

Bachelor of Arts

Semester – VI

ENGLISH (Compulsory)
(EN-o6)



Created by: Dr. Naresh Rathee¹
Dr. Anu Rathee¹

¹ Associate Professor, Chhotu Ram Arya College, Sonipat

Contents

Unit-1 *The Merchant of Venice*

Unit-2 **Composition**

- a) Letter Writing**
- b) Precis Writing**
- c) Comprehension of Unseen Passages**
- d) Summarization**
- e) One Word Substitution**

***The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare**

Introduction of the Author (Author's Biography)

Short Summary

Act I

Act II

Act III

Act IV

Act V

Explanation of Important Passages

Short Questions

Essay Type Questions

Introduction of the Author

William Shakespeare is the greatest English sonneteer and playwright and is considered as the greatest writer of English literature. He is also known "Bard of Avon". He has written 39 plays, 154 sonnets and three long narrative poems. His plays have been translated into many languages worldwide.

Shakespeare was born and brought up in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire. At the age of 18, he married Anne Hathaway, and was the father of three children: Susanna, and twins Hamnet and Judith. Sometime between 1585 and 1592, he started his career as actor in London and then he became writer, and partner in a playing company called the Lord Chamberlain's Men, later known as the King's Men. At the age of 49, he appears to have retired to Stratford, where he died three years later. Few records of Shakespeare's private life exist and that's why there are considerable speculation about matters related to his physical appearance, his sexuality, his religious beliefs and whether the works attributed to him were written by others.

Period between 1589 and 1613 is regarded as the Golden period of Shakespeare. In this period, Shakespeare produced most of his known works. Comedies and histories are written by him during this early period and are regarded as some of the best works produced in these genres. He then wrote mainly tragedies until 1608, among them *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Othello*, *King Lear*, and *Macbeth*, all considered to be among the finest works in the English language. In the last phase of his life, he wrote tragicomedies (also known as romances) and collaborated with other playwrights.

His plays are immensely popular and are continually studied, performed, and reinterpreted in diverse cultural and political contexts all over the world.

Short Summary

Act-I

Antonio, a well-known merchant of Venice is walking along a street. He is sad. His

friends Salarino and Salanio think that he is concerned about the safety of his merchant ships, which are not safe due to rising storms at sea and attacks by sea- pirates. Antonio refutes this. His friends think that he is sad because he might be in love. Antonio again disagrees that he is in love. Finally, Salarino points out that Antonio's sullenness must be due to his gloomy personality. They are further joined by more friends, Bassanio, Lorenzo, and Gratiano. Gratiano stares at Antonio and teasingly scolds him for being serious and overly quiet. Gratiano further declares that he loves to play the fool to which Lorenzo says that sometimes Gratiano is too talkative. They depart promising to meet the others at dinner, leaving Antonio and Bassanio.

Bassanio tells Antonio about his love for Portia, a beautiful girl from Belmont. Bassanio further says that he cannot propose or express his love as he has little money. Antonio too feels sorry that he too has no money as he has invested all his money in the ships but asks Bassanio to get money from the town on the behalf of Antonio to go to Belmont and fulfil his dream.

Scene II shifts to Belmont, Here, Portia , a wealthy lady , is discussing the conditions laid down by her late father in his last will with her friend, Nerissa. Her father has written in his will that Portia cannot marry the man of her choice. Rather, she must interact with different suitors, who will choose the right casket from among "three chests of gold, silver and lead." Portia finds that none of her suitors impressed her. Nerissa then informs Portia about a gentleman, a venetian soldier, who once visited Belmont when her father was alive. Portia is happy to hear this and tells Nerissa that this gentleman is Bassanio. However , Portia gets a news that her four suitors namely, a Neapolitan prince; the County Palatine; a French lord, Monsieur Le Bon; a young English baron, Falconbridge; a Scottish lord; and a young German, the Duke of Saxony's nephew have decided to leave . But another suitor, the Prince of Morocco has arrived.

In scene III Bassanio goes to meet Shylock, a Jewish moneylender, seeking a loan of three thousand ducats and Antonio will be a guarantee to repay the loan of three thousand ducats. Shylock is doubtful about giving money to Bassanio as he is aware that Antonio has invested all his money in his merchant ships. And his ships are out in the sea. Bassanio insists him again and finally keeping in mind Antonio's reputation, Shylock relents to give Bassanio the loan. Bassanio requests Shylock to join them for dinner where they will discuss the formalities of the loan. Shylock, however, denies to join them at dinner stating that as he is a Jew he will only do business with the Christians but will not dine with them as it is against his principle to dine with a Christian.

Antonio enters and joins Bassanio and Shylock. Shylock (in an aside) shows his contempt for Antonio because he is a Christian and the more he hates Antonio because he lends money to people without taking interest. He blames Antonio for publicly tarnishing his image for telling people that Shylock charges excessive interest in his moneylending business. Lastly, Shylock agrees to lend Bassanio the three thousand ducats for a period of three months, and Antonio will sign a bond as security.

Shylock tells them that he is more interested in making friends with Antonio. Therefore, he will not charge any interest for the loan. But he cleverly traps Bassanio and Antonio in signing a bond as 'a merry sport'. He inserts a clause in the bond that Antonio is unable to repay the loan within the stipulated time, Shylock will have the right to cut a "pound of flesh" from any part of Antonio's body. Bassanio, on hearing this stops Antonio from signing such a contract, but Antonio tells him that his Ships will return from abroad well in time before the three months deadline. Finally, Antonio sign the contract.

ACT-II

The Prince of Morocco arrives at Belmont to win over Portia and marry her. He tries to woo Portia but, she puts down his advances, explaining to him that he will not have any disadvantage because of his colour, and has an equal opportunity to win her over for marriage. On the other hand, in Venice, Bassanio is planning a dinner and a masque for his friends before he sets out on a journey to Belmont to win over Portia. Launcelot, who is indecisive of whether he should leave services at Shylock's place, finding Bassanio in a good mood, offers him his services. Meanwhile, Gratiano comes and announces his will to accompany Bassanio to Belmont, to which Bassanio hesitantly agrees on the condition that he will mend his "wild behaviour".

In another scene, Jessica, daughter of Shylock, speaks to Launcelot, and feels sad that Launcelot has decided to leave the services of her father. She hands him a letter, to be delivered secretly to her lover Lorenzo, in which she has explained her plans to elope with Lorenzo and convert from Jew to Christianity. Launcelot arrives when Gratiano, Lorenzo, Salarino, and Salanio are discussing the plans for the party, and of their inability to finish all the preparations. Launcelot delivers the letter to Lorenzo, which reveals Jessica's plans to dress up like a page and run away with Lorenzo.

Shylock finally accepts the invitation to the party, which is delivered to him through Launcelot. Shylock also exclaims that the reason he has accepted Bassanio's invitation is his hatred for him, and that he is right in hating him as something bad is going on in the mind of Bassanio. Finally the time comes for Lorenzo and Jessica to elope. Jessica throws down a small chest full of money and jewels to Lorenzo, and tells him that she's ashamed of running away, but Lorenzo finally reassures her that they will not be discovered. Jessica goes back inside to do two last tasks before leaving, to lock the doors, as his father wanted her to do, and to get more money.

Bassanio decides to sail for Belmont on the night of the party and tells everyone that the masque has been cancelled due to that reason. In Belmont, the suitors are asked to choose from three caskets in order to win over Portia. All the three caskets had inscriptions on them, on the lead casket it was written, "who chooseth me shall give and hazard all he hath"; on the silver one, "who chooseth me shall get as much as he deserves"; and on the golden one, it was written, "Who chooseth me shall gain what many men desire". Portia tells the Duke of Morocco that the right casket has a picture of her. Morocco chooses the

casket made of Gold, but finds a skull inside it with a message inside it, "All that glitters is not gold... gilded tombs do worms unfold", and Moroccan prince exits, sad and defeated.

Shylock finds out about his daughter and claims that she fled in Bassanio's ship, but Antonio intervenes and tells the Duke of Venice that Jessica and Lorenzo were not on the ship. In Belmont, the Prince of Aragon arrives and chooses the Silver casket, which in turn, also proves to be the wrong one, and finds inside a portrait of the head of an idiot. Portia feels relieved that the suitor chose the wrong casket, all the while praying for the arrival of Bassanio as a suitor. Meanwhile a Venetian ambassador's arrival is announced Portia unmoved by the boasting about him asks Nerissa to lead the man inside.

ACT III

In the opening of this act, Solanio and Salerio are talking about the hot topic of discussion on Rialto, the Venetian bridge. There runs a rumour that Antonio has lost another of his ships off the south-eastern English coast. Shylock approaches them and blames them of helping his daughter run away. Both of them do not disagree and ask Shylock if he came across the rumours about Antonio's ship and his impending losses.

Shylock reminds them of the bond that Antonio had signed with him and that he plans to take a pound of his flesh if he fails to repay his loan in time. He believes he is avenging Antonio for all the wrong he had done to Shylock only because he was a Jew. Solanio and Salerio are asked to go to Antonio's house by one of Antonio's servants. Tubal, Shylock's friend, who is also a Jew then comes to Shylock, and gives him some news about Jessica. Tubal also tells Shylock that Antonio has lost one more ship and may lose all his money soon, and Shylock becomes more determined to take his vengeance on Antonio.

Portia asks Bassanio to wait before opening the casket as she wants to enjoy his company before any decision is made. But Bassanio does not want to wait and tells the audience directly that there is too much ornamentation to the other caskets and chooses the lead casket, and finds a portrait of Portia. Overjoyed by the portrait, he admires the picture and then reads out the scroll that is inside, "You that choose not by view/ Chance as fair and choose as true". Portia offers everything that belongs to her to Bassanio, and gives him a ring and asks him never to part with it. She also takes a promise from Bassanio that he'll never lose the ring no matter what. Graziano also expresses his desire to marry Nerissa, the maid to Portia, and admits that they love with each other. Bassanio instantly agrees to get them married.

Lorenzo, Jessica and Salerio visit Belmont. Salerio has brought a letter from Antonio for Bassanio. Bassanio opens the letter, which reveals that Antonio is in great debt and that too to a very dangerous enemy of theirs. Portia offers to pay any amount of money to save Antonio, but it is made clear that Shylock will not stop from anything, now that he has an opportunity to hurt Antonio. Portia reluctantly asks Bassanio to leave for Venice to meet his friend and help him out as soon as possible.

After Bassanio's departure, Solanio explains the reason behind Shylock's hate for Antonio. Antonio used to lend money to poor men who owed to Shylock, and saved them from forfeiture, which Shylock thought was a wrong done against him as it was his right to

collect the forfeiture money from the people. Portia and Nerissa also leave the house for a monastery, where they would go and pray for a few days. Portia also sends her servant to Doctor Bellario to bring whatever Bellario has to give. She also expresses her desire to go to Venice, disguised as men and help Bassanio and Antonio.

Launcelot teases Jessica that she is doomed as she is not a Christian, but she argues that Lorenzo has made her one by marrying her. Lorenzo enters and pretends to be jealous of them. They all leave for dinner.

ACT IV

This act opens with Antonio in a Venetian Court of Justice, while the Duke and other magnificoes of Venice sit in front for his trial. The Duke explains how the plaintiff is stone hearted and there is no way to save Antonio. The duke asks Shylock, for the one last time, to forgive Antonio, but Shylock remains unmoved by any plea, and prefers a pound of flesh as his payment.

Bassanio offers to pay double the amount of the loan, i.e. six thousand pound in exchange for Antonio's life, but Shylocks tells him that he would not change his mind even if he is offered six times the money Antonio owes him. In his defence Shylock reminds the Duke of the mistreatment of Jews by Christians and that when he is not demanding any Christian to free any Jew, so he shall not be asked to do away with Antonio's loan either.

The Duke tells Shylock that he is waiting for Dr. Bellario, a very learned person, to come and give his opinion on this matter, as he, himself alone, was incapable of taking decision in such a delicate matter. He also asks Shylock to wait, failing which, he will close the case without any decision on Shylock's plea for Justice. Nerissa enters the court in a man's clothes with a letter from Dr. Bellario. In the letter a highly intelligent and educated doctor is recommended by Dr Bellario to adjudge the case. The Duke inquires about the whereabouts of the Doctor, to which Nerissa replies that he was waiting for permission to enter the court. Duke sends out for him and a doctor named Balthasar enters, who is in fact Portia in the disguise of a man.

Balthasar asks Antonio, if the bond was a valid one, to which Antonio admits positively. Balthasar asks Shylock to forgive Antonio and gives a speech on the benefits of forgiveness but Shylock remains untouched. Therefore, Balthasar exclaims that Shylock is entitled to take his pound of flesh from the chest portion of Antonio as the bond states. Shylock produces a scale to measure the skin that he was about to take off Antonio, but disagrees to Balthasar's suggestion that he should pay a physician to attend to Antonio so that he doesn't bleed to death. When Shylock is about to begin, Balthasar stops him and warns him not to draw out even a drop of blood with the flesh, and that if even a single drop of Antonio's blood comes out, "the State of Venice" will take away everything that belongs to him. Shylock realizes that he has lost his case and tries to fall back and take the amount that Bassanio had offered before, but Balthazar is adamant that he can take only "a pound of flesh" now, and nothing else.

