

Santal Pargana College , Dumka

Question Bank-

Paper 603 & 604 |Drama Section|

SemVI UG English Honours

1. Compare and contrast the social and moral values of Undershaft and Stephan in Shaw's Major Barbara.
2. What is the theme of Major Barbara by George Bernard Shaw?
3. What does Undershaft mean when he identifies "money and gunpowder" as necessary to salvation in Major Barbara?
4. "In *Major Barbara*, what is Andrew Undershaft's justification for selling arms and munitions to any buyer without discrimination?"
5. How would you classify the genre of the play "Major Barbara"?
6. "Undershaft declares that the Salvation Army's motto ("Blood and Fire") could as easily serve as his own. How so? How might his use of the motto differ from the Army's? Consider the ways in which Undershaft considers the Army's work as in harmony with his interests."
7. In George Bernard Shaw's Major Barbara, Barbara undergoes a transition from idealist to what by the end of the play?
8. "In Major Barbara, Barbara was a complete contrast to the average 19th century woman." Discuss.
9. In George Bernard Shaw's Major Barbara, in what sense did Bodger and Undershaft save the people?
10. . Discuss the various paradoxes and ironies that run throughout the drama.
11. What are themes that could be analyzed in T.S. Eliot's play The Family Reunion.?
12. "In T. S. Eliot's play, *The Family Reunion*, who are the Eumenides and what is their role and significance?"

13. "You have gone through life in sleep, Never woken to the nightmare. I tell you, life would be unendurable If you were wide awake." What is the purpose of this piece of dialogue in *The Family Reunion*
14. "Family affection was a kind of formal obligation, a duty only noticed by its neglect." how does this statement signifies the title of the play *The Family Reunion*
15. "Love compels cruelty To those who do not understand love." Discuss the theme of love and relationship in modern times in the light of the play *The Family Reunion*
16. What is the significance of the title of the play *The Importance of Being Earnest*?
17. "By the end of the play *The Importance of Being Earnest*, has Jack really learned the importance of being earnest?"
18. "A trivial comedy for serious people"—how appropriate is this subtitle for the play *The Importance of Being Earnest*?
19. How does Gwendolen show triviality in the play? How does she portray Victorian Earnestness?
20. In what way does Oscar Wilde satirize Algernon's character? What are some examples that show hypocrisy in Algernon's Character?
21. How does the theme of appearance vs reality take place in Algernon's character?
22. Discuss the elements of Satire In *The Importance Of Being Earnest*.
23. "Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* focuses on the surface to reveal the problems and hypocrisy of society. The audience is meant to see what the characters do not see. Select one passage from the play and discuss what the play keeps at the surface and what the audience is supposed to take away from the commentary.
24. How would you describe Gwendolen and Cecily's initial relationship in *The Importance of Being Earnest*? What causes this to change?
25. How is the consumption of food used as a symbol in *The Importance of Being Earnest*? What does food stand for? How does Oscar Wilde use symbolism in his social commentary? Use examples from the play.
26. What is the structure of Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*?

27. Discuss A Doll House vs. A Doll's House. How are they different in meaning?
28. When Torvald receives Krogstad's second letter, he shouts, "I am saved!" What is Torvald's real concern? What is symbolic about Nora's comment that she is taking off her fancy dress?
29. What ironic statement does Christine make about her deceased husband and why is it ironic?
30. How does the motif of birds reflect and take us on Nora's journey of self-discovery in A Doll's House?
31. Explore the ways in which Ibsen dramatically portrays the unequal relationship between Nora and Torvald Helmer.
32. In A Doll's House, when Nora sees the box of masquerade clothes, she wants to "rip them in a million pieces!" What does Ibsen symbolize with this characterization?
33. List the reasons why Nora decides to leave her husband and her children at the end of the play. Does this decision line up with who Nora presented herself as in the play? Was it a fair decision for her to make? Explain.
34. Summarize the play A Doll's House as Nora telling the story.
35. How is Krogstad portrayed as the epitome of moral decay in society in A Doll's House?
36. "At the conclusion of the play, Nora slams the door shut to the "dollhouse" and exits. However, she leaves Torvald with the desire for the "greatest miracle." In a five-paragraph essay, explain why Ibsen constructed an ambiguous closing. You must incorporate particular references to the play and at least five quotes."
37. "Discuss the representation of marriage in Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*. What evidence can you find to support the interpretation that this play is not only about the Helmers's marriage, but also about the institution of marriage itself? Describe at least three scenes in which marriage is critiqued. What might be Ibsen's overall opinion of marriage and the role of women in it?"

38. "But our home has never been anything but a playroom. I've been your doll-wife, just as I used to be papa's doll-child." Discuss this piece of dialogue in the light of the title of the play *A Doll's House*.
39. **The play is usually considered one of Ibsen's "realist" plays. Consider how far the play might be anti-realist or symbolic.**
40. Is *A Doll's House* a feminist play? Discuss .

To be continued...