

CHAPTER 03

Birth

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Chapter Sketch

Dr Andrew Manson has just begun his medical practice in the small Welsh mining town of Blaenelly. When he returns from a terrible evening with his girlfriend Christine, Joe Morgan approaches Dr Andrew Manson to help in the delivery of his wife.

Dr Andrew Manson has to put in much labour in the delivery, as the mother requires much attention before she is revived. Further, the baby was not breathing at birth. Using all his knowledge and intuition, Dr Andrew Manson makes more efforts to revive the child. After almost half an hour of frantic efforts, he succeeds and comes away with a sense of achievement.

Chapter Summary

Joe Morgan was Waiting for Dr Andrew

Dr Andrew had recently graduated from medical college. He was practising as an assistant to Dr Edward Page in a small Welsh mining town named Blaenelly. One night he was returning home when he found Joe Morgan waiting for him outside the clinic. He had been there for more than an hour and now was relaxed to see the doctor. He informed that the doctor was needed at their home as his wife was expecting to deliver the a baby.

He was worried for both his wife and child as it was their first child after 20 years of marriage. Hearing Joe, Dr. Andrew who was in his own thoughts, got his bag and went to number 12 Blaina Terrace (Joe's House).

A Tough Case of Mrs. Morgan

On their journey, Andrew felt tired. He had no idea how important this case would be for his career. When they reached their destination, Joe stopped outside the house and requested Dr Andrew to go inside alone. Through a narrow staircase the doctor reached a small and clean but a scantily furnished room. He found two women beside the patient, Susan Morgan's mother, a tall, grey-haired woman of nearly seventy, and an elderly midwife.

Susan's mother offered Dr. Andrew a cup of tea. Upon realising that she felt that he would leave due to the waiting period. Dr Andrew told her to relax. He knew that if he went home he wouldn't be able to relax. So he decided to stay there. After an hour, he checked on his patient and came down. There was absolute silence except for the sound of Joe's hurried footsteps. He could sense the worry of Joe and Susan's mother.

Andrew's Dilemma

While he waited by the Kitchen fire, Dr. Andrew went into his thoughts. He was faced with a dilemma of marriage with his lover, Christine. He loved Christine but at the same time remembered the lives of other married males around him. He remembered Bramwell and Dr. Edward Page, whose marriages are dismal failures. The dilemma of his emotions for Christine and his rational mind made him resentful. He was confused and his thoughts were only filled with Christine.

Hope for the Child

Dr Andrew was so deep in his thoughts that the voice of Susan's mother surprised him. She informed him that her daughter didn't want him to give her chloroform if it would harm the baby. Dr Andrew replied that it would do no harm. Just then he heard the midwife's voice. It was half-past three and according to him, it was time for him to start working on the delivery.

The Delivery

After a harsh struggle of an hour, a lifeless boy was born. This terrified Dr. Andrew who had promised to keep the baby healthy. However, he was in a tough situation. He was divided in trying to resuscitate the baby and his obligation to help Susan who was in a desperate state. He was so hurried in the situation that he gave the baby to the nurse and focused on helping Susan. Susan was losing strength as well as her pulse.

Dr. Andrew hurriedly gave the injection to the mother (Susan). When he felt that Susan was safe, he moved to tend to the child. The nurse had hidden the child under the bed. Dr. Andrew pulled out the child who he diagnosed with asphyxia, pallida (lack of oxygen).

Dr Andrew's Efforts to Save the Child

Dr Andrew recalled a case he had once seen in the Samaritan (a medical journal) and the treatment that was given. He asked the midwife to quickly get hot water and cold water along with two bowls. Then he mixed hot and cold water in the bowls and started as special method of respiration.

Then, he started plunging the child once into the icy water and then into the steaming bath alternately. Fifteen minutes passed and nothing happened.

Dr. Andrew was filled with hopelessness. However, he remembered Susan's longing for the child. He could also feel the dejection of Susan's mother. So, he decided to give one more try. The midwife who has been seeing Dr. Andrew tried to stop him. But, he paid no attention to her.

The Miracle

Dr. Andrew started rubbing the child's chest with a rough towel trying to get breath into the limp body. Then, as if by a miracle, the child slowly started breathing. The sight made Dr. Andrew redouble his efforts. Soon, the child gave a cry.

The Happy News

After the child came alive, Dr. Andrew felt tired. He saw the mess in the room and Susan's mother praying. So, he addressed the nurse and told her that he was leaving and would get his bag later.

He went downstairs, drank water and left the house. At the gate, he gave Joe the happy news and moved ahead. It was morning then and people were going for their morning shifts. Andrew was unaware of his surrounding when he realised that he had first successful case that would change his future.

Word Meanings

The given page numbers correspond to the pages in the prescribed NCERT textbook.

