

## CHAPTER NO. 1 THE FUN THEY HAD

### EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS:

#### Question 1.

“Today Tommy found a real book! ”

It was a very old book. Margie’s grandfather once said that when he was a little boy his grandfather told him that there was a time when all stories were printed on paper.

- (a) Who are Margie and Tommy?
- (b) Where had Tommy found the book?
- (c) What is meant by “real book”?
- (d) How had Margie heard of such a book?

#### Question 2.

It was a very old book. Margie’s grandfather once said that when he was a little boy his grandfather told him that there was a time when all stories were printed on paper. They turned the pages, which were yellow and crinkly, and it was awfully funny to read words that stood still instead of moving the way they were supposed to-on a screen, you know.

- (a) Why were the pages of the book yellow?
- (b) What kind of books did Margie and Tommy read?
- (c) What do you think a telebook is?
- (d) Why did Tommy find the book a “waste”?

#### Question 3.

They turned the pages, which were yellow and crinkly, and it was awfully funny to read words that stood still instead of moving the way they were supposed to-on a screen, you know.

- (a) Who are ‘they’ in this extract?
- (b) Which book had yellow and crinkly pages?
- (c) What do the yellow and crinkly pages reveal about the book?
- (d) What did ‘they’ find funny? Why?

#### Question 4.

“I wouldn’t throw it away. ”

- (a) Who says these words?
- (b) What does ‘it’ refer to?
- (c) What is it being compared with, by the speaker?
- (d) Why would the speaker not throw it away?

#### Question 5.

“What’s it about? ”

“School. ”

Margie was scornful. “School? What’s there to write about school? I hate school. ”

- (a) What does ‘it’ refer to?
- (b) Why was Margie scornful about the book?
- (c) Why did Margie not like school?
- (d) Why did Margie hate her mechanical teacher?

**Question 6.**

He was a round little man with a red face and a whole box of tools with dials and wires. He smiled at Margie and gave her an apple, then took the teacher apart.

- (a) He is the County Inspector.
- (b) Why had he been called?
- (c) Why did he give Margie an apple?
- (d) How did he fix the teacher?

**Question 7.**

He said to her mother, “It’s not the little girl’s fault, Mrs Jones. I think the geography sector was geared a little too quick. Those things happen sometimes.”

- (a) Who is ‘he’ and which ‘little girl’ is he talking about?
- (b) What, according to him, is not the girl’s fault?
- (c) What was wrong with the geography sector of the mechanical teacher?
- (d) What does the County Inspector do to correct the fault?

**Question 8.**

“Actually, the overall pattern of her progress is quite satisfactory. ” And he patted Margie’s head again. Margie was disappointed. She had been hoping they would take the teacher away altogether.

- (a) Who is the speaker? Whose progress is being talked about?
- (b) Why was Margie disappointed?
- (c) Whose teacher had been taken away? Why?
- (d) What subjects did Margie and Tommy learn?

**Question 9.**

Tommy looked at her with very superior eyes. “Because it’s not our kind of school, stupid. This is the old kind of school that they had hundreds and hundreds of years ago. ” He added loftily.

- (a) What does Tommy mean by “our kind of school”?
- (b) Why did Tommy call Margie stupid?
- (c) Whom does ‘they’ here refer to?
- (d) How was ‘their’ school different?

**Question 10.**

“Sure they had a teacher, but it wasn't a regular teacher. It was a man. ”

- (a) Who speaks these words and about what?
- (b) Who does 'they' refer to in these lines?
- (c) What does 'regular' mean here?
- (d) What is 'regular' contrasted with?

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN SHORT:**

**Question 1.** Who are Margie and Tommy? How old are they?

**Question 2.** What did Margie write in her diary?

**Question 3.** Where had Tommy found the book? How was it different from the books Margie and Tommy were used to?

**Question 4.** Had Margie ever seen a real book before? Did she know about such books?

**Question 5.** What things about the book did Margie and Tommy find strange?

**Question 6.** “What a waste!” What is Tommy referring to as a ‘waste’? Is it really a waste? Why/Why not?

**Question 7.** What do you think a tele book is?

**Question 8.** Did Margie like the printed book? Why/Why not?

**Question 9.** Where was Margie's school? Did she have any classmates?

**Question 10.** What kind of teachers did Margie and Tommy have? How were they different from teachers in the book?

**Question 11.** Why had Margie started hating her school?

**Question 12.** How were Margie and Tommy assessed in their subjects?

**Question 13.** What did Margie hate the most about her school?

**Question 14.** Write a brief note on Margie's school routine.

**Question 15.** Margie's mother was very particular about her studies. Justify with evidence from the story.

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN LONG:**

**Question 1.** How did Margie and Tommy react to the book Tommy found in his attic? Why?

**Question 2.** Describe the old school as described in the book? How did it influence Margie?

**Question 3.** Write a short note on the school system in “The Fun They Had”.

**Question 4.** Do you agree that schools today are better than the schools in the story ‘The Fun They Had’. Give reasons for your choice.

**Question 5.** Do you think Asimov is warning us about the dangers of too much computerization?

## CHAPTER NO. 2 THE SOUND OF MUSIC

### (PART 1)

#### EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS:

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.

**Question 1:** Her mother remembers noticing something was wrong when the eight-year-old Evelyn was waiting to play the piano. “They called her name and she didn’t move. I suddenly realized she hadn’t heard,” says Isabel Glennie. For quite a while Evelyn managed to conceal her growing deafness from friends and teachers. But by the time she was eleven her marks had deteriorated and her headmistress urged her parents to take her to a specialist.

1. What made Isabel suspect Evelyn’s hearing ability?
2. Why did Evelyn’s headmistress advised her parents to consult a specialist?
3. Find the word/phrase in the passage which means the same as “to hide”.

**Question 2:** As for music, she explains “it pours in through every part of my body. It tingles in the skin, my cheekbones and even in my hair”. When she plays the xylophone, she can sense the sound passing up the stick into her finger tips. By leaning against the drums, she can feel the resonances flowing into her body. On a wooden platform, she removes her shoes so that the vibrations pass through her bare feet and up her legs.

1. How does Evelyn hear the sound of xylophone?
2. Why does she remove her shoes on a wooden platform during her performance?
3. Find a word from the passage that means “take off”.
- 4.

**Question 3:** She never looked back from that point onwards. She toured the United Kingdom with a youth orchestra and by the time she was sixteen, she had decided to make music her life. She auditioned for the Royal Academy of Music and scored one of the highest marks in the history of the academy. She gradually moved from orchestral work to solo performances.

1. What did Evelyn decide when she was sixteen years old?
2. How did Evelyn get right to the top?
3. Which word in the passage means the same as “gave a short performance so that the director could decide whether she was good enough”

**Question 4:**For quite a while, Evelyn managed to conceal her growing deafness from friends and teachers. But by the time she was eleven, her marks had deteriorated and her headmistress urged her parents to take her to a specialist. It was then discovered that her hearing was severely impaired as a result of gradual nerve damage. They were advised that she should be fitted with hearing aids and sent to a school of the deaf.

1. Why did headmistress urge her parents to take her to the specialists?
2. At what age were symptoms of deafness noticed in Evelyn?
3. Trace the word that means “damaged”.

**Question 5:**Rush hour crowds jostle for position on the underground train platform. A slight girl, looking younger than her seventeen years, was nervous yet excited as she felt the vibrations of the approaching train. It was her first day at the prestigious Royal Academy of Music in London and daunting enough for any teenager fresh from a Scottish farm.