Balthazar further explains that according to a Venetian law, if an outsider threatens a

citizens' life, half of his property is to be given to the citizen and other half to the state, and the life of the foreigner will remain on the "mercy of the Duke". But the Duke pardons Shylock, against which Shylock demands to be killed instead. Antonio also forgives him and asks the Duke to let him keep half of his property and offers the other half to be taken care of as an inheritance for Jessica and Lorenzo. Antonio puts only one condition that Shylock must convert to Christianity and give everything he has to Lorenzo when he dies. Everything settled, the Duke tells Antonio to thank the young doctor, and Bassanio and Gratiano offers to part with anything that the doctor demands. The doctor demands for the gloves and ring that Bassanio is wearing and on Antonio's insistence, Bassanio gives the ring away, and invites the doctor to a dinner at Antonio's house. Nerissa decides to test Gratiano in a similar way and Balthasar asks him the tell route of "Shylock's house" to Nerissa, where she has to go to get the deed signed from Shylock which will ensure the passing of his property to Lorenzo.

ACT V

This is the concluding scene of the play. It is a moonlight night at Belmont, and Lorenzo and Jessica are busy comparing their acts of love with the committed romantic acts of love and daring of the lovers from old famous classical stories — Troilus, Thisbe, Dido, and Medea.. Just then Stephano, comes in and informs that Portia and Nerrisa will arrive "before break of day." Launcelot also enters at this moment and announces that his master Bassanio will also arrive early morning.

Portia and Nerrisa arrive back home next day. Portia immediately tells her servants not to disclose their absence from Belmont to anyone and keep it a secret. Bassanio enters alongwith Gratiano and Antonio. He happily informs Portia that Antonio was finaaly saved by the intelligence of Balthasar from the deadly hold of cruel Shylock. There ensues a quarrel between Nerissa and Gratiano. Nerrisa scolds Gratiano over the lost wedding ring which she gave him. Portia tells Gratiano that it was his mistake, he should have kept the ring close to his heart like Bassanio .Gratiano immediately discloses that Bassanio also gave away his ring to Judge's clerk. Both Portia and Nerrisa blame their lovers and feel heartbroken. Lastly, Antonio comes to their rescue and takes guarantee of Bassanio's fidelity. At this point both, Portia and Nerrisa forgive Bassanio and Gratiano. They hand over the rings to them. Finally, Portia, explains that it was she who was the lawyer Balthasar at the trial of Antonio, and Nerissa was her clerk. It was they who saved Antonio from the deadly grasp of Shylock. Meanwhile, Antonio also get the news about the safe arrival of his three ships to the port. In the end, Nerissa presents Shylock's deed of gift to Lorenzo and Jessica, bequeathing them all his possessions.

Explanation of Important Passages

Passage 1

In my school-days, when I had lost one shaft, I shot his fellow of the self-same flight

The self-same way with more advised watch, To find the other forth, and by adventuring both I oft found both:

Reference to the Context: These lines have been taken from Act I Scene I from William Shakespeare's well-known play *The Merchant of Venice*. These lines are spoken by Bassanio, Antonio's friend. Antonio asks Bassanio about the plan to meet the girl he loves. To this Bassanio replies:

Explanation:

In these lines, Bassanio says that during his school days when he lost one arrow, he would try to search for it by shooting the another arrow in the same direction of the first. He would more carefully observe the second arrow. By taking a risk, he would find both the arrows.

Passage 2

[Aside] How like a fawning publican he looks! I hate him for he is a Christian,

But more for that in low simplicity He lends out money gratis and brings down The rate of usance here with us in Venice.

Reference to the Context : These lines have been taken from Act I Scene III from William Shakespeare's well-known play *The Merchant of Venice* . Here , Shylock, the Jewish Merchant , shows his hatred towards Antonio.

Explanation:

In these lines Shylock, speaking to himself, says that how submissive tax-collector, Antonio looks. Shylock further says that he hates him because he is a Christian. He hates him the more because he lends money without interest that brings down the rate of interest for us in Venice.

Passage 3

Signior Antonio, many a time and oft In the Rialto you have rated me About my moneys and my usances:

Still have I borne it with a patient shrug, For sufferance is the badge of all our tribe.

You call me misbeliever, cut-throat dog, And spit upon my Jewish gaberdine,

Reference to the Context : These lines have been taken from Act I Scene III from William Shakespeare's well-known play *The Merchant of Venice*. Here, Shylock, the Jewish Merchant, reminds Antonio for treating him and his tribe with contempt.

Explanation:

In these lines, Shylock says that Mr. Antonio you have repeatedly insulted my practice and my money in Rialto. I have tolerantly ignored it off as Jews are known for suffering. You called me a misbeliever, a cut-throat dog, and even spat on my Jewish garb.

Passage 4

*You must take your chance,
And either not attempt to choose at all
Or swear before you choose, if you choose wrong
Never to speak to lady afterward
In way of marriage: therefore be advised.*

Reference to the Context: These lines have been taken from Act II Scene I from William Shakespeare's well-known play *The Merchant of Venice*. These lines are spoken by Portia to the Prince of Morocco, who has come to Belmont to try his luck in order to marry Portia.

Explanation: In these lines, Portia says that you must take that chance or decide not to choose at all, or to swear before that if you choose the wrong casket you will never speak to any other woman regarding marriage. She advises him to think sensibly.

Passage 5

*The first, of gold, who this inscription bears,
'Who chooseth me shall gain what many men desire;' The second, silver, which this promise
carries,
'Who chooseth me shall get as much as he deserves;'
This third, dull lead, with warning all as blunt,
'Who chooseth me must give and hazard all he hath.' How shall I know if I do choose the
right?*

Reference to the Context: These lines have been taken from Act II Scene VII from William Shakespeare's well-known play *The Merchant of Venice*. These lines are spoken by the Prince of Morocco, who has come to Belmont to try his luck in order to marry Portia.

Explanation: In these lines. The Prince of Morocco says that the first casket, of the gold, bears an inscription, 'He who chooses me will get what many men want.' The second casket, of the silver, bears an inscription, He who chooses me will get what he deserves. 'The third casket, of dull lead, bears a direct warning, 'He who chooses me must give and risk all he has.' In the end he is confused and says that how will I know if I'm choosing the right one?

Passage 6

*To bait fish withal: if it will feed nothing else, it will feed my revenge. He hath disgraced me,
and hindered me half a million; laughed at my losses, mocked at my gains, scorned my*

*nation, thwarted
my bargains, cooled my friends, heated mine enemies; and what's his reason? I am a Jew. Hath
not a Jew eyes? hath not a Jew hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions?*

Reference to the Context: These lines have been taken from Act III Scene I from William Shakespeare's well-known play *The Merchant of Venice*. Here, Shylock is speaking to Salarino. He is justifying his revengeful feelings against Antonio.

Explanation: In these lines, Shylock says that he will use Antonio's flesh as a fish bait. He feels even if it serves no purpose it will feed his revenge. Shylock further says that Antonio has insulted him, laughed at his losses, cost him half a million, scorned at his profits, ridiculed his race, taken away his friends, infuriated his enemies - for what reason? That he is a Jew. Does a Jew not have eyes? Does a Jew not have hands, organs, shape, senses, love, fervour?

Passage 7

*I'll have my bond; I will not hear thee speak: I'll have my bond; and therefore speak no
more. I'll not be made a soft and dull-eyed fool,
To shake the head, relent, and sigh, and yield
To Christian intercessors. Follow not;
I'll have no speaking: I will have my bond.*

Reference to the Context: These lines have been taken from Act III Scene III from William Shakespeare's well-known play *The Merchant of Venice*. Here, Shylock is speaking to Antonio. He is adamant in having his bond executed.

Explanation: In these lines, Shylock says that he will have his bond. He will not hear Antonio. He insists on having his bond and speak no more. He says that he should not be taken as a yielding and dulleyed fool, who succumbs and gives in to Christian mediator. He asks Antonio not to follow him and insists on having his bond.

Passage 8

*I am a tainted wether of the flock,
Meetest for death: the weakest kind of fruit
Drops earliest to the ground; and so let me
You cannot better be employ'd, Bassanio, Than to live still and write mine epitaph.*

Reference to the context: These lines have been taken from Act IV Scene I from William Shakespeare's well-known play *The Merchant of Venice*. Here, Antonio is consoling Bassanio.

Explanation: In these lines Antonio says that he is tainted sheep of the flock that is waiting for death. The fruit that is the weakest falls on the ground first, therefore let him fall. He further asks Bassanio to live and write an epitaph for his grave.

Passage 9

*The quality of mercy is not strain'd,
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath: it is twice blest;*

It blesseth him that gives and him that takes:

Reference to the context: These lines have been taken from Act IV Scene I from William Shakespeare's well-known play *The Merchant of Venice*. Here, Portia is telling Shylock the quality of mercy.

Explanation: In these lines Portia says that the quality of mercy cannot be forced. It merely drops like the gentle rain from heaven to the round. It is doubly blessed, it blesses the one who gives and the one who takes.

Passage 10

Tarry a little; there is something else.

This bond doth give thee here no jot of blood; The words expressly are 'a pound of flesh:'

Take then thy bond, take thou thy pound of flesh; But, in the cutting it, if thou dost shed

One drop of Christian blood, thy lands and goods Are, by the laws of Venice, confiscate Unto the state of Venice.

Reference to the context: These lines have been taken from Act IV Scene I from William Shakespeare's well-known play *The Merchant of Venice*. Here, Portia is discussing with Shylock the terms of the signed bond.

Explanation: In these lines, Portia asks Shylock to wait. She states that there is something else in the bond. She tells Shylock that the contract does not give Shylock any drop of blood. The words written in the contract are, "a pound of flesh". She asks Shylock to take his pound of flesh. He further warns him that if Shylock sheds even a drop of Christian blood, as per the laws all his lands and goods will be confiscated by the state of Venice.

Passage 11

My Lord Bassanio gave his ring away Unto the judge that begg'd it and indeed Deserved it too; and then the boy, his clerk,

That took some pains in writing, he begg'd mine; And neither man nor master would take aught But the two rings.

Reference to the context: These lines have been taken from Act V Scene I from William Shakespeare's well-known play *The Merchant of Venice*. Here, Gratiano is telling Nerrisa about the rings.

Explanation: In these lines, Gratiano tells that his master Bassanio gave away his ring to the Judge, who begged for it and truly deserved it. He further states that Judge's clerk, who took some pains in writing the judgement, begged for mine ring. Neither of them were ready to take anything except the two rings.

Passage 12

I once did lend my body for his wealth;

Which, but for him that had your husband's ring,

Had quite miscarried: I dare be bound again, My soul upon the forfeit, that your lord Will never more break faith advisedly.

Reference to the context: These lines have been taken from Act V Scene I from William Shakespeare's well-known play The Merchant of Venice. Here, Antonio is seen pledging for Bassanio.

Explanation: In these lines, Antonio says that he once risked his own body for his wealth. He was saved due to Bassanio's ring. He proposes Portia to be guarantee again his soul for Bassanio, who will never break an oath deliberately.

Short Answer type Questions:

Q 1. Is *The Merchant of Venice* a romantic comedy?

Yes, *The Merchant of Venice* is a romantic comedy because it is rich in romantic elements because of lottery of caskets, great and gripping trial scene, young maiden acts as a lawyer and becomes the savior of virtue in trouble, and lyrical poetic beauty in the last scene.

Q 2. How *The Merchant of Venice* is a tragic comedy?

The Merchant of Venice is a mixture of comic and tragic elements. In this play, happy ending for Antonio, Bassanio, Portia and Jessica but tragic end for the Shylock make it a tragic comedy.

Q 3. Who is the real merchant of Venice Antonio or Shylock?

Antonio is a real merchant because in the opening scene of the play he is depicted as a rich merchant who undertakes rich ventures, tossing on the oceans. His trade is spread worldwide on the other hand Shylock is shrewd and cruel money lender not a merchant.

Q 4. What is the significance of the title *The Merchant of Venice*?

The title of the play *The Merchant of Venice* is significant because it represents the Antonio who is real merchant of Venice. He has pivotal role in the plot that the bond story, trial scene has direct relation and casket story is also indirectly related to Antonio.

Q 5. What are the main and sub plots in the play?

In the play, *The Merchant of Venice* bond story is the main plot while the casket story, Lorenzo and Jessica episode and the story of ring are the sub plots.

Q 6. Who is Portia in the drama *The Merchant of Venice*?

Portia, the heroine of the, is a beautiful lady. She is the rich heiress of Belmont. She is Bassanio's beloved and later married him. She is witty, humorous and modest character. She saves the life of Antonio from the knife of Shylock in trials. She disguised herself as a lawyer and defends Antonio.

Q 7. What do you know about Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*?

Shylock is rich Jew and money lender. He is the father of Jessica. He is hypocrite, cunning, blood-thirsty and vindictive. His passion for money and revenge are leading traits. He is criticized by Christian characters throughout the play.

Q 8. What justification do Salerio and Solanio propose for Antonio's sadness?

According to them, Antonio melancholic attitude suggests that his money is tied up in his ships, which are sailing on dangerous seas. Solanio predicts that he is in love.

Q 9. What mocking suggestion does Gratiano present Antonio?

Gratiano tells Antonio don't be sad about worldly affairs.

Q 10. Describe the character Shylock?

He was Jewish moneylender in Venice. He gives money to the people and demands great interest. He is cruel and greedy. He demands one pound flesh of Antonio if he is unable to pay back the dues. He is forced to convert into Christianity at the end of the play.

Q 11. What are the views on so-called wise people according to Gratiano?

According to Gratiano, wise men are silent and stern. They're only considered wise because they don't say anything.

Q 12. What do you know about Bassanio?

He was the friend of Antonio who requested Antonio to borrow 3000 ducats so that he can make his appearance better and ask Portia to marry him. At start, he wanted to marry Portia for her money but eventually he loved her.

Q 13. What is Antonio actual Cause of Sadness?