Word	Meaning
Page 65	
mining town	a town where most people work in a coal mine
surgery	operating room
burly	large and strong
driller	a miner who uses a drill machine
missus	wife (informal)
ye	you
before time	the delivery is going to be before the due date
contemplation of	thinking about
perceptive	energetic
premonition	idea
drew up short	stopped
strain	tiredness
Page 66	
stout	strongly built
midwife	woman trained to help in childbirth
<i>bach</i>	dear
leave the case	not stay till the delivery was completed
overwrought	very tired
snatch	take
lethargy of spirit	lack of enthusiasm
cinder	partly burnt piece of coal
grate	fireplace
muddled	mixed up
obsessed him	dominated his thinking
sordidly	unpleasantly
level, doubting	reasonably doubtful
overflowing	full of emotions
broodingly	worryingly
pursued a different course	followed a different line of thought
Page 67	
awful set upon	very much wanting
ay	yes
fancy	believe
top landing	top of the stairs
elapsed	passed
streaks of dawn	light of morning
strayed past	came through

Word	Meaning
blind	sunshade
still form	lifeless body
torn between	feeling two opposing thoughts
resuscitate	bring back to life
desperate	critical
dilemma	difficulty
instinctively	without thinking
pulseless	not having the pulse of life
not yet out of the ether	not become conscious
ebbing	receding
glass ampoule	sealed glass capsule with liquid medicine
hypodermic syringe	needle used to inject liquid medicine in the bloodstream
unsparingly	without a break
strengthened	started beating properly
in his shirt sleeves	in only his shirt without a jacket over it
brow	forehead
frightened gesture	indication with fear
fishing	searching
sodden	soaked
tallow	animal fat
cord	umbilical cord connecting the mother to the child in her womb
of a lovely texture	with a wonderful feel
lolloped	hung loosely
Page 68	
haggard frown	worried and tired look
<i>asphyxia pallida</i>	an abnormal medical condition in a newly born baby who appears pale and limp, temporarily unable to breathe and having a slow heart action

Word	Meaning
threw out	spoke quickly
basins	large bowls
pallid	pale
ewer	a large jug with a wide mouth
crazy juggler	madman moving the child quickly
raging hopelessness	fierce disappointment
consternation	feeling of anxiety
dashed away	finished
draggled	dirty and wet
sopping	drenched
stillborn	born dead
limp	motionless
Page 69	
by a miracle	mysteriously
pigmy	small
convulsive	jerky
heave	gasp
turned giddy	became weak
unavailing	ineffective
mucus	viscous liquid
iridescent	sparkling
spinelessly	loosely
blanched	pale
shuddering litter	total mess
soiled	dirty
impaled	stuck
scullery	room for washing dishes
thickly	in a hard to understand tone
footfalls	sounds made by feet while walking

Chapter Practice

PART 1

Objective Questions

• Multiple Choice Questions

1. Why is the chapter titled 'Birth'?

- (a) Because the doctor is specialist in childbirths.
- (b) Because a lot of childbirths take place.
- (c) Because it is about birth of a child.
- (d) Because it talks about philosophy of life.

Ans. (c) The chapter is titled 'Birth' as it is about the significance of the birth of a child.

2. Joe refuses to enter the house. Why?

- (a) Because he was superstitious.
- (b) Because he didn't want to disturb.
- (c) Because he didn't want to see the child.
- (d) Because he was anxious.

Ans. (d) Joe Morgan was feeling very anxious and thus, did not enter the house.

3. Choose the option that lists the words used by the author to describe Mrs. Morgan's mother.

- I. Unintelligent
- II. Grey-haired
- III. A woman in early-seventies
- (a) I and II
- (b) II and III
- (c) I and III
- (d) All of these

Ans. (b) The author describes Mrs. Morgan's mother as a wise, grey-haired woman in her early seventies.

4. Select the statement(s) that is/are correct on the basis of your reading of 'Birth.'

- (i) Dr. Andrews did not really want to marry Christine.
- (ii) Dr. Andrews was sure he wanted to spend his life with Christine.
- (a) Both (i) and (ii) are correct
- (b) Both (i) and (ii) are incorrect
- (c) (i) is correct but (ii) is incorrect
- (d) (i) is incorrect but (ii) is correct

Ans. (b) Dr. Andrews did want to live a life with his lover Christine but was in the dilemma due to the failed marriage of men around him.

5. Choose the word(s) that suit the condition of the new born baby.

- I. Lifeless
- II. Healthy
- III. Underweight
- IV. Anemic
- (a) Only I
- (b) Only II
- (c) Only III
- (d) III and IV

Ans. (a) The child was born lifeless and was described by the author in the same manner as it was born.

6. What dilemma did Dr. Andrew face?

- (a) Whether the child could be saved or not.
- (b) Whether the treatment would be successful.
- (c) Whether to attend to the child or the mother.
- (d) Whether to inform Joe or not.

Ans. (c) The dilemma was that Dr. Andrew had to decide whether to attend to the child or the mother.

7. The midwife had placed the child under the bed. Select the option that explains it.

- (a) She did not want to break the hopes of the Morgan family.
- (b) She didn't believe that the doctor could save the child.
- (c) She had not expected that the child will die.
- (d) She could not bear the sight of a dead child.

