

Villa for Sale

Extract Based Questions (Marks each)

Read the extract given below and answer the questions/complete the sentences that follow :

Q. 1. "While you were upstairs, I had been thinking a lot about your papa and mamma."

(a) Who spoke these words and to whom ?

(b) How does the statement differ from the statement made by him earlier ?

(c) What impression do you form about the speaker ? (Board Term 12015, BR7G WHM)

Ans. (a) Gaston speaks these words to Jeanne.

(b) Earlier he did not want Jeanne's parents to stay with them but now he is showing concern for them.

(c) He is a selfish and hypocritical man.

Q. 2. Mind you, if someone had bought it on the very day I placed it for sale, then I might have felt sorry because I would have wondered if I hadn't been a fool to sell at all.

(a) How long ago had the speaker put up her Villa for sale ?

(b) Why would she have considered herself a fool if she had managed to sell it on the day she put up the notice ?

(c) In what way is her remark ironic ? (Board Term 12014, FROK4WI)

Ans. (a) The speaker had put up her villa for sale more than a month ago.

(b) Because then she would have realized the villa's value & the art-

(c) She is fooled by Gaston and loses a lot of money. (4×3=3)

Q. 3. Please don't joke, Gaston. What this lady says is perfectly right. Will you tell me, Madame, what price you are asking for the Villa ?

(a) Who asks Gaston not to joke ? Who does 'this lady' refer to ?

(b) What was the joke told by Gaston ?

(c) Why was Gaston joking while speaking to the lady ? (Board Term 12014, NCT-R)

Ans. (a) Jeanne asks Gaston not to joke. 'This lady' refers to Juliette.

(b) 'On the principle of people who like children and haven't any can always go and live near a school'.

(c) Gaston was joking because he was not at all interested in buying the villa. (1×3=3)

Q. 4. "You are an exception. Frenchmen usually have to consult about ten people before they get a move on listen! Do you or don't you want to sell this house ?"

Ans. (a) Who is the speaker of these lines ?

(b) Who is being talked about here ?

(c) What is the nationality of the speaker ? (Board Term 12012, Set 34)

Q. 5. "You said just now, Madame, that times were hard...;

Would you like me to get you the engagement ?

(a)Who speaks these lines and to whom ?

(b)Were 'times' really bad for Madame ?.

(c)What 'engagement' was the speaker talking about ? (Board Term 12012, Set 35)

Ans. (a) These lines are spoken by the Maid to the Juliette.

(b)Yes, the times were really bad for the Madame. She was hard pressed for money.

(c)The speaker was talking about the rote of a cook in a film. (1X3=3)

Q.6. "Nobody thinks about anything else round here now. You see, they pay so well. The manager is offering a thousand francs for a real beggar who has had nothing to eat for two days."

(a)Who is the speaker of these lines ?

(b)To whom is she speaking ?

(c)What proposal does she make to the listener ? (BoardTerm 12012, Set 37)

Ans.(a) The Maid.

(b)Juliette.

(c)The Maid proposes to the listener to take up a rote in a film in order to supplement her dwindling income,(1X3=3)

Q. 7. "That was a month ago and now I have only one thought, that is to get the wretched place off my hands; I would sacrifice it at any price. One hundred thousand francs if necessary and that's only twice what it cost me."

(a)Who is the speaker in the above lines ?

(b)'Why does the speaker refer to the place as 'wretched'?

(c)How much will the speaker sell the place for ? (Board TenHi I 2012, Set 38)

Ans. (a) Juliette.

(b)Juliette was in need of money and no one had come to purchase the villa yet. So, she refers to the place as wretched.

(c)100 thousand francs. (1×3=3)

Q. 8. "I made a hundred thousand francs and a Corot!"

(a)Who is the speaker here ? What question is he/she answering ?

(b)'A Corot' What does this expression mean in the conversation ?

(c)What quality of the speaker's character is revealed here ? (Board Term 12012, Set 39)

Ans. (a) The speaker is Gaston. He is talking about the profit he has made.

(b)A Corot refers to the painting of the great French painter.

(c)It shows that the speaker is shrewd'and money-minded. (1×3=3)

Q. 9. "I am going upstairs for a moment. If that is the lady, tell her I will not be long. It won't do to give her the impression that I am waiting for her."

(a) Who speaks these words to whom ?

(b)Who is the 'lady' here ? Why is she expected to visit the speaker ?

(c)What does the speaker try to pretend here ? (Board Term 12012, Set 40)

Ans. (a) Juliette to her maid.

(b)The lady is Jeanne who had come to see the villa. .

