

# Exam Practice

## Extract Based Questions

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.

**1** "Kind sir, have pity; turn your attention to a poor, hungry man! For three days I have had nothing to eat; I haven't five copecks for a lodging, I swear it before God. For eight years I was a village school teacher and then I lost my place through intrigues. I fell a victim to calumny. It is a year now since I have had anything to do."

- (i) Who was 'I' in the given extract?  
(a) Lushkoff (b) Sergei  
(c) Lushkoff's friend (d) Olga
- (ii) What was he doing?  
(a) Asking for work (b) Begging  
(c) Requesting for help (d) Acting
- (iii) What was his condition?  
(a) Injured (b) Happy  
(c) Satisfactory (d) Poverty-stricken
- (iv) Which word in the extract means the same as 'defamation'?
- (v) What does he tell about himself?

**Ans.** (i) (a) Lushkoff  
(ii) (b) Begging  
(iii) (d) Poverty-stricken  
(iv) Calumny  
(v) He tells about himself that he was a school teacher.

**2** "Thank you for your kind words and deeds. I am very grateful to you and your cook. God bless that good and noble woman! You spoke finely then, and I shall be indebted to you to my dying day; but strictly speaking, it was your cook, Olga, who saved me."

- (i) Who is the speaker of the given lines?  
(a) Sergei (b) Olga  
(c) Lushkoff (d) Anton
- (ii) Who is he grateful towards?  
(a) Sergei (b) Olga  
(c) The Notary (d) Both (a) and (b)
- (iii) The phrase 'dying day' refers to  
(a) career  
(b) the day he dies  
(c) the day of the doom  
(d) till he is working

- (iv) "You spoke finely" indicates Sergei's .....
- (v) Why was he grateful to them?

**Ans.** (i) (c) Lushkoff  
(ii) (d) Both (a) and (b)  
(iii) (b) the day he dies  
(iv) wisdom  
(v) He was grateful because they made him a good man.

**3** The scarecrow of a beggar shrugged his shoulders, as if in perplexity and went irresolutely after the cook. It was obvious from his gait that he had not consented to go and chop wood because he was hungry and wanted work, but simply from pride and shame and because he had been trapped by his own words.

- (i) The word 'perplexity' means  
(a) shock  
(b) confusion  
(c) difficulty  
(d) dilemma
- (ii) When the writer says, "scarecrow of a beggar", he means to  
(a) call the beggar a cheat  
(b) describe the beggar as hideous  
(c) call the beggar a drunkard  
(d) describe the beggar as thin
- (iii) Which of the following statements is true about the beggar?  
(a) He was a lazy drunkard.  
(b) He was a school teacher.  
(c) He was in need of work.  
(d) He faced the threat of imprisonment.
- (iv) Who was the beggar going to work for?
- (v) Why was the beggar working even though he did not want to?

**Ans.** (i) (b) confusion  
(ii) (d) describe the beggar as thin  
(iii) (a) He was a lazy drunkard.  
(iv) The beggar was going to work for Sergei.  
(v) The beggar was working out of pride and shame.



4 Next he saw the pseudo-teacher seat himself on a log and become lost in thought with his red cheeks resting on his fists. The woman flung down an axe at his feet, spat angrily and judging from the expression of her lips, began to scold him. The beggar irresolutely pulled a billet of wood towards him, set it up between his feet, and tapped it feebly with the axe. The billet wavered and fell down.

- (i) Why is the beggar called a pseudo teacher?
  - (a) Because he had worked as a teacher.
  - (b) Because he had posed as a teacher to beg.
  - (c) Because he was a defamed teacher.
  - (d) Because he acted like a teacher.
- (ii) Choose the options that lists the set of statements that are not true according to the given extract.
  1. The beggar was not a teacher.
  2. The beggar was thin and weak.
  3. The beggar seemed interested in his work.
  4. The beggar did not know how to chop wood.
  5. The beggar was being supervised by a woman.
  6. The beggar was affected by the kindness of the woman.
  - (a) 1,2,3
  - (b) 4,5,6
  - (c) 3,4,6
  - (d) 1,2,5
- (iii) From the given extract, it can be said that the woman
  - (a) Dislikes the beggar.
  - (b) Wants to teach a lesson to the beggar.
  - (c) Is working for the benefit of the beggar.
  - (d) All of the above
- (iv) The word 'billet' does not correspond with
  - (a) a living quarters
  - (b) a log
  - (c) a series
  - (d) a hotel
- (v) What happened to the billet?

- Ans. (i) (b) Because he had posed as a teacher to beg.  
 (ii) (c) 3,4,6  
 (iii) (a) Dislikes the beggar.  
 (iv) (d) a hotel  
 (v) The billet wavered from between the beggar's feet and fell down.

5 This time the waif was sober, gloomy and silent. He hardly touched the furniture and walked behind the wagons hanging his head, not even making a pretence of appearing busy. He only shivered in the cold and became embarrassed when the carters jeered at him for his idleness, his feebleness, and his tattered, fancy overcoat.