Ans. (b)

8. What did Andrew conclude from the whiteness of the child?

- (a) That he was dead.
- (b) That he suffered from a lack of oxygen.
- (c) That he should be taken to hospital.
- (d) That Andrew couldn't save him.

Ans. (b) Andrew concluded that the child suffered from a lack of oxygen from the whiteness.

9. Choose the method(s) that Andrew applied to save the still born baby.

- I. He used a special method of respiration.
- II. He called Dr. Edward Page.
- III. He took the child to a hospital.
- IV. He proceeded to offer him his blood.
- (a) Only I
- (b) Only II
- (c) Only III
- (d) I and III

Ans. (a) Andrew proceeded to apply a special method of respiration to save the child.

10. Why did the doctor continue his efforts despite the baby not resuscitating?

- (a) Fear of failure of his career
- (b) Fear of dashing Morgan family's hopes
- (c) Fear of reactions of the Morgan family
- (d) Fear of the society

Ans. (b) The author feared breaking the hopes and promises made to the Morgan family and so he continued his efforts.

11. Choose the statement(s) that apply to the chapter.

- I. It took Andrew forty-five minutes to yield results.
- II. Eventually, Andrew gave up on the lifeless child.
- III. Andrew proceeded to change the course of mid-wife's behaviour.

- (a) Only I
- (b) Only II
- (c) Only III
- (d) None of these

Ans. (d) It took Andrew half an hour to yield the results, which ended in Andrew saving the life of the stillborn. At no point does Andrew attempt to change the course of mid-wife's behaviour.

12. What does the author refer to as 'a miracle'?

- (a) Life getting into the stillborn
- (b) Morgan family welcoming a child
- (c) Susan getting consciousness
- (d) None of the above

Ans. (a) The miracle refers to the act of life getting into the stillborn child of the Morgans.

13. Why did Andrew get oblivious to all the work he had done in Blaenelly?

- (a) Because he got all hopeless.
- (b) Because he did something extraordinary that night.
- (c) Because he was leaving Blaenelly.
- (d) Because he got tired.

Ans. (b) Andrew got oblivious to all the work he had done in Blaenelly because he did something truly extraordinary that night.

14. In the end, Dr. Andrew exclaims, "I've done something; oh, God! I've done something real at last." Explain.

- (a) He felt happy finishing the task that took forever.
- (b) He felt like he truly accomplished something.
- (c) He felt anxious at the fame which was to follow his actions.
- (d) He felt sad at finishing a task.

Ans. (b) He realised that he had truly saved a life that night, fulfilling the purpose of his profession. For the first time Dr. Andrew felt that he had done something 'real', something worthwhile.

15. What can you say about Dr. Andrew after reading 'Birth'?

- (a) He did not put all his efforts.
- (b) He fulfilled his obligations well as a doctor.
- (c) His skills were not enough.
- (d) He was arrogant.

Ans. (b) One can see that Dr. Andrew truly fulfilled his obligations well as a doctor after the reading of this chapter.

● Extract Based MCQs

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

"THOUGH it was nearly midnight when Andrew reached Bryngower, he found Joe Morgan waiting for him, walking up and down with short steps between the closed surgery and the entrance to the house. At the sight of him the burly driller's face expressed relief. "Eh, Doctor, I'm glad to see you. I been back and forward here this last hour. The missus wants ye—before time, too."

Andrew, abruptly recalled from the contemplation of his own affairs, told Morgan to wait. He went into the house for his bag, then together they set out for Number 12 Blaina Terrace. The night air was cool and deep with quiet mystery. Usually so perceptive, Andrew now felt dull and listless. He had no premonition that this night call would prove unusual, still less that it would influence his whole future in Blaenelly."

(i) Explain: "The missus wants ye—before time, too."

- (a) The pregnant lady went into labour before expected.
- (b) The pregnant lady was awfully scared.
- (c) The pregnant lady wanted assistance before labour as well.
- (d) It is unclear from the passage.

Ans. (c) The pregnant lady, Mrs. Susan Morgan, demanded for Dr. Andrew to be present even before her labour began for more support and asked her husband, Joe Morgan to fetch him before time.

(ii) What does the expression "walking up and down with short steps" signify about Joe Morgan's feelings?

- (a) He was stressed out
- (b) He was more calm
- (c) He was impatient
- (d) He was angry

Ans. (a) The expression of walking up and down with short steps points that Joe Morgan was stressed out and anxious as he waited for Dr. Andrew to appear.

(iii) Despite feeling dull, Dr. Andrew decides to take the case. What does this highlight about him?

- (a) He is dedicated
- (b) He is underwhelmed
- (c) He is patient
- (d) He is boring

Ans. (a) Showing his motivation towards his case, he takes the case despite feeling dull. This shows that he is truly dedicated towards his work.

(iv) Identify the literary device used in the last line of the passage.