In Act I, Scene 1, we are told that even Antonio doesn't know why he's feeling sad. Everyone assumes he's worried about the safety of his ships, but he claims the ships are not the reason for his depression.

Q 14. What are the reasons for Portia sadness during selection?

She was sad because of her father casket game. She didn't want to choose her husband in this way. She wanted liberty in choosing her life partner. She was also tired of constant arrivals of suitors.

Q 15. Who are Tubal and Chus?

Tubal and Chus are Lorenzo's Jewish friends. and Tubal is one of Shylock's good friends and Chus is among his fellow Jews.

Q 16. What is Gratiano's philosophy to overcome sadness?

Gratiano told Antonio that life has a short period so he should be happy and have some fun.

Q 17. In the story Merchant of Venice, what was written in the letter that made Bassanio turn pale?

Salerio hands Bassanio a letter from Antonio. Bassanio turns pale at the news that Antonio has lost his fortune and his ships, and he asks Salerio if it is true that all of Antonio's ventures have failed.

Q 18. Themes of the play 'Merchant of Venice'?

There are many themes in the play but love, hatred, mercy, and prejudice are the vital themes.

Q 19. Illustrate the Caskets trial?

The Prince of Morocco comes and first chooses gold and gets a death skull. After that Prince of Aragon gets the picture of an idiot. When Bassanio comes, he chooses lead casket and wins her hand.

Q 20. How does Shakespeare portray of Portia's generous nature?

Portia has a good idea of what she is going to do before the trial of Shylock. She gives Shylock the chance to concede his bond on Antonio before disaster befalls him. She offers Shylock compensation for a loan but Shylock refuses.

Q 21. What does Salarino think Antonio's sadness is about?

Salarino thinks Antonio's sadness is about "Worry over his ships".

Q 22. What does Solanio think Antonio's sadness is about?

Solanio thinks Antonio's sadness is about Love.

Q 23. How is Bassanio related to Antonio?

Bassanio is his cousin.

Q 24. What does Antonio compare life on this earth to?

Antonio compares his life with "A staged play".

Q 25. Who is the lover of Jessica?

Lorenzo is her lover and she is the daughter of Shylock. She hates her father. She eloped with Lorenzo and married to him.

Q 26. What do you know about Gratiano?

He loves Nerissa who is the maid of Portia. He goes to Belmont with Bassanio.

Q 27. Who is Antonio?

Antonio is a rich merchant of Venice city of Italy. He is very kind and generous person. He helps people by giving them loans without taking interest from them. But he is a melancholy character. Sometimes he becomes sad without knowing the reason of it.

Q 28. Who is Shylock?

Shylock is a Jewish money lender of Venice. He is a cruel, cunning, greedy and hypocrite type of person. He lends money to people at high rates of interest. He hates Christians.

Q 29. Who is Bassanio?

Bassanio is Antonio's fast friend. HE is handsome, romantic, brave, and intelligent person. Portia is in all praise for him. But, he is extravagant. He borrows loans from Antonio to raise his standard of living to impress Portia. He wins Portia's hand for marriage by his intelligence.

Q 30. Who is Nerissa and what role does she play in the text?

Nerissa is Portia's waiting-woman. So we always find her with Portia. She also plays an important role in the development of the plot of the play. Their conversation makes the reader/audience several things clear to them. She also accompanies Portia to the court disguised as a male clerk. Her love story with Gratiano also creates a lot of interest for the audience/reader.

Q 31. Who is Lorenzo?

He is a common friend to Bassanio, Antonio, Gratiano, etc. We also know him as Jessica's lover. His elopement with his beloved, Jessica, makes Shylock, Jessica's father, infuriated (extremely angry). This incident makes the story move further at a quicker pace.

Q 32. Who is Jessica?

Jessica is Shylock's daughter. She is Lorenzo's sweet heart also. She does not like her father's greedy and mean nature. She calls her house a hell. She even feels ashamed of being her father Shylock's daughter. All these points show that she herself is of a very good nature. She knows that her father would never allow her to marry Lorenzo because he is a Christian. So she elopes with him and marries with him.

Q 33. Who is Portia?

Portia is a very beautiful and intelligent rich lady of Belmont city in Italy. Her father died leaving a huge property in her name. She proves loyal (faithful) to her father and her lover Bassanio. She helps Antonio in the guise of a male lawyer. She fights Antonio's case and saves his life. She is truly witty, intelligent and noble at heart.

Q 34. Who is the Prince of Morocco?

The Prince of Morocco also wants to marry Portia. So he reaches Belmont to try his luck in selecting the right casket. He keeps on boasting about himself. Portia tells him about the conditions about the caskets. He reads the words written on each casket carefully. But he selects the gold casket. It was a wrong choice.

Q 35. Who is the Prince of Arragon?

The Prince of Arragon was also Portia's suitor. Portia tells him about the conditions about the caskets. She also tells him to take an oath to follow three things. These are: (i) not to tell anyone as to which box he chose (ii) to remain unmarried all of his life if he failed (iii) to leave the place at once if he failed. He also selects silver casket. It was a wrong choice. So he has to leave the place in shock.

Q 36. Who is Gratiano?

Gratiano is a common friend of Bassanio and Antonio. He is also a hard critic of Shylock. He is also a talkative person. Bassanio says about him that it is very difficult to find out meaning from his words. He falls in love with Nerissa, Portia's maid servant and finally marries her.

Q 37. Why did not Antonio lend money to his friend, Bassanio?

Antonio had invested all of his money on goods. These were loaded in the ships to go in different parts of the world. He had no cash in hand. So Antonio did not lend money to his Bassanio.

Q 38. What was Portia's father's will about choosing her husband?

Before dying, Portia's father binds her with his will. According to it, Portia is bound to marry the person who chooses the right casket out of the three. The suitors from all over the world come to try their luck. There are three caskets and on each of them several lines are inscribed. One of the three caskets contains Portia's portrait. That would be right casket. Whosoever chooses that would be Portia's husband.

Q 39. Why does Antonio feel sad or melancholy in Act I, Scene (i)?

As the play begins, we find Antonio in sad mood. He himself does not know as to why he is sad. His friends try to guess the reason for his sadness. Sararino says that he might be sad due to his ships. Antonio rejects it. Then Solanio says that Antonio might have been fallen in love. But this reason is also rejected. Actually, this is Antonio's nature to become sad sometimes without knowing its reason.

Q 40. What is Shylock's first reaction when Antonio asks him for loan?

Antonio requests a loan from Shylock on behalf of Bassanio. But Shylock talks in a roundabout way. He does not say at once that he is ready to loan of 3000 ducats. He reminds Antonio that once he had insulted him. He expresses his hatred and feeling of revenge for Antonio. He blames him for harming his business by giving without interest money to people.

Q 41. Which casket does the Prince of Arragon choose and why?

The Prince of Arragon chooses the silver casket. He is very much impressed to read the words written on the casket: 'Who chooseth me, will get what he deserve.' He thinks himself worthy of Portia. So he deserves her. Thus he opens the silver casket. He finds inside the portrait of a blinking idiot

Q 42. How many caskets were there? What was there in each of the casket?

There were three caskets, i.e., of gold, silver and lead. The gold casket contains a human skull. The silver casket contains the portrait of a blinking idiot. The lead casket contains the portrait of beautiful Portia.

Q 43. What is written on the three caskets?

- (i) The words inscribed on the gold casket are: "Who chooseth me shall gain what many men desire."
- (ii) The words inscribed on the silver casket are: "Who chooseth me shall get as much as he deserves."
- (iii) The words inscribed on the lead casket are: "Who chooseth me must give and hazard all he hath."

Q 44. What is Portia's reaction to prince of Arragon's exit?

Portia never wants that the Prince of arragon should win the contest. So she feels relaxed on his failure in selecting the right casket. He leaves the place in anger. He did not take proper farewell from Portia. She says that another moth has got burnt in the candle's flame.

Q 45. Describe the scene of Jessica's elopement with her lover, Lorenzo.

Jessica is Shylock's daughter. She loves Lorenzo. She knows it very well that her father would never allow her to marry a Christian boy. So she makes a plan to elope with Lorenzo. She disguises herself as a boy and with valuables.

Q 46. What wealth does Jessica take along with her while eloping with Lorenzo?

Jessica takes a lot of valuables like diamonds, ducats and other valuables from her house. She fills the valuables in boxes and gives them to Lorenzo. She knew that her father would never allow her to marry a Christian boy.

Q 47. What is Shylock's reaction to Jessica's elopement?

Shylock gets (becomes) mad with anger and grief. He keeps on (continues) crying for most of time. He is shocked more at the loss of his valuables than that of his daughter. Solanio reports about his cries: 'My daughter! O my ducats! O my daughter!...'

Q 48. Why did Portia and Nerissa appear in the court under disguise (in male dresses)?

Portia wanted to save Antonio. But, in those days, women were not allowed to appear in courts in Venice. So she had to appear in court in disguise. She was in the guise of a lawyer and Nerissa was a clerk.

Q 49. Why did Portia allow Bassanio to leave for Venice just at the time of their marriage?

Portia and Bassanio were about to marry. But at that very time, Bassanio received a letter from Antonio, whose life was in danger. Shylock was adamant on taking one pound of flesh from his body. So Portia allows Bassanio to go at once to help his close friend.

Q 50. Write a note on the importance of the casket scene.

The casket scene is very important in *The Merchant of Venice*. First, Bassanio wins Portia's hand to marry her by selecting the right casket. Thus two lovers come together. Second, we come to know about Portia's several qualities. She proves her loyalty to her father. She honours his will. The scene shows her intelligence and beauty was well known. The scene also shows Portia's father's wisdom and foresightedness.

Q 51. How does the Prince of Morocco fail to choose the right casket?

The Prince of Morocco reads carefully the words written on each casket, he thinks and rethinks deeply. He rejects the lead casket. He thinks that Portia's portrait cannot be placed in the casket made of cheap metal. Then he says that silver is ten times cheaper than gold. Finally, he decides to select the gold casket. That was his wrong choice. Thus he fails in his attempt.

Q 51. Why does Bassanio need money from Antonio?

Bassanio wants to try his luck to win Portia as his wife. He believes that she also likes him. For this, he will have to raise his status to be capable of being Portia's suitor. So he needs a loan from Antonio. He also thinks by marrying Portia, he will be able to pay off Antonio's loan.

Q 52. What kind of a money lender Shylock is?

Shylock is a cruel and heartless money lender. He charges (takes) high rate of interest from people on loans. He is full of hatred for Christians. He is a merciless fellow. He wants to kill Antonio by taking one pound of flesh from his heart.

Q 53. Write a short note on the opening scene of the play ‘The Merchant of Venice’.

The opening scenes in all Shakespearean plays are very important. They strike the keynote of the plays. In this play, we meet several characters like Solanio, Salarino, Gratiano, Antonio, Bassanio and Lorenzo in scene one of the act one. We also come to know that Antonio is a melancholic character. We come to know that Antonio and Bassanio are fast friends. It is due to this friendship that Antonio signs a fatal bond with Shylock.

Q 54. What does the opening scene of the play ‘The Merchant of Venice’ tell us about Antonio?

We find Antonio in sad mood in the opening scene of this play. He is unable to know the reason from his sadness. But the most important thing about Antonio we find is his true friendship with Bassanio. It is this friendship that makes Antonio sign the bond that further pushes the events of the play.

Q 55. How does the Prince of Arragon fail to choose the right casket?

The Prince of Arragon also carefully reads the words inscribed on each box. He rejects the gold casket because he does not want to gain what many men desire. He also rejects the lead casket. He is not ready to hazard anything for that ugly looking casket. Finally he reads the words written on the silver casket: ‘Who chooseth me shall get as much as he deserves.’ He thinks that he deserves Portia. So he opens it and finds a blinking idiot inside. He fills with anger and leaves the place.

Q 56. How does Antonio ill-treat Shylock?

Antonio’s behaviour with Shylock was not friendly. We come to know that he used to call him a dog and even spat at him. Antonio hates him because he is a cruel money-lender. Shylock does not forget insults made to him. Shylock himself says that Antonio has caused loss to his business. Antonio has also provoked Shylock’s enemies against him.

Q 57. How does Bassanio choose the right casket and wins Portia’s hand?

Bassanio thinks deeply before choosing the right casket. He is not attracted by the shine of gold and silver. He tells himself that the world is still deceived by outward show. People are quite seasoned () in fooling others by their sweet voice. Even priests may misguide people by interpreting text from religious books wrongly. After a long arguments with himself, Bassanio selects the lead casket. His joy is boundless to see Portia’s portrait in it.

Q 58. What is Portia’s opinion about the Prince of Morocco?

Portia has no special liking for the Prince of Morocco. She shows no interest in him. She just tells him about the conditions that he must follow. He fails to choose the right casket and leaves the place in disappointment (sadness). Portia calls it a 'gentle riddance'.

Q 59. What does the Prince of Morocco tell Portia about himself?

The Prince of Morocco boasts a lot about himself. First he tells her not to dislike him for his black skin. 'Mislike me not for my complexion.' He also tells her that 'the best regarded virgins of his country love his black complexion. He also boasts of his bravery.

Q 60. What does Jessica say about her father, Shylock?

Jessica dislikes her father for his evil deeds (acts). She feels ashamed of calling himself her father's (Shylock's) daughter. She even calls her house a hell. Actually she is quite different from her father.

Q 61. What does Portia say about mercy?

Portia says that mercy is a divine virtue. It is natural like rain. It has a double blessing. It blesses both, the heart that possesses it and the heart that receives it. She also says if justice is mingled (mixed) with mercy, it gets a god-like quality in it.

