

# DRAMA

## 1

## THE DEAR DEPARTED

By Stanley Houghton

### INTRODUCTION

A true test of people is how they behave towards the elderly. With modernisation, reverence of the elderly seems to have suffered a grievous blow. All happiness to the elderly is parsimoniously measured out. Too often the elderly suffer death by invisibility long before their physical demise. The daughters in 'Dear Departed' are very materialistic and like beasts of prey, they are only ready to pounce on the money and belongings of their father. Keeping father at home has become a tiresome burden. Looking towards the elderly has become a matter of comfort and financial aid rather than for inspiration and emotional strength. For a civilised society a new culture of giving needs to be ushered and one must give to the elderly without any selfish motive. We must remember that the difference between a helping hand and an outstretched palm is only a twist of the wrist.

### SUMMARY

The play 'The Dear Departed' presents an interesting situation that has tragically become common place in the world of today. The scene of the play is set in the sitting-room of a small house in a lower middle-class district of a provincial town. The setting of the play reveals that the tea-table has been laid. Mrs Slater, a plump and active lady is in mourning and she is getting ready to receive some guests. She beckons to her daughter Victoria, who is ten year old, and instructs her to change into something sober. It is revealed that Victoria's grandfather has passed away and the Slater family is getting ready to receive Aunt Elizabeth and Uncle Ben. Victoria expresses surprise at this news because her aunt and uncle had not paid them a visit for years. Mrs Slater reveals that they were coming over to talk about grandfather's affairs, on hearing of his death. In the meanwhile Mr Slater enters. He is a heavy man who stoops he is also in mourning dress.

Henry Slater is skeptical whether Elizabeth will come, for the last time when Mrs Slater and Elizabeth had quarrelled, she had vowed never to pay a visit again to their house. Mrs Slater gives Henry new slippers of her father. She also plans to take away the new bureau of the grandfather and shift it to their room, before Elizabeth and Ben arrive. Both the husband and wife, lock the front door and shift the bureau down and put their old chest of drawers there. Victoria wants to know why they were stealing grandfather's things but her mother tells her to remain quiet. Grandpa's new clock is also taken away. Meanwhile

there is loud knocking at the door and the Slaters take plenty of time to look normal. Mrs Jordan and Ben pretend to be emotional at the death of Mr Abel Merryweather. Both the ladies compare their mourning dresses, criticising the other's outfit. Mrs Jordan is surprised to discover that no doctor had been summoned to check on her father. Mrs Slater insists in a stubborn manner that she had been keen on Mr Pringle and if he was out of station, they couldn't be offensive and call someone else. Mrs Slater reveals that her father had been happy in the morning and he had apparently gone to pay the premium of his insurance policy. He was generally going to "Ring-O-Bells" frequently and the night before he had come drunk and had gone to bed without having dinner. Mrs Jordan and Ben prefer to have tea before going and looking up father. All four of them start discussing about the obituary and the kind of announcement in the newspapers to be inserted. Mrs Jordan wants a long poem but Mrs Slater protests by saying that it will cost a lot. Meanwhile Mrs Jordan reveals that her father had willed his gold watch to her son Jimmy. Mrs Slater feels very offended and refuses to believe it. Victoria says that grandfather had not gone in the morning to pay his premium but had instead gone over to 'The Ring of Bells,' the public house, managed by John Shorrocks's widow. Everyone starts blaming the old man for not paying his premium. Victoria is instructed to go over to grandpa's room to get the receipt of the premium. Mrs Jordan is surprised to note a new bureau and she wishes to know the details, because she doubts Mrs Slater's version. Victoria enters, looking dazed. She gives the shocking news that

Grandpa was stirring and moving. After some time Mr Abel Merryweather enters and is surprised to see his other daughter and son-in-law, Mr and Mrs Jordan. He reveals that he was well and just had a slight headache he notices Henry wearing his new slippers and takes them. Abels wishes to know, why all were in mourning dresses. Mrs Jordan makes up some story to pacify him. Abel Merryweather enjoys tea and has a generous slice of the apple-pie. He grumbles and scolds Mrs Slater for taking away his bureau. Mrs Jordan gets agitated and accuses her sister of robbing her father. The husbands also join their wives in hurling accusations at each other Abel discovers about his death. He addresses his daughters directly and declares that he was going to change his will and all the money will go to the one, in whose house he dies. Both the daughters fight with each other to keep their father. Abel is amused and watches all the fun. At last he makes his announcement which shocks everyone. On Monday, he would go to the lawyer and alter his will, then he would go to the insurance office and pay his premium. After that he would go to the church and get married to Mrs Shorrock. Everyone is shocked. Abel reveals that he had at last found someone who was happy to keep him. He exits with an invitation of his marriage. He also thanks Mrs Slater for shifting the Bureau down-stairs for now it will be easy to cart it away to "Ring-O-Bells."

### सारांश

यह नाटक 'द डियर डिपार्टेड' एक रोचक स्थिति पर आधारित है। दुख की बात है कि यह आज की दुनिया का कटु सत्य है। नाटक का दृश्य एक मध्यमवर्गीय जिले के एक छोटे से शहर के एक छोटे से मकान की बैठक में होता हुआ दिखाया गया है। मंच पर चाय की मेज़ सजी है, श्रीमती स्लेटर जो एक गोल मटोल और फुर्तीली महिला हैं मातमी वस्त्रों में कुछ मेहमानों के इंतज़ार में बैठी हैं। वह अपनी पुत्री विक्टोरिया को संकेत करती है जिसकी आयु दस वर्ष है और कहती है कि कपड़े बदल कर कुछ सौम्य वस्त्र पहनो। दर्शाया गया है कि विक्टोरिया के नाना का निधन हो गया है और स्लेटर परिवार आंटी एलिजाबेथ और अंकल बैन के इंतज़ार में है। विक्टोरिया को यह सुनकर अचरज होता है कि अंकल और आंटी वर्षों से वहाँ नहीं आये थे। श्रीमती स्लेटर बताती हैं कि वे लोग नानाजी के मामलों के बारे में बातचीत करने आ रहे हैं। तभी श्रीमान स्लेटर अंदर आते हैं। वे भारी शरीर के और झुकी हुई कमर वाले व्यक्ति हैं।

श्रीमान हेनरी स्लेटर को विश्वास नहीं है कि वे लोग आयेंगे या नहीं क्योंकि पिछली बार श्रीमती स्लेटर और एलिजाबेथ में झगड़ा हो गया था और उसने प्रण लिया था कि वहाँ कभी नहीं आयेगी। श्रीमती स्लेटर हेनरी को अपने पिता की नई चप्पलें देती हैं। उनकी योजना यह भी है कि नानाजी के डेस्क को अपने कमरे में ले जायें, इससे पहले कि एलिजाबेथ और बेन आयें। पति-पत्नी दरवाज़े को ताला लगाकर

डेस्क को अपने कमरे में रखकर उसकी जगह अपना पुराना डेस्क वहाँ रख देते हैं। विक्टोरिया जानना चाहती है कि वे नानाजी का सामान क्यों चोरी कर रहे हैं? उसकी माँ उसे चुप करा देती है। नानाजी की नई घड़ी भी वे उठा लेते हैं। इस बीच में कोई ज़ोर-ज़ोर से दरवाज़ा खटखटाता है। स्लेटर परिवार अपने को ठीक दिखाने के लिए काफ़ी वक्त लेते हैं। श्रीमती जॉर्डन और बैन, एबल मैरीवेदर के निधन पर खूब रोने - धोने का स्वाँग भरते हैं।

दोनों महिलाएँ एक दूसरे के मातमी वस्त्रों को घूरती हैं। श्रीमती जॉर्डन को यह जानकर अचरज होता है कि उनके पिता की जाँच के लिए किसी भी डॉक्टर को नहीं बुलाया गया। श्रीमती स्लेटर ज़ोर देकर कहती हैं कि वे श्रीमान पिरिंगल को बुलाना चाहती थीं और क्योंकि वह शहर से बाहर थे तो वे किसी और को बुलाने का दुस्साहस कैसे करते। वे बताती हैं कि उनके पिता सुबह खुश थे और इंश्योरेंस पॉलिसी का प्रीमियम भरने गये थे। वह आमतौर पर रिंग-ओ-बैल्स' जाते रहते थे और पिछली रात वे वहाँ से नशे में धुत आये थे और बिना खाना खाये सो गये थे।

श्रीमती जॉर्डन और बैन पिता को देखने जाने से पहले चाय पीना पसंद करते हैं। चारों पिता की निधन-सूचना के विषय में बातचीत करने लगते हैं, जिसे अखबार में छपने के लिए भेजा जाना है। श्रीमती जॉर्डन चाहती हैं एक लम्बी कविता भेजी जाये, श्रीमती स्लेटर मना करते हुए कहती है कि वह तो बहुत महँगा पड़ेगा। तभी श्रीमती जॉर्डन बताती हैं कि उनके पिता अपनी सोने की घड़ी उनके बेटे जिम्मी को देना चाहते थे। श्रीमती स्लेटर बुरा मानते हुये इस बात पर विश्वास करने से इंकार करती है।

विक्टोरिया बताती है कि नानाजी सुबह प्रीमियम भरने नहीं गये थे। परन्तु रिंग ऑफ बेलस जो कि एक मधुशाला थी - वहाँ गये थे जिसको जॉन शौरोक की विधवा चलाती थीं। सभी लोग बूढ़े को बुरा भला कहने लगते हैं कि प्रीमियम भरने क्यों नहीं गया। विक्टोरिया को नानाजी के कमरे में प्रीमियम की रसीद लाने भेजा जाता है।

श्रीमती एलिजाबेथ नये डेस्क को देखकर हैरानी प्रगट करते हुए उसके बारे में जानना चाहती हैं क्योंकि उन्हें श्रीमती स्लेटर के कथन पर शक है। विक्टोरिया सुन्न स्थिति में अंदर आती है और यह सनसनी भरी खबर देती है कि नानाजी चल फिर रहे हैं। कुछ समय बाद श्रीमान एबल-मेरिवेदर अंदर आते हैं और अपनी दूसरी पुत्री और दामाद को देखकर हैरान होते हैं। वह बताते हैं कि वह ठीक हैं बस हल्का सा सिर-दर्द है। तभी वह हेनरी के पैरों में अपनी नई चप्पलें देखते हैं और उन्हें ले लेते हैं। वे जानना चाहते हैं सभी लोग मातमी पोशाक में क्यों हैं। श्रीमती स्लेटर बात बनाकर टाल जाती हैं। एबल मेरिवेदर चाय और सेब से बने केक का आनंद लेते हैं। वे कुड़कुड़ाते हैं और श्रीमती स्लेटर को डाँटते हैं कि उन्होंने उनका नया डेस्क क्यों लिया। श्रीमती जॉर्डन गुस्से में आकर अपनी बहन पर इल्ज़ाम लगाती हैं कि उन्होंने पिता की चीजों की चोरी की। दोनों पति भी अपनी पत्नियों के साथ मिलकर एक-दूसरे पर दोष लगाते हैं। एबल को अपनी मृत्यु की घटना का पता लगता है और वे सीधे अपनी बेटियों को कहते हैं कि वे अपना वसीयतनामा बदलने जा रहे हैं और सारा धन उसे मिलेगा जिसके घर में उनकी मृत्यु होगी।