- (a) Metaphor
- (b) Personification
- (c) Foreshadowing
- (d) Simile

Ans. (c) 'Foreshadowing' is a literary device which predicts the event to occur in the story ahead. In the last line, the writer is focusing on the importance this case would bring to him and foreshadows this in the beginning of the chapter.

- (v) The contemplation referred to in the extract refers to
- Thoughts about his career
 - Thoughts about a medical case
 - Thoughts about his lover, Christine
 - Thoughts about marriage

Ans. (c) Dr. Andrews throughout the lesson worries about his lover, Christine.

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

Inside, a narrow stair led up to a small bedroom, clean but poorly furnished and lit only by an oil lamp. Here Mrs Morgan's mother, a tall, grey-haired woman of nearly seventy and the stout, elderly midwife waited beside the patient, watching Andrew's expression as he moved about the room.

"Let me make you a cup of tea, Doctor, bach," said the former quickly, after a few moments. Andrew smiled faintly. He saw that the old woman, wise in experience, realised there must be a period of waiting that, she was afraid he would leave the case, saying he would return later.'

"Don't fret, mother, I'll not run away."

- (i) Choose the statement(s) that elaborate the description of the room.

- The room is very bright and welcoming.
 - The room has dim lighting and a faint feeling.
 - The room is highly hygienic.
 - The room is huge with poor furniture in it.
- I and II
 - I and III
 - Only II
 - III and IV

Ans. (c) The room can be described as one with dim lighting and a faint feeling.

- (ii) Why does Dr. Andrew focus on the room more than the pregnant Mrs. Susan Morgan?

- Because he is quickly assured that she does not need attention right away.
- Because he does not want to interrupt the midwife.
- Because the room is grand and beautiful to captivate him.
- Because he is bored and finds the details in the room more interesting.

Ans. (a) Dr. Andrew figures as soon as he read the expressions of the two women that Mrs. Susan Morgan does not need his assistance immediately and thus, his focus shifts to other things in the room.

- (iii) What are the old woman's fears in the passage?

- That her daughter would not be healthy.
- That her grandchild would die.
- That the doctor was not interested in the case.
- That the doctor would leave.

Ans. (d) The doctor's movement points that he might just leave the case and go and this scares the old woman who looks at him, demanding assurance.

- (iv) What is the meaning of 'bach' in this context?

- Baby
- Child
- Dear
- Love

Ans. (c) Bach is a Welsh term for Dear, which is said after the name of a person to show care.

- (v) "Don't fret, mother, I'll not run away." Why did Andrew say this?

- To reassure Mrs. Morgan's mother
- To fulfill his obligations
- To break the silence
- To handle a critical situation well

Ans. (a) Andrew said to reassure Mrs. Morgan's mother.

PART 2

Subjective Questions

• Short Answer Type Questions

- 1.** Who was Dr Andrew ? Where was he working?

Ans. Dr Andrew was a young graduate who had just passed from medical school.

He was working as an assistant to Dr Edward in the small Welsh mining town of Blaenelly.

- 2.** Who was Joe Morgan? Why was he waiting for the doctor when he returned at midnight?

Ans. Joe Morgan was a miner working as a driller.

He was waiting for the doctor because his pregnant wife needed medical attention. He was worried for her as she was going to deliver her first child after 20 years of marriage.

- 3.** Did the doctor accompany Joe Morgan? How do you assess the doctor here?

Ans. Yes, the doctor, without any complaint, accompanied Joe Morgan, though he was physically and mentally very tired due to his unhappy love life.

The doctor was thoroughly professional. For him duty came first and no personal problem could come in the way of attending his duty.

- 4.** Dr Andrew had no idea that this particular night would influence his future career in Blaenelly. How did it do so?

Ans. When Dr Andrew accompanied Joe Morgan at midnight, he had no idea that this particular night was going to affect his whole future career. The doctor did his best to save Susan Morgan and revived the child. This was his first successful case and thus, a huge contribution to his medical career.

- 5.** Who was the old lady? Why was she afraid?

Ans. The old lady was Susan Morgan's mother, a tall, grey-haired woman of nearly seventy. She was wise in experience. She realised that there must be a period of waiting before the delivery. She was afraid that the doctor might leave the case saying he would return later.

6. Dr Andrew was good enough to wait at Joe Morgan's house till everything was over. Why did he decide this?

Ans. Dr Andrew had reached Joe Morgan's home at midnight. He was distressed and upset. He knew that if he went back home, he would not be able to sleep even for an hour though he needed much rest and sleep. Moreover, as the case was complicated and needed all his attention, he decided to remain there until everything was over.

7. Why was Dr Andrew in a conflicting state of mind?

Ans. Dr Andrew loved his girlfriend Christine and thought of leading a peaceful life with her by marrying her. But he had been thinking of many unsuccessful marriages. People like Bramwell, Edward or Denny were all living unhappily due to problems in their marriages. So he was in a very conflicting state of mind.

8. Why did Dr. Andrew shiver with horror?

Ans. Dr. Andrew shivered with horror because, after a long harsh struggle, the child that was born was lifeless. He remembered the promise to keep the child and the mother safe, but the situation was not in his favour.

