would ever come a time or situation where he would actually have to pay back Shylock with a pound of his flesh.
 - c. *Free response*

Grammar

A. 1. AV 2. PV 3. AV 4. PV 5. PV 6. AV

- B. 1. Flowers were brought by Joseph to decorate the house.
2. We left our bags outside the auditorium.
3. The Lady of Shalott had never been seen.
4. They/We reserved a seat for the athlete on the train.
5. The fish were named Martha and Joey.
6. The students designed the costumes for the school play.

Vocabulary

1. b 2. f 3. e 4. a 5. d 6. c

Free response

Listening

Listening text:

The quality of mercy is not strain'd;
It drops as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath. It is twice blest;
It blesses him that gives and him that takes.
It's mightiest in the mightiest; it suits
The monarch better than his crown.
His sceptre shows the force of worldly power,
The glory and majesty of kings
Which is a gift from God Himself.
But earthly power is most like God's
When mercy seasons justice.

Answers:

The ¹ **quality** of mercy is not strain'd;
It drops as the ² **gentle** rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath. It is twice blest;
It blesses him that gives and him that ³ **takes**.
It's mightiest in the mightiest; it suits
The ⁴ **monarch** better than his crown.
His sceptre shows the force of worldly power,
The ⁵ **glory** and majesty of kings

Which is a gift from God Himself.

But ⁶ **earthly** power is most like God's

When mercy ⁷ **seasons** justice.

Writing

Free response

Punctuation

1. The three basic things human beings require are the following: food, shelter and clothes.
2. The last train from this station leaves at 12:40 am. The next train is at 6:45 in the morning.
3. Warning: Slippery floor.
4. You cannot go alone to watch the film: you must be accompanied by a grown-up.
5. **Mihir:** Do you have any plans for this Teachers' Day?

Asif: I was thinking of a musical play.

6. My uncle gifted me *Oliver Twist: The Parish Boy's Progress*.

Pronunciation

1. f 2. c 3. d 4. a 5. b 6. e

ANSWER KEY TO WORKSHEET 12

- A.** 1. AV 2. PV 3. AV 4. AV 5. PV 6. PV

- B.** 1. The main roles were played by Benedict and Elizabeth.
2. They/The students/The teacher used distilled water to wash the beaker.
3. The debate competition was won by St Francis School.
4. A poem was written by Masha for this issue of the school magazine.
5. They have announced the Nobel Prize Winners for 2017.
6. He / She / They set the temperature at 100°.
7. Raisins were added to the vanilla pudding by Sayak.
8. The plumber has repaired the leaking tap.

- C.** 1. b 2. c 3. a 4. e 5. d

Free response

- D.** *Free response*

QUESTION BANK

The Court of Justice

A. Answer in brief.

What does Shylock's bond specify about the pound of flesh and how does Portia make use of it to prove her point?

Ans: The bond stipulates that only a pound of flesh could be taken from Antonio, and makes no mention of blood. So, Portia urges Shylock to go ahead and collect his pound of flesh, but reminds him that if a drop of blood is spilled, his lands and goods will be confiscated by the state. She also states that he cannot collect less or more than a pound.

B. Answer in detail.

What does Portia say when Shylock asks why he must show mercy? Does Shylock change his mind listening to her speech? What does he do?

Ans: Portia says that Shylock must be merciful. When Shylock asks why he must show mercy, Portia responds by saying that "the quality of mercy is not strained," but is a blessing to both those who provide and those who receive it. Because mercy is an attribute of God, Portia reasons, humans approach the divine when they exercise it. She says showing mercy is more important than the law itself. Shylock brushes aside her speech, however, by reiterating his demands for justice and revenge as his only aim is to see Antonio dead.

C. Choose the correct answer.

How does Portia manage to prevent Shylock from taking a pound of Antonio's flesh?

- There was no evidence that Antonio's ships had sunk, and he had no money.
- Shylock's bond was invalid as he had forgotten to sign the bond.
- According to the bond, Shylock is entitled only to a pound of flesh and no blood should be lost.

Ans: c

D. Read the lines and answer the questions.

*"The quality of mercy is not strain'd;
It drops as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath. It is twice bles't;
It blesses him that gives and him that takes."*

- What is the speaker talking about?
- What is the situation that demands of the speaker to talk about it?
- What does the speaker hope to achieve?

Ans: a. Portia is talking about mercy.

- The case that Portia is arguing is a tough one where Shylock seeks justice at any cost. Shylock does not seem to be pacified by ten times the amount that Antonio owes him; instead, he wants the penalty, which is a pound of flesh from nearest Antonio's heart. This is equivalent to killing. It is this situation that prompts Portia to talk about mercy.
- The speaker, Portia, through her elaborate speech on the qualities of mercy hopes to soften Shylock's heart that is hardened with vengeance.

E. Answer in brief. (Think and answer)

Why is the trial scene the most important in the play *Merchant of Venice*?

Ans: It is the most crucial point in the play because it is the turning point in the story. Further, the scene brings to culmination the events of the play. It also brings out the characters of Bassanio, Portia, Antonio and Shylock. It also brings to light the actual intention of Shylock, which is revenge. The same scene shows a change in the character of Shylock towards the end.

F. Answer in detail. (Think and Answer)

Would you call it a fair trial in the *The Court of Justice*? Or, do you think Portia's argument was not lawful? Explain.

(Free response) *Suggested answer:* Portia follows the rules of law books and focuses on the conditions put forth in the bond. She even suggests to Shylock that he could have a surgeon by Antonio's side to stop him from bleeding to death. But Shylock refuses to do so as he has failed to think of the consequences. As the sentence comes down, Portia reveals the loopholes in the law: *not a drop of blood may be spilled with the taking of the pound of flesh; and precisely a pound of flesh may be taken, no more or less failing which all his possessions would be confiscated by the state of Venice.* When Shylock withdraws, trying to take the payment rather than the bond, Portia shows no mercy. *Accept any logical answer.*