



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
QUESTION BANK - (2020-21)

**BIRTH- by A J Cronin**

Class: XI

Sub: ENGLISH

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

**Q1. Was Andrew Mason depressed about his marriage?**

Ans: Andrew had very defined views about marriage. He wished he considered as an idyllic state i.e. a perfect coming together of two individuals for life. However, the disappointing episode with Christine was still fresh in his mind. He was confused as he experienced a 'conflict' between his level, doubting mind and his overflowing heart.

**Q2. Why was Joe Morgan waiting for Andrew even though it was nearly midnight?**

Ans: Susan, Joe's wife was in labour and expecting a baby before its time, after nearly 20 years of marriage. Andrew was an assistant doctor in that mining town, and Joe came to seek his help in the delivery of the baby.

**Q3. Where did Joe lead Andrew? Why did he not go in with the doctor?**

Ans. Joe Morgan led Andrew to his house, 12, Blaina Terrace. His wife was about to deliver her first child after being married for nearly twenty years. Joe was quite tense. He refused to go inside the house. Even his voice showed signs of strain.

**Q4. "Don't fret, mother, I'll not run away". Why do you think Andrew said so?**

Ans. Mrs. Morgan's mother offered to make a cup of tea for the doctor. The experienced woman had realized that there must be a period of waiting. She was afraid that the doctor would leave the case saying that he would return later. Andrew read her mind and assured her that he would not leave the place.

**Q5. Why did Andrew decide to remain there until everything was over?**

Ans. Andrew had reached Bryngower at about midnight. He was extremely worried and upset. He needed some rest and sleep. He knew that he could not sleep even for an hour if he went home. Secondly, he knew that the case would demand all his attention. He felt lethargic and decided to remain there until everything was over.

**Q6. What was weighing on Andrew's mind as he waited with the patient?**

Ans. Andrew's thoughts were heavy and muddled. The episode he had witnessed at Cardiff station still gripped him and made him gloomy. Andrew thought about the unsuccessful married

lives of some persons he had known. He thought of Bramwell who was foolishly loyal to a woman who deceived him. He thought of Edward Page who was tied to the shrewish and quarrelsome Blodwen and of Denny, living unhappily, apart from his wife.

**Q7. Why did a shiver of horror pass over Andrew?**

Ans. Andrew had struggled for more than an hour to help Mrs. Susan Morgan in the safe delivery of her first child. At last, the child was born, but it was lifeless. As Andrew gazed at the still form of the baby, a shiver of horror passed over him.

**Q8. What dilemma did Andrew face?**

Ans. An After an hour-long struggle, the child was born lifeless and the mother was in a critical state. Andrew was torn between his desire to attempt to save the child, and his obligation towards the mother. He overcame the dilemma, instinctively; he gave the child to the nurse and turned his attention to Susan Morgan. His heart prompted him to resuscitate the stillborn child. His mind dictated him to attend to the mother who was lying in a hopeless state. Thus Andrew faced the dilemma about whom to attend to first.

**Q9. What efforts did Andrew make to revive Susan Morgan?**

Ans. In order to revive Susan Morgan who lay collapsed and almost pulse-less, Andrew smashed a glass ampule, instantly, and injected the medicine. Then he flung down the hypodermic syringe and worked ceaselessly to revive the almost lifeless woman. After a few minutes of intense effort, her heart strengthened and after a few minutes of feverish effort, she was safe.

**Q10. What did the baby look like when it came into the world?**

Ans: When Andrew held the baby in his hand, it was limp, white and soft as tallow. Although its skin was of a lovely texture, smooth and tender, its head lolled on the thin neck and its limbs seemed boneless. The stillborn baby was hurriedly placed by the midwife among newspapers under the bed.

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

**Q1. Why was Andrew Manson called in? How did he react to the call of duty?**

Ans. Andrew Manson had just begun his medical practice in the small Welsh mining town of Blaenelly. He was called in to attend to Susan Morgan, who was expecting her first child after being married for nearly twenty years. Her husband, Joe Morgan, had been waiting for an hour outside the closed surgery. It was nearly midnight when Andrew reached there. As Joe acquainted Andrew with his wife's condition, Andrew forgot his own affairs. He went inside his house for his bag and immediately left for the driller's place. Since his services were not immediately needed by the expecting mother, he decided to wait downstairs. He re-examined her after an hour. It was at 3:30 am when the nurse summoned him. He struggled for an hour before the child was born. Then he worked feverishly to revive the weak mother and the stillborn child.

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He had to use all his knowledge and experience in discharging his duty. He did not pay attention to his own physical tiredness or mental tension. Duty came first and he responded to it with single-minded devotion.

**Q2. How did Andrew feel when he saw the still born baby? How did he save its life?**

Ans: He experienced 'a shiver of horror' pass over him. He felt dispirited as he had promised the Morgans everything would be fine. He also faced the urgent dilemma of resuscitating the child and to revive the desperate mother whose strength was ebbing under the effect of anaesthesia.

Andrew sets to work frantically plunging the baby in icy cold water and a steamy bath alternately. After half an hour of persistent but futile effort, he makes one last ditch attempt of pressing and releasing the tiny chest rhythmically to get breath into the lifeless body. As if by a miracle, the baby started to breathe gently.

**Q3. Give a character sketch of Andrew Mason.**

Ans: Andrew Mason is a young doctor, an assistant to Dr. Edward Page in a Welsh mining town of Blaenelly. He's had a disappointing evening with Christine, the girl he loves and thus reluctant about his marriage to her. He considers marriage to be an idyllic state. Being endowed with a skeptic mind and a heart overflowing with emotions, the episode with Christine leaves him confused and resentful. He is committed to his profession. Although he's feeling low when he approached by Joe at midnight about his expectant wife, Andrew immediately responds to the call of his duty.

He patiently waits at the Morgan's house to let the moment arrive when he has to perform his job. He is alive to the feelings of the members of the Morgan family, and is willing to do the utmost to keep their hopes alive. When faced with a critical situation, he dared an unconventional approach to revive the stillborn baby. He performs like an experienced and efficient professional although he's just graduated from the medical school.