(c)Juliette was trying to show that she was not waiting for Jeanne. She didn't want to seem too eager. (1×3=3)

Q.10. "But the sign has been hanging on the gate for over a month now and I am beginning to be afraid that the day I bought it was when I was the real fool."

- (a) Who is the speaker in the above extract ?
 (b) What sign has been hanging on the gate for more than a month ?
 (c) Why does the Speaker feel that she was a fool ? (Board Term 12012, Set 41,42)

Ans. (a) JuBette.

(b) for Sale' was the sign hanging on the gate for more than a month.

(c) The speaker felt that she was foolish to have purchased the villa. She also felt that she had paid more than it was worth. . (1×3=3)

Q. 11. "I am going upstairs for a moment. If that is the lady, tell her I will not be long. It won't do to give her the impression that I am waiting for her."

- (a) Why is the speaker going upstairs ?
 (b) 'It won't do to give her the impression', what impression is the speaker talking about?
 (c) What character traits of the speaker are revealed in the above passage ? (Board Term 12012, Set 43)

Ans. (a) The speaker is going upstairs to avoid the lady.

(b) The speaker is talking about the impression that there were no buyers for the villa.

(c) The speaker is calculating, clever and pretentious. (1×3=3)

Q. 12. "You are an exception. Frenchmen usually have to consult about ten people before they get a move on,"

- (a) Who is the speaker?
 (b) Why is the speaker interested in buying that villa ?
 (c) Why does the speaker feel that Mr. Gaston is an exception ? (Board Term 12012, Set 44)

Ans. (a) Mr. Al. Smith, a Hollywood film maker.

(b) The speaker is interested in buying the villa because it is near Paramount Studios where she was supposed to shoot for a movie.

(c) The speaker feels that N& Catson is an exception because he made the deal very fast and did not consult anyone. (1×3=3)

Q. 13. 'I tell you what I will do. I will be philanthropic and let you have it for two hundred thousand.'

- (a) Who is the speaker?
 (b) What is the speaker going to do ?
 (c) What is two hundred thousand ? (Board Term 12012, Set 45)

Ans. (a) The speaker is Juliette.

(b) The speaker is going to sell her villa. .

(c) Two hundred thousand francs is the selling price for the villa. (1×3=3)

Q. 14. "You folk are queer. You think about the past all time. We always think about the future."

- (a) Who are 'you' and 'we' here ?
 (b) What is the difference between 'you' and 'we' ?
 (c) Why does the speaker call "you" queer ? (Board Term 12012, Set 46)

Ans. (a) 'You' are the Frenchmen while 'we' are the Americans.

(b) Difference between the Frenchmen and the Americans is in the thinking about past and future respectively.

(c) The speaker calls the Frenchmen queer because they think about the past. (1×3=3)

Short Answer Type Questions (30-40 Words) (2 marks each)

Q. 1. What was the maid's suggestion to Juliette in the play 'A Villa For Sale' ? (Board Term

1,2015 6S00KQ5)

Ans. Value Points:

Maid shows concern-suggests she join the movie she was acting in offers to teach her cooking..

Detailed Answer: As Juliette's business was hitting an all time low, her maid suggested her to play the part of a cook in a movie so as to earn some money she also offered to teach her cooking.

Q. 2. Why was Mrs. A1 Smith not interested in going over the house ? (Board Term 1,2015 6S00KQ5)

Ans. Value Points:

She wanted to bring down and raise a new building.(CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015)

Detailed Answer : Mrs. A1 Smith, an American lady, wanted a place near Paramount where she was going to shoot some films so she wanted to bring the villa down and raise a new building convenient for her So she was not interested in going over the house. .

Q. 3. Why does Juliette call her house 'a wretched place' ? (Board Term 1,2015 BR7GWHM)

Ans. Value Points:

(a) Juliette could not get any prospective buyers.

(b) The sign 'For Sale' had been put up for one month. . (CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015)

Detailed Answer: The sign 'For Sale' had been put up for one month by Juliette. She was expecting a healthy deal, but could not get any prospective buyers. This set her calling her house 'a wretched place',

Q. 4. Why is Gaston not interested in buying the villa in the beginning ? (Board Term 1,2013 AGRO091; 2012, Set 28)

Ans. Gaston was reluctant to buy the villa because he thought his wife was buying it for her parents, who would bring her sister's children with them.