1. Who is the ‘girl’ in the above lines?
2. Where was she going?
3. Find the word from the extract that means “frightening”.

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN SHORT:**

**Question 1:**When was Evelyn’s deafness first noticed? When was it confirmed?

**Question 2:**When and how did Evelyn lose her power of hearing?

**Question 3:**Why was Evelyn nervous while going to Royal Academy of Music?

**Question 4:**How did Evelyn’s deafness come to light?

**OR**

When did Evelyn’s mother notice that something was wrong with her hearing?

**Question 5:**Who helped Evelyn to continue with music? What did he do and say?

**Question 6:**How did Evelyn hear music despite being deaf?

**Question 7:**What is Evelyn’s secret of success and what message does she give to achievers?

**Question 8:**How has Evelyn Glennie inspired handicapped people?

**Question 9:**Write down Evelyn’s message for the people.

## **ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN LONG:**

**Question 1:**How did Evelyn Glennie fight with her physical disability?

**Question 2:**In spite of her towering success Evelyn Glennie does not accept any hint of heroic achievement.Explain.

**Question 3:**Evelyn’s determination to overcome her disability has made her source of inspiration for deaf children. Comment.

**Question 4:**How is Evelyn Glennie helping other with her popularity and skills?

**Question 5:**How did Evelyn succeed in pursuing her interest in music?

**Question 6:**“A problem is only as big as we make it.” This thought has been very beautifully brought out in the lesson. Discuss.

## **PART 2**

### **EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS:**

**Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.**

**Question 1:**The young boy took to music early inlife. At the age of three when his mother took him to his maternal uncle’s house in Benares (now Varanasi); Bismillah was fascinated watching his uncles practice the shehnai. Soon Bismillah started accompanying his uncle, Ali Bux, to the Vishnu temple of Benares where Ali Bux was employed to the play the Shehnai. Ali Bux would play the shehnai and Bismillah would sit captivated for hours on end.

1. Where did the young boy spend his life at the age of three? .
2. What fascinated the young boy?
3. Who was Ali Bux and where was he employed?

**Question 2:**Awards and recognition came thick and fast. Bismillah Khan became the first Indian to be invited to perform at the prestigious Lincoln Centre Hall in the United States of America. He also took part in the World Exposition in Montreal, in the Cannes Art Festival and in the Osaka Trade Fair. So well-known did he become internationally that an auditorium in Tehran was named after him. Tahar MosiqueeUstaad Bismillah Khan.

1. What special recognition did Bismillah Khan achieve?
2. Bismillah Khan promoted Shehnai to international level. How?
3. The word in the passage means “prominent”.

**Question 3:**When India gained independence on 15th August, 1947, Bismillah Khan became the first Indian to greet the nation with his\* Shehnai. He poured his heart out into Raag Kafi from the Red Fort to an audience which included Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who later gave his famous “Tryst with Destiny” speech.

1. How did Bismillah Khan greet the nation?
2. Who delivered the speech “Tryst with Destiny”?
3. Find a word from the passage that means “gathering of persons for the purpose of hearing a speaker”.

**Question 4:**His first trip abroad was to Afghanistan where King Zahir Shah was so taken in by the maestro that he gifted him priceless Persian carpets and other souvenirs.

1. Bismillah Khan’s first trip abroad was to which country?
2. What did Zahir Shah present Bismillah Khan?
3. Find word from the passage which has the same meaning as “momenta”

**Question 5:**When India gained independence on August 15,1947, Bismillah Khan became the first Indian to greet the nation with his shehnai. He poured his heart out into Raag Kafi from Red – Fort to an audience which included Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

1. When did India gain Independence?
2. Which Raag did Bismillah Khan play from Red Fort?
3. What do the words “poured his heart out” here refer to?

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN SHORT:**

**Question 1:**How did ‘pungi’ transform into a Shehnai?

**Question 2:**Who had brought shehnai to the classical Stage? What was he honoured with?

**Question 3:**Why did Bismillah Khan refuse to start a shehnai school in the U.S.A.?

**Question 4:**Why did emperor Aurangazeb ban the playing of Pungi in the royal residence?

**Question 5:**What is the difference between a Pungi and a Shehnai?

**Question 6:**Why did Bismillah Khan refuse to start a Shehnai school in the U.S.A.?

**Question 7:**How do we know that sound of Shehnai is considered auspicious?

**Question 8:**What were the recurring themes of Bismillah Khan’s music?

**Question 9:**How did “Pungi” get its new name? What was it?

**Question 10:**What place did Shehnai have in the past? What place has it now?

**Question 11:**When and how did Bismillah Khan get the break?

**Question 12:**Where did Bismillah Khan play the Shehnai on 15th Aug 1947? Why was the event historic?

**Question 13:**Why did Bismillah Khan regularly go to the nearby Bihariji temple in his childhood and what did he earn?

#### **ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN LONG:**

**Question 1:**“There is always a teacher to bring out the latent potential of a pupil/’ Justify with reference to the role played by Ron Forbes and UstadFaiyaz Khan in the lives of Evelyn Glennie and Bismillah Khan.

**Question 2:**Give a brief character sketch of Ustad Bismillah Khan.

**Question 3:**How did the young Bismillah develop his interest in Shehnai?

**Question 4:**How was Bismillah Khan’s music recognized internationally?

**Question 5:**Why did Bismillah Khan refuse to start a Shehnai school in the U.S.A.?

### **CHAPTER NO. 3 THE LITTLE GIRL**

#### **EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS:**

**Question 1:**Do you think Bismillah Khan had very pure and deep feelings for India? He was so big – his hands and his neck, especially his mouth when he yawned. Thinking about him alone was like thinking about a giant.

Questions

- (1) Why does the speaker find him so big?
- (2) Why does the speaker think of him as a giant?
- (3) When did his mouth especially appear big?

**Question 2:**“Mother, go up to her room and fetch down the damned thing – see that the child’s put to bed this instant.”

Questions

- (1) What is the mood of the speaker in these lines?
- (2) What does the speaker refer to as the ‘damned thing’?
- (3) Who is the ‘child’ here? Why does the speaker wish the child to be put to bed immediately?

**Question 3:**Laboriously, with double cotton, the little girl stitched three sides. But what to fill it with? That was the question. The grandmother was out in the garden, and she wandered into the mother’s bedroom to look for scraps.



- (1) What did her grandmother suggest her?
- (2) What was her problem?
- (3) What does the pin-cushion symbolise for her?

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN SHORT:**

1. Give in brief the message of the story 'The Little Girl'.
2. Why was a hue and cry in the house? Why did her father punish Kezia?
3. Kezia's efforts to please her father resulted in displeasing him very much. How did this happen?
4. How did Kezia's birthday present for her father prove to be a disaster for her?
5. How did Father punish Kezia? What was the impact of this punishment?
6. In what ways did Kezia's grandmother encourage her to get to know her parents better?
7. Why did Kezia stutter in the presence of Father?
8. Which expressions on Kezia's face annoyed Father?
9. Why did Kezia feel that her father was like a giant?
10. "Father's great speech for the Port Authority Iliad had been lost." What had happened to father's speech?

