

The Thief's Story

Competency Based Questions

◆ Questions on the Extracts from the Lesson

Q.1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

Anil was watching a wrestling match when I approached him. He was about 25 – a tall, lean fellow – and he looked easy-going, kind and simple enough for my purpose. I hadn't had much luck of late and thought I might be able to get into the young man's confidence.

'You look a bit of a wrestler yourself,' I said. A little flattery helps in making friends.

(a) According to the extract, the young boy was watching the wrestling match because he

- (i) had been invited there by the wrestlers.
- (ii) was supposed to meet someone there.
- (iii) was looking for simple people to dupe.
- (iv) loved wrestling and followed it very closely.

[Ans. (iii)]

(b) 'I hadn't had much luck of late' means that the boy hadn't

- (i) ever conned people successfully.
- (ii) been successful in duping people lately.
- (iii) understood the consequences of thievery till date.
- (iv) considered the role of fate in deceiving others.

[Ans. (ii)]

(c) 'I might be able to get into the young man's confidence.'

Choose the option that DOES NOT display what the statement means.

- (i) He wanted to win his trust.
- (ii) He wanted him to share his thoughts without caution.
- (iii) He wanted him to feel comfortable revealing more details about himself.
- (iv) He wanted to be able to spend quality time with him.

[Ans. (iv)]

(d) Anil looked easy-going, kind and simple to the narrator.

Which of the given characteristics would NOT fit in with this description?

- (i) compassionate (ii) suave (iii) uncomplicated (iv) carefree

[Ans. (ii)]

(e) Based on the line, "A little flattery helps in making friends.", choose the option that displays the quote closest in meaning.

- (i) Imitation is the best form of flattery; people generally understand that my comedy is not intended to hurt anybody.
- (ii) I know imitation is the highest form of flattery, but stealing one's identity is totally different.
- (iii) Nothing is so great an example of bad manners as flattery. If you flatter all the company, you please none; If you flatter only one or two, you offend the rest.
- (iv) One may define flattery as a base companionship which is most advantageous to the flatterer.

[Ans. (iv)]

Q.2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

I think he knew I made a little money this way but he did not seem to mind. Anil made money by fits and starts. He would borrow one week, lend the next. He kept worrying about his next cheque, but as soon as it arrived, he would go out and celebrate. It seems he wrote for magazines – a queer way to make a living!

(a) Anil made money 'by fits and starts' means that he

- (i) deemed it fit to start investing money.
- (ii) started earning money in the recent past
- (iii) received money intermittently.
- (iv) put his money to use frequently.

[Ans. (iii)]

(b) The information in the extract suggests that Anil could be a

- (i) salaried professional
- (ii) freelancer
- (iii) business man
- (iv) volunteer

[Ans. (ii)]

(c) If borrow: lend is the right pair, then pick the ODD pair from the options below

- (i) give :: take
- (ii) lose :: find
- (iii) hop :: skip
- (iv) buy :: sell

[Ans. (iii)]

(d) The reference to making a little money 'this way' refers to a way that is viewed by most people as

- (i) sensible
- (ii) inappropriate
- (iii) charitable
- (iv) Aggressive

[Ans. (ii)]

(e) Based on your understanding of Anil in the extract, choose the option that synchronises with his thinking.

- (i) So what if I don't have much money? Giving it to the others is important as they could do with a helping hand.
- (ii) I better learn how to protect my money. I think I'm being looted.
- (iii) I earn money with such tremendous effort. Where does it all go?
- (iv) When I become rich, I can begin to help friends then. Right now, I will spend only on myself.

[Ans. (i)]

Q.3. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

I had been working for Anil for almost a month and, apart from cheating on the shopping, had not done anything in my line of work. I had every opportunity for doing so. Anil had given me a key to the door, and I could come and go as I pleased. He was the most trusting person I had ever met. And that is why it was so difficult to rob him. It's easy to rob a greedy man, because he can afford to be robbed; but it's difficult to rob a careless man – sometimes he doesn't even notice he's been robbed and that takes all the pleasure out of the work. Well, it's time I did some real work, I told myself; I'm out of practice. And if I don't take the money, he'll only waste it on his friends. After all, he doesn't even pay me.

(a) What does Hari Singh mean when he says that he had not done anything in his line of work?

- (i) he had only cheated on the shopping
- (ii) he had learnt how to cook
- (iii) he had abstained from stealing
- (iv) he had not made any money

[Ans. (iii)]

(b) Why was it difficult for Hari Singh to rob Anil?