Q. 5. What is your impression about Mrs. A1 Smith ? (Board Term 1,2013 XIT1MG7; 2012, Set 37)

Ans. Mrs. A1. Smith is a rich American lady who is engaged in making films. She is a self-opinionated, over-confident and a brusque lady. She is prejudiced against the French people and has a high opinion of Americans. In the end, she is outsmarted by Gaston, who is a Frenchman.

Q. 6. How did Jeanne react to Gaston's decision to purchase the villa ? (Board Term 1,2012, Set 51)

Ans. Jeanne was extremely surprised at Gaston's decision to purchase the villa. She was taken aback by her husband's views and his sudden change of plans.

Q.7. What proposal does the maid make to Juliette ? Why ? , (Board Term 1,2012, Set 35)

Ans. The maid's proposal to Juliette was that she should accept the role of a cook in a film as she was facing great financial difficulties.

Q. 8. Why did Gaston quote three hundred thousand francs for the villa ? (Board Term 1,2012, Set 52)

Ans. Gaston did not want to spend money on a villa that would later be utilized more by his wife's parents and her sister's children. He quoted only three thousand francs for the villa with an expectation that the owner would refuse to sell off the villa at such a low price and he then would not be forced by his wife any longer.

Q. 8. Why was Jeanne so desperate to buy a villa in the play, 'A Villa for Sale' ? (Board Term 1,2012, Set 38)

or

Why does Jeanne want to buy a villa ? (Textual)

Ans. Jeanne was desperate to buy a villa for her parents so that they could come and stay with Jeanne for a month or so every year. She also wanted to make a modern kind of study.

Q. 10. Who is better in business—Juliette or Gaston ? Why ? (Board Term 1,2012, Set 53; 2010, Set C1, C2)

Or

How does Gaston eventually prove himself better in business than Juliette? (Board Term 1,2010, Set A1) Ans.

Gaston was a better businessman as he outsmarts Juliette in making a deal. Juliette waits for one month before, ? Gaston sells it within seconds, without even buying it, and that too at a much higher price.

Q. 11. Briefly describe Mrs. Al Smith. (Board Term 1- 2012, Set 55)

Ans. Mrs. Al Smith is an American lady who works in films. She is a rich business woman who does not like, to waste time. She is highly self-opinionated and a jingoist. She is thoroughly professional by nature and quick in taking decisions.

Q. 12. What were the expectations of Juliette after putting the 'Villa for Sale' sign ? (Board Terhi 12012, Set 59)

Ans. Juliette was facing hard time as her business was running very low. She decided to sell off her villa. Since it was near Joinville, the French Hollywood, she was expecting to find a buyer soon who would be willing to buy it for a good price.

Q. 13. Explain "the whole thing was going to be much more of a sell than a sale." (Board Term 12012, Set 63)

Ans. Juliette had put her villa for sale expecting a healthy deal but even after a period of one month, she could not strike a good deal as there were hardly any buyers. This set her thinking that the task of selling the villa may not be a profitable proposal. Rather it may prove to be a great disappointment.

Q. 14. What were the flaws pointed out by Gaston in the villa put up for sale by Juliette ? (Board Term 12012, Set 63)

Ans. Gaston pointed out that the garden was merely a yard with a patch of grass in the middle. The salon was impossible and the one existing could not be called a salon. He felt that the 25 yards of cretonne and a desk of paint was no special offer at all. > >

Q. 15. "On the principle of people who like children and haven't any can always go and live near a school." Explain this comment contextually. (Board Term 12012, Set 65)

Ans. Gaston made this comment in response to Juliette's observation that even though the garden of the villa was very small yet it made no difference as it was surrounded by other gardens. In harmony with this line of thought, people who don't have children of their own but like children, ran go and live near a school

Q. 16. In what way did Juliette flatter Jeanne? 1 ' (Board Term 12012, Set 67)

Ans. Juliette flattered Jeanne by saying that the villa would suit her as she suited it and also by saying that there was no other graceful house for the elegant lady Jeanne.

Q. 17. Why is Mrs. Al Smith in a hurry ? (Board Term 12012, Set 69)

Ans. Mrs. Al Smith was a film maker. She did not waste time as she always had a lot of work

to do. She did not have time for petty things. Hence, she was always in a hurry. ‘

Q. 18. Why was Juliette disappointed ? (Board Term 12012, Set 70)

Ans. Juliette was in a hurry to dispose off the villa as her business was very low. As the villa was near Jourtme, near French Hollywood, she was expecting to find a buyer soon for a lucrative price. She felt disappointed as she was unable to find a suitable buyer for her villa even after a month. ‘

Q. 19. Why did Mrs. Al Smith want to buy the Villa ? (Board Term 12010, Set B1)

Ans. Mrs. Al Smith was an American lady who worked in films. She wanted a place near Paramount where she was going to shoot some films as it would be quite convenient for her.

