



QUESTION BANK – THE MIDNIGHT VISITOR

Class: X

Sub: ENGLISH

EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS:

Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:

Q1. *“Max,” he wheezed, “you gave me quite a start. I thought you were in Berlin. What are you doing here in my room?”*

a) In whose room was Max?

ans: Ausable’s room

b) Why was he there?

Ans: He had come to get a very important report from him.

c) How has Max got in?

ans: He has entered using a pass key for unlocking Ausable’s room

d) What is meant by wheezed?

ans: Breathed with a whistling or rattling sound.

Q2. *“You are disappointed”, Ausable said wheezily over his shoulder. “You were told that I was a secret agent, a spy, dealing in espionage and danger. You wished to meet me because you are a writer, young and romantic. You envisioned mysterious figures in the night, the crack of pistols, drugs in the wine.”*

Who was disappointed and with whom?

Ans: Fowler was disappointed to see Ausable.

Why did ‘he’ want to meet Ausable?

Ans: Fowler wanted to meet him because he was a writer and wished to meet a real spy.

Why was Fowler disappointed?

Ans: He was disappointed to meet Ausable who looked ordinary, slow, sluggish and a very fat person who lived in a small room on the top floor of a cheap hotel.

How was Ausable different from the other secret agents?

Ans: Ausable, unlike other secret agents, was very fat with an accent of both French and German.

Q3. *And as the light came on, Fowler had his first authentic thrill of the day. For halfway across the room, a small automatic pistol in his hand stood a man.*

(a) What was the turn of events?

Ans : Fowler and Ausable found a man with a pistol standing in the room. Ausable’s room.

(b) What did they find?

Ans : They found a man with a pistol in the room.

(c) Who was the man with a pistol in his hand?

Ans: Max

(d) What was the first authentic thrill of the day?

Ans: Fowler saw a man with a pistol pointed towards him, waiting in the room. This was the authentic thrill of the day for him.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

Q1. What was the real story of the balcony below the window of Ausable's room?

Ans. Ausable had an instant and fertile mind. He could cook up all kinds of stories that fit in different situations. Actually, there was no balcony below the window of his room. Ausable cooked up a story that the balcony below his room had become a big nuisance. It was the second time that someone had got into his room through it. Actually, he wanted to confuse Max and make him jump out of the window to get rid of him.

Q2. What position did Max take before he jumped out of the window?

Ans. Max kept his body twisted. In this way, he could keep his gun pointed at Ausable and Fowler. He grasped the frame with his free hand to support himself. He swung his other leg up and over the windowsill. The moment he heard the knocking getting louder at the door, he positioned himself to jump out of the window.

Q3. What story did Ausable cook up regarding the arrival of the police? How did it affect Max?

Ans. Ausable was very quick of mind. His sharp brain could cook up any story that could fit in a particular situation. When Max heard a loud knocking at the door, he got nervous. Ausable told Max that the knocking at the door announced the arrival of the police. After all, he was holding an important paper concerning missiles. He had sought police protection. He told the police to check on him to make sure that everything was all right. This unnerved and confused Max.

Q4. How did Max react when Ausable told him that the loud knockings at the door were of the police?

Ans. Ausable cooked up the police's story. He told that he himself had sought the protection of the police. The knockings at the door signalled their arrival. Max's face was black with anger. Max swung a leg over the windowsill and shouted to send the police away. He threatened him to obey. If not, he would take his chances and shoot.

Q5. How did clever Ausable outwit and get rid of his rival or enemy secret agent Max?

Ans. Ausable very cleverly convinced Max that there existed a balcony below the windowsill of his room. Actually, it was a trap to make Max jump out of the window. He unnerved Max by cooking up a false story of the arrival of the police. Confused and panicky, Max jumped out on the balcony which did not exist. In this way, Ausable got rid of his enemy or rival.

Q6. Who was actually knocking at the door? Was it pre-planned?