- (i) The 'waif' here refers to
  - (a) a servant
  - (b) the beggar
  - (c) a carter
  - (d) Olga
- (ii) 'This time' in the given extract refers to
  - (a) another time when the beggar met Sergei.
  - (b) a winter morning.
  - (c) the day when Sergei was moving to a new place.
  - (d) another task given to the beggar.
- (iii) The word 'pretence' means
  - (a) claim
  - (b) display
  - (c) reality
  - (d) imagination
- (iv) The phrase 'jeered at him' means .....
- (v) What can we say about the waif from the given extract?

- Ans. (i) (b) the beggar  
 (ii) (c) the day when Sergei was moving to a new place.  
 (iii) (b) display  
 (iv) made fun of him  
 (v) The waif was sober, sad, lazy and weak.

### Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

1 Describe the appearance of the beggar.

Ans. The beggar was wearing an old torn fawn coloured overcoat. He had dull, drunken looking eyes and also had red spot on his either cheek. One of his overshoes was higher and the other was lower.

2 What request did the beggar make before Sergei?

Ans. The beggar requested Sergei to have pity on him as he was poor and hungry. He also told that he was jobless, had nothing to eat for three days. He also didn't have money for lodging.

3 How did Sergei recognise the beggar?

Ans. When Sergei saw the beggar's shoes and noticed that his one shoe was high and the other was low, he recognised the beggar. He had seen him begging in the Sadovya street.

4 Why did Sergei threaten to call the police?

Ans. Sergei threatened to call the police as the beggar, Lushkoff, was lying. He was posing as student and a jobless school teacher at different times in order to get money from people. Since, he was cheating, Sergei threatened him.



**5** Describe the initial behaviour of Olga towards the beggar.

**Ans.** Olga looked angrily at the beggar and moved him aside with her elbow. Then she throw down an axe at Lushkoff feet and shout angrily on him. She scolds him for his drinking habit.

**6** What different kinds of work did Lushkoff do at Sergei's house?

**Ans.** At Sergei's house, Lushkoff cut wood, removed snow, put the wood-shed in order, removed the dust out of rugs and mattresses, etc. He also helped in the packing and moving of the furniture when Sergei was shifting.

**7** Why did Sergei send Lushkoff to his friend? What advice did he give to him?

**Ans.** Sergei sent Lushkoff to his friend so that he can get some employment and don't have to be a manual labour. Sergei advised him to work hard and not to drink. He wanted Lushkoff to be successful at his work.

**8** Who saved the beggar? How?

**Ans.** Both Sergei and Olga saved Lushkoff. Sergei guided Lushkoff in taking a respectable path whereas Olga's kindness and compassion saved the beggar. Olga not only criticised him but also used to cut the woods for him.

She would also call him by different names and cried for his miserable condition. Seeing all this led the beggar to stop drinking and start working.

### Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

**1** Describe Sergei's meeting with the beggar.

**Ans.** Sergei met Lushkoff (the beggar) on a street. Lushkoff was acting as a village school teacher and requested Sergei to show pity on him. Sergei looked at him. When he saw his shoes, one of which was high and the other low, he recognised that he had met him earlier on Sadovya street.

Sergei told Lushkoff that when he had met Lushkoff earlier, he was acting as a student. Lushkoff was shocked and said that it was not him.

Sergei called him a liar and a dishonest person and threatened to call the police. This made Lushkoff admit that he was lying. He told him that he is neither a school teacher nor a student. He told that he sang in a Russian singing group and was thrown out due to his drinking habits.

Lushkoff also explained that if he told the truth no one would give him anything. When Sergei asked Lushkoff about the work he told that he cannot find any work. So, Sergei offered him the work of cutting wood at his house. Although, he did not want to work but, he accepted his offer because of shame and went with Sergei to his house.

**2** Give a character sketch of Lushkoff.

**Ans.** Lushkoff was a poor drunken beggar with dull drunken eyes. He had a red spot on either cheek and was wearing an old and torn coat. As a beggar, Lushkoff cleverly told lies to people so that they would take pity on him and give him money. He did not want to work and thus resorted to begging. Initially, Lushkoff was in a Russian singing group. But because of his drinking habits, he was thrown out of it.

When Sergei offered him a job, he agreed just because of his shame and guilt. Physically, Lushkoff was a weak man who was not able to cut the wood. Lushkoff, essentially was a stubborn man who was not affected by any insults, care or taunts. Sergei's care and taunts did not change him. However, Olga's kindness and compassion affected him deeply. Not only did he quit drinking for her but also started working hard.

As a notary, he was a great person with a strong willpower. He knew he was indebted to Sergei and Olga for helping him. Both of them took the difficult task of changing his lifestyle.

**3** "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink."

Justify the above proverb with reference to the story "The Beggar".

**Ans.** The story 'The Beggar' justifies the proverb "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink."

Lushkoff, the beggar, is a drunkard man. He has to beg as he is not willing to work. Sergei helps him by giving him the job of cutting wood at his house and thinks that he would change his thinking.

However, Lushkoff has no intention to change and did no work. All his work is done by Olga, Sergei's cook. He came to Sergei's house so that he can get money without doing any work. When Lushkoff sees Olga's concern for him and her unconditional help, he changed his thinking.

He stopped drinking and starts working hard. It is due to his own willpower that he quits drinking and becomes a better person and not because of the request or force of someone else.