Q. 20. Give any two personality traits of Jeanne. Support your answer with examples. (Board Term 12010, Set C2)

Ans. Two personality traits of Jeanne are as follows: , . –

(i) Jeanne is easily impressed. Juliette’s praise of her impresses her and she feels flattered.

(ii) She is docile. She takes her criticism lightly. ‘

Q. 21. In the end, Gaston has changed his views of buying the Villa. Give reasons to support your answer. (Board Term 12010, Set A1)

Ans. He has done better business during the absence of Juliette and Jeanne. Being an opportunist, he (changes his mood of buying the Villa in the end.

Q. 22. Why did the maid agree to act in the film ? (Board Term 12010, Set A1)

Ans. Her mistress gave her a fixed salary and she would earn much more by acting daily for one hour only. So, the maid agreed to act in films to add spice to her salary.

Q. 23. Gaston was indeed a clever businessman. Explain. . t ! (Board Term 12010, Set B2)

Ans. Gaston really proved to be a clever businessman. Very cleverly he sold Juliette’s Villa, pretending to be its real owner, for three hundred thousand francs. He then bought the villa for two hundred thousand francs, thus making a cool hundred thousand francs profit for himself.

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Q. 24. While you were upstairs, I have been thinking a lot about Papa and Mama. Describe how Gaston contradicts himself through this dialogue. (Board Term 12010, Set C2)

Ans. Earlier, he did not want Jeanne’s parents to stay with them, but now he is showing concern for them.

Long Answer Type Questions .(80-100 Words) (4 Marks each)

Q.1. Do you agree that Mrs, Al Smith is the representative of the American outlook. How? (Board Term 12014/FROK4WI)

Ans. I do agree that Mrs. Al Smith is the representative of American outlook. She is always complaining that the French people have a queer way of doing business. They usually consult ten people before they decide on anything. She takes pride in saying that the Americans only think about the future whereas the French stick to the past. Thus she is proud of her culture and critical of the French. She also believes that Frenchmen are apprehensive and backward looking. She is not justified in her opinion. Gaston proves that he is a shrewd businessman who can outsmart any American.

Q.2. Why was Mrs. Al Smith not interested in going over the house ? (Board Term 12014,

MZPO310)

Ans. Being an American filmmaker, Mrs. Al Smith wanted a place near Paramount where she was going to shoot some films. She wanted to knock the villa down and build a bungalow in its place. So, she wasn't interested in going over the house. Moreover, she trusts and believes others easily. She does not care to examine and analyse Others when she presumes that Gaston is the owner of the villa, she asks him the price of the villa and gives him a Cheque for the amount and leaves the place in a hurry.

Q. 3. Imagine you are Gaston. Write a letter to your father telling him how chance and intelligent thinking helped you make a huge profit (150 words). (Board Term 12012, Set 39)

Ans. 43, Ashok Vihar New Delhi 16th September, 20 x x Dear Father,
I am thrilled today as I have struck upon a deal in which I have made a huge profit. Jeanne had a craze for a villa. I was not keen on buying one, so only went to have a look for Jeanne's satisfaction. Juliette, the owner of the villa, demanded two hundred thousand francs which I felt was quite high. When Jeanne had gone upstairs to see the villa, I came across Mrs. Al Smith, who was keen to buy the villa for three hundred thousand francs. I realized it was a good opportunity to make a profit. So, I pretended to be the owner of the house and struck a good deal with Mrs. Al Smith making a profit of hundred thousand francs, I am sure you would appreciate my presence of mind. See you soon.
Yours affectionately,
Gaston

Q. 4. You are Gaston. Write a diary entry expressing your Joy oh having made a huge profit by selling the villa. Also, share your feelings of regret for cheating your unsuspecting wife. Write the diary entry in about 150 words.

(Value Based Question) (Board Term 12012, Set 34)

Ans. Saturday 30th December, 20xx 10.00 p.m.
Dear Diary,
Jeanne's craze for a villa led Us to Juliett's villa. I was uninterested in buying the villa but went there to have a look for Jeanne's satisfaction. When the ladies went for an inspection of the villa, there was an entry of Mrs. Al Smith. She was in a great hurry and hence, mistook me to be the owner of the villa. Taking advantage of the situation, I got her to make a deal, thereby earning a profit erf a hundred thousand francs. My wife was pleasantly surprised when I finalized the deal with Juliette. Although I am happy to strike this deal, at the same time I regret cheating my wife, Jeanne. She does not suspect my actions. Tbmorrow, I shall tell her the reality. Hope she too will excuse me this time. I pledge not to cheat her again in the future. It was immoral and unethical to indulge in such an act. I shouldn't have betrayed her confidence. I shall apologise to her, first thing in the morning.
Thank you diary.