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN LONG:**

1. How did the little girl start understanding her father?
2. Kezia slept one night with her father and changed her opinion about him. What was her opinion about her father before? What change did take place?
3. Relate in your own words the pin-cushion incident.
4. Write a short character-sketch of Kezia's father.
5. Write a short note on the relationship between Kezia and her father.
6. How do you interpret the behaviour of Kezia's mother towards her?
7. Why did Kezia feel drawn towards her grandmother?
8. Every father has a love for his child whether he expresses his love or not. Comment on the basis of the story "The Little Girl".
9. Father who seems hard from outside is not so from within. Comment on this statement with reference to Kezia's father in 'The Little Girl'.
10. How can you say that punishments given by parents hold love for you?

**CHAPTER NO. 4A TRULY BEAUTIFUL MIND**

**EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS:**

**Question 1.**

At the age of two-and-a-half, Einstein still wasn't talking. When he finally did learn to

speak, he uttered everything twice. Einstein did not know what to do with other children, and his playmates called him “Brother Boring

- (a) What did Einstein’s mother think of him when he was a baby? Why?
- (b) Why does the writer point out that Einstein wasn’t talking till the age of two-and-a-half?
- (c) How did Einstein speak when he finally started talking?
- (d) Why was Einstein called “Brother Boring” by his playmates?

**Question 2.**

A headmaster once told his father that what Einstein chose as a profession would not matter, because “he will never make a success at anything ” Einstein began learning to play the violin at the age of six, because his mother wanted him to. He later became a gifted amateur violinist, maintaining this skill throughout his life.

- (a) What was the headmaster’s opinion about Einstein?
- (b) Why did Einstein leave the school in Munich?
- (c) Why did Einstein learn to play violin?
- (d) What kind of a violin player was Einstein?

**Question 3.**

But Albert Einstein was not a bad pupil. He went to high school in Munich, where Einstein’s family had moved when he was 15 months old, and scored good marks in almost every subject.

- (a) What had Einstein’s Headmaster said about him?
- (b) What were Einstein’s achievements at school?
- (c) Where did Einstein attend high school?
- (d) What kind of a school did Einstein wish to join?

**Question 4.**

Einstein hated the school’s regimentation and often clashed with his teachers. At the age of 15, Einstein felt so stifled there that he left the school for good.

- (a) Why did Einstein clash with his teachers?
- (b) When did Einstein leave his school in Munich and why?

(c) Where did Einstein go after leaving his school in Munich?

(d) What does this tell you about Einstein?

**Question 5.**

Einstein was highly gifted in mathematics and interested in physics, and after finishing school, he decided to study at a university in Zurich. But science wasn't the only thing that appealed to the dashing young man with the walrus moustache.

(a) Where did Einstein want to continue his education? Why?

(b) What were his favourite subjects?

(c) Explain: But science wasn't the only thing that appealed to the dashing young man.

(d) Why did he see Mileva as an ally?

**Question 6.**

He worked as a teaching assistant, gave private lessons and finally secured a job in 1902 as a technical expert in the patent office in Bern. While he was supposed to be assessing other people's inventions, Einstein was actually developing his own ideas in secret.

(a) How did Einstein earn a living before securing a job?

(b) When did Einstein secure a job? What was the nature of this job?

(c) Why did Einstein develop his ideas in secret?

(d) Where did he store his inventions? What did he call it?

**Question 7.**

One of the famous papers of 1905 was Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity, according to which time and distance are not absolute.

(a) Explain the term "absolute"

(b) What according to Einstein are not absolute?

(c) What is described by the formula  $E=mc^2$ ?

(d) How did this formula establish Einstein as a scientific genius?

**Question 8.**

While Einstein was solving the most difficult problems in physics, his private life was unravelling. Albert had wanted to marry Mileva right after finishing his studies, but his

mother was against it. She thought Mileva, who was three years older than her son, was too old for him. She was also bothered by Mileva's intelligence. "She is a book like you," his mother said. Einstein put the wedding off.

- (a) Where was Mileva from? Why did she join Zurich University?
- (b) Why did Einstein's mother oppose his marriage with Mileva?
- (c) Why did Einstein put the wedding off?
- (d) When did Einstein get married to Mileva?

**Question 9.**

The pair finally got married in January 1903, and had two sons. But a few years later, the marriage faltered.

- (a) Name the couple being talked about?
- (b) What happened to their marriage?
- (c) Why did their marriage falter?
- (d) Whom did Einstein marry later?

**Question 10.**

Many of them had fled from Fascism, just as Einstein had, and now they were afraid the Nazis could build and use an atomic bomb.

- (a) What does the word 'fascism' mean?
- (b) Who does 'they' refer to in the above lines?
- (c) When and where had many of them fled from? Why?
- (d) What were they afraid of and why?

**Question 11.**

Einstein was deeply shaken by the extent of the destruction. This time he wrote a public missive to the United Nations In it he proposed the formation of a world government. Unlike the letter to Roosevelt, this one made no impact.

- (a) What 'destruction' shook Einstein?
- (b) What did Einstein write and to whom?

(c) Who was Roosevelt? Why had Einstein written to him?

(d) How had Roosevelt responded?

**Question 12.**

Unlike the letter to Roosevelt, this one made no impact. But over the next decade, Einstein got ever more involved in politics – agitating for an end to the arms buildup and using his popularity to campaign for peace and democracy.

(a) What does ‘this one’ refer to?

(b) Who had written a letter to Roosevelt and why?

(c) What had Einstein written in ‘this one’?

(d) Why did Einstein get more involved in politics?

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN SHORT:**

Question 1. What did Einstein’s mother think him to be? Why?

Question 2. Einstein showed no early signs of his genius one day. Comment.

Question 3. What did Einstein’s playmates call him? Why?

Question 4. What kind of toys attracted the attention of Einstein when he was a child? Why?

Question 5. What did Einstein say about his newly born sister? Why?

Question 6. What did the headmaster think about Einstein?

Question 7. Which musical instrument did Einstein begin to learn? Why?

Question 8. Why did Albert Einstein leave school in Munich?

Question 10. After leaving his school in Munich, where did Einstein continue his education?

Question 12. Who was Mileva Marie? Where did Einstein meet her?

Question 13. Why did Albert Einstein see an ally in Mileva Marie?

Question 14. How was Einstein’s private life unravelling after he finished his studies?

Question 15. Why did Einstein’s mother not want him to marry Mileva?

Question 16. What did Einstein call his desk drawer at the patent office? Why?

Question 17. Why did Einstein’s marriage with Mileva not survive long?

Question 18. “Einstein’s new personal chapter coincided with his rise to world fame”. What new personal chapter in Einstein’s life is the author talking about here? How did he rise to fame?

Question 19. How was Einstein honoured for his achievements?

Question 20. Why did Einstein leave Germany and emigrate to America?

Question 21. “The discovery of nuclear fission in Berlin had American physicists in an uproar”. Why?

Question 22. When and why did Einstein write a letter to Franklin Roosevelt?

Question 23. How did Einstein react to the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

Question 24. Why does the world remember Einstein as a world citizen?

Question 25. What did Einstein campaign for after he got involved in politics?

## **ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN LONG:**

### **Question 1.**

In what ways was Albert Einstein was an unusual child. How? He was different from others in many ways. Do you think that those who think differently succeed in their life like Einstein? Comment.

### **Question 2.**

Write a short note on Einstein's education from school to university. Did he show signs of genius in the early years?

### **Question 3.**

Einstein succeeded in his professional life but failed miserably in his personal life. Why could Einstein not balance his family and professional life?