9. Why was Dr Andrew in a state of conflict when the child was born?

Ans. Dr Andrew was in a state of conflict as he was torn between two desires. The dilemma before him was whether to save the mother first or her child. The dilemma was so urgent that he couldn't solve it consciously.

10. What did the elderly midwife think of the young doctor in the beginning?

Ans. The midwife remained doubtful about the young doctor's abilities and pessimistic about the child's survival. Her act of keeping the child under the bed shows that she never believed that the doctor would be able to revive the child at any stage.

11. Why did Dr Andrew want to save the child?

Ans. The child looked lifeless when born. Dr Andrew realised, due to his medical knowledge, that the child suffered from an abnormal medical condition which made it look dead, but there was a chance of it being revived. So he made frantic efforts to save the child.

12. What efforts did Dr Andrew make to save the lifeless-looking boy at birth?

Ans. When Dr Andrew saw the lifeless-looking boy, he realised that the boy's whiteness meant that he was suffering from *asphyxia pallida*, which required a particular method of revival. So, he began a special method of respiration. So, he plunged the child into a basin of icy water followed by plunging him into very hot water repeatedly. Then, in one last desperate effort, he rubbed the boy, crushing and releasing his chest, trying to get breath into his limp body. Suddenly the child's chest started going up and down, some mucus came out of its nose and finally the boy gave a cry.

13. What was the condition of the room after Dr Andrew had saved both the mother and the child?

Ans. The room was in a mess full of soiled newspapers, towels, blankets and soiled instruments. The floor was full of mud and water, as the doctor had used two basins full of water. The hypodermic syringe was stuck in the linoleum on the floor, the jug was knocked over and the kettle was on its side. On the huddled bed, the mother was lying unconscious.

14. How did Dr Andrew feel after saving the lives of Susan Morgan and her child? What was Dr Andrew's reaction and why did he say so?

Ans. Dr Andrew made frantic efforts to save both the mother and her baby. It is really a very tough job to concentrate on anyone because he had to focus on both the lives. So, when he got success in it, he uttered, "I have done something; oh God! I've done something real at last." He thanked God and felt a sense of relief. He was satisfied that as a doctor he did something strong and consequential.

15. Describe the case that called all of Dr. Andrew's attention.

Ans. The case that called all of Dr. Andrew's attention is of the Morgan family. Joe and Susan Morgan are expecting their first child after 20 years of marriage. Consequently, the case was complicated. When the child was born, it was lifeless and the health of the mother was also bad. Dr. Andrew had to make a choice and save both their lives.

16. "Sometimes instincts play a vital role along with bookish knowledge." Comment in reference to 'Birth'.

Ans. Yes, it is true that sometimes instincts play a vital role over bookish knowledge. In the chapter, 'Birth', Dr. Andrew, a medical graduate, uses his instincts to get over the dilemma of saving the life of the mother or the child. Instincts help him resuscitate the child as well as save the life of his mother.

• Long Answer Type Questions

1. "For doctors, the duty towards the patients is foremost, irrespective of their own personal affairs." Discuss with reference to the excerpt, 'Birth'.

Ans. There is a saying that after God, it is the doctor only who can save the life of someone. A patient comes to a doctor with the hope that he would cure his illness. But we should not forget that a doctor himself is a human being. Troubles and miseries are part of his life also. He can also feel distressed and depressed. In spite of all these, a doctor has to give his duty the topmost priority.

We saw in the chapter how Dr Andrew made frantic efforts to save the lives of Mrs Susan Morgan and her child. Dr Andrew also used his intuition and medical knowledge to save the lifeless child when there was no hope.

Though he was really upset before coming to Joe Morgan's house, Dr Andrew stayed there, as the case demanded all his attention. He could barely see his own future but was diligent enough to realise his call of duty. Hence, we can say that even though being preoccupied with his own personal affairs, he did not forget his duty and made sincere attempts to succeed.

2. No matter what your profession is, moral values always play an important role in making you a complete human being. Explain with reference to the chapter 'Birth'.

Ans. One of the most challenging and complex of life's areas is the realm of moral issues and decisions. Every day of our life, in whatever profession we may be, we make moral choices and decisions that reflect our own moral orientation.

In the chapter 'Birth', Dr Andrew considered it his moral duty to attend to a patient in spite of his mental agony and tiredness. He spent the whole night in saving two lives. He used all his knowledge as well as instincts to revive the child and finally succeeded in making the family happy. In the end he emerged as a distinct human being who went all out to save precious lives not out of greed but because he considered it his moral duty to do his best. His efforts were applauded and he himself indulged in self-appraisal 'on doing something' really good. His moral values helped him in achieving this feat.

3. "I have done something; oh, God! I've done something real at last." Why does Andrew say this? What does it mean? [NCERT]

Ans. Dr Andrew utters these words after he was able to bring an almost stillborn child back to life, although it seemed impossible in the beginning. The child was born to Susan Morgan with a peculiar breathing problem called *asphyxia pallida* in medical terminology. After feverish efforts to revive the child with the known treatment for this condition, he brought the child to life.