Q 62. What does Portia say about the Count of Palatine?

She says that the count of Palatine looks serious and sad. 'He doth nothing but frown.' The frown on his face seems unpleasant to her. She thinks he will become like the weeping philosopher, Heraclitus. In his old age, he will become a pessimist.

Q 63. What does Portia say about the Baron of England?

The Baron of England seems to be a handsome and perfect man to Portia. But he speaks English and Portia does not understand it. He does not even know other language that Portia may understand. So he is like a dumb man for her. 'She even comments on his dress having different parts brought from different place.

Q 64. What does Portia say about the French Lord?

She calls the French Lord 'every man in no man.' She says that it is a sin to laugh at God's creation. But she says that his frown is more horrible than that of the Count of Palatine. He even starts dancing if he hears as bird singing. His knowledge on a horse is better than that of the Prince of Naples. In short she does not like him.

Q 65. Why does Shylock ask his daughter not to look out of the window when masquerade passes their house?

Shylock advises his daughter to close all the windows and doors of the house. He does not like Christian festivals. So he tells his daughter not to look out of the window when the masquerade passes through their street.

Q 66. How does Portia finally save Antonio from Shylock's death-net? Or How does Portia turn the tables upon Shylock in the court of Venice disguised as a young lawyer?

Portia handles Antonio's case very cleverly. She moves step by step in a logical way. She tells Shylock to cut one pound of flesh from Antonio's chest. But, she also warns him not to shed even a single drop of blood from Antonio's body. She tells him that the contract allows him to take one pound of flesh. If a drop of Christian blood sheds, his land and goods will be confiscated () by state's law.

Q 67. Why is Antonio willing to die?

We know Antonio's melancholy nature. In the famous trial scene also, he often says that nothing can be done to save him. The Duke of Venice would pronounce judgment against him on the basis of the contract. He also equates himself to a diseased sheep whose fate is only to die. He wants to sacrifice his life for Bassanio.

Q 68. Who is Old Gobo?

Old Gobo is Launcelot's father. He is almost blind. It is his own son, Launcelot, whom asks the address of Shylock's house. Launcelot understands that he has not recognized him. So, first he creates some comedy out of this situation. Then he tells him about himself.

Q 69. Who is Balthazar?

Balthazar is Portia's most faithful servant. It is he, who takes a secret letter to Portia's cousin, Bellario to Padua. He brings some notes and dresses for her. Portia names herself as Bathazar, a law doctor to fight the case to save Antonio from Shylock.

Q 70. Who is Launcelot?

Launcelot is a servant in Shylock's house. Like a clown, he creates comedy in this play. It relieves (removes) tension from the audience/reader's mind. He creates fun with his father Old Gobo. Then his conversation with Jessica in Act 3 scene 5, creates a lot of fun. He tells Jessica that the sins of father passes to children.

Q 71. How is Shylock a cunning and hypocrite person?

Shylock is a cunning and hypocrite type of person. He gets the bond signed by Antonio very cleverly. He says the bond is just a joke. He is a revengeful person. He shows that he bears the misbehaviour done to him very peacefully. But he is full of hatred for Antonio just because he gives money to people without interest.

Q 72. Write a note on Gratiano's wisdom.

Bassanio says about Gratiano that it is very difficult to find meaning in his words. But in reality, he has a very deep insight into human nature. Some parts of his speeches are full of his wit and wisdom. When he talks to Antonio about melancholy people, he gives sound examples from life.

Q 73. What does Bassanio's request lead to?

Bassanio requests Antonio about a new loan from him. But Antonio refuses to pay him any money because at that time he had no cash with him. Then he manages money for him from Shylock. He has to sign a bond that leads the story of the play to a great tension. It is Portia who resolves all the issues in the play.

Essay type Questions:

Q: Discuss the significance of Act I of *The Merchant of Venice*.

Ans: The first act is significant in all Shakespeare's plays. The first act introduces all the major characters of the play. Here, Shakespeare has also introduced the main plot of the play along with the sub-plot.

Antonio and Bassanio are good friends. Bassanio needs money to try his luck in order to marry Portia his love and a rich lady from Belmont. Bassanio has no money and goes to request Antonio to help him financially. Antonio is not in a condition to help his friend. He is sad because he has risked all his money and investments on different ships. On the other hand, Portia is bound by a will from her father. Her father had signed a will that one who chooses the right casket with Portia's picture in it will be her husband. Antonio decides to help his friend Bassanio in every possible way. He decides to go to a Jewish moneylender, Shylock. Antonio seeks a loan of three thousand ducats from Shylock. He stands as a guarantee for the loan. Initially, Shylock is not willing to help Antonio. He is aware that Antonio has risked all his investments at the sea. But after Bassanio's persistence and keeping in mind Antonio's reputation, Shylock finally agrees to give three thousand ducats to Bassanio for a period of three months without any interest. Shylock bears a deep rooted grudge against Antonio. He hates Antonio as he is a Christian. He however, cleverly entices Antonio to sign a bond, just for the sake of fun. According to the bond, if Antonio fails to repay the loan within three months, Shylock will take a 'pound of flesh'. Antonio falls into the trap laid down by Shylock without realising his evil design. Finally, he signs the bond.

Q: Discuss the casket episode and its significance as described in *The Merchant of the Venice*.

Ans: The casket episode forms an important sub-plot of this play. Portia was a daughter of a rich man. Her father wanted her to marry a smart and a decent man. Therefore, he devised a plan. This casket story as described in *The Merchant of Venice* was a brain child of Portia's father. There were three caskets: one was made of gold, the second silver, and the final casket was of lead. Each casket had a riddle imprinted on its back. Portia's father had willed that each suitor must choose a casket, and the one who chooses the casket containing a picture of Portia will be able to marry her.

The first casket was made of gold. The inscription on the back read: "Who chooseth me shall gain what many men desire."

The Prince of Morocco, choose this casket. He thought that this casket represents Portia wealth, which many men would desire. This reflected that his reason for courting Portia was her money. When the prince opened the casket, a portrait of death gazed at him. The Prince of Morocco was greedy in choosing the gold casket. He went away dejected.

The second casket was made of silver. The inscription on the back read: "Who

chooseth me shall get as much as he deserves."

The Prince of Aragon choose this silver casket, thinking that he rightly deserved Portia. The casket contained a picture of a fool. The Prince of Arragon was unwise in thinking that he deserved Portia. He too leave immediately.

The third casket, was made of lead. The inscription on the back read: "Who chooseth me must give and hazard all he haths"

Bassanio choose this casket. The casket contained the picture of Portia. He chooses the lead casket. The inscription on the lead showed how he would have to sacrifice and risk all he has for Portia. Portia's father hoped her to marry this kind of man. There was a scroll inside the casket that had the blessings of her father. Finally, Portia gets her suitor. They both are happily married.

This sub-plot of the caskets was used by Shakespeare to represent the theme of love and marriage . The casket plan, devised by Portia's father was effective in choosing a good husband for Portia. It stopped Portia from marrying greedy and foolish suitors. Infact, it helped Portia to marry the man who was an appropriate suitor and loved her.

Q. Write a detailed note on Jessica's elopement with Lorenzo.

Ans : Jessica , daughter of Shylock, a Jewish moneylender is in love with Lorenzo, an impoverished Christian. In the play Jessica's role is a minor but crucial. In the play, she elopes with Lorenzo alongwith the chest of her father's money, finally she converts to Christianity , ending up in Portia and Bassanio's household.

Launcelot Gobbo, Shylock's servant decides to leave the services of Shylock and join Bassanio. Jessica is initially unhappy at Gobbo's decision. She gives Gobbo a letter to be handed over to Lorenzo. The letter contains Jessica's plans to elope with Lorenzo with her father's valuables. Lorenzo is happy to read the letter.

Shylock decides to join Antonio and Bassanio for dinner. He hands over the keys of the house to Jessica, warning her not to go out from the house and be vigil. He also warns her that there will be a masquerade and asks her to close the windows as well.

Lorenzo and his friends come to Shylock's house, and Jessica welcomes them from a window, dressed as a boy. After confirming the identity of Lorenzo she lowers a casket of her father's Ducats.

After realising Jessica's elopement with Lorenzo, Shylock runs here and there on the streets of Venice, crying for his lost wealth and daughter. Dramatically, Jessica's elopement arouse Shylock's revengeful persistence on his "pound of flesh" from Antonio. Her conversion to Christianity further aggravates Shylock's hatred towards the Christians.

Q: Write an essay on the trial scene.

Ans: The famous trial scene (Act IV Scene I) of The Merchant of Venice is undeniably one of the best scenes created by Shakespeare. The Scene displays

Shakespeare's acumen in dramatic twists highlighting the significant universal themes of revenge, mercy and justice. Antonio is brought before the Duke to stand trial for failing to pay off his loan of three thousand ducats to Shylock. The Duke, disappointed about the penalty, a pound of Antonio's flesh, asks Shylock to forgive Antonio and absolve the debt.

Shylock replies that he has already sworn by his Sabbath that as per the signed bond he is resolute to take his pound of flesh from Antonio. However, Bassanio offers Shylock the six thousand ducats as compensation for the loan. Shylock refuses Bassanio and is persistent in his demand for a pound of flesh. The Court waits for Doctor Bellario. The Duke threatens to dismiss the court without settling the suit brought by Shylock if Doctor Bellario fails to arrive. Meanwhile, Nerissa, disguised as a man, enters the court handover a letter from Bellario to the Duke.

The letter from Bellario mentions a young and educated doctor to adjudicate the case. The Duke orders him to be brought in, and Portia enters, disguised as a man pretending to be a doctor named Balthasar.

Portia asks Antonio whether he admits to signing the bond. He does, and Portia asks Shylock to be merciful. She delivers a powerful speech on mercy, but Shylock is adamant to get the agreement fulfilled. Portia says that Shylock has the right to claim a pound of flesh from next to Antonio's heart according to the bond. Portia asks him if he has a surgeon ready to stop the bleeding once he has taken his pound of flesh. Shylock says, "I cannot find it. 'Tis not in the bond" as Shylock proceeds to cut his pound of flesh, Portia stops him and says that the bond does not give him permission to shed Antonio's blood. The laws of Venice are clear that if any Venetian's blood is shed, all the goods and lands of the culprit may be seized by the state. Shylock understands that he cannot cut the flesh without dropping blood, he agrees to take the money instead. However, Portia denies Shylock and cautions that if he takes more or less flesh he will be put to death himself. Shylock, not able to fulfil this demand, immediately pleads to withdraw his case. Portia further says that Venice has another law which says that if any foreigner tries to kill a Venetian, he will have half of his property go to the Venetian against whom he intrigued, and the state will get the other half. Apart from this, the life of the foreigner will be at the mercy of the Duke. Shylock is forced to kneel on the ground before the court and the Duke pardons his life.

This scene reaches the climax and its resolution: Shylock is, finally defeated, Whereas, Antonio is saved. Shylock has lost everything. Thus Shakespeare has ably proved that 'hate breeds hate', and, is eventually, defeated.

Q: Draw a detailed character sketch of Portia.

William Shakespeare's art of characterization is one of the most distinguishing characteristic of the play, *The Merchant of Venice*. Shakespeare has created numerous female characters like Desdemona, Rosalind, Juliet, Ophelia etc. but Portia, undoubtedly stands tall among them. Portia is the protagonist of William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of*

Venice. Portia is one of the greatest noticeable and pleasing of the heroines in Shakespeare's plays. She is good-looking, courteous, rich, clever, and intelligent. She is a rich heiress of Belmont as an obedient child she follows her father's will while choosing her husband. Her father in his will had stated that the one who chooses the right casket of the three will be Portia's husband. She follows her father's will. She loves Bassanio, a young Venetian noble, soldier and a scholar. Later in the play, she disguises herself as a man, then assumes the role of a lawyer's apprentice (named Balthazar) whereby she saves the life of Bassanio's friend, Antonio, in court. She feels extremely happy when Bassanio chooses the right casket. Her generosity is visible in her offering money to Antonio, Bassanio's friend.

Later in the play, she disguises herself as a man and appears in the role lawyer's apprentice (named

Balthazar) Here, she intelligently saves the life of Bassanio's friend, Antonio, in the court.

Displaying her humane values, Portia delivers a powerful speech on the quality of Mercy in The

Merchant of Venice:

The quality of mercy is not strain'd. It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven Upon the place beneath. It is twice blest:

It blesseth him that gives and him that takes.

Her shrewdness and intelligence comes to the fore, when she realizes that Shylock is adamant in having his pound of flesh. She acts as a savior and brings down Shylock on his knees. Portia displays an impeccable sense of humour and wit. Her empathetic nature, intelligence, humility, modesty and commitment to her father makes her a great character.

Précis Writing, Letter Writing & Comprehension of Unseen Passages

6.1 Précis Writing

'Précis' is French word, related to the English word 'Precise' meaning 'exact' or 'definite'. A précis is, thus, a brief summary of a speech or piece of writing, expressing all the main ideas or points contained in the original. Précis writing is, naturally, a difficult intellectual exercise because it demands close concentration, clear thinking and the ability to present the main ideas precisely and effectively.

The importance of précis writing is two fold. First, it enables the reader to gain knowledge about the passage without going through it intensively and thus saves a lot of time and energy. Second, it helps in developing a proper mental discipline as précis writing involves analysis, judgment, and selection of what is important and then expressing concisely and clearly what has been said or spoken in larger number of words.

Characteristics of a Good Précis:

1. In a good précis the main ideas should be arranged in a proper sequence.
2. All the essential points should be organized and well knit.
3. A good précis should contain all the main ideas of the original, elimination the unnecessary details, digressions, examples, etc.