दोनों पुत्रियां झगड़ा करती हैं कि पिता को कौन रखेगा। एबल मजे से इसका आनंद लेते हुए देख रहे हैं। अंत में वे फैसला सुनाते हैं जिसे सुनकर सबको सदमा पहुँचता है। वे कहते हैं कि आने वाले सोमवार को वे वकील के पास जा कर अपनी वसीयत बदल देंगे। इसके बाद इंगोरेन्स के दफ्तर जा कर प्रीमियम भरेंगे और फिर चर्च जाकर श्रीमति शौरोक से विवाह करेंगे। क्योंकि आखिरकार उन्हें एक ऐसा साथी मिल गया है जो उन्हें अपने साथ रखने में खुश है। वे अपने विवाह का न्योता देकर निकल जाते हैं और जाते हुए श्रीमती स्लेटर का धन्यवाद करते हैं कि उन्होंने भरी डेस्क नीचे लाकर उनके लिए आसन कर दिया कि वे उसे 'रिंग-ओ-बैल्स ले जा सकें।

## WORD-MEANINGS

- **outshine** : to compete and try to overdo more than the other
- **speck** : a bit or particle
- **trifles** : small small things
- **complacent** : easily satisfied
- **outfit** : dress
- **accustomed** : used to
- **regrettable** : worth regretting
- **chirpy** : cheerful
- **furtively** : in a sly manner
- **etiquettes** : manners
- **swindling** : cheating
- **reluctantly** : hesitatingly
- **disparaging** : to speak in a hurting manner
- **transfixed** : stunned
- **vindictive** : revengeful
- **disconcerted** : to be disturbed
- **snappishly** : irritably

# SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

## TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS (SOLVED)

### 5. Answer the following questions briefly.

- (a) *How does Mrs Slater plan to outshine the Jordans? What does it reveal about her character?*

**Ans.** Mrs Slater has managed to procure a black dress for mourning, though it is not complete. She believes that her mourning outfit would still be better than Mrs Jordan's, who might not have managed to arrange it also. Her obsession for a mourning dress reveals that she is a frivolous and pretentious woman who is not distressed at the death of her father and is bothered more about worldly pretensions.

- (b) *Why does Mrs Slater decide to shift the bureau from grandfather's room before the arrival of the Jordans? How does Henry react to the situation?*

**Ans.** Mrs Slater wishes to steal the bureau and shift it in her room and replace it by her old chest of drawers. The bureau was new so now with her father's death, she wishes to possess it before her sister comes and Henry is not that greedy and suggests that his wife must discuss it with her sister before taking it away. Later he gets persuaded by his dominating wife.

- (c) *What is the reason for the Jordans taking a long time to get to the house of the Slater's? What does it show about the attitude of the two sisters towards each other?*

**Ans.** Mrs Jordan took a lot of time to reach the home of the Slater's because she wanted to get a complete new mourning dress before coming. Both the sisters are not

grief-stricken at the death of their father but are trying to outshine each other in wearing their best mourning dresses. For the sisters grief is to be depicted through mourning-dress and not through the feelings in one's heart.

- (d) *What does Mrs Jordan describe as 'a fatal mistake'? What is the irony on the comment she makes on Mrs Slater's defence?*

**Ans.** Mrs. Jordan believes that not sending for the doctor at her father's death was a 'fatal mistake'. Mrs Slater clarifies immediately that since it was Mr Pringle who had always attended on her father, it would be against professional etiquette to call someone else. Mr Pringle was out of town so they didn't call anyone else.

- (e) *Ben appreciates grandfather saying "it's a good thing he did". Later he calls him a 'drunken old beggar'. Why does he change his opinion about grandfather?*

**Ans.** Ben appreciates the grandfather for paying the premium of his insurance policy. When he hears that grandfather had not gone that day to pay the premium, he changes his stand and calls him a 'drunken old beggar' since the grandfather had gone to 'Ring-O-Bells.'

- (f) *What change does the grandfather make in his new will? What effect will it have on his daughters?*

**Ans.** The grandfather decides that he will change his will. He decides to leave all the things to whomsoever he's living with when he dies. The daughters get agitated and consider it unfair. Both of them compete with each other to keep grandfather with them. None of them wanted to be deprived of their share.

- (g) *What are the three things that grandfather plans to do on Monday next?*

[C.B.S.E., 2011 (T-1)]

**Ans.** The grandfather plans to alter his will, pay his premium of the insurance policy and get married to John Shorrock's widow.

**6. Answer the following in detail :**

- (a) *How does the spat between the two daughters leads to the grandfather discovering the truth?*

**Ans.** Abel Merryweather recognises his bureau and wants to know the reason for its shifting. Mrs Slater had already told her sister that the bureau belonged to them. This lie is enough to set tongues wagging and tempers

escalating. Mrs Jordan accuses her sister of stealing her father's things, thinking him to be dead. That is when Abel discovers that they had gathered there for the official mourning of his death.

- (b) *Compare and contrast Henry's character with his wife:*

**Ans.** Henry is timid and honest by nature. Soft at heart, he tends to get bullied by his dominating wife. Initially he protests against stealing the grandfather's slippers and bureau but when Mrs Slater forces him, he gets carried away. He is a worried looking man who believed what his wife says and ends up supporting her. Mrs Slater by contrast is vain, pretentious and greedy. She makes the plans and he executes them with his wife's help of course.

### SOME IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

**1. Discuss the significance of the title of the play. Bring out the irony inherent in it?**

[C.B.S.E. 2011 (T-1)]

Or

**In what way is the play satirical? Comment on the nature of its characters.**

[C.B.S.E. 2011 (T-1)]

**Ans.** The title is very appropriate and packed with great irony and wit that makes a farce of all relationships that are most intense and pious. Children like the Slaters and the Jordans are a blot on humanity and on the bonds of love and affection. Both Amelia and her sister consider their father Abel Merryweather a burden and his death is no loss to them. The father is taken lightly. Immediately after Abel's supposed death, the elder daughter pinches his slippers, clock and his bureau. For both the daughters,

father's death is a kind of competition to outshine each other. There is no mourning in their hearts, but both the daughters vie with each other to wear the best mourning dress. Mrs Jordan wants to have her tea and snacks rather than looking at her dead father. Accusations are hurled at each other, death announcement is planned but no one spares a thought for the father. An obituary should reflect their feelings, that are non-existent. It is only the grand daughter Victoria, who is a sole witness to this game of pinching things and benefits. In a lighter tone, Abel Merryweather had sensed the mercenary nature of his daughter so he outwits them in their planning. He finds a widow to marry who would look after him better. The lesson ends on a humorous note but outlines a very tragic and pathetic concern – care of the elderly that is a glaring and ugly reality of today's world.

### REFERENCE TO CONTEXT – MCQs

**Read the following extracts and choose the correct option.**

1. *Mrs Slater : "I'm amazed at you, Victoria, I really am. How can you go gallowing about in the street with your grandfather lying dead and cold upstairs, I don't know. Be off now, and change your dress before your Aunt Elizabeth and your uncle Ben come. It would never do for them to find you in colours."*

(i) **Mrs Slater is angry with Victoria because**

- (a) she is moving around too much  
(b) she is wasting time in the street  
(c) she hasn't changed her dress

- (d) she's not bothered about her grandfather's death

(ii) **Aunt Elizabeth and Ben are paying a visit to**

- (a) offer condolence for the old man's death  
(b) check upon the old man  
(c) lay their hands on his belongings  
(d) to show to Mrs Slater their sorrow over the death

(iii) **Mrs Slater appears to be a lady who is very particular about**

- (a) ceremonies  
(b) relatives

- (c) condolence
- (d) mourning dresses on death

**Answer :** (i) (c) (ii) (d) (iii) (d)

2. *Mrs Slater : My heart's fit to break when I see the trifles that belonged to grandfather lying around, and think he'll never use them again.*

*Here! you'd better wear these slippers of grandfather's now : It's lucky he'd just got a new pair.*

- (i) **Mrs Slater is very disturbed because**
  - (a) her father is dead
  - (b) his things are lying scattered
  - (c) she has to make arrangements
  - (d) she cannot afford to have his things wasted
- (ii) **Mrs Slater is very resourceful as**
  - (a) she manages to make all the arrangements
  - (b) she is able to use her father's slippers
  - (c) she has managed to inform her sister
  - (d) she has managed to get tea ready for relatives
- (iii) **From the above statement it is clear that Mrs Slater was**
  - (a) resourceful
  - (b) miserly
  - (c) greedy
  - (d) vain

**Answer :** (i) (d) (ii) (b) (iii) (c)

3. *Victoria : Are we pinching it before Aunt Elizabeth comes?*

*Henry : (Shocked) No, my child. Grandpa gave it to your mother before he died.*

- (i) **Victoria's remarks reflect upon the behavior of the adults that they are**
  - (a) hypocrites
  - (b) mercenary
  - (c) greed-driven
  - (d) clever
- (ii) **Henry proves to be \_\_\_\_\_ from his statement.**
  - (a) submissive
  - (b) gullible
  - (c) hen-pecked
  - (d) vulnerable
- (iii) **Such pretensions and manipulative behaviour ends up \_\_\_\_\_ the lives of children like Victoria**
  - (a) benefitting
  - (b) guiding
  - (c) harming
  - (d) confusing

**Answer :** (i) (a) (ii) (c) (iii) (d)

4. *Mrs Slater : I could never fancy buying ready-made things.*

*Ms Jordan : No? For myself its such a relief to get*

*into the black.*

(i) **The above conversation reveals that both the daughters are not \_\_\_\_\_ at the death of their father.**

- (a) emotional
- (b) grief-stricken
- (c) sad
- (d) concerned

(ii) **Death has become an occasion for only**

- (a) sad expressions
- (b) flaunting mourning dresses
- (c) funeral services
- (d) prayers