- (i) Anil was a trusting person
- (ii) Anil was careless
- (iii) Anil was not greedy
- (iv) All of the above

[Ans. (iv)]

(c) The phrase 'real work' in the above extract does not refer to:

- (i) stealing
- (ii) to rob someone
- (iii) making an honest living
- (iv) to pilfer

[Ans. (iii)]

(d) What, according to Hari Singh, 'takes all the pleasure out of the work'?

- (i) When one robs a trusting person.
- (ii) when one fails to realize he has been robbed.
- (iii) when one steals from a person who can afford to be robbed.
- (iv) when one robs a greedy person.

[Ans. (ii)]

(e) How did Hari Singh justify his decision to rob Anil?

- (i) Anil did not pay him.
- (ii) Hari Singh knew Anil would not notice that he had been robbed.
- (iii) Anil had allowed him an easy access to his house.
- (iv) Anil was at fault to trust him.

[Ans. (i)]

Q.4. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

When the train had gone, I found myself standing alone on the deserted platform. I had no idea where to spend the night. I had no friends, believing that friends were more trouble than help. And I did not want to

make anyone curious by staying at one of the small hotels near the station. The only person I knew really well was the man I had robbed. Leaving the station, I walked slowly through the bazaar. In my short career as a thief, I had made a study of men's faces when they had lost their goods. The greedy man showed fear; the rich man showed anger; the poor man showed acceptance. But I knew that Anil's face, when he discovered the theft, would show only a touch of sadness. Not for the loss of money, but for the loss of trust.

(a) Hari Singh believed that friends were more trouble than help. This reveals that he was:

- (i) Practical (ii) Agreeable (iii) Unsocial (iv) Approachable [Ans. (iii)]

(b) If Hari Singh stayed in the small hotel near the station, people would become

- (i) indifferent (ii) invasive (iii) inquisitive (iv) interested [Ans. (iii)]

(c) Why, according to the thief, would Anil be sad when he discovered the theft?

- (i) for loss of money
(ii) for not verifying the thief's identity
(iii) for his inability to never trust a stranger again
(iv) for his trust had been betrayed [Ans. (iv)]

(d) The statement that is incorrect with respect to the extract is:

- (i) The rich man was fearful on losing his goods.
(ii) The poor man showed acceptance on being robbed.
(iii) The greedy man was scared on losing his goods.
(iv) Anil would be sad on discovering the theft. [Ans. (i)]

(e) The word 'deserted' in the above extract DOES NOT mean the same as:

- (i) lonely (ii) forlorn (iii) uninhabited (iv) crowded [Ans. (iv)]

◆ Stand-Alone Multiple Choice Questions

1. Why did the thief take on a new name every month?

- (i) to keep himself ahead of the police
(ii) he did not want to reveal his true name
(iii) to keep himself ahead of his former employees
(iv) both (i) and (iii) [Ans. (iv)]

2. How did Hari Singh know the meal he had cooked was terrible?

- (i) Anil told him never to cook again (ii) Anil gave it to a stray dog
(iii) Anil cooked another meal for himself (iv) Anil refused to pay him [Ans. (ii)]

3. Anil did not hand over Hari Singh to the police because:

- (i) He realised that Hari Singh had learnt his lesson.
(ii) Anil wanted to give him another chance.
(iii) Anil hoped that he would become a better person.
(iv) All of the above. [Ans. (iv)]

4. Anil talked about the well-oiled _____ who were grunting, lifting and throwing each other about.

- (i) the boys on the street (ii) the street urchins
(iii) the wrestlers (iv) the thieves [Ans. (iii)]

5. I knew that once I could write like an educated man there would be no limit to what I could achieve.

Whose thoughts are these?

- (i) Anil (ii) Hari Singh (iii) Jumna (iv) Ruskin Bond [Ans. (ii)]

6. What is Hari Singh 'a fairly successful hand', at?

- (i) stealing (ii) cooking (iii) wrestling (iv) writing [Ans. (i)]

7. I had been working for Anil for almost a month and had not done anything in my line of work. What work is being mentioned?

- (i) wrestling (ii) cooking (iii) making tea (iv) stealing [Ans. (iv)]

8. The only person Hari Singh knew well in the town is _____ ?

- (i) Ruskin Bond (ii) the wrestler
(iii) the coolie at the station (iv) Anil [Ans. (iv)]