Method of Writing a Précis:

1. Read the given passage carefully and try to understand the main ideas clearly. Do not feel discouraged by difficult words. Your objective is to form a general view of the passage rather than explaining it. Try to know the topic and the author's perspective.
2. Segregate important facts from less important details. Write down the main points in the order in which they appear in the original passage.
3. Arrange the main points in a logical sequence and write out a rough draft. Count the number of words you have used in your rough draft.
4. Your rough draft may be a little longer or shorter than the prescribed limit and further deletion or elaboration may be required. You can do so by changing your vocabulary a little. Make a fair draft of your précis stating at the end the exact number of words you have used. While making a fair copy, you should use words like 'but', 'and', 'however' etc., to connect the main points so that your précis gives the impression of a continuous paragraph.

Exercise:

1. Water is the basis of all life. Every animal or every plant contains a substantial

proportion of free or combined water in its body and no such physical activity is possible in which water does not play an essential part. Water is necessary for animal life, while moisture in the soil is equally imperative for life and growth of plants and trees, though the quantity necessarily varies enormously from plant to plant. The conservation and utilization of water is thus fundamental for human welfare. The main source of water is rainfall or snowfall. Much of Indian agriculture depends on seasonal rainfall and is therefore, very sensitive to any failure or irregularity of the season . During the rainy season large quantities of rain water flow down into the streams and rivers and ultimately find their way to the sea, and are, therefore, lost to the country. The harnessing of our rivers is, therefore, a great national problem to be dealt with. Vast areas of land which at present are mere shrubs could be developed into farm lands, jungles could be turned into fertile and prosperous tracts by harnessing this source of water.

Title: – Conservation and Utilization of Water.

Précis: – Water being so necessary for animal and plant life should be harnessed judiciously. The main source of water is rain. Most of the rain water goes into rivers and is left unutilized. This water must be used for making the barren land fertile. The conservation and utilization of water is, therefore, a great problem to be dealt with concertedly at the national level. (Words 62)

2. Personality is an attribute of one possessed with self- confidence. What is self- confidence? It is a state of mind entirely sure of its own thoughts and actions whether right or wrong. Believe in yourself and in this belief you will grow more and more confident in yourself. Surety invokes the approval of others, the needed encouragement to greater confidence. The most effective and beneficial influence towards this end is the understanding gained by experience of life so that you can see life in its true proportion and realize that it is not enough to be fine; one must be fitting and know that alone is the fittest who takes the least cognizance of what others opinion of him is. It is the fear of others' opinion that binds and imprisons one, while it is fearlessness of that opinion that gives one freedom. If we desire that our life should make a fascinating appeal and be full of charm, we must have a personality. It is not a thing reserved for the gifted. It can be had by any who wills to have it. But the will must be strong enough to endure the most discouraging experiences, for nothing that is worth hearing can be gained with ease, and of all the goals in life, personality is the most difficult to gain precisely as it is the greatest prize to win.

Title: – The Importance of Self- Confidence.

Précis: – Of all the goals in life, personality is the most difficult to gain. For the development of personality, the most important thing is self-confidence. A self-confident person is sure of his own thoughts and actions whether right or wrong. He has a firm belief in himself and is strong enough to endure the most discouraging experiences. He avoids giving undue importance to others' version and is never discouraged. Opinions give him more confidence. This confidence builds up his personality. (Words 80)

3. Books are a delightful society. If you go into a room filled with books even without taking them down from the shelves, they seem to speak to you, seem to welcome you, seem to tell you that they have something inside their covers that will be good for you and that they are willing to impart it to you. Value them and endeavor to turn them to good account. As to the books which you should read, there is hardly anything definite that can be said. Any good book, that is wiser than yourself, will teach you a great many things directly or indirectly. If your mind be open to ideas, the very wish and curiosity you have to read a book, indicates that you are a person who likes to get good out of it.

Title: – Value of books.

Précis:- Books are good friends. They seem to converse with a book lover. Nothing definite can be said about the choice of books. A book which tells you more than you know will be beneficial for you. If you approach a book with a curious mind, you may get good out of that. (Words 56)

4. The spirit of sportsmanship is what we are lacking today. Sports tell us that we should take defeat or disappointment with a smile. We should not go about insisting on our success in whatever we attempt. It is not possible for every man to succeed in every effort which he makes. There may be ambitions of groups, there may be ambitions of individuals which they set before themselves and they must try, if they are disappointed in the carrying out of their ambitions, to take that disappointment and that defeat with a smile and not take laws in their own hands. What will happen if every individual in the street wishes to go his own particular way without observing the rules of traffic? There will be clashes, there will be accidents. What happens on the road side will also happen in public activities, in the public life of the country.

Title: – Sportsmanship

Précis: – Today we lack the spirit of sportsmanship. This spirit teaches us to accept defeat and disappointments smilingly. One cannot succeed in every desire. If one's ambitions are not fulfilled one should not be disappointed. If everyone wishes to go his own way without caring for others, there would be chaos in our life and in the public life too.

5. Science has become one of the most powerful factors in modern life. The importance of science is a generally accepted and indeed an obvious fact. The proper role of the scientist himself is however, a point on which there is no general agreement. On the one hand are those die hards who, ignoring the changed circumstances of the outside world, contend that, outside the laboratory, personal influence of the scientist should be no more than that of an ordinary citizen. On the other hand are extremists who advocate a stage verging on a technocracy in which scientists would have special privileges and a large measure of control. Those who tend towards the later view are much vociferous than their more conservative and much more numerous colleagues with the unfortunate result that there is a wide-spread impression that scientists generally share these views and wish to claim a far larger share in the control of world affairs than they possess at present.

Title:- The Status of a Scientist

Précis:- People have different opinions about a scientist's role in society. Some people think that outside his laboratory, the scientist is just an ordinary citizen. Others say that scientists should have special privileges. Many scientists also share this view. They wish to have more shares in controlling the world. We should properly assess the status of a scientist.

6. English education and English language have done immense good to India, in spite of some glaring drawbacks. The notions of democracy and self-government are born of English education. Those who fought and died for mother India's freedom were nursed in the cradle of English thought and culture. The West has made contribution to the East. The history of Europe has fired the hearts of our leaders. Our struggle for freedom has been inspired by the struggles for freedom in England, America and France. If our leaders were ignorant of English and if they had not studied this language, how could they have been inspired by these heroic struggles for freedom in other lands? English, therefore, did us great good in the past and if properly studied will do immense good in future. English is spoken throughout the world. For international contact our commerce and trade, for the development of practical ideas, for scientific studies, English is indispensable. English is very rich in literature. Our own literature has been made richer by this foreign language. It will really be a fatal day if we altogether forget Shakespeare, Milton, Keats and Shaw.

Précis: Notwithstanding its various defects English education has done great good to India. The ideas of democracy and self-government are its gifts. Nursed on English education the Indian leaders were inspired by the Western thought, culture and freedom struggles. They fought for and won their motherland's freedom. Being spoken throughout the world English is necessary for international contact, trade, commerce and science. English is rich in literature; its master mind cannot be neglected.

7. When we survey our lives and efforts we soon observe that almost the whole of our actions and desires are bound up with the existence of other human beings. We notice that whole nature resembles that of the social animals. We eat food that others have produced, wear clothes that others have made, live in houses that others have built. The greater part of our knowledge and beliefs has been passed on to us by other people though the medium of a language which others have created. Without language and mental capacities, we would have been poor indeed comparable to higher animals. We have, therefore, to admit that we owe our principal knowledge over the least to the fact of living in human society. The individual if left alone from birth would remain primitive and beast like in his thoughts and feelings to a degree that we can hardly imagine. The individual is what he is and has the significance that he has, not much in virtue of the individuality, but rather as a member of a great human community, which directs his material and spiritual existence from the cradle to grave.

Précis: Being social animals, human beings have their actions and desires bound up

with society. In matter of food, clothes, knowledge and belief they are interdependent. They use language created by others. Without language their mental power would not grow. They are superior to beast, because they live in human society. An individual life left alone from birth would grow utterly beast like. So human society and not individuality guides man's material and spiritual existence.

8. Teaching is the noblest of professions. A teacher has a sacred duty to perform. It is he on who rests the responsibility of moulding the character of young children. Apart from developing their intellect, he can inculcate in them qualities of good citizenship, remaining neat and clean, talking decently and sitting properly. These virtues are not easy to be imbibed. Only he who himself leads a life of simplicity, purity and rigid discipline can successfully cultivate these habits in his pupils. Besides a teacher always remains young. He may grow old in age, but not in spite. Perpetual contact with budding youths keeps him happy and cheerful. There are moments when domestic worries weigh heavily on his mind, but the delightful company of innocent children makes him overcome his transient moods of despair.

Précis: Teaching is the noblest profession. A teacher himself leading a simple, pure and disciplined life can mould the character of the young children and make them neat and good mannered citizens. Besides he remains ever young forgetting his own domestic worries in the constant company of the young.

9. It is physically impossible for a well-educated, intellectual, or brave man to make money the chief object of his thoughts just as it is for him to make his dinner the principal object of them. All healthy people like their dinners, but their dinner is not the main object of their lives. So all healthy minded people like making money ought to like it and enjoy the sensation of winning it; it is something better than money. A good soldier, for instance, mainly wishes to do his fighting well. He is glad of his pay— very properly so and justly grumbles when you keep him ten years without it. His main mission of life is to win battles, not to be paid for winning them. So of clergymen. The clergyman's object is essentially baptize and preach not to be paid for preaching. So of doctors. They like fees no doubt—ought to like them; yet if they are brave and well- educated the entire object of their lives is not fees. They on the whole, desire to cure the sick and if they are good doctors and the choice were fairly to be given them, would rather cure their patient and lose their fee than kill him and get it. And so with all the other brave people. It is physically impossible for a well-educated, intellectual, or brave man to make money the chief object of his thoughts just as it is for him to make his dinner the principal object of them. All healthy people like their dinners, but their dinner is not the main object of their lives. So all healthy minded people like making money ought to like it and enjoy the sensation of winning it; it is something better than money. A good soldier, for instance, mainly wishes to do his fighting well. He is glad of his pay— very properly so and justly grumbles when you keep him ten years without it—till, his main mission of life is to win battles, not to be paid for winning them. So of clergymen. The clergyman's object is essentially baptize and preach not to be paid for preaching. So of doctors. They like fees no doubt—ought to

like them; yet if they are brave and well- educated the entire object to their lives is not fees. They on the whole, desire to cure the sick; and if they are good doctors and the choice were fairly to them, would rather cure their patient and lose their fee than kill him and get it. And so with all the other brave and rightly trained men: their work is first, their fee second—very important always; but still second.

Précis: Money-making is a common attraction in life. But it cannot be the principal aim of well educated, cultured and brave man. A brave soldier prizes honour and victory more than his pay. A good clergyman is more interested in the moral welfare of his people than his returns. A doctor values the care of his patient far more than his fees. Thus with all the well-educated, intellectual persons, their work is first, money next.

10. Home is, for the young, who have known "nothing of the world and who would be forlorn and sad, if thrown upon it." It is providential shelter of the weak and inexperienced, who have to learn as yet to cope with the temptations which lie outside of it. It is the place of training for those who are not only ignorant, but have no yet learnt how to live independently, and who have to be taught by careful individual trail, how to set about profiting by the lessons of a teacher. And it is the school of elementary studies—not of advances, for such studies alone can make master minds. Moreover, it is the shrine of our best affections, the bosom of our fondest recollections, a spell upon our after life, a stay for world weary mind and soul; wherever we are, till the end comes. Such are attributes of home, and similar to these, in one or other sense or measure, are the attributes and offices of a college in a university.

Précis: Home shelters the young who are weak and inexperienced and unable to face the temptations in life. It is a centre of their elementary education and a nursery of sweet affections and pleasant memories.

Its magic lasts forever. A weary mind turns to it for rest. Such is the function of a home and in some measure of the university.

6.2 Letter Writing

A Letter is a written message, request for assistance **or** employment **or** admission to a school. Letters have played and are still playing an important role in communication throughout the world. Paper letters were once the most and at times the only reliable means of communication between two people at different locations. Its format and importance has changed with evolution of technology, especially with advent of email.

Types of Letters

6.2.1 Business Letters:

A Business Letter is a type of letter which serves as a means of communication written for various commercial purposes. These purposes can include a business deal, complaint, warning, notice, invitation, declaration, information, apology and various other corporate matters. Letters of business are the most popular and the most widely written types of letters. Business letters are also the oldest form official correspondence and promoters of mailing system.

Essentials of Business Letter:

Letterhead – A letterhead is topmost heading printed on the letter . The heading consists of name, address generally accompanied by a logo of the organisation. Most professional firms have their own pre-designed letterhead. Pre- printed Letterheads showcase the repute of a company. However smaller firms may not have it. They use their name and address in place of the letterhead.

Date – The date has to written exactly below the letter head. The date is important part of a letter and is used for reference. The date is supposed to be written in full with day, month and year. Example – 31st May 2012 or May 31st, 2012

Recipient – Recipient or receiver's name and address is next part of a business letter. This part includes the name of the receiver, his designation and full address inclusive of phone and email.

Salutation – Salutation is word of greeting used to begin a letter. It is courteous gesture and shows respect to the receiver. Dear Sir / Madam etc. are specifically called opening salutations. .

Body – It is the main part of the letter. The message of the letter is to be clearly mentioned in the first line, itself. The body has the relevant subject matter which is to be divided into a number of paragraphs, as need be. If there are instructions etc. these are to be in a bulleted or numerically listed in separate lines. The Last paragraph should sum up the whole letter and offer any assistance or take a course of action as required or instructed.