(iii) **The above conversation reveals that both the sisters are**

- (a) Jealous
- (b) Competitive
- (c) Vicious
- (d) Concerned

**Answer :** (i) (b) (ii) (b) (iii) (c)

5. *Mrs Jordan : I like 'Never Forgotten'. Its refined Henry : Yes, but it's rather soon for that.*

*Ben : You couldn't very well forget him the day after.*

(i) **Do you believe the conversation taking place above is**

- (a) emotional
- (b) authentic
- (c) genuine
- (d) pretentious

(ii) **The comment of Ben is**

- (a) humorous
- (b) pretentious
- (c) ironical
- (d) satirical

(iii) **The relatives above are discussing about \_\_\_\_\_ to be given in the newspaper.**

- (a) obituary
- (b) announcement
- (c) tribute
- (d) notice

**Answer :** (i) (d) (ii) (d) (iii) (a)

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

[C.B.S.E. 2011 (T-1)]

(i) **These words are said by**

- (a) Victoria
- (b) Amelia
- (c) Elizabeth
- (d) Henry

(ii) **The word 'it' referred to here is**

- (a) the ornaments
- (b) the clock
- (c) the chest of drawers
- (d) bureau

(iii) **The speaker is planning to**

- (a) steal the clock before her sister comes
- (b) bring the bureau down

- (c) send the child up to bring the keys
- (d) sell the old chest of drawers

**Answer :** (i) (b) (ii) (d) (iii) (b)

7. (*Chirpily*) “*Now, Amelia, you mustn’t give way. We’ve all got to die sometime or other. It might have been worse.*” [C.B.S.E. 2011 (T-1)]

(i) **Who speaks these words?**

- (a) Ben (b) Mrs. Slater
- (c) Mrs. Jordan (d) Victoria

(ii) **The speaker is prompted to utter these words to Amelia so that / because**

- (a) she should not cry.
- (b) she need not show off.
- (c) he knew her real nature and wanted to caution her that when they would face such a situation, it would be still worse.
- (d) He wanted to be lively and humorous in that grim situation.

(iii) **The literary device used in the given lines is :**

- (a) Personification (b) Irony
- (c) Alliteration (d) Metaphor

**Answer :** (i) (a) (ii) (c) (iii) (b)

## REFERENCE TO CONTEXT – NON-MCQs

**Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow :**

1. “*It would never do for them to find you in colours.*”

(i) **Identify the speaker and the listener.**

**Ans :** The speaker is Mrs. Slater and the listener is her daughter Victoria.

(ii) **Who is referred to as ‘them’ in the above statement?**

**Ans :** ‘Them’ refers to Mrs. and Mr. Jordan.

(iii) **Explain – ‘in colours’.**

**Ans :** Victoria is wearing colourful clothes, whereas she should be wearing a mourning dress.

(iv) **What is the context of the above remark?**

**Ans :** Victoria’s grandfather is supposed to be dead.

2. “*Elizabeth’s that sharp she’ll see I’m after it and she’ll drive a hard bargain over it. Eli, what it is to have a low money grubbing spirit?*”

(i) **What is Elizabeth’s relation with the speaker?**

**Ans :** Elizabeth is the speaker Mrs Slater’s sister.

(ii) **What bargain is being discussed here?**

**Ans :** The plan of shifting the grandpa’s bureau before Elizabeth arrives.

(iii) **Explain – low money grubbing spirit.**

**Ans :** It refers to money-mindedness, or greed to possess things.

(iv) **What do the above remarks reflect about the speaker’s attitude and nature?**

**Ans :** The speaker herself is very mean, manipulative and clever.

3. “*No, my child, Grandpa gave it to your mother before he died.*”

(i) **Identify the speaker and the listener.**

**Ans :** The speaker is Henry Slater and he is addressing his daughter.

(ii) **What does ‘it’ refer to?**

**Ans :** ‘It’ refers to the ‘bureau’

(iii) **What impression do you form of the speakers from the above statement?**

**Ans :** Both the Slaters are greedy and great hypocrites.

(iv) **What do you think will be the impact of the above statement on the listener?**

**Ans :** Victoria will end up losing respect for her parents.

4. “*He is too honourable to have gone without paying his premium.*”

(i) **Who is the speaker and who is the listener?**

**Ans :** Mrs. Jordan is the speaker and her sister is the listener.

(ii) **Who is “He” in the above statement?**

**Ans :** ‘He’ is Abel Merryweather, Mrs Slater and Mrs Jordan’s father.

(iii) **What is the speaker’s relation with the person mentioned.**

**Ans :** She is Abel’s daughter.

(iv) **What is the speaker’s conception of ‘honour’?**

**Ans :** ‘Honour’ refers here to ‘paying one’s insurance premium.’

5. *“I like ‘Never Forgotten’. It’s refined.”*

(i) **Who is the speaker?**

**Ans :** Mrs Jordan is the speaker.

(ii) **What is the context of the above remark?**

**Ans :** The discussion is regarding the obituary to be put in the newspaper.

(iii) **For whom is ‘Never forgotten’ used?**

**Ans :** For Abel Merryweather.

(iv) **Point out the irony inherent in the above remark.**

**Ans :** It was only in words that he was not forgotten in its reality both the daughters had forgotten him already.

6. *“He’s done it on purpose, just to annoy us.”*

(i) **Identify ‘He’ and ‘us’.**

**Ans :** ‘He’ is Abel Merryweather and ‘us’ means the Jordans and Slaters.

(ii) **Mention the context of the above remark.**

**Ans :** The discussion is whether Abel has paid his insurance premium or not.

(iii) **What mistake has the person mentioned made?**

**Ans :** Abel appears to have deliberately messed out paying the premium.

(iv) **Do you think the speakers and the others like him deserve that kind of treatment?**

**Ans :** Yes, they do because they are all very greedy.

7. *“Drat me if that isn’t my clock too. What the devil’s been going on in the house?”*

(i) **What is the confusion regarding the clock?**

**Ans :** Abel Merryweather’s clock has been pinched by his daughter.

(ii) **What exactly has been going on in the house?**

**Ans :** Mrs. Slater, the daughter, thought that her father was dead and she was taking away his things.

(iii) **Who is the speaker and whom is he addressing?**

**Ans :** The speaker is Abel and he is addressing his daughters.

(iv) **What do the above remarks reflect about the listeners?**

**Ans :** The listeners are very greedy and not attached to their father.

8. *Mrs Jordan, “You know father, it’s quite time you come to live with us again we’d make you very comfortable.”*

(i) **What has brought about the above change**

**in the speaker’s attitude?**

**Ans :** The father’s new terms for the will has brought about this change.

(ii) **What about the above turn of events?**

**Ans :** Abel has announced that his money will go to the daughter with whom he would be staying at the time of his death.

(iii) **Who is instrumental in this change and why?**

**Ans :** The greedy nature of his daughters has brought this change.

(iv) **What does it reflect about Mrs Jordan’s character?**

**Ans :** Mrs. Jordan is very mercenary, greedy and opportunistic.

9. *I felt I was bit of a burden to you, so I found someone who’d think it a pleasure to look after me.*

(i) **For whom is the speaker supposed to be a burden?**

**Ans :** Abel is supposed to be a burden for his daughters.

(ii) **Who is the speaker and who are the listeners?**

**Ans :** Abel is the speaker and both the daughters and their husbands are the listeners.

(iii) **Who has the speaker found to look after him?**

**Ans :** Abel has found a widow, Mrs Shorrock, to look after him.

(iv) **How does the speaker’s decision affect the listeners?**

**Ans :** The daughters are denied all the rights to the property and money of their father.

10. *I’ll tell you what I’ve got to do. On Monday next I’ve got to do three things.*

(i) **Who is the speaker?**

**Ans :** Abel Merryweather, the father.

(ii) **What has he decided to do?**

**Ans :** He has decided to marry Mrs Shorrod, a widow, who runs a school in the neighbourhood.

(iii) **Why did he take such a decision?**

**Ans :** He took such a decision so that Mrs. Shorrock would take care of him. His own daughters were very greedy and were not attached to him.

## SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

**1. Why does Mrs Slater instruct Victoria to change her dress?**

**Ans :** Mrs. Slater is very particular about mourning dresses. Since her father has expired, she instructs her daughter Victoria to quickly change her colourful dress into something sober, before the guests and relatives arrive.

**2. Why were Mr and Mrs Jordan visiting the Slaters after so many years?**

**Ans :** Since Mr Abel Merryweather had expired, Mrs. Jordan, the daughter, was visiting her sister's family, to look after the arrangements to be made for the father's death.

**3. Henry says, "I suppose it's in the family." Why does Henry make this comment and what does it reflect about the two sisters?**

**Ans :** Henry is well aware that both the sisters Mrs Slater and Mrs. Jordan are very mean and calculative, so they will not lose any chance to pinch things belonging to their family. When his wife brings the new slippers of her father and gives to Henry, he makes this humorous comment.

**4. "Mother and me is going to bring grandfather's bureau down here." Who makes this remark and in what context? What does this reflect about the speaker?**

**Ans :** Henry Slater tells his daughter Victoria that they were shifting grandfather's bureau down because he had gifted it to them. Victoria cannot believe it. This remark depicts that Henry is not only a hen-pecked husband but also a hypocrite, who just does what his wife tells him. He has no individuality of his own.

**5. "For myself it's such a relief to get into the black." Who makes the above remark and what is the context?**

**Ans :** Mrs Jordan makes the above remark because she got delayed due to a new mourning dress for herself. She was not bothered about her father but worried about appearing in a new mourning dress. This indicates her pretentious nature without any thought for her father.

**6. Mrs Slater says, "he must have gone round to the 'Ring-O-Bells' afterwards, for he came in as merry as a sand boy" regarding Abel Merryweather. Do you think this remark is a prediction of the things to come?**

**Ans :** Yes, this remark is a death-knell on the plans forged by the two sisters to grab their father's money. The fact that Abel is going there too often and is looking

extremely pleased is a prediction of the future course of things.

**7. Mrs Jordan, "we want a verse that says how much we loved him and refers to all his good qualities and says what a heavy loss we're had." Point out the irony in this remark.**

**Ans :** Mrs. Jordan, the daughter, wishes to show to the world how much they all loved their father, by choosing such words for his obituary. But the irony is that in reality, they do not love him nor do they care for any of his good qualities.

**8. "After all I've done for him, having to put up with him in the house these three years. It's nothing short of swindling" who makes this remark and what does this reflect about the speaker's attitude?**

**Ans :** Mrs. Slater makes the above remark in great agitation when Abel states that his entire property will go to the person with whom he would be staying, at the time of his death, Mrs. Slater feels cheated. She believes that looking after her father for these years has not benefitted her at all.

