

**1. What are some of the positive news on interviews?**

Ans- An interview in its highest form, is a source of true facts and supreme serviceable medium of communication. It furnishes vivid impressions of contemporary personalities. The interviewer holds a position of power as well as influence.

**2. Why do most celebrity writers despise being interviewed?**

Ans- Most celebrity writers feel that they are victimised while giving interviews. They consider it an 'unwarranted intrusion into their lives'. Sir V.S. Naipaul opines that during interview people "lose a part of themselves". Lewis Carroll considered it immoral, crime, cowardly and Saul Bellow considered it the 'thumbprints on his windpipe'.

**3. What is the belief in some primitive cultures about being photographed?**

Ans- Some primitive cultures do not like themselves being photographed. They believed that photographing a person is no less than stealing his/her soul out of the body and rendering him incomplete and slighted.

**4. What do you understand by the expression "thumbprints on his windpipe"?**

Ans- The interview is an assault on a person as it makes him/her so tense that he/she feels as good as being choked. Saul Bellow was himself interviewed on several occasions but he did not have any pleasing experience. Once he described interview as 'thumbprints on his windpipe'. He felt suffocated.

**5. Who, in today's world, is our chief source of information about personalities?**

Ans- In today's world the chief source of information on personalities is the interviewer who, through his powers and influence, gathers information and provides us with the best possible information on the interviewees. Several thousand celebrities have been interviewed over the years. We get most vivid impressions of our contemporaries only through interviews.

**6. Do you think Umberto Eco likes being interviewed? Give reasons for your opinion.**

Ans- Yes, it seems that Umberto Eco, unlike most other celebrities, liked being interviewed. He felt just at ease with the interviewer and answered all the questions fully and patiently without showing any hurry. He stated his achievement in a very modest manner and explained his philosophical views and interest clearly. He answers each and every question with due interest and attention. Padmanabham asks how he can do all the things he does. Eco answers that he is always doing the same things. He only gives the impression of doing many things. Umberto Eco is quite co-operative with

the interviewer. He talks freely of his "Philosophical interests." He explains how he works in "empty spaces". He also answers to the question regarding the success of his novel "The Name of the Rose". Umberto is quite responsive and warm.

**7. How does Eco find the time to write so much?**

Ans- Eco finds the time to write so much by using empty spaces. He explains the secret of his working style, when the interviewer was waiting for his elevator to come up during that time or space he had written an article. He gives the impression of doing many things. Actually, he was always doing the same thing. He believes in the theory that time once lost then never be recalled you feel his empty time with work.

**8. What was distinctive about Eco's academic writing style?**

Ans- Eco's academic writing style is different from others. His work takes a depersonalised and informal approach, which makes his style unique and interesting. He is known more as a writer of novels than for his academic work. His scholarly work has a certain 'playful and personal' quality about it. It is different from a more regular academic style. He adopted an informal style or it came just naturally. He tells that he was different from other scholars. Most of the scholars first learn a lot about a subject after that make a lot of false hypothesis, then correct them, finally put their conclusion but on the contrary, Eco, tells the story of his research. He describes his trial and error method. His essays always have a narrative aspect.

**9. Did Umberto Eco consider himself a novelist first or an academic scholar?**

Ans- Umberto Eco consider himself as an academician first. He makes himself very clear that he started writing novels by accident. He says that he had nothing to do one day and so he 'started writing novels'. Novels satisfied his test for narration. Against forty works of non-fiction, he has written only five novels but Umberto's fame does not rest on his academic writings alone. He feels pride of calling himself a University professor. He is a professor who writes novels on Sundays. It is very clear that novel writing is his casual job. The main job is of an academic scholar. In short, his personality identifies with academic community.

**10. What is the reason for the huge success of the novel, "The Name of the Rose"?**

Ans- This novel is a very serious novel that has a detective yarn but at the same time it delves into biology, metaphysics and mediaeval history. So, it enjoyed a very huge readership for larger than its American publisher had expected. He expected to sell hardly 3000 copies but the sales figure reached 2 to 3 millions copies in the US alone - Its overall sale was 10 -15 million copies. One of the

reasons of the novel's success was that it dealt with a period of mediaeval history. Truly speaking, the novel's success is a mystery. It may have been due to its timely publication or that some people like different that of that time

### MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

- 1) **What do Rudyard Kipling and his wife express about interviews?**
  - a) Not good
  - b) Immoral
  - c) Immoral and offensive crime against a person
  - d) Very bad.
- 2) **Why were the journalists and publishers puzzled by the success of 'The Name of the Rose'?**
  - a) Because of its high rated success
  - b) Because it was becoming popular
  - c) Because readers like fresh and it was a serious novel
  - d) None
- 3) **What was Lewis Carroll's opinion of interviews and autographs?**
  - a) Wonder
  - b) Horror
  - c) Terror
  - d) None
- 4) **Which period of history do Umberto's novels deal with?**
  - a) Medieval period
  - b) Modern Era
  - c) Dark Age
  - d) Renaissance
- 5) **Why did Umberto start writing novels?**
  - a) To make best use of empty spaces means free time
  - b) To avail an opportunity
  - c) To be in Limelight
  - d) To share his views
- 6) **What facts are being showcased in the interview held between Eco and Padamanabhan?**
  - a) Uses his free time for writing novels
  - b) Being a novelist is a secondary thing for him
  - c) He takes pride in being an academician, a university Professor first
  - d) All these
- 7) **How many novel has Umberto written?**
  - a) 6
  - b) 8
  - c) 12
  - d) 5
- 8) **What do his works for children speak about?**
  - a) Non violence and peace
  - b) Children love to be happy
  - c) Children are nuisance
  - d) His passion for children
- 9) **Explain 'Denis Brain's statement 'Almost everything of moment reaches us through one man asking questions of others.'**
  - a) The interviewer can illicit the truth and has the power to influence
  - b) The interviewer has status
  - c) The interviewer has the power
  - d) All these
- 10) **Who satisfied Umberto's taste for narration?**
  - a) Stories
  - b) Interviews
  - c) Novels
  - d) Children's works
- 11) **What do you understand by the expression 'thumbprints on his windpipes'?**
  - a) creating accessive pressure and tension for someone
  - b) Creating accessive pressure on vocal chords
  - c) Creating excessive pressure on throat
  - d) None
- 12) **Why do the celebrities feel embarrassed most often?**
  - a) Because of question attacks during interviews
  - b) Because of interviewer's appearance
  - c) Because of interviewer's gestures
  - d) None
- 13) **At what age did he start writing novels?**
  - a) At the age of 60
  - b) At the age of 40
  - c) At the age of 30
  - d) At the age of 50
- 14) **What did he present in this book?**
  - a) Varied opinions of celebrities regarding an interview
  - b) Varied opinions of army Men
  - c) Varied opinions of politicians
  - d) None
- 15) **Who is the author of the lesson 'The interview'?**
  - a) Christopher priest
  - b) Christopher Sylvester
  - c) J B Priestley
  - d) None

### ANSWER KEY

1- C, 2- C, 3- B, 4- A, 5- A, 6- D, 7- D, 8- A, 9- D, 10- C, 11- A, 12- A, 13- D, 14- A, 15- B