Closing (subscription) – Closing refers to the end of the letter. It is courteous and shows a mark of respect towards the recipient. Yours sincerely or sincerely etc. are commonly known as closings.

Signature – Signature follows after a few spaces. If the name is printed, then the signature is placed above it. An electronic signature can also be used. Scanned image of signature can also be used, if it is in accordance with the rules of the organisation.

Sender's Name, title and contact information – If these have not been incorporated in the letterhead, one can include Name, Title, Address, Phone, Email etc. in separate lines.

Enclosure – If some documents have been attached, the word 'Enclosures' should be typed/ written a few lines after the signature of the sender. Thereafter, the number and type of documents attached e.g.

'Enclosures (2): brochure, resume' is to be mentioned.

Examples:

Business Letter for the order of Refrigerators

Malhotra and Sons
123 Marine Drive Road Mumbai

15 October 2016

Mr. Rakesh Sharma

Customer Service Representative
BPL Electronics, Inc.

987 Akbar Street
Mumbai

Dear Mr. Sharma:

I am writing to you concerning a recent purchase of Refrigerators. Approximately two weeks ago, on October 1, I ordered a total of 50 Refrigerators for my Company via the BPL Electronics webpage. I received an email notification two days later confirming the receipt of payment and the shipment of the Refrigerators. According to your website, shipments should have reached their destination within 3-5 business days of being sent, but I have yet to receive the Refrigerators. Do share if you have any information on what may have happened to cause delay in the shipment or where the shipment currently is.

I have been dealing with your concern for a number of years in the past and have the greatest confidence in your products and customer service. The shipment of refrigerators is required urgently. I hope you might be able to expedite the delivery of the order. Thank you in anticipation.

Sincerely **Raveesh Malhotra**

Incharge, Purchase Dept.

Malhotra and Sons

Application/ Formal Letter:

Application or a Formal Letter is a **letter written for a variety of purposes in day**

to day activities which can be domestic or professional. It is also a written request when written for assistance, admission, employment, favour, information, permission, service etc. A letter of application is also an accompanying document as and when required. When it does so it is known as Cover Letter. An application letter is largely a formal type of letter as it follows a predefined format which is applicable to most type of application letters.

Format of Writing an Application:

- **Outline** – Before one begins to write, an outline of the application should be prepared. The agenda should be specified as to what one, which documents need to be attached etc. A list of documents, if required to be attached, needs to be prepared for ready reference.

- **Drafting** – Drafting is a rough copy of the original one. The outline of the letter comes to be useful here. Errors of grammar, punctuation, spelling, sentence structure etc should be meticulously avoided. If one is not sure of any particular format, multiple formats can be created to see which is the best . One can also consult the seniors in this regard.

- **Opening Salutations Rules** - It is unprofessional to use only the First Name of the person unless you have an informal relationship with the addressee, e.g. 'Dear Rajat'

- o Salutation requires a Comma at its end - Dear Mr. Rakesh Bakshi.
- o If there are multiple recipients you have to use 'Dear Sirs/Madams'
- o If there are only two recipients of different Gender, you have to use 'Dear Mr. Sen and Ms. Sen.'
- o If the multiple recipients consist of both gender, use 'Dear Sir(s), Gentlemen and Madam(s)', using the 's' per se.
- o If case the name of the recipient is not available, simply write, 'Dear Sir/Madam' oIf the last name or the title of the recipient is known, write the same, e.g. - 'Dear Dr. Kaur' or

- 'Dear Media Manager.'
- o If you do not know the recipient's name or gender, use 'To whom it may concern,'
- 'Ladies and Gentlemen' or 'Dear Sir or Madam'
- o Use Ms for women unless asked to use Mrs or Miss. 'Miss' is meant for an 'Unmarried Woman', 'Mrs.' is meant for a 'Married Woman' and 'Ms.' is meant for a woman whose marital status is not known to you

- **Brevity:** Come to the point or agenda at hand as the receiver may not have much time to spare.

This will also initiate a quick response as the information will be brief and specific. Mention the purpose of the letter in the first paragraph itself. Avoid your comments in the first paragraph.

- Give information in a serial order.

- **Courtesy** – Courtesy does not mean only writing the salutations, it also means that you consider the recipient worthy of importance. Be reasonable, cordial and use a formal language to address the letter. Do not use any slang or double meaning words.

- **Formal Closing Salutations** - Closing business salutations should match the tone of the letter. A

formal salutation is polite, courteous and respectful to the recipient. Common formal salutations are:

- o Sincerely or yours sincerely
- o Respectfully Yours
- o Faithfully Yours
- o Yours Truly

- **Proof reading** – Proof reading a letter means to read the letter to trace any errors. If one misses out any mistake one can rectify it by reading aloud to oneself. Spell check the letter, edit the errors. Some words seem very similar and one can mistakenly write ‘oppression’ in place of “operation.” Editing can be of great use in such cases. Sometimes the American spellings are preferred to the British ones, so ‘meter’ is considered correct whereas ‘metre’ is termed wrong.

Example:

Business Loan Application Letter

To

Loan Approval Manager, State Bank of India

Hisar

21st April 2014

Subject: Business loan application letter

Dear Sir,

My name is Vivek Kumar and I hold a savings account with your bank with A/C No: SB

689787689698. This letter is to brief you about the new venture I plan to open up and also to request an amount of loan from your bank so that this concept can actually see the light of the day.

The business concept for which the loan is required is opening up an event management firm. The basic amount required to open up this firm will Rs. 850000. I guarantee to start its repayment after three months of its approval. This is the estimated time in which I think the firm will start making marginal profit and will be in a state to pay back its loans.

As proved from the past records, I have always been an honest customer to the bank

with clean record. I hope that my history with the bank will add on to the reasons of an early approval to the loan. I am also attaching a copy of my bank statement and my past three salary slips for your kind perusal. To support my application, I am attaching the copy of my photo identity proof, address proof and my passport size picture. I hope the documents attached will suffice for a successful transaction.

Any other document required will be mailed immediately by me. I shall be very happy to provide it to you. I request you to process this application at the earliest.

Anticipating an early and positive response.

Thanking you,

Vivek Kumar

Letter to the Editor:

A letter to the editor is a letter sent to a newspaper editor about the issues of concern from the readers of that particular newspaper. This type of letters can be sent in written form or through electronic mail.

The format of a letter to the editor is as follows –

1. Sender's address: The address and contact details of the sender are written here. E mail and phone number should be included if required or if mentioned in the question.
2. Date: The date is written below the sender's address after leaving one space or line.
3. Receiving editor's address: The address of the recipient of the mail i.e. the editor is written here.
4. Subject of the letter: The main purpose of the letter forms the subject. It must be written in one line. It must convey the matter for which the letter is written.
5. Salutation (Sir / Respected sir / Madam)
6. Body: The matter of the letter is written here. It is divided into 3 paragraphs as follows - Paragraph 1: Introduce oneself and the purpose of writing the letter, briefly.
Paragraph 2: Give a detail of the matter.
Paragraph 3: Conclude by mentioning what one expects from the editor. (For example, you may want him to highlight the issue in his newspaper / magazine).
7. Complimentary Closing
8. Sender's name, signature and designation (if any)

Example:

Letter to the Editor about the Content of Newspaper Articles

To

The Editor

Times of India

Subject: Content of Newspaper Articles

Dear Mr. Bose

I am an ardent and regular reader of your newspaper and have been reading it for nearly the past twelve years. Initially, I was very happy with the nature of articles you were publishing and your selection of stories. However, of late, I believe the newspaper has changed its objectives, style and preferences. I urge you on behalf of several other readers, to revert back to the earlier format.

Nowadays, the supplements of your newspaper carry a large number of advertisements for highend brands and meaningless peddling of luxury goods. You have also started highlighting the page three kind of scoops instead of delivering the pragmatic and hard-hitting stories you were once known for.

We as readers of your newspaper beseech you to revert back to your earlier style of journalism based on hard facts and not to cater to whims and fancies.

Thanking you,

Yogesh

16/3 R, Railway Colony

Ahmedabad

Comprehension of Unseen Passages:

Comprehension of an unseen passage means a complete and thorough understanding of the passage. The main object of comprehension is to test one's ability to grasp the meaning of a given passage properly and to answer, in one's own words, the questions based on the passage. A variety of questions like short answer type questions, completion of incomplete sentences, filling the blanks with appropriate words and exercises based on vocabulary are set forth for the purpose.

Before attempting to answer the questions on a passage, it is necessary to read the passage again and again so that a general idea of the subject of the passage becomes clear. Once the passage is clear, it is easy to answer the answers of the questions.

Following are some of the rules to attempt questions of unseen passage:

1. Read the passage quickly to have a general idea of the subject matter.
2. Having read it once, underline the important points.
3. Try to find answers to the questions posed at the end.
4. Answer the questions in your own words.
5. Be precise and brief.

6. If asked, explain terms, meanings in your own words.
8. Don't give your own observations or comments.

Read the following passages carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. There is a story of a man who thought he had a right to do what he liked. One day, this gentleman was walking along a busy road, spinning his walking-stick round and round in his hand, and was trying to look important. A man walking behind him objected.

"You ought not to spin your walking-stick round and round like that!" he said. "I am free to do what I like with my walking-stick," argued the gentleman.

"Of course you are," said the other man, "but you ought to know that your freedom ends where my nose begins."

The story tells us that we can enjoy our rights and our freedom only if they do not interfere with other people's rights and freedom.

Questions

1. Why was the gentleman on the road moving his walking stick round and round?
2. Who objected to him?
3. What argument did the gentleman give?
4. Was the other satisfied with argument?
5. What did he say in reply?
6. Complete the following statements with the correct options:
 - A. The gentleman was walking along a..... (i) lonely road. (ii) busy road. (iii) narrow road.
 - B. The gentleman was (i) running along the road. (ii) disturbing others on the road. (iii) spinning his walking-stick round and round.
 - C. The man who protested was a.....
 - (i) teacher. (ii) passer-by. (iii) policeman.
7. Write True or False against each of the following statements:
 - (a) The gentleman was spinning the walking-stick round and round in

his hand to drive away the dogs.

(b) The gentleman was walking along a busy road. (c) The man walking behind praised his action.

(d) The gentleman thought that he had a right to do whatever he liked.

(e) We can enjoy our rights and freedom even if it interferes with other people's rights and freedom.

8. Give synonyms of the following words:

(a) Spinning

(b) Interfere

Answers:

1. The gentleman on the road was moving his walking stick round and round because he wanted to look important.

2. A man walking behind him objected to him.

3. The gentleman argued that he was free to do what liked with his walking-stick.

4. No, the other man was not satisfied with his argument.

5. The other man said that he ought to know that his (the gentleman's) freedom ends where his (the passer-by's) nose begins.

6. A (ii), B. (iii), C (ii)

7. (a) false, (b) true, (c) false, (d) true, (e) false.

8. (a) Spinning=Moving (b) Interfere=Meddle.

2. Born on Jan 12, 1863 in an affluent Bengali family, Narendra Natha Datta was a precocious child who was what we call nowadays, an all-rounder, excelling in music, studies and athletics. His father Vishwanatha Datta was a well-known attorney. However, he took the spiritual route instead and introduced Hinduism to the world in 1893 when he spoke at the World's Parliament of Religion (probably one of the most epic things any Indian has done abroad!).

The historic speech was given on September 11, 1893 by Swami Vivekananda. Here's the full text of his opening and closing address: Sisters and Brothers of America,

It fills my heart with joy unspeakable to rise in response to the warm and cordial welcome which you have given us. I thank you in the name of the most ancient order of monks in the world; I thank you in the name of the mother of religions, and I thank you in the name of millions and millions of Hindu people of

all classes and sects.

My thanks, also, to some of the speakers on this platform who, referring to the delegates from the Orient, have told you that these men from far-off nations may well claim the honor of bearing to different lands the idea of toleration. I am proud to belong to a religion which has taught the world both tolerance and universal acceptance.

We believe not only in universal toleration, but we accept all religions as true. I am proud to belong to a nation which has sheltered the persecuted and the refugees of all religions and all nations of the earth. I am proud to tell you that we have gathered in our bosom the purest remnant of the Israelites, who came to Southern India and took refuge with us in the very year in which their holy temple was shattered to pieces by Roman tyranny. I am proud to belong to the religion which has sheltered and is still fostering the remnant of the grand Zoroastrian nation. I will quote to you, brethren, a few lines from a hymn which I remember to have repeated from my earliest boyhood, which is every day repeated by millions of human beings: "As the different streams having their sources in different paths which men take through different tendencies, various though they appear, crooked or straight, all lead to Thee." The present convention, which is one of the most august assemblies ever held, is in itself a vindication, a declaration to the world of the wonderful doctrine preached in the Gita: "Whosoever comes to me, through whatsoever form, I reach him; all men are struggling through paths which in the end lead to me." Sectarianism, bigotry, and its horrible descendant, fanaticism, have long possessed this beautiful earth.

Q1. What was Vishwanatha Datta's profession?

Ans: The passage mentions that he was an attorney.

Q2. Who spoke at the World's Parliament of Religion?

Ans: Swami Vivekananda spoke at the conference

Q3. Give the opposite of the word "Occident" from the second passage of the speech

Ans: "Orient" is the opposite of Occident

Q4. In the phrase: "all lead to Thee", to whom does the word 'Thee' refer?

Ans: It refers to God.

Q5. In the phrase: "I am proud to belong to a nation" – what nation is the speaker referring to?