**9. Describe the reaction of all Slaters and the Jordans when Abel Merryweather walks in the parlour?**

**Ans :** Both the Jordans and the Slaters are too shocked. There are no gasps of relief, none of them heaves a sigh of happiness. Both the sisters are displeased to see their father alive. They had spent quite some money on their mourning dresses. Mrs. Jordan had made this visit only because of her father's death.

**10. Why are Amelia and Elizabeth reluctant to tell the truth to their father regarding their mourning dresses? What stories do they cook up to convince their father?**

**Ans :** Abel Merryweather is shocked to see his daughters in mourning dresses and when he wishes to know the reason, he is told that Ben's brother has expired. They further tell lies that the brother was in Australia and he was older by five years.

**11. Why does Mr Abel Merryweather decide to make another will? What is the reaction of the others?**

**Ans :** Abel notices how his things are pinched away and his daughters are wearing mourning dresses, without even going and looking him up. Mrs Slater is shocked and even after keeping father for three years, Abel has decided to gift his money to the daughter, who will be with him at



the time of his death. Both the daughters fight with each other to keep him.

12. **What is the most surprising announcement made by Mr Abel in the end? How does it affect the other characters?** [C.B.S.E. 2011 (T-1)]

**Ans :** Abel makes a very dramatic announcement in the end that he is going to marry Mrs. Shorrocks who keeps the 'Ring-O-Bells'. Moreover he is going to take away his things and leave nothing for his daughters.

## LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. **You are a neighbour of Mrs Slater on Upper Cornbank Street. You have witnessed the indifferent and insensitive manner in which Mrs Slater looks after her father and how the poor father contrives ways to stay out of the house. Write a letter to a friend expressing your grave concern at the way in which the elderly people are neglected.**

**Ans :** Post Carter Road,  
Mumbai  
30 March, 2010  
Dear Alina,

With a heavy heart, I am writing this letter as I fear for our advancing age. The Slaters are our neighbours and Mrs. Slater treats her father so badly, that I fear how our old age will fare. The old father is very sporting, friendly and happy-go-lucky and still treated badly. He is not the demanding type, but still Mrs. Slater is always cribbing about keeping him. Mr Abel, that is his name, hardly stays at home and goes about to visit people even when he is sick and should be tended. His granddaughter Victoria is the only one who cares for him but a child cannot have her way. Mrs Slater is always trying to take away Mr Abel's things, one way or the other. These days he appears to be looking better because I have heard in the neighbourhood, that he is apparently seeing some old widow Mrs. Shorrocks. At least there is some light in his life, some flicker of hope. God save us from such children. I hope we do not face any such problems. Do write to me.

Your sister,  
Agatha.

2. **Discuss the character-sketch of Mrs Jordan and Mrs Slater as opposed to the characters of their husbands.**

**Ans :** Mrs Slater is clever, manipulative and mean, much like her sister Mrs. Jordan. Their aim in life is to do nothing for their father and derive maximum benefit. If Amelia takes away her father's slippers, bureau and clock, Elizabeth wants to take away her father's watch. Both the

ladies spare no thought for their father and worry about outdoing each other in wearing mourning dresses. For them the death of their father is like a drama that needs to be staged with best outfits. Both the husbands are henpecked and they go according to their wives. Henry knows that his wife is an opportunist but he assists her in carrying the bureau down. The husbands have no individualities except to pamper the whims of their wives.

3. **Victoria is the only one who loves her grandfather. She is also a witness to the manipulations and the mercenary behaviour of her parents and her aunt and uncle. She writes a diary expressing shock at their attitude and the emotional loss she would undergo after her grandfather's departure.** [C.B.S.E. 2011 (T-1)]

**Ans :** Dear Diary,

Today is the worst day of my life, when Grandpa was supposed to have passed away. I am deeply shocked at the behaviour of my mother and father, who are pinching the belongings of my Grandpa. Imagine none even went to look up Grandpa. I know Grandpa was not happy living with us, I tried my best but mummy never listens. Even papa supports her. I am so ashamed to see their hypocrisy. I don't know how they will expect respect from me, when they have behaved so abominably. I pity Grandpa for this treatment. Oh! how I wish I was grown up enough to look after him.

Victoria.

4. **Many years have elapsed. Mr Abel Merryweather passed away some years back. Mrs Slater is old and she realises how greedily she had behaved with her father. She is grief-stricken and regrets her actions. She unburdens her self in a diary-entry. Compose this on her behalf.**

**Ans :** Dear Diary,

I am so depressed because for a long time I have not received any letter from Victoria. Victoria has always

been cold and unresponsive towards me. I know she will never forgive the treatment I gave to my father. The minds of young children are impressionable and she will never change her opinion or learn to respect me. I am sick, old, and I need care but do I deserve any care, after the way I treated my father. On God! I feel so guilty. I wish I could turn the clock back. I made my father most unhappy so ill-luck and misery has to happen to me. I wish I could make amends.

Amelia

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

Or

**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. [C.B.S.E. 2011 (T-1)]**

**Ans :** Dear Anthony,

You must be surprised to get my letter after such a long time. But frankly speaking I did not find anyone in this whole world to become a witness to my marriage with Mrs. Shorrock, a widow, running a school in our

neighbourhood.

Don't get shocked to hear about my marriage at this ripe age when I have a full fledged family of two children and grand children. I myself never thought of taking such a drastic step had I not got over drunk one night and slept till late in the morning. That was a blessing in disguise, I could see the hypocrisy of my daughters. My supposed death was no loss to them since they considered me a burden. My death became a kind of competition for both of them. They outshone each other in wearing the best mourning dresses and took away the things from my room in the presence of my supposed dead body and started accusing each other. It is only my granddaughter who has some feelings for me.

Sensing the mercenary nature of my daughters, I have taken a stern decision, to spend the fag end of my life in good care. I have outwitted all of them and have planned to Marry Mrs Shorrock who would look after me better. Moreover, I am going to take away all my things and leave nothing for them. I hope you will appreciate my decision. Do come to St. Wilson church on Monday, the day I am getting married, at 11 a.m.

Yours very own

Abel Merrywheater.

## FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

1. **It is an undeniable fact that the best classroom in the world is at the feet of grandparents. They have an endless treasure of stories to tell their grandchildren. They have silver in their hair, gold in their hearts. They have a life-time of experience to bestow on their grandchildren. Write a short character-sketch of your grandfather, highlighting the special qualities you have learnt from him.**



2. **Mr Mohan Mehra is 80 years old. He is weak, emaciated and neglected by his children. Financially also, he has to depend on others. Prepare a short speech to be delivered in your colony, requesting people to come to provide him physical and mental support.**



3. Compose a short poem on the special bond shared by grandparents and grandchildren.



4. Ponto is very naughty. Every time he loves playing pranks on his 'dadajee'. Imagine his pranks and write a short story titled "Naughty Ponto and His Dadajee".



## INTRODUCTION

Julius Caesar is a historical play which depicts events that took place around 42 B.C. Shakespeare has very deftly presented this political drama which is punctuated by personal strifes and moral dilemmas, faced by the main characters of the play.

Julius Caesar is an able general, statesman and an immensely popular Roman. He returns to Rome amidst cheers and adulation after defeating the sons of Pompey. The Romans turn up in large numbers to cheer him since he has filled up the coffers of Rome. Caesar refuses the crown, which is offered to him three times. But it is feared that he may one day ascend the throne and revoke the privileges of men like Cassius. The threat that Caesar was moving away from the ideals of Roman principles towards an empire ruled directly by himself, is the chief reason that Brutus joins the conspirators. Brutus is the most trusted, respected and 'noble of all Romans', but has a false conception of honour. He is an idealist, but is not shrewd enough to sense the purpose of the conspirators like Cassius.

## SUMMARY

Caesar wanders about in his night-gown and is kept awake by Calpurnia's nightmares. She called out in her sleep about supernatural omens that spelled disaster. Calpurnia believes that such bad omens are a premonition of evil and some harm would befall Caesar. Caesar rebuffs her, refusing to give in to fear. Caesar deems the signs to apply to the world in general and refuses to believe they bore ill for him personally. Finally, Calpurnia prevails upon Caesar to stay at home. Decius Brutus jeopardises Calpurnia's plan and forces Caesar to go to the Senate, where the senators were waiting to offer a crown to him. On his way, Caesar rejects the petition of Cimber to revoke the orders for his brother's banishment. This proves to be the last nail in his coffin. Immediately afterwards, Casca and other senators along with Brutus stab Caesar. Caesar's last words are, "Et tu Brute?"

The conspirators turn to the plebians and start shouting slogans of "Liberty, Freedom and Enfranchisement" as if they were safeguarding the rights of all the Romans.

Mark Antony is too dumbstruck to see Caesar's dead body in a pool of blood, but tactfully restrains himself from making any statements. He requests Brutus for allowing him to make a funeral speech. Dismissing Cassius' objection, Brutus allows him but only after he has himself addressed the plebians. Antony uses his excellent oratorical skills very cleverly and succeeds in inciting the mob to mutiny and wreck havoc against the conspirators. Brutus and others have to flee for their lives and Octavius Caesar arrives to clinch the victory for Antony and save Caesar's honour.

