

# The Dear Departed

2016

## Short Answer Type Questions [2 Marks]

### Question 1.

Mrs. Jordan says that she has a feeling that father has not paid his insurance premium. How do all react to it?

#### Answer:

They all were worried about father's overdue insurance premium. Mrs. Jordan says that she has a 'warning' from the insurance office. She says that father has done it on purpose. After a long search, the receipt is found in the bureau. The two sisters express anger at father's irresponsibility and 'swindling' motive.

### Question 2.

What does the shifting of the bureau tell us about the character of Mrs. Slater?

#### Answer:

Mrs. Slater has always wanted to have the bureau after the grandfather died. She feels she can easily take it before her sister arrives. It shows that she was greedy and selfish. She lacked feelings.

## Long Answer Type Question [4 Marks]

### Question 3.

Even at the time when the grandfather is supposedly dead, the sisters are trying to pull each other down. With reference to the play, *The Dear Departed*, mention the traits that the sisters display. Do you approve of them? Give a reasoned answer.

#### Answer:

No, I do not approve of the selfish motive and morality of the two sisters, Mrs. Slater (Amelia) and Mrs. Jordan (Elizabeth).

At the time when the grandfather is supposedly dead, the selfish and greedy sisters are craving to grab his wealth. In fact, he was not dead but merely drunk.

In the play, both the sisters—Amelia and Elizabeth—are portrayed as greedy and selfish. Amelia is after the bureau and Elizabeth wanted the gold watch. Since their father is alive, the truth behind their spat comes out. The sisters do not love their father, they only want his wealth and belongings. So says the grandfather, "It seems to me that neither of you has any cause to feel proud about the way you treated me.... neither of you cared to put up with me".

#### Question 4.

Life in metropolitan cities has left no time with members of the family to spend with each other. As a concerned citizen, write a letter to the editor of a national daily voicing your concern over the increasing number of old age homes in metropolitan cities (The Dear Departed) highlighting the values required in the younger generation to care for the elderly.

#### Answer:

The Editor  
The Indian Express  
New Delhi 1100XX

Dear Sir

**Subject:** Old Age Homes in metropolitan cities

Through the esteemed columns of your daily I would like to voice my grave concern over the increasing number of old age homes in metropolitan cities. It is found that life in metropolitan cities has left the younger generation no time to look after the elderly souls of the family.

They are more interested in what they will inherit and try to grab the lion's share. They hardly bother to take care of old parents and elders. To them, money is more important than relationships. They lack moral values to respect and care for the old and aged members of the family who have to take shelter in old age homes.

I would, therefore, request you to publish my letter so that the younger generations realise their duty.

**Yours faithfully**

XYX

2015

#### Extract Based Questions [3 Marks]

#### Question 5.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

"Pringle attended him when he was alive and Pringle shall attend him when he's dead. That's professional etiquette."

1. Who is Pringle?
2. Why couldn't Pringle attend him recently?
3. What does 'professional etiquette' mean?

#### Answer:

1. Mr Pringle is the family physician of Abel Merryweather.
2. Dr. Pringle was out of the city. So he could not attend Abel Merryweather recently.
3. 'Professional etiquette' means conventional rules pertaining to every profession..

### Question 6

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

'And you, too. Are you such a poor creature that you must do every dirty thing she tells you?'

1. Who is the 'poor creature'?
2. Why is he/she being called a 'poor creature'?
3. Which word in the extract is the opposite of 'clean'?

### Answer:

1. Henry Slater, the husband of Mrs Slater is the poor creature.
2. He is called so as he had to steal items from the room of the grandfather under the instruction of his wife.
3. The opposite of the word 'clean' is 'dirty'.

### Short Answer Type Questions [2 Marks]

### Question 7.

Why does Abel Merryweather say, "It's a bit late to say it (sorry) now"?

### Answer:

Abel Merryweather knew the real nature of his two daughters. Neither of them had any love and affection for him. They regarded him as a burden over him. They simply pretended to have love for him. When Mrs Slater came to know that Abel was dead, she started stealing his items. The two sisters started quarrelling over their share in the property of Mr Abel Merryweather.

### Question 8.

What message do you get from the play, 'The Dear Departed'?

### Answer:

The drama 'The Dear Departed' throws light on the deteriorating human values in modern society. People are hankering after materialistic pleasure and losing real human values. Elderly people are regarded as burden on the family. Every member of the family wants to get rid of them. The elderly people are helpless. Everybody throws greedy glance over their property but nobody wants to take care of them.