### **Question 4.**

What was Einstein's contribution to the knowledge of science? Which values in his character made him a 'global citizen'?

### **Question 5.**

Einstein wrote two letters – to President Roosevelt and to the United Nations. Did his letters have the desired impact? Justify your answer.

## **CHAPTER NO. 5 THE SNAKE AND THE MIRROR**

### **EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS:**

**Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:**

**Question 1:** It seemed as if God appreciated that. The snake turned its head. It looked into the mirror and saw its reflection. I do not claim that it was the first snake that ever looked into the mirror. But it was certain » that the snake was looking into the mirror. Was it admiring its own beauty? Was it trying to make an important decision about growing a moustache or using eye shadow and mascara or wearing a vermilion spot on its forehead?

1. Where did the snake move its head?
2. Why did the narrator call it the "first snake"?
3. Find a word in the passage that means 'look at with pleasure and satisfaction'.

**Question 2:** "I took my friend and one or two others to my room to move my things from there. But we found we had little to carry."

1. Why did narrator want to remove his things?
2. Why was there little to carry?
3. Write the opposite of “friend”.

**Question 3:** I didn't jump. I didn't tremble. I didn't cry out. There was no time to do any such thing. The snake slithered along my shoulder and coiled around my left arm above the elbow. The hood was spread out and its head was hardly three or four inches from my face! It would not be correct to say merely that I sat there holding my breath I was turned to stone.

1. Why did the author not jump, tremble and cry?
2. Did the snake bit the speaker? What was his reaction?
3. What does the word “tremble” from the above lines mean?

**Question 4:** The snake unwound itself from my arm and slowly slithered into my lap. From there it crept onto the table and moved towards the mirror. Perhaps it wanted to enjoy its reflection at closer quarters.

1. Where did the snake settle after uncoiling from the writer's arm?
2. Why did the snake move towards the mirror?
3. What does the word “slithered” mean?

**Question 5:** I did not tremble. I didn't cry out. There was no time to do any such thing. The snake slithered along my shoulder and coiled around my left arm above the elbow. The hood was spread out and its head was hardly three or four inches from my face.

1. What did the snake do to him (doctor)?
2. How far was death from him?
3. Find a word from the passage which means the same as “stretched”.

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN SHORT:**

Question 1: What was the doctor thinking while he was seated before the mirror?

Question 2: Why did the doctor run from his house?

Or

Why did the doctor run away to his friend's house?

Question 3: How did the doctor show the presence of mind when he encountered the snake?

Question 4: How did the snake change the writer's opinion about himself?

Question 5: While looking into the mirror, what important and earth-shaking decisions did the doctor make?

Or

What were the two important decisions taken by the doctor while looking into the mirror?

Question 6: What did the doctor do on seeing the snake?

Question 7: What type of woman did the doctor in the story "The Snake and the Mirror", want to get married to and why?

Question 8: Why did the author of "The Snake and the Mirror" fantasize a fat woman as his wife?

Question 9: Why did the snake leave the doctor's arm?

Question 10: What made the doctor utter "Death lurked four inches away"?

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN LONG:**

**Question 1:** "Birds of the same feathers flock together" goes the saying. Does the encounter between the snake and the doctor in the story "The Snake and the Mirror" support the saying? Why or why not?

**Question 2:** Without mirror, the story will lose its charm and reality. Justify.

**Question 3:** What are the similarities between the doctor and the snake?

**Question 4:** Justify the title of the story 'The Snake and the Mirror'.

**Question 5:** Describe in detail the doctor's feelings when he saw the snake coiled around his arm?

**Question 6:** God has a lot of ways of controlling Our lines. Discuss this in the light of the story 'The Snake and the Mirror'.

**CHAPTER NO. 6 MY CHILDHOOD**



## **EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS:**

**Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:**

### **Question 1:**

During the annual Shri Sita Rama Kalyanam Ceremony, our family used to arrange boats with a special platform for carrying idols of the Lord from the temple to the marriage site, situated in the middle of the pond called Rama Tirtha which was near our house.

1. What was the annual event held in Rameshwaram?
2. Where did the boats carry the idols of the Lord?
3. Find a word from the passage that means “images of God”.

**Question 2:** During the annual Shri Sita Rama Kalyanam Ceremony, our family used to arrange boats with a special platform for carrying idols of the Lord from the temple to the marriage site, situated in the middle of the pond called Rama Tirtha which was near our house. Events from the Ramayana and from the life of the Prophet were the bedtime stories my mother and grandmother would tell the children in our family.

1. How did the speaker’s family help in Shri Sita Rama Kalyanam Ceremony?
2. What light does the passage throw on speaker’s family?
3. Find the word in the passage which means the same “the place where some event takes place”.

**Question 3:** After school, we went home and told our respective parents about the incident. Lakshmana Sastry summoned the teacher, and in our presence, told the teacher that he should not spread the poison of social inequality and communal intolerance in the minds of innocent children. He bluntly asked the teacher to either apologize or quit the school and the island. Not only did the teacher regret his behaviour, but the strong sense of conviction. Lakshmana Sastry conveyed ultimately reformed this young teacher.

1. What brought about a change in the teacher?
2. What kind of society did the speaker live in?
3. Find the word/phrase in the passage which means “strong opinion or belief”.

**Question 4:** His wife watched us from behind the kitchen door. I wondered whether she had observed any difference in the way I ate rice, drank water or cleaned the floor after the

meal. When I was leaving his house, Sivasubramaniam invited me to join him for dinner the next weekend. Observing my habitation, he told me not to get upset, saying “Once you decide to change the system, such problems have to be confronted.” When I visited his house next week, SivasubramaniamIyer’s wife took me inside her kitchen and served me food with her own hands.

1. Why did the teacher’s wife watch them from behind the kitchen door?
2. Why was the narrator hesitant to eat food, with a Hindu family?
3. Find the word from the passage that means “to deal with”

**Question 5:** SivasubramaniamIyer was not perturbed, nor did he get angry with his wife, but instead, served me’ with his own hands and sat down beside me to eat his meal.

1. Who is “he” and “me” in the first sentence?
2. Why was his wife horrified?
3. Find the word from the passage that means “agitated/upset”.

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN SHORT:**

**Question 1:** Why did A.P.J. Abdul Kalam call his childhood a secure childhood?

Or

“Kalam’s childhood was a secure one, both materially and emotionally”. Illustrate the fact.

**Question 2:** Do you think the new teacher deserved the treatment meted out to him? Why/why not?

Question 3: What was the difference in the attitudes of the science teacher and his wife towards A.P.J. Abdul Kalam?

**Question 4:** How did Second World War give opportunity to Kalam to earn his first wages?

**Question 5:** How does Abdul Kalam describe his mother?

**Question 6:** What did Abdul Kalam’s family do during the annual Shri Sita Ram Kalayanam Ceremony?

**Question 7:** What characteristics did Abdul Kalam inherited from his parents?

## **ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN LONG:**

**Question 1:** What do you know about A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's family after reading the lesson "My childhood"?

**Question 2:** What incident took place at the Rameshwaram Elementary School when a new teacher came to the class?

**Question 3:** How did Abdul Kalam earn his "first wages"? How did he feel at that time?

**Question 4:** "Once you decide to change the system, such problems have to be confronted." What system is being referred in the sentence from the chapter "My Childhood"? What are such problems?

**Question 5:** How was the Science teacher Siva Subramaniam Iyer, though an orthodox Brahmin with a very conservative wife, a friend of Abdul Kalam. Give incidents to support your answer.