## सारांश

सीज़र रात के सोने के लिबास में इधर-उधर घूमते रहते हैं। क्योंकि कैलपूरनिया के भयानक सपने और डरावनी चीखें उन्हें सोने नहीं देतीं। वह नींद में अलौकिक घटनाओं और पूर्वाभास की चेतावनी देती रहती हैं और कहती हैं कि यह अपशगुन पूर्वाभास है कुछ बुरा और भयानक घटना सीज़र के साथ होगी सीज़र उन्हें डाँटते हैं और डर का शिकार होने से इंकार करते हैं। सीज़र कहते हैं कि यह चिह्न तो संसार के लिए हो सकते हैं। वे इस बात पर पूरी तरह से विश्वास करने से इंकार करते हुए कहते हैं कि उन्हें कोई खतरा नहीं है।

अंत में कैलपूरनिया उन्हें घर पर ही रहने के लिए राजी कर लेती है। डेसियस ब्रूटस कैलपूरनिया की योजनाओं पर पानी फेर देते हैं और सीज़र को मज़बूर कर देते हैं कि वे सीनेट जाएँ जहाँ सदस्य उन्हें ताज पहनाने का इंतज़ार कर रहे हैं।

मार्ग में जाते हुए सीज़र, सिंबर की याचिका को कि उसके भाई के निर्वासन के आदेश को वापिस लिया जाये, रद्द कर देते हैं। यह उनके ताबूत में आखिरी कील थी। उसके तुरन्त बाद, कास्का और दूसरे सभी सभा सदस्य जिनमें ब्रूटस भी शामिल है उन्हें कटार भौंक कर मार देते हैं। सीज़र के आखिरी शब्द "तुम भी ब्रूटस" थे।

सिंबर षडयंत्रकारी जनता की ओर झुकाव दिखाते हुए नारे लगाते हैं Liberty, Freedom, Enfranchisement 'आजादी - स्वतंत्रता, राजनीतिक अधिकार। मानों वे जनता को आश्वासन दे रहे हों कि वे सभी रोमवासियों के अधिकारों की रक्षा कर रहे हैं।

मार्क एंटनी (Mark Antony) सीज़र की खून से सनी लाश को देख भौंचक्का है परन्तु कुशलता से अपने मनोभावों को छुपाते हुए कुछ भी कहने से अपने को रोकता है। वह ब्रूटस से आज्ञा माँगता है कि वह दफ़नाने की क्रिया से पहले जनता को सम्बोधित कर कुछ कहे। कैसियस के विरोध को नज़रअंदाज़ कर ब्रूटस उसे इजाज़त दे देता है कि

वह जनता से दो शब्द कहे। एंटनी अपनी अद्भुत, भाषण देने की कला का पूरा इस्तेमाल करते हुए जनता को प्रभावित करने में सफल हो जाता है। भीड़ बगावत पर आमादा होकर षडयंत्रकारियों के विरुद्ध तोड़फोड़ शुरू कर देती है। ब्रूटस और दूसरे षडयंत्रकारी अपनी जान बचा कर भागते हैं और आक्टेवियस सीज़र आ कर एंटनी की विजय को पक्का करते हुए सीज़र की प्रतिष्ठा का मान रखते हैं।

## WORD-MEANINGS

**Whelped** : Cried • **Yawned** : opened up • **Portents** : ill-omens • **Imminent** : going to occur • **Cognisance** : notice • **Puissant** : powerful • **Couchings** : bowing • **Decree** : judicial decision • **Pre-ordinance** : before authoritative order • **Cur** : dog • **Enfranchisement** : right to vote • **Strife** : War • **Coffers** : treasury.

# SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

## TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS (SOLVED)

### 6. Answer the following questions briefly.

(a) *How do the heavens 'blaze forth' the death of Julius Caesar?* [C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

**Ans.** Calpurnia sees ill-omens that predict the death of Caesar beforehand. The heavens predict the death of princes and great kings. There were fierce battles, blood rained, ghosts were seen, graves opened up, battle cries were heard. All this signalled that someone as powerful as Caesar was bound to suffer.

(b) *What does Calpurnia convince Caesar of?*

**Ans.** She convinces Caesar to avoid going to the senate. She believed that Caesar would be safe if he stays at home.

(c) *Why does Calpurnia say Caesar's 'wisdom is consumed in confidence?' What does it mean?*

**Ans.** When Caesar is adamant about going to the senate, Calpurnia dissuades him. But Caesar believes that ill-omens are for the weak and not for the mighty like him. Then Calpurnia says that Caesar's over confidence has clouded his wisdom. He was so confident that he refused to see reason nor understood the indication behind the ill-omens.

(d) *What was Calpurnia's dream? How was it interpreted by Decius Brutus?*

[C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

**Ans.** Calpurnia sees a terrifying dream in which Caesar is murdered, his statue is gushing blood and many smiling Romans are bathing their hands in his blood. Calpurnia was not superstitious but earlier in the night she had a nightmare comprising the dead man walking about. She felt that the dream was a premonition of the evil that was going to befall Caesar. So she forbids Caesar to go to the Senate. But Decius cleverly interprets it positively. He says that the vision of Romans bathing in Caesar's blood signifies that Caesar's spirit or influence will touch many lives; staining their handkerchieves in Caesar's blood indicates reverence, dedication and a token of memory on part of the Romans.

(e) *What arguments did Brutus and other conspirators give to justify the killing of Caesar?* [C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

**Ans.** Julius Caesar is an able general and a mighty conqueror who has brought great glory to Rome. It is believed by many that Caesar is too ambitious and would one day be the Roman emperor and a dictator. Jealous of Caesar's growing power, Cassius instigates a conspiracy to murder Caesar. The conspirators were unhappy with Caesar's obstinacy and egoistic behaviour. Cassius was jealous of Caesar's soaring power and popularity. According to Cassius, Caesar was a tyrant who wanted to treat the Romans as slaves and that Roman liberty and democracy were under threat from Caesar. Brutus stabbed Caesar because he was an idealist and believed that ambition and tyranny should be nipped in the bud but Cassius killed Caesar because he wanted to be a part of the Roman triumvirate.

(f) *Why is Decius more successful than Calpurnia in persuading Caesar?* [C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

**Ans.** Decius interprets Calpurnia's dream as a fair and fortunate vision. He says that the vision of Romans bathing in Caesar's blood signifies Caesar's spirit or influence will increase manifold. Basically he boosts Caesar's ego, flatters his greatness and might and makes him feel more powerful. So Caesar is happier with his version.

(g) *What is the petition put before Caesar by the conspirators? How does Caesar respond to it?*

**Ans.** The conspirators want Caesar to pardon Publius Cimber and recall the order of his banishment. Caesar refuses the request and says that his order cannot be changed and he will stick to his decision.

(h) *Who says 'Ete tu Brute'? When and why?*

**Ans.** Caesar utters these words which mean, "you too, Brutus". These are uttered when Brutus stabs Caesar and Caesar is too hurt to see that even his dear friend Brutus could resort to such treachery.

(i) *In the moments following Caesar's death, how do the conspirators proclaim to justify Caesar's death?* [C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

**Ans.** The conspirators wish to justify Caesar's death by announcing their love and loyalty to Rome. They say that Caesar was very ambitious and Romans would have become slaves under his autocratic rule. According to Brutus, Caesar was a tyrant and Roman liberty and democracy was under threat and Caesar wished to become an Emperor.

(j) *What does Antony say after Caesar's death, when he sees the body of Caesar?*

**Ans.** Antony apologises to Caesar's body for being meek and gentle with his murderers. He curses the hands that killed such a noble man. He also requests them to kill him for he cannot tolerate Caesar's death.

(k) *How do Brutus and Cassius respond to Antony's speech?*

**Ans.** Both Brutus and Cassius request Antony not to plead for his own death. They offer him authority and good position and ask for his support in the murder of Caesar.

(l) *Whom does Antony call "the choice and master spirits of this age." Why?*

**Ans.** Antony calls Brutus and Cassius the most powerful people after Caesar's death; they have all the power. Moreover, he wants to flatter their ego, to pretend that he is not against them.

(m) *How do Brutus and Cassius respond to*

*Antony's request for giving a speech? What are the conditions imposed by them.*

**Ans.** Cassius is very much against Antony's idea of speech but Brutus feels that no harm can befall him and others with just a speech. Brutus says that he will give a speech first and justify Caesar's death so there will not be a problem, if Antony delivers his speech later. Moreover Antony is had agreed to deliver the speech from the same platform and not talk against them.

(n) *When he is left alone with the body of Caesar what does Antony call Brutus and others?*

**Ans.** Antony curses the murderers and he seeks forgiveness for being polite to them. He calls them 'butchers' who killed the noblest of men.

(o) *What prediction does Antony make regarding the future events in Rome?*

**Ans.** Antony prophesies that Rome will be ravaged with civil war, violence and extreme blood shed will leave the earth full of dead bodies. Goddess of revenge will descend on earth with Caesar's spirit and the stench of dead bodies will fill the earth.

(p) *Who says "let him be Caesar"? What light does this throw on the speaker?*

**Ans.** The 3rd citizen says this. This statement reflects the vulnerability of the mob who believe, whatever is told to them. They say that Brutus should be put in place of Caesar, after being impressed by his speech. Later they turn towards Mark Antony and are ready to kill Brutus and others.

7. **Julius Caesar and Antony reveal something about their character in their words and actions. We also learn about them from what other people say. Can you pick out the words that describe them from the box given below? Also, pick out lines from the play to illustrate your choice.**

superstitious	arrogant	loyal	clever
overconfident	manipulative	good orator	ambitious
brave	great conqueror	generous	fearless
loves flattery	firm	shrewd	crafty

Person	Extract from play	What it tells us about the character
Julius Caesar	1. the things that threaten'd me Ne'er look'd but on my back; when they shall see The face of Caesar, they are vanished.	arrogant over confident
	2. Cowards die many times before their deaths The heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes	Brave
	3. We are two lions littered in a day And I the elder and more terrible	fearless
	4. Thy brother by decree is banished If thou dost bend and pray and fawn for him	firm

	5. She dreamt tonight she saw my statue Which, like a fountain with a hundred spouts Did run pure blood	superstitious
	6. No, Caesar shall not; danger knows full well That Caesar is more dangerous than he	overconfident
Mark Antony	1. Of half that worth as those your swords, made rich With the most noble blood of all this world	loyal
	2. Produce his body to the market place And in the pulpit, as becomes a friend Speak in the order of his funeral	shrewd
	3. Woe to the hand that shed this costly blood Over thy wounds now do I prophecy A curse shall light the limbs of men	crafty
	4. I come here to bury Caesar, not to praise him The evil that men do lives after them . . . . And Brutus is an honourable man	manipulative
	5. Kind souls, what weep you when you but behold Our Caesar's vesture wounded? Look you here, Here is himself, marred, as you see, with trailers.	good orator

8. In the play 'Julius Caesar,' we meet the Roman mob. We find that as Brutus and Antony speak, the mob displays certain qualities and characteristics.

Given below are some characteristics of the mob. Complete the table by quoting the lines wherein these are revealed.

Words actions of the mob	Characteristics
1. The mob first believes Brutus that Caesar was ambitious and later believes Antony.	Foolish, fickle, easily manipulated
2. They forget Caesar's achievements	Does not understand the ideals of democracy
3. Give him a statue with our ancestors Let him be Caesar	Emotional
4. Read the will, the testament They are happy to know that Caesar left them money	Greedy
5. Me thinks there is much reason in his saying Caesar has had great wrong	Fickle
6. We will be revenged Seek 'Burn! Fire! kill! slay!	Violent

9. Antony employs a number of devices to produce the desired effect on the mob. These devices may be described as rhetorical devices. He first speaks in such a manner that it seems to the mob that he is in full agreement with Brutus about Caesar. Then step by step he moves away from Brutus' position, depicting Brutus as a villain and Caesar as a wronged man. Copy and complete the following table by showing how Antony builds the argument in Caesar's favour.

