

CORE COURSE – II SHORT STORIES

2 Marks

UNIT I

1. Who is Alice? The main character in the story. She sees the underworld one day and meet many characters. She behaves strange among the liberal party leaders and the members.
2. Who is the White King and what does he represent? He is anxious and not comfortable with his heavy crown. He is referred as Sir Henry Cambell-Bannerman. He doesn't like his party men joining another party.
3. Who is the unkhaki messenger? It represents Mr. John Morley the active anti-imperialist who was retired from the party earlier.
4. Who is the Primrose Courier? He is the Earl of Roseberry -Archibald Primrose. He promoted the 'Open Door Policy'.
5. What is Berkeley Square? It is a town square in Mayfair, London. Lord Roseberry lived there.
6. Who is Foreman? He is a verger at St. Peter's church. A proud man because of his profession. He used to be happy wearing that gown and does all the church works. Clergy men appreciate him.
7. What was changed in the church? The new vicar came and he brought many changes in the church. He wanted his people to be educated and be good.
8. What did Foreman tell to Vicar? Regarding education he said that he can't be able to study since he can't learn something new.
9. Why was the bank manager astonished? The manager asked him to read and sign but when Foreman said he can't read he was astonished.
10. What is the paradox of the story? Foreman said he would have been poor even if he's educated and stayed as a verger in the church. Nothing changes even if he's educated.

5 Marks & 10 marks

What does Alice notice in the strange land?

Describe Alice's meeting with the White king?

Why did Foreman leave the church?

Write an account on the paradox of the story 'The Verger'.

"Alice and the liberal Party" as Parody

This story is about Politics. Alice meets the liberal party leader Sir Henry Campbell- Bannerman.

Alice notices a lot of things and she comes to find out that everything is in disorder there.

The people who are in the party are not very much involved in the political sphere.

Sir Henry couldn't control his party members.

The White king and the Unkhaki Messenger insist other leaders who ruled in England and lost their power. Both of them accuse each other of their power of ruling.

Finally, Alice realises that both the men confused people with their rules.

In order to attack politics Saki wrote this story in such a way.

The Verger

The story focuses about an illiterate man and his life. Albert Edward Foreman was a verger in the church.

He thought he is in a good profession and he knows everything than others. The new Vicar arrived and he wanted to change the way the church was.

So, one day he implied the Verger to learn to read and write instead of being an illiterate.

But he couldn't take this idea and neglected it. Within months he had to leave the church if he didn't learn. According to that he left the church because of not learning.

Days passed he started opening shops and became a business man without being educated. The Bank manager was surprised to hear that the Foreman was not educated but making a lot of money. Maugham ends with a note that there is nothing in common between the success and being a literate.

UNIT II

1. What made the postmaster to feel uncomfortable? Being in Calcutta the postmaster had his posting in a village. The people there was not decent. And he felt lonely too.
2. Why did the postmaster ask for transfer? After becoming ill he thought he could change the place for good atmosphere.
3. Did he get a transfer? No. Asking for a posting in Calcutta he applied but it was rejected and so he resigned his job.
4. Who was Ratan? an orphan girl in the village. She helped the postmaster in many ways. She used to give him company.
5. What does Tagore say in this story? Human heart is full of unrealized longings. It searches for love everywhere.
6. Who is Muniyakka? She is a servant who has lost her husband and left behind.
7. How does Muniyakka behave? Always she used to talk to herself. People call her as 'Walkie-talkie'.
8. What are the additional works of Muniyakka? After finishing the work in the house, she goes and offer her service in temple where they give her fifteen rupees. She feels satisfied working there.
9. What is her night experience? She often thinks of an enlarged hood of snake teeming there. Her mind danced to the rhythm of dvamsha of kali.
10. How did nature help Muniyakka? She feels happy about rain which is useful to plants. She loves the air that is caressing her. She likes the smell of the earth and the drizzle.

5Marks & 10 marks

Write a brief account of the character of the 'Postmaster'.

How did the arrival of her Dada affect the poor girl?

Narrate the Sraddha ceremony observed by Muniyakka.

Explain the isolated life of Muniyakka.

The Postmaster

The postmaster was appointed in a village and he didn't like to work there.

The atmosphere was difficult and different for him.

He comes to know a girl Ratan who helps him most of the time.

When he becomes ill and falls sick, she really takes a good care of him and they get attracted to each other.

Rather the postmaster didn't like to work there anymore and applies for transfer. That is ejected and he resigns his job and leaves.

The girl is left all alone and longs for the love and affection of postmaster.

But the postmaster realised it earlier and later he didn't think much about her.

Muniyakka

Muniyakka is the centre of the story. She works hard in life in order to take care of herself.

She was left all alone by three of her sons who have forgot her. She does many odd jobs.

She has a good connection with nature. Watering plants was the best thing she likes to do.

She loves to work in temple and offer her service there. That comforts her more than anything.

Every year without fail she takes part in the Sraddha ceremony even though her husband didn't treat her well.

During the end of the day she feels incomplete and isolated. To all her questions there is no reply.

Her only way of relieving stress is spending time with nature and doing her household chores to run the rest of the life.

UNIT III

1. What was the opinion of lawyer on capital punishment? Death sentence and life imprisonment are both immoral. If he was left to choose death penalty or life sentence, he would choose the second one.