He spoke these words out of a deep satisfaction on achieving the seemingly impossible task. He had been able to apply his medical knowledge and skill to revive a newborn child, which was a great achievement for him. He felt that God had used him as a medium to grant life to the child and Andrew acknowledged this with his words.

And also helped his career by successfully attempting his first case ever.

4. There lies a great difference between textbook medicine and the world of a practising physician. Discuss. [NCERT]

Ans. For a long time, we have been hearing that there is a lot of difference between theory and practice. This is true. Theoretical information gathered from books does not provide solutions to all problems. The medical textbook provides information about the treatment of various diseases but at times, doctors face a dilemma which cannot be solved by any theory.

In this chapter, Dr Andrew undergoes the same experience. When the mother and son both needed his attention, he had to make a decision about who to take care of first. In this decision-making, no medical textbook could have helped him. In this case, Dr Andrew acted instinctively. He first saved the mother and then the child. He treated the mother with the traditional treatment and the child with a mixture of traditional and intuitive treatment. The net result was that both survived and his efforts were successful.

If Dr Andrew would have gone by the textbook, he might have not been able to save the mother as well as the child. According to the textbook, the child was born lifeless.

But Dr Andrew was successful in reviving it. Hence, we see that there lies a great difference between textbook medicine and the world of a practising physician.

● Extract Based Questions

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

"It was a conclusion which, in his present state, made him wince. He wished to consider marriage as an idyllic state; yes, he could not otherwise consider it with the image of Christine before him. Her eyes, shining towards him, admitted no other conclusion. It was the conflict between his level, doubting mind and his overflowing heart which left him resentful and confused. He let his chin sink upon his chest, stretched out his legs, stared broodingly into the fire. He remained like this so long, and his thoughts were so filled with Christine, that he started when the old woman opposite suddenly addressed him. Her meditation had pursued a different course."

- (i) What does the author think about marriage?
- (ii) Do you think the author's wants to marry?
- (iii) How does the author's thought impact him?
- (iv) How will you connote the dilemma faced by the author?
- (v) "Her meditation had pursued a different course." Explain.

Ans. (i) The author does not believe in marriages as the men around him didn't have very successful marriages.
(ii) I feel that the author does want to marry his lover, Christine, but is dissuaded by the failure of marriage around him.
(iii) The author's thoughts fill him with a dilemma because of which he is confused and resentful.
(iv) The dilemma faced by the author was between his heart and emotions that wanted to marry Christine and his brain which saw the failed marriages around him.
(v) The given line means that the old lady (Susan Morgan's Mother) was worried about her daughter and her child's safety which was much different from what the author had been thinking.

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

"The dilemma was so urgent he did not solve it consciously. Blindly, instinctively, he gave the child to the nurse and turned his attention to Susan Morgan who now lay collapsed, almost pulseless, and not yet out of the ether, upon her side. His

haste was desperate, a frantic race against her ebbing strength. It took him only an instant to smash a glass ampule and inject the medicine. Then he flung down the hypodermic syringe and worked unsparingly to restore the flaccid woman. After a few minutes of feverish effort, her heart strengthened; he saw that he might safely leave her. He swung round, in his shirt sleeves, his hair sticking to his damp brow.”

- (i) What dilemma is referred to in the extract?
- (ii) What did the nurse do with the child?
- (iii) “He swung round, in his shirt sleeves, his hair sticking to his damp brow.” Explain.
- (iv) How was the doctor’s dilemma solved?
- (v) What is the significance of the given lines?

- Ans.**
- (i) The dilemma referred to in the extract is the confusion between trying to resuscitate the lifeless child and the helping the mother whose health was deteriorating.
 - (ii) The nurse put the child beneath the bed in the middle of some newspapers.
 - (iii) The given line explains the condition of the author after he had saved the life of Susan Morgan who had just given birth.
 - (iv) The doctor’s dilemma was solved instinctively. He handed the child to the nurse and turned his attention to the mother who lay faint.
 - (v) The given lines are significant as they show how practical knowledge wins over theoretical or bookish knowledge.

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

“A desperate sense of defeat pressed on him, a raging hopelessness. He felt the midwife watching him in stark consternation, while there, pressed back against the wall where she had all the time remained — her hand pressed to her throat,

uttering no sound, her eyes burning upon him — was the old woman. He remembered her longing for a grandchild, as great as had been her daughter’s longing for this child.

All dashed away now; futile, beyond remedy... The floor was now a dragged mess. Stumbling over a sopping towel, Andrew almost dropped the child, which was now wet and slippery in his hands, like a strange, white fish. “For mercy’s sake, Doctor,” whimpered the midwife. “It’s stillborn.” Andrew did not heed her. Beaten, despairing, having laboured in vain for half an hour, he still persisted in one last effort, rubbing the child with a rough towel, crushing and releasing the little chest with both his hands, trying to get breath into that limp body.”