Antony's words	Argument
1. I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.	Does not wish to eulogise Caesar
2. The noble Brutus Hath told you Caesar was ambitious: If it were so, it was a grievous fault, And grievously hath Caesar anser'd it.	Seemingly agrees with Brutus Ironical.
3. I thrice presented him the crown, he refused it Yet Brutus says that he was ambitious	Pretends to say that Caesar was ambitious Clever
4. I rather choose to wrong the dead and you Then I will wrong such honourable men	He does not intend to wrong Irony Brutus and Cassius
5. If Brutus so unkindly knocked, or no For Brutus was Caesar's angel	Brutus was greatly loved by Caesar (hints at his treachery) manipulative

### SOME IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

#### 1. "What can be avoided

**Whose end is purposed by the mighty gods." The above statement reflects Caesar's dignity and wisdom that the hour of death cannot be averted and is decided by God. Keeping the above statement in mind, discuss the circumstances that led to Caesar's death.**

**Ans.** Caesar is fearless, valiant and believes that the fixed hour of death decided by heavens cannot be averted. This proves true in his case. He is persuaded by Calpurnia to avoid going to the Senate due to ill-omens. Caesar had nearly succumbed to Calpurnia's entreaties, but Decius Brutus ignites Caesar's pride, vanity and overconfidence proves to be his failing. Despite the premonitions, he proceeds towards the Senate. He haughtily rejects the petition of Metellus Cimber to revoke his brother's banishment. The conspirators are ready to kill Caesar. Casca is the first one to stab Caesar, followed by Brutus and others.

#### 2 What characteristics are displayed by the Roman mob in the play? Discuss how the mob changes the fate of the main characters of the play?

**Ans.** Mob is of strategic importance in the plays of Shakespeare. It gives us a deep insight of the main characters and is instrumental in turning the tide of events. The mob is full of hero worship. They glorify Caesar when he brings victory and fills the coffers of Rome. They rejoice in his honour, worship him and put him on a pedestal as a hero. But the commoners are too gullible, very easily swayed and exhibit 'herd-mentality.' When Brutus convinces them that Caesar's murder was justified in the interest of Rome, they believe him, but when Mark Antony plays on their emotions, they rise in mutiny. They are overwhelmed to hear of Caesar's will and cause heavy destruction. So

mob can turn the tide, depending upon who proves to be clever to exploit it to his advantage.

#### 3. Compare and contrast the characters of Brutus and Mark Antony. [C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

**Ans.** Brutus is a powerful public figure, a dignified military leader and a loving friend. The conflicting value systems that battle with each other, in the play, are enacted on a micro level in Brutus' mind. Even after the murder of Caesar has been committed, questions remain whether it was a noble, selfless act or failure of a great nobleman and friend.

Brutus' rigid idealism is both his greatest virtue and his most deadly flaw. He lives up to Antony's elegiac description as 'the noblest of Romans.' His commitment to principles leads him to miscalculations: wanting to curtail violence, he ignores Cassius' advice and does not kill Antony as well. In another moment of naive idealism, he allows Antony to give his funeral oration over Caesar's body. So he forfeits the authority of having the last word on the murder and allows Antony to incite the plebeians to riot against him. He later endangers his good relationship with Cassius by self-righteously condemning the fund-raising tactics.

So Brutus acts out of a desire to limit the self-serving aspects of his actions, ironically in each incident he dooms the very cause, he seeks to promote, thus serving no one.

#### 4. How was Antony successful in instigating the people of Rome against the conspirators?

Or

**Antony displays lot of maturity in the way he befriends the conspirators in order to avenge Caesar's death. Explain. [C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]**



**Ans.** Mark Antony is a clever statesman and a good friend of Caesar. He is foresighted enough to judge that Brutus is a famous public figure and has already won the approval of the plebeians, instead of censure, after killing Caesar. Now it is upto him to turn the tide, which threatens to flow on the side of the conspirators.

Antony proves strong in all the ways while Brutus proves weak. His impulsive, improvisatory nature serves him perfectly to persuade the conspirators that he is on their side, thus gaining leniency. Throughout his speech, he keeps repeating, 'Brutus is an honorable man.' "I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him," whereas he does just the opposite. He is able to persuade the plebeians of the conspirators' injustice and gains mass support. He contradicts the charges of Brutus that Caesar was ambitious by pointing out that Caesar had refused the crown twice, had filled the coffers of Rome and wept for all Romans.

Not too scrupulous to stoop to deceit and duplicity, as Brutus claims to be, Antony proves himself to be a consummate politician, using gestures and rhetoric to his advantage. He graphically displays all the stabs, Brutus and others have inflicted on Caesar's body and uses Caesar's body to exploit the plebeians emotionally. He responds to subtle cues, tailors his words very deftly and uses the most appropriate actions to incite the people. He deliberately thrusts the words 'mutiny' and 'riot' at them and gets the desired results. Unlike Brutus, who prides himself on solely acting with respect to virtue and blinding himself to his personal concerns. Antony never separates his private affairs from his public actions. So Antony's eulogy at Caesar's funeral is a master-stroke, and the mention of Caesar's will that leaves money and his property for all Romans, acts as the final nail in the coffin of the conspirators. So Antony's speech is a combination of wit, irony, sarcasm, pathos and satire.

## REFERENCE TO CONTEXT – MCQS—MCQs

**Read the following and write the most appropriate option from the ones given to you :**

1. *Calpurnia : When beggars die, there are no comets seen, the heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes.*  
*Caesar : Cowards die many times before their deaths;  
 The valiant never taste of death but once.*

- (i) **Why does Calpurnia make the above observation?**  
 (a) She is a coward  
 (b) She is unsure of Caesar's capability  
 (c) She wishes to stop Caesar from going to the senate  
 (d) She is superstitious
- (ii) **How do heavens differentiate between the death of a prince and a beggar?**  
 (a) Heavens are indifferent  
 (b) There are ill omens when the mighty are going to fall  
 (c) Beggars and poor are given special preference  
 (d) It is the duty of Heavens to show some omens
- (iii) **What is Caesar's logic for not fearing death?**

- (a) Brave do not think of death  
 (b) Brave are always ready to die  
 (c) Brave are always thinking of death  
 (d) Death always favours the brave
- (iv) **What does the above conversation reflect about Caesar's character?**  
 (a) proud (b) selfless  
 (c) fearless (d) superstitious

**Answers :** (i) (c) (ii) (b) (iii) (a) (iv) (c)

2. *Your statue spouting blood in many pipes  
 In which so many smiling Roman's bathed  
 Signifies that from you great Rome shall suck  
 Reviving blood, and that great man shall press  
 For tinctures, stains, relics and cognisance.*
- (i) **Who is the speaker and who is being addressed here?**  
 (a) Caesar—Calpurnia (b) Caesar—Antony  
 (c) Decius—Caesar (d) Calpurnia—Decius
- (ii) **What is the context of this speech?**  
 (a) Calpurnia's dream  
 (b) Caesar's statue spouting blood  
 (c) Caesar's visit to Senate  
 (d) Some personal problem between Caesar and Calpurnia
- (iii) **How will Rome be benefitted as a result?**

- (a) Caesar's enemies will decrease
- (b) He will become more powerful
- (c) Rome will gain strength and sustenance from Caesar
- (d) Caesar will exploit the weak.

(iv) **What is the effect of this speech on the listener?**

- (a) Caesar is shocked
- (b) Calpurnia is amazed
- (c) Caesar looks up to Decius in disbelief
- (d) Caesar is full of praise for Decius

**Answers :** (i) (c) (ii) (b) (iii) (c) (iv) (d)

3. *I must prevent thee, Cimber.  
These couchings and these lowly courtesies  
Might fire the blood of ordinary men,  
And turn pre-ordinance and first decree  
into the laws of children.*

(i) **What is the reason for this speech?**

- (a) Caesar's anger at Cimber's request
- (b) Caesar's politeness to pardon Cimber's brother
- (c) Cimber's audacity to provoke Caesar
- (d) Caesar's ignorance of the rules of Rome.

(ii) **What kind of behaviour is disliked by the speaker?**

- (a) giving compliments
- (b) bowing and bending to impress
- (c) acts of cowardice
- (d) acts of defiance and opposition

(iii) **What is the speaker's conception of law?**

- (a) Laws are a child's play
- (b) Laws cannot be changed at will
- (c) Laws should be flexible
- (d) Laws can be bent to save the guilty

(iv) **What light does the above speech throw on his character?**

- (a) kind and compassionate
- (b) authoritative
- (c) strict and law-abiding
- (d) fickle-minded

(v) **What is the reason for Cimber's behaviour?**

- (a) He is afraid of Caesar
- (b) He wishes to plead for his brother
- (c) He wishes to lay a trap for Caesar
- (d) He hates Caesar

**Answers :** (i) (c) (ii) (b) (iii) (b) (iv) (c) (v) (c)

4. *O, pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth,  
That I am meek and gentle with these butchers  
Thou art the ruins of the noblest man  
that ever lived in the tide of times.  
woe to the hand that shed this costly blood!  
over thy wounds now do I prophecy, –*

[C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

(i) **Who is referred to as 'bleeding piece of earth'?**

- (a) Rome
- (b) Caesar's dead body
- (c) Brutus
- (d) Caesar's home

(ii) **What crime have the 'Butchers' committed?**

- (a) tyranny against Rome
- (b) Shed blood of Romans
- (c) killed Caesar
- (d) looted the coffers of Rome

(iii) **The speaker is full of grief at the death of Caesar, but his behaviour is very meek and gentle towards the conspirators? Why?**

- (a) He is afraid of them
- (b) His own life is in danger
- (c) He wishes to sidetrack them
- (d) He is calm by nature

(iv) **What prophecy does the speaker make?**

- (a) Rome will be destroyed
- (b) Caesar will be grieved
- (c) Conspirators will meet their doom soon
- (d) Rome will not be at peace ever

(v) **Who are the conspirators?**

- (a) Brutus and Antony
- (b) Cassius and Brutus
- (c) Caesar and Calpurnia
- (d) Antony and Cimber