Ans. Ausable could cook up any false story to suit his mission. He cooked up the story of the police. He told Max that he himself sought the protection of the police. He had a very important report with him. Actually, the knocking at the door was of Henry, the waiter. When the door opened, he was standing there with a bottle and two glasses. It was all cleverly planned in advance to outwit the crafty rival, Max.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS:

Q1. At the beginning of the story, Fowler felt disappointed with Ausable. Do you think Fowler had the same feeling towards the end of the story? Give reasons for your answer.

Ans. At the beginning of the story, Fowler felt disappointed with Ausable because he did not at all look like a secret agent of his imagination. He found him quite boring. He did not want to be with him anymore. But when he found Max in his room with a gun, he was thrilled. He found that Ausable was not at all perturbed. He cocked-up a story about the balcony outside his window. When the waiter knocked at the door, Ausable told Max that it would be the police. He told him that he had called the police for the security of that important paper. Hearing this Max jumped outside the window to the balcony. But there was no balcony. He fell down from the sixth floor and died. Thus, Fowler was thrilled to see all this. So towards the end of the story, he was not disappointed with Ausable.

Q2. Ausable was a clever secret agent. Do you agree with the statement? Justify your answer.

Ausable did not look at all like the conventional image of a secret agent. He was short and very fat. Besides, he spoke French and German which lacked fluency as well as the right accent; the American accent was quite palpable in his speech. However, Ausable had a very sharp and active mind because he invented two stories, one about a non-existent balcony outside his hotel window and another about the police arriving to give extra security to some important documents he was about to receive.

He was an intelligent man and a clever secret agent to be able to invent such stories on the spur of the moment in the face of imminent danger in the form of Max, a rival secret agent.

Q3. A calm mind can help you tackle direst stress. Explain.

Certainly, a calm mind can help us to tackle direst stress. If Ausable had panicked and done something fishy, then Max probably would have killed him. But Ausable kept his cool. Apart from this story, there can be some real life examples also. We are always told to focus when we are appearing for exams or not to panic in a difficult situation because such things hamper our thinking ability. We are not able to take proper decisions at this time. If we keep our mind cool and focus, then only we can find ways to get out of crunch situations.

Q4. What information did Ausable give about the imaginary balcony? Why did he do so?

Ausable created a detailed description of how his room was part a bigger apartment and how the next room had a direct connection with a balcony. His statement that somebody else had also broken into his office through that balcony made it a convincing story. Ausable did this to fool Max into thinking that a balcony existed just outside the window, as he knew that soon the waiter bringing the drinks he had ordered would be knocking at the door, which may prompt Max to jump into the imaginary balcony to hide.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. What was Ausable's profession?
a. tourist **b. secret agent** c. diplomat d. soldier
2. Where was Ausable staying?
a. Inn **b. French hotel** c. Fowler's home d. American hotel
3. Ausable was brought to Paris twenty years ago from
a. London b. Moscow **c. Boston** d. Burma

4. Who came to meet Ausable?
 - a. Ausable's father
 - b. Policeman
 - c. **Fowler**
 - d. Max
5. What was Fowler's profession?
 - a. **writer**
 - b. actor
 - c. secret agent
 - d. policeman
6. Fowler was _____ to meet Ausable.
 - a. happy
 - b. excited
 - c. **disappointed**
 - d. unaffected
7. Who is the guest in the story, 'The Midnight Visitor?'
 - a. Ausable
 - b. Max
 - c. Henry
 - d. **Fowler**
8. Who was Max?
 - a. Manager of the hotel
 - b. **Another secret agent**
 - c. Ausable's friend
 - d. Fowler's friend
 - e.
9. Who knocked at Ausable's door?
 - a. A policeman
 - b. **The waiter**
 - c. Max
 - d. Fowler
10. Max entered Ausable's room through the _____.
 - a. balcony
 - b. **main door**
 - c. back door
 - d. roof