**Question 6:** 'Childhood' is the formative period of a child's life. The lessons learnt here always stay with a person. Comment on it in the light of the lesson A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

## **CHAPTER NO. 8 REACH FOR THE TOP**

### **(PART 1)**

#### **EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS:**

#### **PASSAGE 1**

The only woman in the world who has Scaled Mt Everest twice was born in a society where the birth of a son was regarded as a blessing, and a daughter, though not considered a curse, was not generally welcome. When her mother was expecting Santosh, a travelling 'holy man', giving her his blessing, assumed that she wanted a son. But, to everyone's surprise, the unborn child's grandmother, who was standing close by, told him that they did not want a son. The 'holy man' was also surprised! Nevertheless, he gave the requested blessing... and as Destiny would have it, the blessing seemed to work. Santosh was born the sixth child in a family with five sons, a sister to five brothers. She was born in the small village of Joniyawas in Haryana.

#### **Questions:**

- (i) Name the woman who had Scaled Mt Everest twice.
- (ii) In what sort of society was she born?
- (iii) What blessing did the holy man give?

- (iv) How many brothers did Santosh have?
- (v) Where was Santosh born?

### **PASSAGE 2**

Santosh's parents were affluent landowners who could afford to send their children to the best schools, even to the country's capital Delhi, which was quite close by. But, in line with the prevailing custom in the family, Santosh had to make do with the local village school. So, she decided to fight the system in her own quiet way when the right moment arrived. And the right moment came when she turned sixteen. At sixteen, most of the girls in her village used to get married. Santosh was also under pressure from her parents to do the same.

#### **Questions:**

- (i) What was the profession of Santosh's father?
- (ii) Where did Santosh get his elementary education?
- (iii) Why was she not sent to a good school?
- (iv) When did the right time come for her fight with the system?
- (v) What pressure did her parents put on Santosh?

### **PASSAGE 3**

A marriage as early as that was the last thing on her mind. She threatened her parents that she would never marry if she did not get a proper education. She left home and got herself enrolled in a school in Dell. When her parents refused to pay for her education, she politely informed them of her plans to earn money by working part-time to pay her school fees. Her parents then agreed to pay for her education.

#### **Questions:**

- (i) How did Santosh consider a marriage?
- (ii) What did she threaten to her parents?
- (iii) Why did she leave home?
- (iv) Why did her parents refuse to pay for her education in Delhi?
- (v) What was Santosh's plan to make arrangement for her fee?

### **PASSAGE 4**

Then there was no looking back for this determined young girl. She saved money and enrolled in a course at Uttarkashi's Nehru Institute of Mountaineering. "My college semester in Jaipur was to end in April but it ended on the 19th of May. And I was supposed to be in Uttarkashi on the 21st. So, I did not go back home; instead, I headed straight for the training. I had to write a letter of apology to my father without whose permission I had got myself enrolled at Uttarkashi."

#### **Questions:**

- (i) Who is the girl mentioned in this passage?
- (ii) Where did she enroll herself for mountaineering training?
- (iii) Where was she studying in college?

- (iv) Why did she write an apology letter to her father?
- (v) In which state of India is Uttarkashi?

### **PASSAGE 5**

Thereafter, Santosh went on an expedition every year. Her climbing skills matured rapidly. Also, she developed a remarkable resistance to cold and altitude. Equipped with an iron will, physical endurance and an amazing mental toughness, she proved herself repeatedly. The culmination of her hard work and sincerity came in 1992, just four years after she had shyly asked the Aravalli mountaineers if she could join them. At barely twenty years of age Santosh Yadav conquered Mt Everest, becoming the youngest woman in the world to achieve the feat. If her climbing skills, physical fitness, and mental strength impressed her seniors, her concern for others and desire to work together with them found her a special place in the hearts of fellow climbers.

### **Questions:**

- (i) On what expedition did Santosh go every year?
- (ii) When did she go on her first expedition to Mt Everest?
- (iii) At what age did she conquer Mt Everest?
- (iv) How did she impress his seniors?
- (v) How did her fellow climbers treat her?

### **ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN SHORT:**

1. What is the special distinction of Santosh Yadav as a mountaineer?
2. What type of a social system was there in the village when Santosh was born?
3. Give a brief sketch of Santosh's family.
4. How did Santosh show a contradiction to her name?
5. What did Santosh tell her parents regarding her marriage?
6. What kind of society was Santosh born in?
7. Why did the grandmother (in spite of being a member of a family with conservative views) wish her daughter-in-law to give birth to a daughter?
8. What do you know about Santosh's family?
9. Why was Santosh Yadav not content with a traditional way of life? What path did she choose and why?
10. What did Santosh do after being motivated by the Mountaineers to take to climbing?
11. Why did Santosh write a letter of apology to her father?
12. As a climber, what qualities was Santosh Yadav gifted with?
13. When did Santosh get an opportunity to scale Mt. Everest?

14. How did Santosh's seniors and fellow climbers appreciate her?
15. When did Santosh scale the mt. everest for the second time?
16. Why is Santosh Yadav's name recorded twice for climbing Mount Everest?
17. How did the government of India honour Santosh Yadav?
18. What is the special distinction of Santosh Yadav as a mountaineer?
19. What type of a social system was there is in the village when Santosh was born?
20. Give a brief sketch of Santosh's family.
21. How did Santosh show the contradiction to her name?
22. What did Santosh tell her parents regarding her marriage?

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN LONG:**

1. Write a brief character sketch of Santosh Yadav.
2. How did Santosh carve her own destiny?

OR

"If I chose a correct and a rational path, the others around me had to change, not me", said Santosh Yadav. How does her life justify her words?

3. Santosh decided to fight the system in her own "quiet way", says the author. How did Santosh rebel but quietly?
4. Santosh had all the qualities of a good mountaineer. Comment.
5. Santosh is not only a good mountaineer but also a genuinely good human being. Discuss.
6. Imagine you are Santosh Yadav. You are feeling uncomfortable about enrolling yourself for climbing without seeking your father's permission. Write a letter of apology to your father politely explaining your situation.

**(PART 2)**

**EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS:**

**PASSAGE 1**

There is something disarming about Maria Sharapova, something at odds with her ready smile and glamorous attire. And that something in her lifted her on Monday, 22 August 2005 to the world number one position in women's tennis. All this happened in almost no time. Poised beyond her years, the Siberian born teenager took just four years as a professional to reach the pinnacle.

**Questions:**

- (i) To which sport is Maria Sharapova attached with?
- (ii) To which country does she belong?
- (iii) When did she win the world's number one position?
- (iv) How many years did she take to reach the top?
- (v) Name the chapter from this passage has been taken?

**PASSAGE 2**

However, the rapid ascent in a fiercely competitive world began nine years before with a level of sacrifice few children would be prepared to endure. Little Maria had not yet celebrated her tenth birthday when she was packed to train in the United States. That trip to Florida with her father Yuri launched her on the path to success and stardom. But it also required a heart-wrenching two-year separation from her mother Yelena. The latter was compelled to stay back in Siberia because of visa restrictions. The nine-year-old girl had already learnt an important lesson in life—that tennis excellence would only come at a price.

**Questions:**

- (i) To what sport is Maria Sharapova attached with?
- (ii) At what age was she sent to the United States?
- (iii) What is the name of her father?
- (iv) How long did she stay in the U.S. A?
- (v) What was Maria's native land?