**Answers :** (i) (b) (ii) (c) (iii) (c) (iv) (c) (v) (b)

5. *Brutus:*

*Not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved  
Rome more.*

*Had you rather Caesar were living and die all  
slaves, than that*

*Caesar were dead, to live all free man? As  
Caesar loved me*

*I weep for him, as he was fortunate, I rejoice at  
it, as he was*

*valiant, I honour him.*

(i) **Why does Brutus make the above speech?**

- (a) To plead and justify himself

- (b) to provoke the conspirator
  - (c) he is afraid of Mark Antony
  - (d) he wishes to prove his nobility
- (ii) **Why does Brutus need to reaffirm and emphasise his love for Caesar?**
- (a) He was considered Caesar's best friend
  - (b) No one could ever associate him with murder
  - (c) He was weak
  - (d) He wished to prove his love for Rome
- (iii) **What reasons does Brutus offer for killing Caesar?**
- (a) Caesar was too dominating
  - (b) Roman liberty and democracy were at stake under Caesar
  - (c) Caesar was too strict in implementing laws
  - (d) He was ruthless and unkind
- (iv) **Mention a praiseworthy quality of Caesar which Brutus speaks about despite killing him.**
- (a) Authoritative      (b) Ruthless
  - (c) Brave                (d) Kind
- (v) **How important was honour to Brutus?**
- (a) important            (b) most important
  - (c) least important    (d) indifferent to it

**Answers :** (i) (a) (ii) (d) (iii) (b) (iv) (c) (v) (b)

**6. Mark Antony :**

*But Brutus says he was ambitious,  
And Brutus is an honourable man.  
He hath brought many captives home to Rome  
Whose ransoms did the general coffers fill;  
Did this in Caesar seem ambitious?*

- (i) **Why does Mark Antony keep repeating that 'Brutus is an honourable man'?**
- (a) Because his is clever
  - (b) Not to sound disagreeable to the crowd
  - (c) Because he is patriotic
  - (d) Because he respects Brutus
- (ii) **Quote one example from the above speech that is in praise of Caesar?**
- (a) he waged wars
  - (b) punished the captives of war
  - (c) filled the coffers of Rome by bringing captives to Rome
  - (d) he was ambitious

- (iii) **Mark Antony's conception of 'ambitious' is to have**
- (a) selfish motives    (b) materialistic gains
  - (c) wage wars        (d) love for Rome
- (iv) **What attitude of Mark Antony is reflected by the above speech?**
- (a) cleverness        (b) great oratorical skills
  - (c) bravery            (d) vanity

**Answers :** (i) (a) (ii) (c) (iii) (d) (iv) (b)

**7. Antony :**

*But here's a parchment with the seal of Caesar;  
I found it in his closet, 'tis his will : .....  
which, pardon me, I don't mean to read –  
And they would go and kiss dead Caesar's wounds  
And dip their napkins in his sacred blood.*

- (i) **What secret does Antony reveal to the people of Rome?**
- (a) That Caesar left a will for Romans to read
  - (b) That Caesar was a very honest man
  - (c) That Caesar was misguided
  - (d) That Caesar stabbed Rome in the back
- (ii) **What would be the effect of Caesar's will?**
- (a) Romans would protest and revolt against the conspirators
  - (b) They will feel guilty
  - (c) They will feel happy at Caesar's death
  - (d) They will kiss Caesar's wounds
- (iii) **Why does Antony show hesitation in reading Caesar's will?**
- (a) He does not wish to reveal the will
  - (b) He is unhappy at Caesar's will
  - (c) It is a part of his acting and pretension
  - (d) He does not wish Romans to know about it
- (iv) **What are the contents of Caesar's will?**
- (a) Caesar wished to be remembered as a hero
  - (b) Caesar wished his statue to be built in the centre of Rome
  - (c) He had left all his money, perks etc. for Romans
  - (d) He had left everything to Calpurnia

**Answers :** (i) (a) (ii) (b) (iii) (c) (iv) (c)

**8. Antony :**

*Good friends, sweet friends, let me not stir you up  
To such a sudden flood of mutiny*

*They that have done this deed are honourable  
What private griefs they have, alas, I know not  
That made them do it.*

- (i) **What is the occasion of Mark Antony's speech?**  
(a) Caesar's birthday  
(b) Anniversary of Roman invasion  
(c) Caesar's murder  
(d) Antony's celebration
- (ii) **What does the use of 'stir' and 'muting' reveal about the purpose of Antony's speech?**  
(a) It is a wake-up case for Romans  
(b) He wants them to rise up and revolt  
(c) He wants most of them to bow before Caesar's statue  
(d) He does not want anything from the Romans
- (iii) **What is meant by 'private griefs'?**  
(a) virtues  
(b) personal problems  
(c) professional jealousy  
(d) treason against Rome
- (iv) **Who are the 'sweet friends' Antony wishes to address?**  
(a) Brutus and Cassius  
(b) Romans  
(c) Decius  
(d) Calpurnia and Caesar's relatives

**Answers :** (i) (c) (ii) (b) (iii) (b) (iv) (b)

9. *If there by any in this assembly, any dear friend of Caesar's to him I say, that Brutus' love to Ceasar was no less than his. If then that friend demand why Brutus rose against Caesar, this is my answer. Not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more. Had you rather Caesar were living and die all slaves, than that Caesar were dead, to live all free men?*

- (i) **Why according to Brutus, did he kill Caesar?**  
(a) Brutus wanted to save Rome from slavery  
(b) Brutus hated Caesar.  
(c) Cassius forced Brutus to kill Caesar  
(d) Brutus himself wanted to become the king of Rome.

- (ii) **How does Brutus justify the assassination of Caesar?**  
(a) Brutus said that Caesar was ambitious.  
(b) Brutus said that he would enslave Rome.  
(c) Brutus said that he would become a tyrant.  
(d) All of the above
- (iii) **How did the mob react to the speech given by Brutus?**  
(a) The mob revolted against Brutus.  
(b) The mob agreed with Brutus' decision.  
(c) The mob criticised Brutus' decision  
(d) None of the above.

**Answers :** (i) (a) (ii) (d) (iii) (b) (iv) (b)

10. *You know not what you do. Do not Consent that Antony speak in his funeral.*
- (i) **\_\_\_\_\_ funeral is being talked about.**  
(a) Cassius's (b) Caesar's  
(c) Brutus's (d) none of the above
- (ii) **The person had been \_\_\_\_\_**  
(a) killed in the war  
(b) poisoned  
(c) killed by his own friends  
(d) killed by a wild animal
- (iii) **The speaker did not want Antony to speak because :**  
(a) he was not a good speaker.  
(b) he might instigate the public.  
(c) he will not let anyone else speak.  
(d) none of the above.

**Answers :** (i) (b) (ii) (c) (iii) (b)

11. *Calpurnia : What mean you, Caesar? Think you to work forth? You shall not stir of your house today*  
*Caesar : Caesar shall forth.*
- (i) **Calpurnia stopped Caesar from going out of the house because**  
(a) Caesar's enemies were out to kill him  
(b) Caesar war not well  
(c) Calpurnia saw Caesar being killed in her dream  
(d) it was raining heavily
- (ii) **Caesar wanted to go out of the house because**  
(a) he didn't care about his wife  
(b) he wanted to throw the enemies of Rome out of the country

- (c) he was worried about the safety of the common man  
 (d) he had to attend an important meeting
- (iii) These lines tell us about Caesar that he**  
 (a) was a superstitious person  
 (b) was a coward  
 (c) was proud  
 (d) was soft-hearted

**Answers :** (i) (c) (ii) (c) (iii) (c)

**12.** *Caesar, I have never stood on ceremonies,  
 Yet now they fright me*

- (i) \_\_\_\_\_ who says these words to Caesar?**  
 (a) Calpurnia, his wife  
 (b) Decius  
 (c) The watchman

- (d) Antony
- (ii) What does this tell us about the character of the speaker?**  
 (a) He / She is nervous  
 (b) He / She is superstitious  
 (c) He / She is rational  
 (d) He / She is strong and bold
- (iii) They in the above extract refer to some sights seen by his wife. What are they?**  
 (a) graves opening and yielding the dead  
 (b) lightning shattering the skies  
 (c) a lioness giving birth in the street  
 (d) all of the above

**Answers :** (i) (a) (ii) (b) (iii) (d)

## REFERENCE TO CONTEXT – NON-MCQs

**Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow :**

**1.** *What can be avoided*

*Whose end is proposed by the mighty Gods?*

**(a) Who makes the above comment?**

**Ans :** Julius Caesar makes this comment.

**(b) Discuss the context of the above remark?**

**Ans :** Calpurnia had witnessed some ill omens, so she does not wish Caesar to go to the Senate.

**(c) Do you believe that the speaker's belief is justified in the end? How?**

**Ans :** Yes, it proves true because it was God's will for Caesar got murdered.

**2.** *"And many lusty Romans*

*Came smiling and did bathe their hands in it"*

*And these she applies for warnings*

**(a) Identify the speaker and the listener.**

**Ans :** The speaker is Caesar and the listener is Decius Brutus.

**(b) What do the warnings indicate?**

**Ans :** The warnings indicated future tragedy for Caesar, i.e., death.

**(c) How does the above remark prove to be true? Discuss?**

**Ans :** Caesar got stabbed by other conspirators when he went to the Senate.

**3.** *But I am constant as the northern star*

*Of whose true-fixed and resting quality*

*There is no fellow in the firmament*

**(a) Who is 'fixed' like the star?**

**Ans :** Julius Caesar himself.

**(b) Discuss the context of the above.**

**Ans :** Brutus is making a request to Caesar to grant pardon to Publius Cimber.

**(c) What qualities of the speaker are quoted above?**

**Ans :** He is law-abiding and believes that one must never change oneself for rules.

**4.** *O mighty Caesar! dost thou lie so low?*

*Are all thy conquests, glories, triumphs, spoils*

*Shrunk to this little measure.*

**(a) Identify the speaker.**

**Ans :** Mark Antony is the speaker.

**(b) Why is Caesar lying so low?**

**Ans :** Caesar has been murdered by the conspirators.

**(c) Why have his achievements come to naught according to the speaker?**

**Ans :** Since Caesar is killed, his achievements have come to a standstill.

**5.** *For your part*

*To you our swords have leaden points, Antony*

*Our arms, in struggle of malice and our hearts*

*Of brothers' temper*

**(a) Who is the speaker and the listener?**

**Ans :** The speaker is Brutus and the listener is Mark Antony.

(b) **What is the assurance, the speaker is giving to the listener?**

**Ans :** Brutus assures Antony that they have no dangerous designs or ill-will against him.

(c) **What support is required by the speaker?**

**Ans :** He seeks support from Antony for the murder of Caesar.

6. *Had you rather Caesar were living and die all slaves,  
Than that Caesar were dead, to live all free men?*

(a) **Identify the speaker?**

**Ans :** Brutus is the speaker.

(b) **Discuss the context of the above remark.**

**Ans :** Brutus in his funeral speech blames Caesar for being dictatorial.

(c) **What kind of situation is presented by the speaker? Is it true and justified?**

**Ans :** He says that Caesar wanted to make all Romans slaves and he wished to become an Emperor himself. No it is not true, because Caesar had given no evidence of doing so.