2014

### Short Answer Type Questions [2 Marks]

### Question 9.

What change in the grandfather's will led to another spat between his two daughters? Why?

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### Answer:

The grandfather, Mr Abel Merryweather announced that he would change his old will. In the new will, there would be a provision that his property would go to the person with whom he would be at the time of his death. This very provision was a bone of contention between the two sisters. Each of them wanted to keep their father in her house as both of them had avarice.

### Question 10.

Why does Mrs Slater ask Victoria to go upstairs? How does Vicky react?

### Answer:

Mrs Slater asks Victoria to go upstairs in the room of the grandfather to bring the bunch of keys that is on the dressing table of the grandpa. She has to check the receipt of the paid premium in the bureau.

Vicky reacts very fearfully. She has seen grandpa getting up. She is extremely afraid to think that it was the ghost of grandpa.

### Long Answer Type Question [4 Marks]

#### Question 11.

The grandfather had been living with his daughters turn by turn. What he needed was only love but what he received was greed and loneliness. Keeping this in view, write an article on 'LUST is all GET... LOVE is all GIVE'.

(The Dear Departed)

Answer:

### LUST is all GET ... LOVE is all GIVE

In this swift changing world, people are becoming so materialistic that they want to grab the property of the elderly members of their family. In this changed society, people go on playing dual role. They keep the elderly members of the family in a dilemma.

As a matter of fact, society is losing human values by leaps and bounds. To satisfy their greed, people can go up to any extent. They begin to regard the elderly people as burden over the family. But they hide their evil intentions so cleverly that one cannot guess it easily. They pretend that they have immense love and affection for their elderly members of the family. They talk politely just to win the trust. But in their hearts, they keep the evil intention of grabbing their property.

As deteriorating human values are beheld in every society, we can say that we have damaged the old customs of our forefathers. The monster of avarice is growing in size. Everybody is becoming its slave sooner or later. But it is not a good sign. For smooth functioning of the society, we will have to love our elderly people as everyone has to become old one day.

2013

### Extract Based Questions [3 Marks]

#### Question 12.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Amelia and Henry. They've stolen your clock and bureau. (working herself up.) They sneaked into your room like a thief in the night and stole them after you were dead.

1. Who is Amelia?
2. How did they steal the things?
3. Why did they have to steal them?

Answer:

1. The real name of Amelia is Mrs. Slater, who is the daughter of Abel Merryweather and sister of Mrs. Jordan.
2. They closed the main door of the house and shifted the things from the room of Mr. Abel to their own room.

3. They stole the things of Mr. Abel so that they would not have to give the share of those items to Mrs. Jordan.

**Question 13.**

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

I'll tell you what I've got to do. On Monday next I've got to do three things. I've got to go to the lawyer's and alter my will.

1. Who is the speaker?
2. Who is he speaking to?
3. What is the speaker going to do and why?

**Answer:**

1. Mr Abel Merryweather is the speaker.
2. He is speaking to his two daughters and their husbands.
3. He is going to change his will, pay the premium of his insurance and marry at St Philip's Church. He wants to do so for his better future and for giving a lesson to his greedy daughters.

**Short Answer Type Questions [2 Marks]**

**Question 14.**

What reason does Amelia give for not getting another doctor to examine Mr Merryweather?

**Answer:**

Amelia does not want to go to any doctor as she wants to get rid of Mr Abel so she says that Dr Pringle has been providing treatment to Mr Abel for a long time. She pretends that it would not be a wise step for her to call another doctor to check Mr Abel. Another doctor might give him wrong treatment. She tries to prove that her decision of not calling another doctor is justified.

**Question 15.**

Why does Elizabeth wish to draw up a list of Grandpa's things?

**Answer:**

Elizabeth is well aware of the nature of her sister Amelia. She knows that Amelia is a dishonest and cunning lady. She also knows that Amelia will try to keep maximum items of the grandfather. It will not be an easy task for her to get 50 per cent of her share. For getting her full share and for ensuring proper and smooth process of the division of the property, she wants to make a list of the things.

**2012**

**Extract Based Questions [3 Marks]**

**Question 16.**

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

No? For myself it's such a relief to get into the black. And now perhaps you'll tell us all about it. What did the doctor say?

1. What is a great relief for the speaker?
2. What does the speaker mean by telling "us all about it"?
3. Who is the speaker of these lines?