**PASSAGE 3**

"I used to be so lonely," Maria Sharapova recalls. "I missed my mother terribly. My father was working as much as he could to keep my tennis-training going. So, he couldn't see me either." "Because I was so young, I used to go to bed at 8 p.m. The other tennis pupils would come in at 11 p.m. and wake me up and order me to tidy up the room and clean it."

**Questions:**

- (i) Who did Maria Sharapova miss so badly?
- (ii) Where was Maria living at that time?
- (iii) What was she doing there?
- (iv) Why had her father to work very hard?
- (v) When did the other tennis pupils come?

**PASSAGE 4**

Like any number of teenaged sensations, Maria Sharapova lists fashion, singing and dancing as her hobbies. She loves reading the novels of Arthur Conan Doyle. Her fondness for sophisticated evening gowns appears at odds with her love of pancakes with chocolate spread and fizzy orange drinks. Maria Sharapova cannot be pigeon-holed or categorized. Her talent, unwavering desire to succeed and readiness to sacrifice have lifted her to the top of the world. Few would grudge her the riches she is now reaping. This is what she has to say about her monetary gains from tennis: "Of course, money is motivation. Tennis is a

business and a sport, but the most important thing is to become number one in the world. That's the dream that kept me going."

**Questions:**

- (i) What were Maria's hobbies?
- (ii) Who was her favourite author?
- (iii) What sort of desire did she have for winning?
- (iv) What does she consider tennis?
- (v) How does she consider money for tennis?

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN SHORT:**

1. Which country does Maria Sharapova belong to?
2. With what sport is Maria Sharapova attached to?
3. When did Sharapova attain the number one position for the first time?
4. Where did Sharapova go for tennis coaching?
5. Who went to the U.S.A. with Sharapova?
6. When did Sharapova win the Wimbledon's women singles final?
7. What does Maria Sharapova love reading?
8. What is something disarming about Maria Sharapova?
9. Why did Sharapova leave Siberia for the U.S.A.?
10. At the age of nine years, what lesson had Sharapova learnt?
11. How Was Sharapova treated by the seniors in the training camp?
12. What does Maria Sharapova say about her Russian nationality?
13. What is something disarming about Maria Sharapova?
14. Why did Sharapova leave Siberia for the U.S.A.?
15. At the age of nine years, what lesson had Sharapova learnt?
16. How Was Sharapova treated by the seniors in the training camp?
17. What does Maria Sharapova say about her Russian nationality?
18. What is at odds with Maria's ready smile and glamorous attire?
19. Explain: "all this happened in almost no time".
20. How was Maria different from other children?



21. Why was Maria brought to Florida in the U.S. by her father? Why didn't her mother go with her? How did Maria respond to this separation? Or

Why did Maria leave Siberia for the U.S.? Why didn't her mother go with her? How did this separation affect her?

22. What important lesson did Maria learn during the first two years of her stay in the U.S., away from her mother?

23. Maria's father accompanied her to the U.S., but why could he also not see her during her stay there?

24. How did Maria's co-trainees at the tennis academy trouble her? How did Maria cope with this?

25. Despite being harassed by her seniors, why didn't Maria think of quitting?

26. What mental qualities of Maria are revealed by her decision not to quit and pack up on being harassed by her fellow-trainees?

27. What motivates Maria to keep moving ahead?

28. Despite staying in America for years, the core of her heart. Justify.

29. Why does Maria call the U.S. a big part of her life?

30. Besides tennis, what else is Maria fond of?

### **ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN LONG:**

**Question 1.** Write in short Maria Sharapova's Journey to the top.

**Question 2.** Draw a Comparison between Santosh Yadav and Maria Sharapova.

**Question 3.** What problems did Maria face as a child while she was being trained for tennis in the U.S.? What sustained her?

Or

How did adversity stand Maria in good stead in the long run?

**Question 4.** Imagine you are Maria Sharapova. It is your tenth birthday, but you neither have your parents nor your friends with you to celebrate it. You do not talk to your fellow pupils, because they bully you. Write a diary entry in about 150 words recording all your thoughts.

**Question 5.** Imagine you are Santosh Yadav or Maria Sharapova. You have been invited to speak at an All India Girls' Athletic Meet, as chief guest. Prepare a short speech to motivate the young girls to think and dream big and make an effort to fulfil their dreams, not allowing difficulties or defeat to discourage them.

**Question 6.** Write in short Maria Sharapova's Journey to the top.

**Question 7.** Draw a Comparison between Santosh Yadav and Maria Sharapova.

## **CHAPTER NO. 10 KATHMANDU**

### **EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS:**

#### **PASSAGE 1**

At Pashupatinath (outside which a sign proclaims 'Entrance for the Hindus only') there is an atmosphere of 'febrile confusion'. Priests, hawkers, devotees, tourists, cows, monkeys, pigeons and dogs roam through the grounds. We offer a few flowers. There are so many worshippers that some people trying to get the priest's attention are elbowed aside by others pushing their way to the front. A princess of the Nepalese royal house appears; everyone bows and makes way. By the main gate, a party of saffron-clad Westerners struggle for permission to enter. The policeman is not convinced that they are 'the Hindus'.

#### **Questions:**

- (i) Who is the writer of this passage?
- (ii) What is the sign outside the Pashupatinath temple?
- (iii) What do the worshippers do?
- (iv) Why does the policeman not allow a group of Westerners to enter the temple?
- (v) Find a word from the passage which means the same as 'feverish'.

#### **PASSAGE 2**

A fight breaks out between two monkeys. One chases the other, who jumps onto a shivalinga, then runs screaming around the temples and down to the river, the holy Bagmati, that flows below. A corpse is being cremated on its banks; washerwomen are at their work and children bathe. From a balcony a basket of flowers and leaves, old offerings now wilted, is dropped into the river. A small shrine half protrudes from the stone platform on the river bank. When it emerges fully, the goddess inside will escape and the evil period of the Kaliyug will end on earth.

#### **Questions:**

- (i) What do the two monkeys do?
- (ii) Which river flows by the Pashupatinath temple?
- (iii) What activities are going on the banks of the river?
- (iv) What is the people's belief about the half-submerged temple?
- (v) Find a word from the passage which means the same as 'burning of a dead body'.

#### **PASSAGE 3**

From time to time he stands the pole on the ground, selects a flute and plays for a few minutes. The sound rises clearly above the noise of the traffic and the hawkers' cries. He plays slowly, meditatively, without excessive display. He does not shout out his wares. Occasionally he makes a sate, but in a curiously offhanded way as if this were incidental to

his enterprise. Sometimes he breaks off playing to talk to the fruit seller. I imagine that this has been the pattern of his life for years.

**Questions:**

- (i) Who is the writer of this passage?
- (ii) Who is being referred to in this passage?
- (iii) How does he play on the flutes?
- (iv) What does the writer say about his attitude?
- (v) Find a word from the passage which means 'too much'.

**PASSAGE 4**

At the Baudhnath stupa, the Buddhist shrine of Kathmandu, there is, in contrast, a sense of stillness. Its immense white dome is ringed by a road. Small shops stand on its outer edge: many of these are owned by Tibetan immigrants; felt bags, Tibetan prints and silver jewellery can be bought here. There are no crowds: this is a haven of quietness in the busy streets around.