2. How did the lawyer spent the first year? In the beginning he suffered from loneliness and depression. Continuously he played the piano and refused wine and tobacco.
3. What was the agreement between banker and lawyer? If the lawyer stayed in solitaire, he would pay him two million rubles.
4. What was the banker's decision? Instead of paying him the huge sum of money he decided to kill the lawyer and started planning for it.
5. Why did the banker keep the letter safe? To avoid the unnecessary talk, he kept the letter in a fireproof safe in his house.
6. What kind of person was Michael? He was a former serf and the most barbarous as well as a tyrannical man. He made the serfs lives as a burden one.
7. What did the superintendent's wife tell? She requested her husband to consider the importance of Easter holy day and also, she begged him not to make the serfs to work on that day.
8. How did the superintendent meet his death? The horse was frightened at some pigs and it sprang to one side. He fell across the fence and a picket pierced him.
9. Who removed the dead body of Michael? Peter was the one to go near him and close his eyes. He put the body in a wagon and took it home.
10. What is the moral of the story? "The power of god manifested not in evil but in goodness".

5Marks & 10 marks

Sketch the character of the Banker.

How did the lawyer spend his fifteen years in solitary imprisonment?

Sketch the character of Michael.

Explain the circumstances that led to the death of the superintendent Michael.

THE BET

This story is about a rich banker remembering certain things that happened in the past.

The lawyer and a banker make a bet for fifteen years.

The total sum of money they agreed is two million rubles.

After fifteen years the lawyer is worried that he can't pay the money and so plans to kill the lawyer.

Finally, the lawyer realises the true world and he's ready to walk away from the bet and the banker feels free.

THE CANDLE

It gives a picture about Russia's history about the ruling power of those times.

Michael was rude and he punished most of the peasants to do hard jobs and heavy works. Because of his nature some of them planned to murder him one day.

While he heard certain things about him, he felt angry and came in his horse. By that time the horse was frightened and it sprang to one side. He fell across the fence got pierced and died.

UNIT IV

1. What type of man was Lindsey? He's a dealer in hardware and has the common sense view of all the matters that come to him.
2. What was his wife's wish? She wished for some fairies to come and to play with her children.
3. How did the children make the lips of the snow image red? They kissed the snow image in its frozen mouth and invited it to kiss the Peony's scarlet cheek.
4. What did Mr. Lindsey say about the little girl? He said that it's crazy to admit that the girl's mother has left her alone in the bitter weather.
5. What did the father do? He protected the snow child from winter and chased her too since she was running here and there.
6. Who stole the letter and why? The Minister D-stole it. He had it with himself because he believed that the letter would give a certain power which is immensely valuable.
7. Why did the lady want to reclaim her letter? She felt it very much necessary as the power being

wielded by its holder for political purposes in a dangerous way.

8. What trick does Dupin adopt? He adopted the mind of the minister and to adopt his argument he referred evidence from child psychology and mathematics.

9. Who was entrusted to recover the letter? Monsieur G - Perfect of the Parisian police entrusted by the lady.

10. Write an account on Poe's craftsmanship of storytelling. There are twists and surprises with the proofs and the change of language according to the occasion.

5Marks & 10 marks

Describe the miracle presented in the story.

What 'moral' does the author propose in 'Snow Image' story?

Who stole the letter? How was it done?

How was the purloined letter recovered finally?

THE SNOW – IMAGE

The children of Lindsey were playing in the snow and they created a snow image.

When they wished for a little sister the snow image turned into a girl. Both the children started playing with her. Their mother was surprised to see this and invited it to the house.

But Lindsey didn't believe it and so he made the image to be near stove. Finally it was melted and the children felt sorry for it.

THE PURLOINED LETTER

It's a detective story that concerns an important letter being stolen and found at the end.

Dupin came to know that the letter was stolen by Minister – D.

Through various investigations and trials Dupin detects the and confirms that who stole the letter.

UNIT V

1. Who was Herald? The son of Mr. Neave who has careless attitude towards his business. He is not that much close to his father.

2. What was the feeling of Mr. Neave? At times he suddenly feels very tired thinking his surroundings and thinks that he's becoming old.

3. What is the appeal of Mr. Neave's family? His family wants him to stay in home and spend his retirement life by handing over their business to his son.

4. What are the comforts provided by Neave to his family? They have a popular house which has many horses, tennis lessons and a sea side bungalow.

5. Why is the Neave family called as the "Ideal family"? He has given all the comforts to his family. Often parties are conducted there in which their daughters didn't like to get married.

6. Who is Julius? He is a clerk working in a company dealing with palm oil business.

7. When did Umuru market became a busy one? One day the deity casted a spell that the market would draw men and women from distant clans and so it became busy.

8. What is mummy – wota? The river Goddesses from the river Niger.

9. Write about kitikpa? It is a disease to which Ibo people fear and it is considered as an evil.

10. What happens in the end of the story? Julius is confused about the superstitious belief that believed to be true.

5Marks & 10 marks

Write an account of Mr. Neave's committed work ethic.

Sketch the character of Harold.

Write an account on the market in Umuru.

Write a note on Julius fiancé.

AN IDEAL FAMILY

Mr. Neave being a businessman fails to understand his identity.

Once becoming old he's frightened to handover his business to his son since he lacks the sincerity. He feels that his children and wife are disconnected towards him. He spent most of his time in business rather than being with the family. He realises it when he retires and he is worried about being isolated.

THE SACRIFICIAL EGG

This story concerns about the conflict between faith and the superstitious belief. Julius following the western culture denies the false beliefs that is followed in his community. The spread of small pox creates bad belief and anger among the people. He didn't believe what the deity and others said about the disease and the way to resolve it. When his mom and Jannet gets affected he turns into those beliefs again.