Ans: The speaker is referring to India

3. "I Have a Dream" is a public speech delivered by American civil rights activist Martin Luther

King Jr. during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28, 1963, in which he called for an end to racism in the United States and called for civil and economic rights. Delivered to over

250,000 civil rights supporters from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., the speech was a defining moment of the civil rights movement.

Beginning with a reference to the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed millions of slaves in 1863, King observes that: "one hundred years later, the Negro still is not free". Toward the end of the speech, King departed from his prepared text for a partly improvised peroration on the theme "I have a dream", prompted by Mahalia Jackson's cry: "Tell them about the dream, Martin!" In this part of the speech, which most excited the listeners and has now become its most famous, King described his dreams of freedom and equality arising from a land of slavery and hatred. Jon Meacham writes that, "With a single phrase, Martin Luther King Jr. joined Jefferson and Lincoln in the ranks of men who've shaped modern America". The speech was ranked the top American speech of the 20th century in a 1999 poll of scholars of public address.

Q1. What issues does Martin Luther King's speech address?

Ans: End to racism and civil and economic rights

Q2. What pushes King to speak: "I have a dream"?

Ans: As mentioned in the passage, Mahalia Jackson had prompted him to speak about his dream

Q3. From the last paragraph, give one word for "to leave"

Ans: 'Departed'

Q4. What is the name of Martin Luther King's famed speech?

Ans: The Emancipation Proclamation

Q5. In front of whom does King speak?

Ans: The civil rights supporters.

4. Today I, Rabindranath, complete eighty years of my life. As I look back on the vast stretch of years that lie behind me and see in clear perspective the history of my early development, I am struck by the change that has taken place both in my own attitude and in the psychology of my countrymen -- a change that carries within it a cause of profound tragedy.

Our direct contact with the larger world of men was linked up with the contemporary history of the English people whom we came to know in those earlier days. It was mainly through their mighty literature that we formed our ideas with regard to these newcomers to our Indian shores. In those days the type

of learning that was served out to us was neither plentiful nor diverse, nor was the spirit of scientific enquiry very much in evidence. Thus their scope being strictly limited, the educated of those days had recourse to English language and literature. Their days and nights were eloquent with the stately declamations of Burke, with Macaulay's long-rolling sentences; discussions centered upon Shakespeare's drama and Byron's poetry and above all upon the large-hearted liberalism of the nineteenth-century English politics.

At the time though tentative attempts were being made to gain our national independence, at heart we had not lost faith in the generosity of the English race. This belief was so firmly rooted in the sentiments of our leaders as to lead them to hope that the victor would of his own grace pave the path of freedom for the vanquished. This belief was based upon the fact that England at the time provided a shelter to all those who had to flee from persecution in their own country. Political martyrs who had suffered for the honour of their people were accorded unreserved welcome at the hands of the English. I was impressed by this evidence of liberal humanity in the character of the English and thus I was led to set them on the pedestal of my highest respect. This generosity in their national character had not yet been vitiated by imperialist pride. About this time, as a boy in England, I had the opportunity of listening to the speeches of John Bright, both in and outside Parliament. The large-hearted, radical liberalism of those speeches, overflowing all narrow national bounds, had made so deep an impression on my mind that something of it lingers even today, even in these days of graceless disillusionment.

Q1. From the first paragraph, give a synonym for 'deep':

Ans: The word 'profound' is similar in meaning to 'deep'

Q2. What helped the Indians to conceive of a notion of the Englishmen?

Ans: English literature helped Indians to shape their ideas about the Englishmen

Q3. Who could read and gain from English literature?

Ans: Only the educated Indians could understand English literature.

Q4. From the third paragraph, give an antonym for 'victorious'

Ans: 'Vanquished' is the antonym, it means defeated

Q5. Whose speeches did Tagore listen to, as a boy?

Ans: Tagore listened to John Bright's speeches, as stated in the last paragraph.

5. Sportsmanship can be conceptualized as an enduring and relatively stable characteristic or disposition such that individuals differ in the way they are

generally expected to behave in sports situations. In general, sportsmanship refers to virtues such as fairness, self-control, courage, and persistence, and has been associated with interpersonal concepts of treating others and being treated fairly, maintaining self-control if dealing with others, and respect for both authority and opponents. Sportsmanship is also looked at as being the way one reacts to a sport/game/player.

The four elements of sportsmanship are often shown being good form, the will to win, equity and fairness. All four elements are critical and a balance must be found among all four for true sportsmanship to be illustrated. These elements may also cause conflict, as a person may desire to win more than play in equity and fairness and thus resulting in a clash within the aspects of sportsmanship. This will cause problems as the person believes they are being a good sportsman, but they are defeating the purpose of this idea as they are ignoring two key components of being sportsman like. When athletes become too self-centered, the idea of sportsmanship is dismissed.

Today's sporting culture, in particular the base of elite sport, places great importance on the idea of competition and winning and thus sportsmanship takes a back seat as a result. In most, if not all sports, sportsmen at the elite level make the standards on sportsmanship and no matter whether they like it or not, they are seen as leaders and role models in society.

Since every sport is rule driven, the most common offence of bad sportsmanship is the act of cheating or breaking the rules to gain an unfair advantage. A competitor who exhibits poor sportsmanship after losing a game or contest is often called a "sore loser", while a competitor who exhibits poor sportsmanship after winning is typically called a "bad winner". Sore loser behavior includes blaming others for the loss, not accepting responsibility for personal actions that contributed to the defeat, reacting to the loss in an immature or improper fashion, making excuses for the defeat, and citing unfavorable conditions or other petty issues as reasons for the defeat. A bad winner acts in a shallow fashion after his or her victory, such as by gloating about his or her win, rubbing the win in the face (s) of the opponent (s), and lowering the opponent(s)'s self-esteem by constantly reminding the opponent(s) of "poor" performance in comparison (even if the opponent(s) competed well). Not showing respect to the other team is considered to being a bad sportsman and could lead to demoralizing effects; as Leslie Howe describes: "If a pitcher in baseball decides to pitch not to his maximum ability suggest that the batter is not at an adequate level, [it] could lead to the batter to have low self-confidence or worth.

Q1. Is it necessary to strike a balance between all the four elements of sportsmanship?

Ans: Yes, all elements need to be balanced, as pointed out in paragraph two.

Q2. Why has sportsmanship taken a backseat today?

Ans: The stress laid on winning has made sportsmanship take a backseat.

Q3. If one does not accept responsibility for one's defeat, one is called a:

Ans: Not accepting responsibility characterizes a sore loser

Q4. From the last paragraph, give the opposite of the word 'deep':

Ans: Shallow

Q5. When does the spirit of sportsmanship die?

Ans: When the sportsman becomes too self-centered

6. Artificial intelligence (AI), sometimes called machine intelligence, is intelligence demonstrated by machines, in contrast to the natural intelligence displayed by humans and other animals. In computer science AI research is defined as the study of "intelligent agents": any device that perceives its environment and takes actions that maximize its chance of successfully achieving its goals. Colloquially, the term "artificial intelligence" is applied when a machine mimics "cognitive" functions that humans associate with other human minds, such as "learning" and "problem solving".

The scope of AI is disputed: as machines become increasingly capable, tasks considered as requiring "intelligence" are often removed from the definition, a phenomenon known as the AI effect, leading to the quip, "AI is whatever hasn't been done yet." For instance, optical character recognition is frequently excluded from "artificial intelligence", having become a routine technology. Capabilities generally classified as AI as of 2017 include successfully understanding human speech, competing at the highest level in strategic game systems (such as chess and Go), autonomous cars, intelligent routing in content delivery network and military simulations.

Artificial intelligence was founded as an academic discipline in 1956, and in the years since has experienced several waves of optimism, followed by disappointment and the loss of funding (known as an "AI winter"), followed by new approaches, success and renewed funding. For most of its history, AI research has been divided into subfields that often fail to communicate with each other. These sub-fields are based on technical considerations, such as particular goals (e.g. "robotics" or "machine learning"), the use of particular tools ("logic" or

artificial neural networks), or deep philosophical differences. Subfields have also been based on social factors (particular institutions or the work of particular researchers).

The traditional problems (or goals) of AI research include reasoning, knowledge representation, planning, learning, natural language processing, perception and the ability to move and manipulate objects. General intelligence is among the field's long-term goals. Approaches include statistical methods, computational intelligence, and traditional symbolic AI. Many tools are used in AI, including versions of search and mathematical optimization, artificial neural networks, and methods based on statistics, probability and economics. The AI field draws upon computer science, mathematics, psychology, linguistics, philosophy and many others.

Q1. What is the AI winter?

Ans: Loss of funding for AI projects

Q2. Are sub-fields based only on social factors?

Ans: No

Q3. How can one understand a rough meaning of AI?

Ans: By observing the problem solving done by machines one can understand a rough meaning of AI.

Q4. Are autonomous cars an example of AI?

Ans: As of 2017, they are.

Q5. Does AI only draw on technology and mathematics?

Ans: No there are other fields too, upon which AI draws.

7. Philosophy of Education is a label applied to the study of the purpose, process, nature and ideals of education. It can be considered a branch of both philosophy and education. Education can be defined as the teaching and learning of specific skills, and the imparting of knowledge, judgment and wisdom, and is something broader than the societal institution of education we often speak of.

Many educationalists consider it a weak and woolly field, too far removed from the practical applications of the real world to be useful. But philosophers dating back to Plato and the Ancient Greeks have given the area much thought and emphasis, and there is little doubt that their work has helped shape the practice of education over the millennia.

Plato is the earliest important educational thinker, and education is an essential element in "The Republic" (his most important work on philosophy and

political theory, written around 360 B.C.). In it, he advocates some rather extreme methods: removing children from their mothers' care and raising them as wards of the state, and differentiating children suitable to the various castes, the highest receiving the most education, so that they could act as guardians of the city and care for the less able. He believed that education should be holistic, including facts, skills, physical discipline, music and art. Plato believed that talent and intelligence is not distributed genetically and thus is to be found in children born to all classes, although his proposed system of selective public education for an educated minority of the population does not really follow a democratic model.

Aristotle considered human nature, habit and reason to be equally important forces to be cultivated in education, the ultimate aim of which should be to produce good and virtuous citizens. He proposed that teachers lead their students systematically, and that repetition be used as a key tool to develop good habits, unlike Socrates' emphasis on questioning his listeners to bring out their own ideas. He emphasized the balancing of the theoretical and practical aspects of subjects taught, among which he explicitly mentions reading, writing, mathematics, music, physical education, literature, history, and a wide range of sciences, as well as play, which he also considered important.

During the Medieval period, the idea of Perennialism was first formulated by St. Thomas Aquinas in his work "De Magistro". Perennialism holds that one should teach those things deemed to be of everlasting importance to all people everywhere, namely principles and reasoning, not just facts (which are apt to change over time), and that one should teach first about people, not machines or techniques. It was originally religious in nature, and it was only much later that a theory of secular perennialism developed.

During the Renaissance, the French skeptic Michel de Montaigne (1533 - 1592) was one of the first to critically look at education. Unusually for his time, Montaigne was willing to question the conventional wisdom of the period, calling into question the whole edifice of the educational system, and the implicit assumption that university-educated philosophers were necessarily wiser than uneducated farm workers, for example.

Q1. What is the difference between the approaches of Socrates and Aristotle?

Ans: Plato was more stern in his analysis and insisted on training selective population, Aristotle believed that education could refine anyone from any class.

Q2. Why do educationists consider philosophy a 'weak and woolly' field?

Ans: Educationists believe that philosophical abstractions are not suitable for practical application.

Q3. What do you understand by the term 'Perennialism', in the context of the given comprehension passage?

Ans: The term comes from the root word 'perennial' – which means ceaseless.

Q4. Were Plato's beliefs about education democratic?

Ans: Plato's beliefs were democratic but not his suggested practices

Q5. Why did Aquinas propose a model of education which did not lay much emphasis on facts?

Ans: Facts do change with the changing times, hence, they are not of utmost importance when aiming for holistic education.

8. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is the space agency of the Government of India headquartered in the city of Bangalore. Its vision is to "harness space technology for national development while pursuing space science research and planetary exploration."

Formed in 1969, ISRO superseded the erstwhile Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR) established in 1962 by the efforts of independent India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, and his close aide and scientist Vikram Sarabhai. The establishment of ISRO thus institutionalized space activities in India. It is managed by the Department of Space, which reports to the Prime Minister of India.

ISRO built India's first satellite, Aryabhata, which was launched by the Soviet Union on 19 April 1975. It was named after the Mathematician Aryabhata. In 1980, Rohini became the first satellite to be placed in orbit by an Indian-made launch vehicle, SLV-3. ISRO subsequently developed two other rockets: the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) for launching satellites into polar orbits and the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) for placing satellites into geostationary orbits. These rockets have launched numerous communications satellites and earth observation satellites. Satellite navigation systems like GAGAN and IRNSS have been deployed. In January 2014, ISRO successfully used an indigenous cryogenic engine in a GSLV-D5 launch of the GSAT-14.

ISRO sent a lunar orbiter, Chandrayaan-1, on 22 October 2008 and a Mars orbiter, Mars Orbiter Mission, on 5 November 2013, which successfully entered Mars orbit on 24 September 2014, making India the first nation to succeed on its first attempt to Mars, and ISRO the fourth space agency in the world as well as the first space agency in Asia to successfully reach Mars orbit. On 18 June 2016 ISRO successfully set a record with a launch of 20 satellites in a single payload, one being a satellite from Google. On 15 February 2017, ISRO launched 104 satellites in a

single rocket (PSLV-C37) and created a world record. ISRO launched its heaviest rocket, Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle-Mark III (GSLV-Mk III), on 5 June 2017 and placed a communications satellite GSAT-19 in orbit. With this launch, ISRO became capable of launching 4 ton heavy satellites.