**Questions:**

- (i) Who is the writer of this passage?
- (ii) What contrasts with Pashupatinath temple do you find here?
- (iii) How does the writer describe the dome of the Baudhnath stupa?
- (iv) By whom are many of the shops owned?
- (v) Find a word from the passage which means 'big'.

**PASSAGE 5**

Kathmandu is vivid, mercenary, religious, with small shrines to flower-adorned deities along the narrowest and busiest streets; with fruit sellers, flute sellers, hawkers of postcards; shops selling Western cosmetics, film rolls and chocolate; or copper utensils and Nepalese antiques. Film songs blare out from the radios, car horns sound, bicycle bells ring, stray cows low questioningly at motorcycles, vendors shout out their wares. I indulge myself mindlessly: buy a bar of marzipan, a corn-on-the-cob roasted in a charcoal brazier on the pavement (rubbed with salt, chilli powder and lemon); a couple of love story comics, and even a Reader's Digest.

**Questions:**

- (i) How does the writer describe Kathmandu in the first line of this passage?
- (ii) From where does the writer hear film songs?
- (iii) What does the writer do in the market?
- (iv) Who is the writer of this passage?
- (v) Find a word from the passage which means 'old, precious things'.

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN SHORT:**

- Q1. Where did the writer stay in Kathmandu? Which two different places of worship did he visit and with whom?
- Q2. What is written on the signboard outside the Pashupatinath temple? What does the proclamation signify?
- Q3. What does the author imply by 'febrile confusion' in the Pashupatinath temple?
- Or
- What made the atmosphere in and around the Pashupatinath temple full of 'febrile confusion'?
- Q4. Why did the policeman stop the Westerners wearing saffron-coloured clothes from entering the Pashupatinath temple?
- Q5. How does the author describe the fight that breaks out between the two monkeys around the temple of Pashupatinath?
- Q6. What activities are observed by the writer on the banks of the Bagmati river?
- Q7. What are the author's observations about the streets in Kathmandu?
- Q8. What picture of the Baudhnath stupa does the author portray?
- Q9. Describing the streets around the Baudhnath stupa, why does the narrator say this is a haven of quietness in the busy streets around?
- Q10. Which is the longer route from Kathmandu to Delhi? Which route does the author opt for?
- Q11. Why does Vikram Seth decide to buy a ticket directly for the homeward journey?
- Q12. What difference does the author note between the flute seller and the other hawkers?
- Or
- How is the flute player's way of selling flutes different from that of the other hawkers around?
- Q13. What is the impact of the music of the flute on Vikram Seth?
- Q14. Why does the author describe the music of the flute as "the most universal and most particular of sounds"?
- Q15. What did the saffron-clad Westerners want?
- Q16. How did the author want to return to Delhi? What made him change his mind?
- Q17. Describe how the flute seller sells his wares?
- Q18. To hear any 'flute is to be drawn into the commonality of all mankind.' Explain.

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN LONG:**

**Question 1.** How does the author describe the flute seller? What does he say about the flute music?

**Question 2.** What idea do you get about the author from the extract “Kathmandu”?

**Question 3.** Where does the author find the flute seller and what are his observations about him? What draws the author to the music of the flute?

**CHAPTER NO. 11 IF I WERE YOU**

**EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS:**

**PASSAGE 1**

Gerrard: Nonchalant' is your word, I think.

Intruder: Thanks a lot. You'll soon stop being smart. I'll make you crawl. I want to know a few things, see.

Gerrard: Anything you like. I know all the answers. But before we begin I should like to change my position; you may be comfortable, but I am not.

Intruder: Sit down there, and no funny business. (Motions to a chair, and seats himself on the divan by the bag.) Now then, we'll have a nice little talk about yourself!

Gerrard: At last a sympathetic audience! I'll tell you the story of my life. How as a child I was stolen by the gipsies, and why at the age of thirty-two, I find myself in my lonely Essex cottage, how...

**Questions:**

- (i) What threat does the intruder give to Gerrard?
- (ii) Why was Gerrard in an uncomfortable position?
- (iii) Did Gerrard give correct answers to the intruder?
- (iv) Was the intruder really a sympathetic audience?
- (v) Find a word in the passage which means 'humorous'.

**PASSAGE 2**

Intruder: Keep it to yourself, and just answer my questions. You live here alone? Well, do you?

Gerrard: I'm sorry. I thought you were telling me, not asking me. A question of inflexion; your voice is unfamiliar.

Intruder: (with emphasis) Do you live here alone?

Gerrard: And ill don't answer?

Intruder: You've got enough sense not to want to get hurt.

Gerrard: I think the good sense is shown more in the ability to avoid pain than in the mere desire to do so. What do you think? Mr—er—

Intruder: Never mind my name. I like yours better, Mr Gerrard. What are your Christian names?

Gerard: Vincent Charles.

**Questions:**

- (i) From which chapter have these lines been taken?
- (ii) Why was the intruder's voice unfamiliar to Gerard?
- (iii) What did the intruder want Gerrard to keep to himself?
- (iv) What was Gerrard's full name?
- (v) Find a word in the passage which means 'stress'.

**PASSAGE 3**

Intruder: Do you run a car?

Gerard: No.

Intruder: That's a lie. You're not dealing with a fool. I'm as smart as you and smarter, and I know you run a car. Better be careful, wise guy!

Gerard: Are you American, or is that merely a clever imitation?

Intruder: Listen, this gun's no toy. I can hurl you without killing you, and still get my answers.

Gerard: Of course, if you put it like that, I'll be glad to assist you. I do possess a car, and it's in the garage around the corner.

Intruder: That's better. Do people often come out here?

Gerard: Very rarely. Surprisingly few people take the trouble to visit me. There are the baker and the greengrocer, of course; and then there's the milkman — quite charming, but no one so interesting as yourself.

**Questions:**

- (i) Does Gerrard possess a car?
- (ii) Why did the intruder want to hurt, not kill Gerard?
- (iii) Where is Gerrard's car?
- (iv) Why did the intruder want to know if people came to visit Gerrard or not?
- (v) Find a word from the passage which means 'copy'.

**PASSAGE 4**

Intruder: My specialty's jewel robbery. Your car will do me a treat. It's certainly a dandy bus.

Gerard: I'm afraid jewels are few and far between in the wilds of Essex.

Intruder: So are the cops. I can retire here nicely for a little while.

Gerard: You mean to live with me? A trifle sudden isn't it; you've not been invited.

Intruder: You won't be here long; so I didn't trouble to ask.

Gerard: What do you mean?

Intruder: This is your big surprise. I'm going to kill you.

Gerard: A little harsh, isn't it?

Intruder : (with heavy sarcasm) Yeah. I'll be sorry to do it. I've taken a fancy to you, but it's just got to be done. Why add murder to your other crimes? It's a grave step you're taking.

### **Questions:**

- (i) What is the name of the chapter from which these lines have been taken?
- (ii) Why does the intruder think that he can live at Gerrard's house for some time?
- (iii) What is a big surprise for Gerrard, according to the intruder?
- (iv) Why does Gerrard call the intruder's step 'grave'?
- (v) Find a word from the passage which means 'serious'.

### **PASSAGE 5**

Intruder: I've got the freedom to gain. As for myself, I'm a poor hunted rat. As Vincent Charles Gerrard I'm free to go places and do nothing. I can eat well and sleep and without having to be ready to beat it at the sight of a cop.

Gerrard: In most melodramas, the villain is foolish enough to delay his killing long enough to be frustrated. You are much luckier.

