



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH (2020-21)
Question Bank

THE BROWNING VERSION- by Terence Rattigan

Class: XI

Sub: ENGLISH

I. Answer the following questions in not more than 30-40 words.

1. Where did Taplow meet Frank?

Taplow had been asked to do some extra work by Mr. Crocker Harris. He was waiting for the master in the school on the day before the school closes for the holidays. Frank also came there and met Taplow.

2. What does Mr. Frank suggest Taplow to do because Mr. Crocker Harris is ten minutes late?

Frank asked Taplow not to wait for Mr. Crocker Harris and go to play golf. Taplow is unsure of his remove as it has not been announced. Taplow is really shocked and is afraid that Mr. Crocker Harris may follow him home or do something else.

3. Why does Mr. Frank envy Mr. Crocker Harris?

Mr. Frank envies Mr. Crocker Harris for the effect he has on the boys in the class. Mr. Crocker Harris does not tell the results before they are officially announced. And in spite of making students take extra work they still respect Mr. Crocker Harris.

4. How does Mr. Crocker Harris differ from other masters in his reactions towards others?

Mr. Crocker Harris did not get pleasure out of giving pain. He was not a sadist. In fact, he had no feelings. He was all dry like a nut. He seemed to hate the idea of people liking him.

5. Which incident does Taplow narrate to prove the fact that Crocker Harris does not like 'being liked'?

Taplow narrates the incident about one day when Mr. Crocker Harris made one of his classical jokes in the class which no one understood. Taplow laughed out of politeness. Instead of feeling thankful, Mr. Crocker Harris asked Taplow to explain the joke to the class. This incident proved that Mr. Crocker Harris did not like 'being liked'.

7. Does Frank seem to encourage Taplow's comments on Crocker Harris? Explain.

Ans. Frank encourages Taplow to comment on Mr. Crocker Harris by cleverly asking Taplow several questions. He appreciated Taplow's imitation of Mr. Crocker Harris and also asks him to repeat it.

8. How does Taplow react to Millie's arrival?

Ans. Taplow is nervous. He is unable to control his emotions and whispers to Frank if he thinks she has heard their conversation. Taplow feels that if she tells Mr. Crocker Harris, he would lose his form.

9. Why is Taplow bitter?

Taplow missed a day the previous week so he has been asked by Mr. Crocker Harris to do extra work on the last day of school. Considering the fine weather prevailing, he'd much rather go and play golf than wait for Crocker Harris in school.

10. Why could Taplow not understand Crocker's joke? Why did he laugh at it then?

Taplow couldn't understand the joke because of his lack of knowledge of Greek just like the other students. He just laughed out of politeness. Mr. Crocker Harris called him out to explain the joke to the rest of the class.

11. Where did Millie send Taplow? What was her purpose?

She wanted to send Taplow away from there, so she hands him a prescription to go to the Chemist and fetch medicines for the Crock.

12. What kind of a teacher and a human being is Crocker Harris according to Taplow?

Crocker Harris, a Classics teacher, is a strict disciplinarian. He has given extra work to Taplow for missing school on account of his being ill. He is a hard task master-students get to write 50 lines if they get a Greek word wrong. He follows the rules very to the letter. Even when he has to convey something unpleasant to a student, he would say it in a gentle way. As a human being he hates it if anybody likes him. He is all shriveled up inside like a nut. He is not a sadist. According to Taplow he has no feelings- *'he is hardly human'*.

II. Long Answer Type Questions: Answer the following questions in 100-120 words:

1. Give a character sketch of Crocker-Harris.

OR

'What do we gather about Andrew Crocker Harris from the play?'

Mr. Crocker Harris is not seen or heard in the extract. Crocker Harris or 'the Crock' as he is called by his students, is due for retirement and it's his last day in school. We learn about him through the conversation between Taplow and Frank, the middle aged Science teacher. Crock is a teacher of Classics and a stickler for rules because, unlike other teachers, he wouldn't disclose results to students until the formal announcement by the headmaster on the last day of the term. It emerges that Crock speaks to his students in a soft tone even when he has something unpleasant to convey. According to Taplow, Crock is not a sadist as some other teachers in the school. He has no feelings, and 'is all shriveled up inside like a nut' and 'seems to hate people to like him'. Frank envies the Mr. Crocker Harris for the effect he seems to have on students.

2. What impression of Frank do you get as a teacher?

Frank is a Science teacher. He is much younger to Crocker Harris. Frank doesn't seem to be interested in the Science he has to teach to students. He is not strict as Crocker Harris. He feels that many lazy and unmotivated students opt for studying Science. He seems to enjoy Taplow imitating Crocker Harris. He seems concerned at the use of the term 'sadist' by Taplow to describe some teachers. When Crocker Harris doesn't arrive at the appointed time, Frank suggests to Taplow to go away without permission so that he can still play some golf before lock-up time. Taplow doesn't dare to 'cut' the Crock and immediately declines to do so.

3. What is the main idea of the play?

The play deals with the idea that those who stick to principles often come to sorrow - people who make no compromises make themselves unpopular -Mr. Crocker Harris, a dedicated teacher who is unpopular with his students due to his strict nature - firm and uncompromising -does not beat

his students – but remains unpopular - Teacher like Mr. Frank, encourage students to make comments on their teachers- very friendly but undedicated - leaves a bad impression. Whereas Crocker emerges as a dignified human being –Taplow’s regards and hidden respect for his teacher come out in the open towards the end. - realizes the worth of their sincere teachers quite late in life.