- (i) Why was there a raging helplessness in the situations?
- (ii) What was the midwife’s reaction?
- (iii) Why were the old woman’s eyes burning upon the author?
- (iv) Why did the doctor not heed to the nurse’s comment?
- (v) Did the doctor’s efforts become successful?

- Ans.**
- (i) There was a raging helplessness in the situation because the doctor’s efforts were not yielding any result.
 - (ii) The midwife was looking at the doctor and his efforts in fear.
 - (iii) The old woman’s eyes were burning upon the doctor because she wanted the doctor’s efforts to be successful for she was also hoping for her grandchild.
 - (iv) The doctor did not heed to the nurse’s comment because he wanted to give his every effort to save the child and the hopes of the Morgan Family.
 - (v) Yes, the doctor’s efforts became successful as the child started breathing soon.

Section Test (Literature)

Prose

Objective Questions

- 1 In the chapter 'The Ailing Planet' what does the three-year study conducted by the United Nations state?
 - (a) Environment has deteriorated that it is critical in eighty-eight countries.
 - (b) Forests are being cut down at an alarming rate.
 - (c) There is not much of drinking water left.
 - (d) Fossil fuels are getting extinct at a fast rate.
- 2 In the chapter 'The Ailing Planet' what is the transcending concern?
 - (a) The survival of the planet
 - (b) The survival of forests
 - (c) Global warming
 - (d) To save water
- 3 What does Mrs. Crocker - Harris ask Taplow to do?
 - (a) To leave
 - (b) To get the prescription made
 - (c) To read his book
 - (d) Both (a) and (b)
- 4 In the chapter 'Silk Road' why was the protagonist facing communication problems in Darchen?
 - (a) As he never wanted to talk to locals.
 - (b) As he was always busy in his meditation.
 - (c) As no one knew English.
 - (d) None of the above
- 5 Why did Norbu want to do Kora?
 - (a) Because he wanted to become a monk.
 - (b) Because he wanted peace.
 - (c) As he was practising meditation from so long.
 - (d) Because he was writing an academic paper on Kailash Kora.

Extract Based Questions

FRANK: And your considered view is that the Agamemnon is muck?

TAPLOW: Well, no, sir. I don't think the play is muck — exactly. I suppose, in a way, it's rather a good plot, really, a wife murdering her husband and all that. I only meant the way it's taught to us — just a lot of Greek words strung together and fifty lines if you get them wrong.

FRANK: You sound a little bitter, Taplow.

TAPLOW: I am rather, sir.

FRANK: Kept in, eh?

TAPLOW: No, sir. Extra work.

FRANK: Extra work — on the last day of school?

- (i) What does the given passage tell us about Crocker Harris?

- (ii) Do you think Taplow dislikes his teacher?
(iii) Why is Taplow kept in for extra work?
(iv) Why do you Frank is surprised when he gets to know that Taplow had come for extra work?
(v) What does Taplow really think about Agamemnon?

Short Answer Type Questions

- 1 Why and how is Earth considered as a living organism?
- 2 Why are the millions of living species still unnamed not yet catalogued?
- 3 When Mr. Frank says "there's one comfort", what does he mean?
- 4 Do you think Mr Crocker-Harris was too strict in assigning extra work after school hours and not being available at the time he promised. Why?
- 5 How does the author describe the atmosphere and sky when they were leaving Ravu?
- 6 How did Tsetan know when they were approaching a herd of wild asses?

Long Answer Type Questions

- 1 In some places, firewood has become more expensive than food Who do you think is responsible for this situation? How can you contribute in controlling the situation?
- 2 "It is just not only the survival of the people which is at stake but also of the planet." Explain with suitable examples.
- 3 Do you feel that the forecast of life for future generations is not looking good? What is the current ecological scenario?
- 4 Mr Frank encourages a discussion with Taplow about a colleague. Is it a violation of professional ethics? Give reasons.
- 5 What do you learn about the system of education and values followed by British schools of that time from the chapter 'The Browning Version'?
- 6 Describe how the environment near Lake Manasarovar and at Darchen has been neglected by the authorities. Suggest three steps they should have taken to ensure that it did not deteriorate.

Poetry

Objective Questions

- 1 In the poem 'The Voice of The Rain' why does the poet compare the rain with a song?
 - (a) Because she beautifies the Earth
 - (b) Because she provides life on Earth
 - (c) As they both share a common journey
 - (d) None of the above

- 2 In which of the following phrases has the literary device hyperbole being used?
 - (a) Bottomless sea
 - (b) I am the poem of Earth
 - (c) Soft-falling shower
 - (d) Voice of the rain
- 3 What did the poet conclude about his lost childhood at the end of the poem?
 - (a) It went to another dimension.
 - (b) It moved away with time.
 - (c) It went to some forgotten place.
 - (d) It shifted to his younger sibling.
- 4 Which poetic device has been used in the following line-
Was it when I found my mind was really mine.
 - (a) Alliteration
 - (b) Simile
 - (c) Metaphor
 - (d) Personification
- 5 In his attempt to find his childhood, the poet seems
 - (a) Desperate
 - (b) Frantic
 - (c) Disdain
 - (d) Both a and b