Intruder: I'm O.K. I've got a reason for everything. I'm going to be Vincent Charles Gerrard, see. I've got to know what he talks like. Now I know. That posh stuff comes easy. This is Mr V.C. Gerrard speaking. (Pantomime of phoning, in imitation cultured voice.) And that's not all. (He stands up.) Get up a minute

(Gerrard stands.) Now take a look at me.

### **Questions**

- (i) What will the intruder gain as Gerrard?
- (ii) How does the intruder describe himself?
- (iii) How is the villain in most melodramas?
- (iv) Why does the intruder imitate Gerard's voice?
- (v) Find a word in the passage which means 'sensational play'.

### **PASSAGE 6**

Gerrard: You're not particularly decorative.

Intruder: No! Well, that goes for you, too. I've only got to wear specs and I'll be enough like you to get away with it.

Gerard: What about your clothes? They'll let you down if you're not careful.

Intruder: That'll be all right. Yours will fit me fine.

Gerrard: That is extremely interesting, but you seem to miss the point of my remark. I said you were luckier than most melodramatic villains. It was not a tribute to your intelligence. You won't kill me for a very good reason.

Intruder: So that's what you think.

**Questions:**

- (i) What does Gerrard mean when he says that the intruder is not decorative?
- (ii) Name the chapter from which these lines have been taken.
- (iii) What has the intruder to do to look like Gerrard?
- (iv) What does the intruder say about clothes?
- (v) Find a word in the passage which means 'a bad character'.

**PASSAGE 7**

Gerard: Apparently you haven't the intelligence to ask why I am invested in this cloak of mystery.

Intruder: (preparing to shoot) As I said before, this conversation bores me.

Gerard: Don't be a fool. If you shoot, you'll hang for sure. If not as yourself, then as Vincent Charles Gerrard.

Intruder: What is this?

Gerard: This is your big surprise. I said you wouldn't kill me and I was right. Why do you think I am here today and gone tomorrow, never see tradespeople? You say my habits would suit you. You are a crook. Do you think I am a Sunday-school teacher?

**Questions:**

- (i) What is the name of the chapter from which these lines have been taken?
- (ii) What has the intruder not asked Gerard?
- (iii) What would happen, according to Gerrard, if the intruder killed him?
- (iv) Why, according to him, has Gerrard, behaves in a mysterious way?
- (v) Find a word in the passage which means the same as 'a criminal'.

**PASSAGE-8**

Gerard: For God's sake clear that muddled head of yours and let's go. Come with me in the car. I can use you. If you find it's a frame, you've got me in the car, and you've still got your gun.

Intruder: Maybe you're right.

Gerard: Then don't waste time. (Goes and picks up but and bag.)

Intruder: Careful, boss, I'm watching you.



Gerard: Oh, don't be a fool. Look for yourself.

**Questions:**

- (i) Name the chapter this passage has been taken from.
- (ii) What could be the 'frame', according to Gerard?
- (iii) Why, according to Gerrard, he has posted a man on the main road?
- (iv) Why do they plan to go straight from the room?
- (v) Find a word in the passage which means 'confused'.

**PASSAGE 9**

Intruder: I could tell you plenty. You think you're smart, but I'm the top of the class around here. I've got brains and I use them. That's how I've got where I have.

Gerard: And where precisely have you got? It didn't require a great brain to break into my little cottage.

Intruder: When you know why I've broken into your little cottage, you'll be surprised, and it won't be a pleasant surprise.

Gerrard: With you figuring so largely in it, that is understandable. By the way, what particular line of crime do you embrace, or aren't you a specialist?

**Questions:**

- (i) What could the intruder tell Gerrard in plenty?
- (ii) Why has the intruder broken into Gerrard's cottage?
- (iii) What does the intruder think about himself?
- (iv) Use 'precisely' in a sentence of your own.
- (v) Find a word in the passage which means as 'expert'.

**PASSAGE 10**

Gerard: Your idea is to elude the police by killing me and taking on my identity?

Intruder: Yes, I like the idea.

Gerard: But are you sure it's going to help you?

Intruder: Now listen here. I've got this all planned. I did a job in town. Things went wrong and I killed a cop. Since then I've done nothing but the dodge.

Gerard: And this is where dodging has brought you?

Intruder: It brought me to Aylesbury. That's where I saw you in the car. Two other people saw you and started to talk. I listened. It looks like you're a bit queer kind of mystery man.

**Questions:**

- (i) Name the play and its author.
- (ii) What is the intruder's idea?

(iii) Whom did the intruder kill in the town?

(iv) Where did the intruder see Gerrard?

(v) Find a word in the passage which means the same as 'strange'

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN SHORT:**

1. Describe Gerrard's appearance.

2. What did Gerrard tell the intruder about himself? Was he telling the truth? Why/Why not?

3. What sort of information does the intruder want from Gerrard?

4. What made Gerrard ask the intruder, "Are you an American"?

5. What sort of a person is the intruder? Give examples to illustrate.

6. The intruder announced, "I'm going to kill you". Was Gerrard nervous? How would you describe Gerrard's reactions?

7. Why does the intruder intend to kill Gerrard?

8. Who was the intruder in Gerrard's house? Why did he break into his house?

9. How did Gerrard behave on seeing a gun-toting stranger in his cottage?

10. Why does the intruder not kill Gerrard immediately?

11. Where did Gerrard live? Why was it a suitable place for the intruder's plan?

12. Why does the intruder call himself 'a poor hunted rat'?

13. Why did the intruder choose Gerrard as the man whose identity he wanted to take on?

14. Why has the criminal been called an intruder all through the play?

15. Bring out the contrast between Gerrard and the intruder.

16. Why did very few people come to Gerrard's house? Who were the few people who visited him?

17. "They cannot hang me twice." Who says this and why? (Textual)

18. "A mystery I propose to explain." What is the mystery the speaker proposes to explain? (Textual)

19. "This is your big surprise". Who says these words in the play? When and where? What is the surprise? (Textual)

20. Why and how did Gerrard persuade the intruder to get into the cupboard?

21. How does Gerrard propose to use the intruder's episode?

22. Gerrard describes this encounter with the intruder as an amusing spot of bother? What light does this attitude reflect on Gerrard?

23. Why was Gerrard's schedule so irregular?

24. Gerrard said, 'You have been so modest'. Was Gerrard being ironical or truthful?

25. Why did the intruder want Gerrard to speak to him?

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN LONG:**

**Question 1.** Gerrard talks pleasantly with the intruder. Was he really pleased to see the criminal?

**Question 2.** The intruder is boastful. He threatens Gerrard, "I'll make you crawl" Was he able to carry out his threat? What happened to him?

**Question 3.** Gerrard says, "In most melodramas, the villain is foolish enough to delay his killing long enough to be frustrated. Does this statement holds good for the play 'If I Were You'?"

**Question 4.** The best way to deal with a crisis is not to lose your calm. Discuss this statement with reference to the behaviour of Gerrard in the play.

**Question 5.** Why was Gerrard packing a bag at the beginning of the play? How did it help him to outwit and trap the intruder?

**Question 6.** Bring out Gerrard's intelligence, the presence of mind and sense of humour. How did these traits help him outwit the intruder?

**Question 7.** Why did the intruder find Gerrard's cooked up the story of his criminal background convincing?

**Question 8.** The intruder's plan was clever but not feasible. Do you agree? Give reasons in support of your answer.