Q1. Is the ISRO a private organization?

Ans: No, it is a government organization

Q2. What are the primary areas of concern for ISRO?

Ans: space and planetary explorations.

Q3. India still uses foreign-made satellite launch vehicles?

Ans: No, only India's first satellite – *Aryabhata* – was launched by the Soviet union. Others are indigenous.

Q4. From the third paragraph, choose a word which is closest in meaning to 'assistant':

Ans: The word 'aide', it comes from 'aid' – which means, to help.

Q5. Who was *Aryabhata*, according to the third paragraph? Ans: *Aryabhata* was a mathematician.

9. The Indian Army is the land-based branch and the largest component of the Indian Armed Forces. The

President of India is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Army, and it is commanded by the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), who is a four-star general. Two officers have been conferred with the rank of field marshal, a five-star rank, which is a ceremonial position of great honour. The Indian Army originated from the armies of the East India Company, which eventually became the British Indian Army, and the armies of the princely states, which finally became the national army after independence. The units and regiments of the Indian Army have diverse histories and have participated in a number of battles and campaigns across the world, earning a large number of battles and honours before and after Independence.

The primary mission of the Indian Army is to ensure national security and national unity, defending the nation from external aggression and internal threats, and maintaining peace and security within its borders. It conducts humanitarian rescue operations during natural calamities and other disturbances, like Operation Surya Hope, and can also be requisitioned by the government to cope with internal threats. It is a major component of national power alongside the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force. The army has been involved in four wars with neighbouring Pakistan and one with China. Other major operations undertaken by the army

include: Operation Vijay, Operation Meghdoot and Operation Cactus. Apart from conflicts, the army has conducted large peace time exercises like Operation Brasstacks and Exercise Shoorveer, and it has also been an active participant in numerous United Nations peacekeeping missions including those in: Cyprus, Lebanon, Congo, Angola, Cambodia, Vietnam, Namibia, El Salvador, Liberia, Mozambique and Somalia.

The Indian Army has a regimental system, but is operationally and geographically divided into seven commands, with the basic field formation being a division. It is an all-volunteer force and comprises more than 80% of the country's active defence personnel. It is the 2nd largest standing army in the world, with 1,237,117 active troops and 960,000 reserve troops. The army has embarked on an infantry modernisation program known as Futuristic Infantry Soldier As a System (F-INSAS), and is also upgrading and acquiring new assets for its armoured, artillery and aviation branches

Q1. Is the chief of army a five-star general?

Ans: The chief of army is a four-star general .

Q2. What is the primary mission of the Indian Army?

Ans: Ensuring national security and peace within its borders. Q3. Is the Indian army involved in any peace-making efforts? Ans: Yes, it does involve itself in peace-making efforts

Q4. Is the Indian army the only component of national power?

Ans: No, national power is a combination of the army, the navy and the air force.

Q5. Is the Indian army an 'all-volunteer' force?

Ans: yes it is.

10. The issue of road rage requires serious attention. Day by day, it is becoming a great concern. Call it the negligence of the government or the rashness of the drivers, the underlying fact is that at the end of the day, the common man is the one who suffers the most. The commoner driving a two-wheeler who is hit by a speeding SUV, even though the former was following the traffic rules, has nowhere to go in order to seek redressal for his grievances or his injury. A recent case in point is the accident caused by the speeding luxury car owned by Hema Malini. A family of four driving a modest Alto was hit by the over speeding car driven by the actress's driver. It resulted in the death of the youngest child of the family and several injuries to the other family members. To add insult to injury, Malini posted negative comments on a famous social networking website.

Part of the problem lies with the attitude and mentality of the driver behind the steering wheel. The car is a personal vehicle and one possesses the freedom to

drive it independently and at one's own will. But one must understand that the road on which one drives is open to the public. This blurring of the dichotomy between the public and the private leads to reckless behaviour on the roads. Respect for the elderly and pedestrians, so common in countries abroad, is a thing of rarity to be found in our land. A little consideration to road rules and adoption of simple safety measures such as fastening of the seat belt, can go a long way in reducing this menace.

Q1. Suggest a suitable title to the passage. Ans: "Road Rage", "Menace on Indian Roads"

Q2. Why does the common man suffer grievously in instances of road rage?

Ans: Due to the absence of immediate grievance redressal mechanisms.

Q3. What should the driver understand?

Ans: The driver should not overstep the line which separates the public and the private, by respecting others on the road and not blindly giving in to speeding.

Q4. What is the solution to this problem of road rage?

Ans: Inculcating a sense of respect for the elderly and the pedestrians, adopting simple safety measures such as utilizing the seat belt.

One Word Substitution

I Related to Study

Aviation: Study of flying aero planes

Astronomy: Study of celestial bodies

Alchemy: The ancient search for a universal panacea, and of the philosopher's stone. The medieval version of the study of Chemistry

Acoustics: Study of sound and sound waves

Anthropology: The study of the evolution of mankind

Astronomy: Study of Stars

Botany: The study of plants

Biology: Study of Living Things

Calligraphy: Art related to ornate, good handwriting

Chronology: The science of time order

Demography: The study of statistics

Entomology: Study of science of insects

Ecology: Study of the relation between the organism and their environment

Genetics: Study of hereditary, genes and variation in living organisms

Geology: The study of rocks and soil

Geography: Mapping of earth and its formation

Graphology: Study of handwriting

Gerontology: Study of various aspects of ageing

Hydraulics: Study of the law of the flow of water and other liquids

Lexicography: The practice of writing dictionaries

Numismatics: Study of collection of coins, tokens, paper money etc.

Ornithology: Study of birds

Philology: The study of languages

Palaeography: The study of ancient writing and scriptures

Psychology: The study of Human Mind

Psephology: Study of election trends

Theology: Study of religion

II Related to Types of Fear

Ecophobia: Fear of home surroundings

Zoophobia: Fear of animals

Claustrophobia: Fear of closed space

Hydrophobia: Fear of Water

Bibliophobia: Fear of books

Xenophobia: Fear or dislike of foreigners

Necrophobia: Fear of dead body

Aerophobia: Fear of height

Ophiophobia: Fear of snakes

Syngenesophobia: Fear of relatives

Nomophobia: Fear of being without your mobile phone

III Related to Killing & Manias

Mariticide: The killing of one's husband

Parricide: The killing of parents

Genocide: The killing of a whole race

Infanticide: The killing of a newborn child

Regicide: The killing of a king

Homicide: The killing of a human being

Suicide: The killing of oneself

Patricide: The killing of a father

Matricide: The killing of a mother

Fratricide: The killing of one's brother

Sororicide: The killing of one's sister

Uxoricide: The killing of one's wife

Dipsomania: Morbid compulsion to keep on consuming alcohol

Kleptomania: Morbid compulsion to steal

Bibliokleptomania: Morbid compulsion to steal books

Pyromania: Morbid compulsion to start a fire

Megalomania: Morbid delusion of power, importance or godliness

Nymphomania: Morbid, uncontrollable desire on the part of a woman

Satyromania: Morbid, uncontrollable desire on the part of a man

Monomania: A person with a one-track mind

Mythomania: The compulsion to tell lies

Mania: Madness with an obsession with something

IV Related to Things, Events & Places

Solarium: A place for the sun to enter where one can sunbath

Aquarium: A glass container in which fish and other water animals can be kept

Podium: A place for feet or a speaker's platform

Auditorium: The part of a theatre where people who are watching and listening sit

Planetarium: An optical device for projecting various celestial images and effects

Sanatorium: An establishment for the treatment of the chronically ill

Museum: A place where objects are exhibited

Deciduous: Trees whose leaves fall every autumn

Incident: That which falls upon befalls happens

Accident: That which falls to someone or something

Occidental: That which falls on the western countries

Alma Mater: The school or college one attends

Automobile: A self-moving vehicle

Automatic: A machine that functions by itself

Perambulator: A baby carriage

Ambulance: A carriage for sick people

V Related to Terms

Aeon: Indefinite period of time

Aesthetics: Appreciation of beauty, by a set of principles.

Blizzard: Spartan snowstorms with uncontrollable winds

Bohemian: An eccentric manner of living

Bonfire: Huge fire for celebration

Bonsai: Dwarfed varieties of trees and shrubs in pots

Bonfire: Huge fire for celebration

Bonsai: Dwarfed varieties of trees and shrubs in pots

Hinterland: The remote regions of a country which are far away from the rivers

Imbrolio: Complex situation or a mix-up

Rejuvenate: Make someone feel young

Remiss: Not showing enough care and attention

Kennel: A shelter for a Dog

Lair: Where wild animals live:

Mint: A place where coins are made

Mundane: Ordinary and Dull

Posthumous: Published after someone's death

Pedagogy: The profession of teaching or the approach or style of teaching

Regalia: The symbols of royalty

Thearchy: A political system solely based on the government of men by God

Oath: A person promises to tell the truth in court

Nascent: Beginning to exist and evolve

Virtue: Ethically good behaviour one has

Satire: Humour that describes the weaknesses

Veer: Changing the direction of one's path suddenly

Savour: Enjoy something for an extended time

Scapegoat: Someone who is wrongly blamed for things that others have done

Tannery: Space where animal hides are tanned

Tenacious: Determined to achieve something

Screech: The sound of Parrots:

Misnomer: Using a word or name that is inappropriate

Monarchy: A government that has a monarch as the head

Grunt: The sound of Camels

Fiesta: Events manifested by festivities

Whine: The ranting of a person

Destitute: People who are extremely poor

Carte blanche: Absolute freedom to act as one wishes:

Agnostic: A person who is unsure about God's existence:

Agony: Extreme physical or mental sufferings

Aikido: Japanese form of self-defence with the usage of locks holds

Mercenary: A soldier who fights for the sake of money

Laurel: An accolade or honour bestowed in recognition for an achievement:

Immoral: A person who behaves without moral principles

Impeach: Charging a politician with a serious crime

Embargo: Government instructions that limit trade in some way

Fatalist: Believer of fate

Gregarious: Loves being social and enjoys the company of others

Grove: Trees grow without underbrush.

Sinecure: An office with a high salary but no work

Renegade: A person who betrays and deserts an organisation or country

Fastidious: One who is much concerned about details and accuracy

Arsenal: A place for storage of arms and ammunition

Excommunicate: One who is expelled from a religious community

Glutton: A person who eats too much

Immitable: Something which can be copied

VI Related to People/Person

Eisoptrophile: A person who is addicted to seeing oneself in mirror

Gastronome: A person who loves food and finds pleasure in eating and drinking

Chrematophile: A person who loves money

Oneirophile: A person who loves dream

Anuptaphile: A person who loves staying single

Melophile: A person who loves music

VII Related to Government

Bureaucracy: Government by Officials

Autocracy: Government by one person with absolute power

Meritocracy: Government by the intelligentsia

Democracy: Government by elected representatives

Confederacy: The union of states, parties or persons

Plutocracy: Government by rich people

Aristocracy: Government by the nobles

Theocracy: Government by Divine Laws

Monarchy: Government by one person (royal)

Diarchy: Government by two agencies

Oligarchy: Government by a few powerful people

Stratocracy: Government by military class

Anarchy: Absence of Government

VIII Related to Likes and Dislikes

Sycophant: One who is a boot licker, flatterer

Gourmet: One who has keen interest in food and drinks

Philanthropy: Love for mankind

Bibliophile: Someone who loves collecting books

Anglophile: One who loves and admires the British

Philanderer: One who loves without seriousness

Philogyny: Fondness towards women

Androphile: One who loves men

Philosopher: One who loves wisdom (hence pursues it)

Misandrism: One who hates men

Andromania: Madness or obsession with males

Misogynist: One who hates women

Misanthropist: One who hates mankind

Patriot: One who loves his country

Super patriotism: Excessive love for one's country

Misogamist: One who hates marriage

Loquacious: One who loves to speak

Antipathy: Strong, deep dislike

Sympathy: Simultaneously affected by similar feelings

Empathy: Mentally identifying oneself with other person or a thing

Pathetic: Something or someone makes you feel deep sadness or pity

IX Related to Religion

Atheist: One who doesn't believe in the presence of God

Monotheist: One who believes in the theory of only one God

Theist: One who believes in the presence of God

Polytheist: One who believes in many Gods

Pantheist: One who believes that God is union of all forces of the universe

Theomania: Religious madness

Theomachy: Battle among the Gods

X Related to Marriage

Matrimony: Related to marriage

Sologamy: Marriage with self

Monogamy: Practising only one marriage (having only one wife)

Bigamy: Practising two marriages (having two wives)

Polygamy: The practice of several marriages (having many wives)

Autogamy: Self-fertilization especially in plants

Endogamy: Marriage within one's tribe

Exogamy: Marriage outside one's tribe

Polyandry: Having several husbands

XI Related to Speech & Written Work

Omnibus: Book containing all the published work of an author

Telegraph: A written message from far off place

Colloquial: Informal, less grammatically rigid language

Circumlocution: Talking around, a method of talking indirectly

Magniloquent: Generous, forgiving talk

Eloquent: Expressive in the use of words

Grandiloquent: High sounding pompous speech or writing

Autograph: A signature of a celebrity (signature of oneself)

Preamble: Walk before-hand or an introductory statement

Biography: Writing of one's life story

Autobiography: Writing of one's own life story

Photograph: Written by light

Laconic: Few words packed with meaning, concise

Soliloquy: A speech to oneself, alone