Q. 5. Imagine you are Jeanne Gaston's wife. You come to know about Gaston's dishonest deal. Write a letter to Mrs. Juliette revealing the truth mid requesting her to cancel the deal with Gaston and to sign a fresh, deal with Mrs. Al Smith in 150 words. (Value Based Question) (Board Term 12012, Set 50)

Ans. 43, Ashok Vihar
0 New Delhi
2nd January, 20 xx
Dear Juliette,
I am greatly disheartened and shocked bytoe unprincipled behaviour of my husband. He has showed his true colours of cleverness. He has proved himself to be shrewd, calculating, business-minded and opportunistic. Initially, he was unwilling to buy the villa for he feared that the villa would be occupied by my parents and sister's children. Later I was shocked when I

came to know the truth that he has cheated both you and me. He has made a handsome profit out of the deal.

I am shocked to realize that my feelings are not important to him. I have lost trust in my husband and want to teach him a lesson. I request you to kindly cancel the deal with Gaston and sign a fresh deal with Mrs. Al Smith. Thanks.

Yours truly
Jeanne

Q. 6. You are Jeanne. After coming home, you realize that the villa was not actually bought and your husband has fooled both you and the landlady of the villa. You are filled with rage, disgust and helplessness because of your husband's betrayal. Write your feelings in the form of a diary entry. (Board Term 12012, Set 41)

You are Jeanne. After coming home you realize that the villa was not actually bought and your husband has fooled both you and the landlady of the villa. You are angry as you find yourself in a helpless situation. Express your feelings in your diary. (Board Term 12012, Set 48)

Ans. Sunday 20th October, 20xx 10:00p.m.

Dear Diary, ;

I am full of disgust after being cheated by Gaston today. I am disheartened to learn that I have been fooled by him. It was very selfish of him to say that he was buying the villa for my parents, but I was shocked when I came to know the truth. He has cheated both Juliette and myself. Now, I understand why he was in such a hurry to buy the villa. He has proved himself to be very practical and money-minded. How could he be so uncaring of my feelings? I am feeling very depressed and curse the day when I got married to him. His behaviour has lately been very unprincipled and unscrupulous, I wish Gaston would have behaved better. I feel so helpless because of his betrayal I have decided I shall not talk to him. .

Goodnight.

Q. 7. What does the sale of the villa reveal about Gaston? (Board Term 12012, Set 44)

Ans. Jeanne wanted the villa for her parents and her sister's children. Gaston was not at all enthralled on account of it and found fault in the villa and said that the price was too high for the purchase. Juliette, the owner of the villa offered two hundred thousand francs while Mrs. Al Smith was ready to buy it for three hundred thousand francs. As Mr. Gaston was mistaken for the owner, he struck the deal in order to make money. Gaston is an opportunist. He was clever and hypocritical. He could turn any situation to his advantage. He had great presence of mind and insight into Mrs. Al Smith's psychology,

Q. 8. Do you think Gaston is a shrewd businessman or a plain cheater? Give reasons to support your answer. (Value based) (Board Term 12012, Set 60)

Ans. Gaston was not a cheater, but a shrewd businessman. He had a strong business instinct. Seeing Mrs. Al Smith, he sensed profit. He showed presence of mind by posing as the owner of the villa and selling it for three hundred thousand francs. He then bought the villa for two hundred thousand francs, thereby making a clear and effortless profit of one hundred thousand francs. 1

Q. 9. You are Gaston. You reveal your fake deal with Mrs. Al Smith to your wife Jeanne and she leaves you to stay with her parents. Write a letter to her expressing your repentance over the issue and requesting her to come back. (Value Based Question) (Board Term 12012, Set 54)

Ans. 73-A, Joinville'

Britain

14th October, 20 x x Dear Jeanne,

I was well aware of the fact that you wanted the villa for your parents. Though I was disinterested¹ in the beginning, I had reconciled with the situation. Entry of Mrs. Al Smith made me see profit and I could not refrain myself from making the deal with her. I had no intention of hurting you or anyone else. I just tried to grab the opportunity that came to me. I am sorry for the betrayal and will surely undo the wrong. I shall buy an equally elegant villa for your family. But please come back early.

Waiting for you.

Gaston