7. *The evil that men do lives after them  
The good is oft interred with their bones;  
So let it be with Caesar.*

(a) **Who is the speaker and what is the context?**

**Ans :** Antony is delivering his speech on the death of Julius Caesar.

(b) **What good had Caesar done according to the speaker?**

**Ans :** Caesar had done lot of good for Rome.

(c) **What evidence does the speaker give to prove it?**

**Ans :** He reads out Caesar's will to prove it.

8. *That was the most unkindest cut of all*

*For when the noble Caesar saw him stales  
Ingratitude, more strong than traitors' arms  
Quite vanquished him.*

(a) **What was the unkindest cut? Who gave it?**

**Ans :** The most unkind cut was the wound caused by Brutus.

(b) **Whose sight pained Caesar the most? Why?**

**Ans :** The sight of Brutus attacking him.

(c) **What is ingratitude according to Antony.**

**Ans :** Ingratitude is treachery of a dearest friend, which causes maximum pain.

9. *Caesar : And you are come in happy time,  
To bear my greeting to the senators  
And tell them that I will not come today.*

*Calpurnia : Say he is sick*

(a) **Who is Caesar speaking to?**

**Ans :** He is speaking to Desius Brutus.

(b) **What message does Caesar want to send to the senators?**

**Ans :** He wanted to tell the senators that he was not well.

(c) **What makes Caesar change his mind?**

**Ans :** His wife's pleadings forced him to change his mind.

10. *Nor heaven nor earth have been at peace tonight:  
Thrice hath Calpurnia in her sleep cried out,  
Help, ho! they murder Caesar!" Who' within?*

(a) **Who is Calpurnia?**

**Ans :** She is Caesar's wife.

(b) **What does the disturbance in the sky indicate?**

**Ans :** It indicates that something bad is going to happen.

(c) **Does Calpurnia's dream come true?**

**Ans :** Yes, it comes true. Her husband, Caesar, gets murdered.

## SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. **Brutus was not shrewd and foresighted enough to cash in upon the conspiracy and the killing of Caesar. Discuss how did his miscalculations affect the conspirators.**

**Ans :** Brutus was an idealist and a zealous Roman. He was not a good judge of human psychology and was very

gullible. After killing Caesar, Brutus justifies his act by calling Caesar 'ambitious' and that he wished to be the Roman Emperor. He told the mob that Caesar wanted to be an Emperor and was an enemy to Roman liberty and democracy. Antony proved all these claims wrong and Brutus' greatest mistake was to allow Antony to give a speech over Caesar's body.

**2. Give two examples of supernatural elements from the play.**

**Ans :** Calpurnia sees many ill-omens in her dreams. They are mostly supernatural elements used to predict the future. The examples are as follows:

- 1 A lioness lays a litter in a city street.
- 1 Graves opened, the dead walked and there were fierce battles fought in the skies.

**3. How does Caesar react to Cimber's pleadings to recall his brother from banishment?**

**Ans :** Caesar is very arrogant and conceited of his judgement and his decisive nature. He not only refuses to pardon Cimber's brother from being banished but he also refuses to listen to the entreaties of Brutus. He is obstinate and infuriates Cimber and Brutus with his rudeness. He calls himself 'a fixed star' and abuses Cimber by calling him a dog and insulting him. He refuses to accept their 'bows' and 'respects' and stays adamant on his decision.

**4. What are the contents of Caesar's will that Mark Antony refers to? [C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]**

**Ans :** Antony uses emotional blackmail to provoke the Romans against the conspirators. He exploits their sentiments by saying that Caesar was not money-minded and he has left all his riches for the Romans in his will. He elaborates that Caesar has left all his walks, gardens, private chambers and newly planted orchards on the bank of Tiber for them. This revelation makes the Romans very emotional.

**4. Why does Brutus kill Caesar?**

[C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

**Ans :** Brutus is Caesar's friend. He has great Republican zeal, noble idealism and he is a great moralist. He is a champion of public liberty and freedom. But he is not a good judge of psychology. He gets misled by the conniving nature of the conspirators and joins them to kill Caesar because of his love for the liberty and bright future of Rome.

## LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

**1. Brutus' character is a conflict between his notions of honour and friendship of Caesar. Discuss how he resolves this conflict and why he is unsuccessful.**

**Ans :** Brutus has great Republican zeal, noble idealism and he is a great moralist. He is a champion of public liberty and freedom. It is this love for liberty that urges him to join the conspirators for the murder of Caesar. He is an idealist and a dreamer of the bright future of Rome. Being honourable, he fails to see the dishonourable nature of Casius and others. Even Antony calls him the noblest of souls. But he is not at all practical. He gets misled by the conniving nature of the conspirators and sides Cassius in killing Caesar. He sacrifices his love and friendship for the sake of Rome. So he is equally responsible for this tragedy.

**2. "Caesar's dead body could accomplish what Caesar could not do in his life time." Discuss the strategic importance of Caesar's dead body and how it is exploited to the maximum.**

**Ans :** Mark Antony takes full advantage of Caesar's dead body and exploits this situation to the hilt. Caesar's dead body emotionally grieves the Romans, his stabs cause them pain. Antony points out the wounds and this physical evidence turns the tide. The Romans psychologically start

siding with Antony and change their stand. During his life-time, Caesar had few enemies and critics but all them become emotional to see his dead body. So Antony exploits this to the maximum. Seeing Caesar's blood, the mob gets ready to mutiny.

**3. Now let it work. Mischief, thou art afoot, Take thou what course thou wilt!**

**Who says the above lines? How does he succeed in instigating the people of Rome against the conspirators?**

**OR**

**Antony in his speech presents Caesar as "a paragon of virtue and patriotism." Discuss the glowing tributes he paid to Caesar in his funeral speech. [C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]**

**Ans :** Antony in his speech, highlights the positive qualities of Julius Caesar. Caesar was a great warrior, a formidable General who brought captives to Rome and filled its coffers. He was valiant and fearless. Moreover, he was not ambitious, as projected by the conspirators. He had thrice refused the crown when he was offered. Caesar's heart bled for the welfare of Rome and he had Roman interests on top of any other consideration. He had also bequeathed all his property, money, walks, chambers

and orchards for the people of Rome. He was a champion of Roman liberty and wanted to make Rome a very powerful nation. Hearing all this, mob feel emotionally supportive of Antony and he was able to provoke them to rise against Brutus and others.

**5. What are the contents of Caesar's will? What effects do these exert on the attitude of the Romans?**

**Ans :** Antony shows Caesar's will gradually by increasing the suspense and by asking the conspirators to circle around it. First he shows his unwillingness to reveal it, which makes the Romans very excited. They are pleasantly surprised to discover that Caesar has left all his riches and belongings to them. All his walks, gardens, chambers, orchards for the use of local Romans. This makes all the Romans very emotional and they feel that Caesar has been wronged and rise to mutiny. The mob is basically fickle-minded. Firstly, they are swayed by the emotions of Brutus and support him. Later they feel emotionally supportive of Antony and get provoked to rise against Brutus and others.

**6. Discuss the character of Caesar in the light of the following :**

- (a) As a husband
- (b) As a statesman
- (c) As a friend

**Ans :**(a) Caesar is a concerned husband and gives due regard to Calpurnia's fears by refusing to go to the senate. He is thoughtful of her considerations and does believe that she has only his true interests at heart.

(b) Caesar is an able general, very valiant and bent upon the welfare of Rome. He has waged wars, brought many captives and filled the coffers of Rome. He is conceited but not unmindful of the liberty of local people. He had refused to become the Emperor of Rome, thrice.

(c) Caesar was a true friend of Antony and Brutus. He was very loyal and was most hurt to see that even his dear friend Brutus had stabbed him.

Antony respects Caesar and his love is proved by his tribute offered to Caesar on his funeral.

**7. Caesar had done a lot of good things for the people of Rome. Yet he got nothing but death. Do you think his end was justified? Explain.**

[C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

**Ans :** Caesar was a great diplomat and a zealous Republican. He is ambitious, dominant and often aggressive and rude. He is also haughty, boastful and arrogant. He calls men like Decius Brutus 'curs' and calls the senators 'grey beards'. He succumbs to flattery and that proves to be his undoing. Though he has the welfare of Rome at his heart but he comes across as very arrogant who would never change himself for anything and anyone. He is insulting to many and this infuriates people like Decius Brutus. However, his murder is not justified in any way because he was a true Roman and a benefactor of the common people.

**8. Why did Calpurnia try to prevent Caesar from going to the senate house? Did she succeed in her mission? Why/Why not?**

[C.B.S.E. 2012 (T-2)]

**Ans :** Caesar is a fearless valiant and believes that the fixed hour of death cannot be averted. When Caesar is adamant about going to the Senate, Calpurnia dissuades him pleading that she has seen a terrifying dream in which Caesar is murdered, his statue is gushing blood and many smiling Romans are bathing their hands in his blood. She also sees a dead man walking about. She feels that the dream was premonition of the evil that was going to befall Caesar.

So she forbids him to go to the senate. But she doesn't succeed in her attempt because Decius Brutus cleverly interprets it positively. He says that the vision of Romans bathing in Caesar's blood signifies that Caesar's spirit or influence will touch many lives, and are indicates reverence and dedication for Caesar on part of the Romans. Caesar comes under the flattery of Brutus and refuses the requests of Calpurnia and leaves for the Senate.



# FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

1. Make a **PROJECT** on ‘Art of Public Speaking’.

You can collect evidence and give examples of famous leaders and orators.

2. Match List B with List A.

LIST A		LIST B
Famous Speeches	Dates/ Years	Speakers
1. Declaration of War on U.S.	11-12-1941	Mother Teresa
2. Quit India	8-8-1942	Martin Luther King
3. D-Day Order	6-6-1944	John Kennedy
4. Iron-Curtain Speech	5-3-1946	Martin Luther King
5. No Easy Walk to Freedom Speech	21-9-1953	M.K. Gandhi
6. Birth of New Nation	7-4-1957	Hitler
7. Ask What Your Country can Do for You	20-6-1960	Nelson Mandela
8. We Choose to Go to the Moon	22-10-1962	Winston Churchill
9. I Have a Dream	28-8-1963	Eisenhower
10. Nobel Lecture	11-12-1979	John Kennedy