Extract Based Questions

And who art thou? said I to the soft-falling shower,
Which, strange to tell, gave me an answer, as here translated:

I am the Poem of Earth, said the voice of the rain,
Eternal I rise impalpable out of the land and the bottomless sea,
Upward to heaven, whence, vaguely form'd, altogether changed, and yet the same,

- (i) Why was it strange for the poet?
- (ii) Does the soft falling shower really reply to the poet?
- (iii) Why do you think that the rain calls itself the 'Poem of Earth'?
- (iv) Explain 'vaguely form'd, altogether changed, and yet the same'.
- (v) The rain says that its rises eternally. Comment.

Short Answer Type Questions

- 1 Is it normal that a conversation can take place between a human being and the rain? Why/ Why not?
- 2 How does rain give life to its origin?
- 3 In the poem 'Childhood' why does the poet think that he had lost his childhood?
- 4 Why does the poet mention Hell and Heaven in the poem 'Childhood'?
- 5 How are adults different from children according to poet in the poem 'Childhood'?

Long Answer Type Questions

- 1 Why does the poet call rain "Eternal"? How is the eternal nature of rain useful for mankind?
- 2 Rain has been described as giving life to Earth. Discuss the importance of rain in the context of the poem 'The Voice of the Rain'.
- 3 Discuss your experience of reaching the stage of adulthood from childhood. When did you realise that you are growing towards adulthood?
- 4 Today's materialistic society is responsible for loss of innocence and childhood. Comment.

Supplementary

Objective Questions

- 1 How much did the doctor charge from Albert?
 - (a) Asked Albert to invite him for a meal.
 - (b) Asked Albert to invite Yuri for a meal.
 - (c) High amount
 - (d) His normal consultation fees
- 2 For how long was Albert supposed to stay away from school as per the certificate?
 - (a) One month
 - (b) Two months
 - (c) Six months
 - (d) One year
- 3 Mrs. Pearson is characterised in the play as personality.
 - (a) Ignorant and Dominating
 - (b) Compliant
 - (c) Considerate
 - (d) Both (b) and (c)
- 4 Which of the following is the correct message of the play 'Mother's Day'?
 - (a) To give respect to every family member.
 - (b) To appreciate wives/ mothers for their work.
 - (c) To maintain healthy relationships is important.
 - (d) To give equal importance to each family member.
- 5 Why did Andrew get oblivious to all the work he had done in Blaenelly?
 - (a) Because he got all hopeless.
 - (b) Because he did something extraordinary that night.
 - (c) Because he was leaving Blaenelly.
 - (d) Because he got tired.

Extract Based Question

MRS PEARSON: Going up to the bar and telling 'em you don't want a glass of beer but you're annoyed because they haven't already poured it out. Try that on them and see what you get.

GEORGE: I don't know what you're talking about.

MRS PEARSON: They'd laugh at you even more than they do now.

GEORGE: [indignantly] Laugh at me? They don't laugh at me.

MRS PEARSON: Of course they do. You ought to have found that out by this time. Anybody else would have done. You're one of their standing jokes. Famous. They call you Pompy-ompy Pearson because they think you're so slow and pompous.

GEORGE: [horrified] Never!

- (i) Why is Mrs. Pearson behave in this manner with her husband?
- (ii) Do you think that the name given to George suits him?
- (iii) Do you feel that the revelation would change George? How?
- (iv) How would you translate George reaction to the revelation?
- (v) What complaint does Mrs. Pearson have of George?

Short Answer Type Questions

- 1 Comment on Einstein's 'Unthinking Honesty' while replying to the history teacher.
- 2 Do you think Einstein's father would have been happy to see Einstein leaving the school without a serious reason?
- 3 What was the problem of Mrs Annie Pearson as found out by Mrs Fitzgerald?

- 4 How does Mrs Fitzgerald plan to deal with the family of Mrs Annie Pearson?
- 5 Describe the case that called all of Dr Andrew's attention.
- 6 Why did Joe Morgan prefer to stay outside his house?

Long Answer Type Questions

- 1 "A friend in need is a friend indeed." What impression do you form of Yuri in the light of this statement?
- 2 Compare and contrast the opinions of the maths and history teachers about Einstein to bring out the different values that they displayed.
- 3 Do you think Mrs Fitzgerald played fairly in exchanging her personality with Mrs Annie Pearson? What lesson did Annie teach to her children and husband?
- 4 Every mother and wife demands respect from her children and husband. Discuss this statement in the context of 'Mother's Day' chapter.
- 5 Why was Dr Andrew so emotionally attached to his efforts to bring the seemingly lifeless baby back to life?
- 6 Dr Andrew was undergoing an emotional crisis, but still managed to perform his duties as a doctor very well. Emotional instability should never be a hurdle in one's profession. Comment.