



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

QUESTION BANK - (2020-21)

MOTHER'S DAY- by J B Priestley

Class: XI

Sub: ENGLISH

**I. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words:**

**Q1. Why was Mrs. Pearson so worried?**

**Ans.** Mrs. Pearson was severely isolated and frequently humiliated by her own children, Doris and Cyril. Even her husband George turned a blind eye on her and loved to spend time with his friends at the club. She loved her family a lot and worked selflessly round the clock for them, meeting their daily needs. The behavior of her children and husband made her sad, depressed and worried.

**Q2. What was the proposal given by Mrs. Fitzgerald to Mrs. Pearson? How did she react to it?**

**Ans.** When Mrs. Fitzgerald got to know about the insensitive behavior of Mrs. Pearson's children and husband towards her, she got furious and angry. She proposed to teach all of them a good lesson by swapping her personality with Mrs. Pearson's through a magic trick. Mrs. Pearson initially refused the proposal as she didn't want her family to be troubled but ultimately gave in and agreed.

**Q3. What happened when Mrs. Pearson swapped her personality with Mrs. Fitzgerald?**

**Ans.** After a lot of persuasion, Mrs. Pearson agreed to the proposal given by her neighbor, Mrs. Fitzgerald about exchanging the personalities. Having exchanged the personality with Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Pearson started smoking and drinking, whereas Mrs. Fitzgerald sat calmly. They had the same bodies but altogether different personalities.

**Q4. Why was Doris angry with her mother? How did Mrs. Pearson react to it?**

**Ans.** Doris had planned to meet Charlie Spence and wanted to wear a yellow dress which was not ironed by her mother so far. Therefore, she started shouting at her mother but was taken aback when Mrs. Pearson responded to her in the same tone.

**Q5. Why was Cyril astonished? How did he make fun of Mrs. Fitzgerald?**

**Ans.** Cyril was astonished to see his mother smoking and asking for stout. He had never seen his mother behave so strangely. He called Mrs. Fitzgerald silly old bag from next door when the latter entered his house but he was rebuked severely for that by his mother.

**Q6. What piece of advice does Mrs. Fitzgerald give to her neighbor for managing her family?**

**Ans.** Mrs. Fitzgerald who is furious at the behavior of Mrs. Pearson's children advises Mrs. Pearson to stop running after them, taking their orders and behaving like a slave. She should show them their places and refuse to cater to them anymore.

**Q7. How does Mrs. Pearson give a shock to George?**

**Ans.** When George starts questioning Mrs. Pearson's about her smoking and drinking, she makes him aware of the reality. Also, she tells him straight, without mincing words, how he is ridiculed at the club by the members of the club whom he considers his friends. Besides, when he insults Mrs. Pearson, the latter even threatens to slap his big face and asks him to keep quiet.

**Q8. What new rules are set up by Mrs. Pearson for her family?**

**Ans.** Having taught all the family members a good lesson, Mrs. Pearson makes her own set of rules for her family. She says that everyone, including her, would work for 40 hours a week. Moreover, she declares that she would have holidays at weekends and that she would enjoy partying with her friends.

**Q9. Compare and contrast the personalities of Mrs. Fitzgerald and Mrs. Pearson?**

**Ans.** The two ladies are sharply contrasted. Mrs. Pearson is a pleasant but worried looking woman in her forties. She speaks in light and flurried sort of tone with a touch of suburban Cockney. Mrs. Fitzgerald is older, heavier and has a strong personality. She has a deep voice and speaks in a rather Irish tone. She also drinks and smokes.

**II. Answer the following questions in 100-120 words:**

**Q1. What are the issues that the play 'Mother's Day' raises upon crucial and common life matters?**

The first and foremost concern is the plight of a woman in her household. She works laboriously turning her house into home but receives no wages and has no weekends off. She is never appreciated and accounted for. In the story the major complaint of Mrs. Pearson is that her family does not spend time with her. The author has tried to highlight the fact that a woman feels lonely when the members of her family do not pay attention to her. She also yearns for their company and wishes to spend time with her loved ones. The lesson also tries to figure out the reason a woman's efforts are overlooked by her family members, which is that she never boasts about what she does and doesn't ask for anything in return. She doesn't even speak up for the respect she deserves just because she does not want to make her family members realize their insensitivity. The lesson also makes us understand how precious mothers and wives are and how they deserve a lot more than what is given to them.

**Q2. Is drama a good medium for conveying a social message? Discuss.**

**Ans.** Drama or theatre is a perfect medium to convey a social message to the society and has a substantial effect on the minds of people due to its visual impact. Thus, if a social message that holds lot of significance is brought to life through drama, it holds immense potential for bringing a positive change in society. The play 'Mother's Day' makes the viewers or readers hear what is unsaid, feel what is not explicitly mentioned and conclude what is right or wrong, on their own. Through the play, the playwright brings out the plight of Mrs. Pearson who is treated like a doormat in her own house by her husband and children. Through the events that happen in the play, they ultimately learn to behave properly with Mrs. Pearson so that she gets the respect that she deserves. There is also a lesson for all of us to learn that everyone should respect, care, and help the lady of the house for all the hardships she goes through for her

family. This is the power of drama. Hence, drama can be considered a medium good enough for conveying a social message.

**Q3. Write a note on the title of the play ‘Mother’s Day’.**

**Ans.** The title of the play is quite appropriate. It sums up the theme of the play. It suggests that the action of the play revolves around a mother. The playwright confronts us at the outset with the problems the mother Mrs. Pearson faces from her grown up children, Doris and Cyril as well as their father, George Pearson. The novel technique employed to tackle the spoilt children and the husband is quite amusing and thought provoking. The bold and dominating mother who is actually Mrs. Fitzgerald in the body of Mrs. Pearson, acts tough with the children and makes them realize the need of proper attention and respect towards her. They are made to learn a lesson in courtesy and polite behavior not only towards the mother but also towards the visiting neighbor. The mother certainly has her day as the children learn to treat her properly. The supper being prepared by the children, their stay at home and the family game of rummy is a rare gift that the mother receives on this important day.

**III. Word – Meaning**

- Cockney – style of speaking of people living in the East end of London
- Irish – style of speaking of people living in Ireland
- out East – in the British colonies in Asia
- Lieutenant Quartermaster – non-commissioned officer in British Army
- treating ‘em like dirt – showing lack of respect
- patience – a card game played by a single person
- the Clarendon – name of a local restaurant
- get cracking – work quickly
- wear that face – look so bad
- Union – association of employees’
- stout – strong beer
- clot – idiot
- barmy – insane
- fathead – idiot
- concussion – serious injury to her head
- guffaw – laugh
- a bit thick – unreasonable
- blubbering – crying like a baby
- solemn – formal and dignified
- pompous – overbearing, self-important
- indignantly – in a displeased tone
- standing jokes – permanent amusements
- greyhound races – races run by tall, slender dogs
- dirt tracks – racing courses for motorcycles
- ice shows – entertainment shows performed by ice skaters
- piecan – stupid person
- at sixes and sevens – in total confusion
- tiddly – slightly drunk
- rummy – a card game