**Answer:**

1. Getting into the mourning dress is a great relief for the speaker.
2. The speaker means that her sister will give her the details of the death of their father.
3. Mrs Jordan is the speaker of these lines.

**Question 17.**

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

'She's never been here since grandfather bought it. If it was only down here instead of in his room, she'd never guess it wasn't our own. '

1. Who is the speaker?
2. Why does 'it' have to be shifted?
3. What character trait of the speaker is highlighted through this extract?

**Answer:**

1. Mrs Slater is the speaker.
2. It has to be shifted because Mrs Slater does not want to give the share of the bureau to her sister Mrs Jordan.
3. This extract shows that Mrs Slater was dishonest, greedy and shrewd.

**Short Answer Type Question [2 Marks]**

**Question 18.**

What change in the grandfather's will led to another spat between his two daughters? Why?

**Answer:**

The grandfather, Mr Abel Merryweather announced that he would change his old will. In the new will, there would be a provision that his property would go to the person with whom he would be at the time of his death. This very provision was a bone of contention between the two sisters. Each of them wanted to keep their father in her house as both of them had avarice.

**2011**

**Extract Based Questions [3 Marks]**

**Question 19.**

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

I'll tell you what I've got to do. On Monday next I've got to do three things.

1. These words are spoken by\_\_\_\_\_ to\_\_\_\_\_
2. The listeners' reaction to the speaker's declaration is that they are \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_has made the speaker decide on three things.

**Answer:**

1. These words are spoken by **Mr Abel Merryweather** to **his daughters and their husbands**.
2. The listeners' reaction to the speaker's declaration is that they are **astonished and terrified**.
3. **The evil intention of his daughters** has made the speaker decide on three things.

### Question 20.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

She'll come fast enough after her share of what grandfather's left. You know how hard she can be when she likes. Where she gets it from I can't tell.

1. Who speaks these words and about whom?
2. The speaker implies that 'she' is .
3. The literary device used in the above lines is .

### Answer:

1. Mrs Slater speaks these lines about her sister Mrs Jordan.
2. The speaker implies that 'She' is very cunning and she will be hard about getting her share.
3. The literary device used here is repetition.

### Short Answer Type Question [2 Marks]

### Question 21.

Briefly describe the character of Victoria in 'The Dear Departed.'

### Answer:

Victoria in the drama 'The Dear Departed' is a very precious girl who knows what is good and what is bad. She is an innocent girl who has nothing to do with the evil deeds of her mother and her father. She is actually dejected over the death, of her grandfather as she has real love and affection in her heart of hearts for him.

### Long Answer Type Questions [4 Marks]

### Question 22.

You are Abel Merryweather. Express your ideas/feelings after you wake up and come to know about your daughters' feelings/greed and intentions.

### Answer:

My eyes have been opened by my daughters and their husbands. I was of the view that my daughters have real love and affection for me in their hearts. But the incident of my temporary Tainting has revealed everything. Now I have come to know that they love my property more than me and I am a burden over them. They want me " to depart from this world as soon as possible. What a drastic change has,taken place in the new generation. Their avarice has killed all their values.

Now I will have to think differently. I have come to know about their evil intention. I must remain alert in future. I am going to change my will in such a way that I'll remain important for them till my death. For enhancing my importance, I will pay the premium of insurance in time. I will also marry an old lady, who will take care of me. Now, all my doubts have been dispelled and I am well aware of the nature of the daughters.

### Question 23.

Abel in "The Dear Departed" is very upset at the behaviour of his family. He expresses his feelings to a close friend in a letter. As Abel, write this letter.

### Answer:

12A Church Street  
London  
29 August 20XX

**Dear John**

God always comes to help elderly people. I am going to tell you a fact of this funny but cruel world.

Owing to a headache, I lost sense for a few hours. The members of my family thought that I had passed away. My daughter began to wear mourning dress along with her husband and her daughter instead of calling a doctor. With the help of her husband, she began to shift my items from my room to her room. Only my innocent granddaughter was sad over my death. When my second daughter Jordan came, she didn't come to check whether I was actually dead or not. She also got busy getting her share. Both the sisters began to quarrel. When they came to know that I had not paid the premium of the insurance company, they called me a drunken old beggar. The incident opened my eyes. I will alter my will for my better future. In future, I will remain alert. The new generation has so much avarice that they give no importance to human values.

Convey my blessings to the children of your family.

The rest is OK.

**Your affectionately**

**Abel Merryweather**