



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: IX

QUESTION BANK (2025-2026)
TOPIC: VILLA FOR SALE

SUBJECT: ENGLISH

I. SUMMARY

“*Villa for Sale*,” written by Sacha Guitry, is a humorous one-act play that revolves around mistaken identities and the unpredictable nature of human desires. The story is set in France and centres on Juliette, a lady who wants to sell her villa but is frustrated because no one seems interested in buying it.

At the beginning, Juliette expresses her disappointment to her maid Marie, complaining that despite the advertisements, she has had no luck selling the villa. Marie humorously points out that the price might be too high, but Juliette insists that the house is worth every franc.

Soon after, a young man named Gaston arrives, mistaking the villa for another one he was supposed to visit. However, once inside, he starts taking interest in the house and engages in witty conversation with Juliette. Their exchange is full of sharp humour, sarcasm, and flirtation. Gaston reveals that he has just been cheated by a theatre ticket-seller, which leads them to discover that Juliette herself was the one who sold him the ticket earlier that day!

Amused by the coincidence and attracted to each other’s lively personalities, Gaston suddenly decides to buy the villa. The play ends on a cheerful note with Juliette finding both a buyer and perhaps a new companion.

Through light-hearted dialogue and comic twists, “*Villa for Sale*” highlights themes of chance, irony, and human folly, making it an entertaining commentary on the unpredictability of life and relationships.

II. Reference to Context

Read the given extracts and answer the questions that follow:

Question 1.

“Not at all. Mind you, if someone had bought it on the very day I placed it for sale, then I might have felt sorry because I would have wondered if I hadn’t been a fool to sell it at all. But the sign has been hanging on the gate for over a month now and I am beginning to be afraid that the day I bought it was when I was the real fool.” (Page 96)

(a) How would the speaker have felt if someone had bought the villa on the very day she placed it for sale?

(b) What has been hanging on the gate for over a month now?

(c) How does the speaker feel now?

Answer:

- (a) If someone had bought the villa on the very day she placed it for sale, the speaker might have felt sorry. She would have wondered if she had been a fool to sell at all.
- (b) The sign 'Villa for Sale' has been hanging on the gate for over a month now.
- (c) The speaker feels that she was the real fool the day she brought that villa.

Question 2.

"For the first week, I was annoyed every time I passed that 'Villa for Sale' sign. The neighbours seemed to look at me in such a strange kind of way that I began to think the whole thing was going to be much more of a sell than a sale." (Page 96)

- (a) Why was the speaker annoyed?
- (b) How did the whole thing become a 'sell' than a sale?
- (c) Name the speaker and the play from which these lines have been taken.

Answer:

- (a) The speaker was impatient to dispose of her villa and had put up a 'Villa for sale' sign for this purpose. She was annoyed as she couldn't get a suitable buyer for the villa even waiting for a long time.
- (b) Juliette had waited for a long time but couldn't find a suitable buyer for her villa. The whole thing became quite distressing and disappointing rather than a sale.
- (c) Juliette, the owner of the villa is the speaker and these lines have been taken from Sacha Guitry's play 'Villa for Sale'.

Question 3.

That was a month ago and now I have only one thought, that is to get the wretched place off my hands. I would sacrifice it at any price. One hundred thousand francs if necessary and that's only twice what it cost me. (Page 96)

- (a) What does the speaker think about the villa?
- (b) What is she ready for?
- (c) Is she really sacrificing the villa at any price? Give a reasoned answer.

Answer:

- (a) The speaker has only one thought in her mind. She wants to get the 'wretched' villa off her hands as soon as possible.
- (b) She is ready to sacrifice or get the villa off her hands at any price.
- (c) No, Juliette is a perfect saleswoman. Even the lowest price she may demand (one hundred thousand francs) is only twice what it cost her.

Question 4.

Oh! I'm fed up with the place. Because nobody really wants it! What time did those agency people say the lady would call? (Page 96)

- (a) Who was fed up with the place and why?
- (b) Who was coming and what was her objective of coming there?
- (c) Was the speaker really ready to sacrifice her villa 'at any price'?

Answer:

- (a) Juliette, the owner of the villa was fed up with the place as she couldn't get a suitable buyer for it. She was distressed at not selling it as she had expected.
- (b) Mr. Gaston and Jeanne were coming to see and buy Juliette's villa.
- (c) No, the speaker, Juliette was only pretending to sacrifice her villa at any price. She wanted not even a franc less than two hundred thousand, twice the actual cost of the villa.

Question 5.

They want a cook in the film as well. They asked me if I knew of anybody suitable. You said just now. Madame, that times were hard. ...Would you like me to get you the engagement? (Page 97)

- (a) Who were 'they' and what did they want?
- (b) Who had said that "times were hard" and to whom?
- (c) What did the speaker say about the 'engagement'?

Answer:

- (a) 'They' were the people at Joinville Studio. They wanted someone to play the role of a cook in their forthcoming film.
- (b) Once Juliette, disappointed and dejected, declared that "times were very hard" for her. She was speaking to her maid.
- (c) The speaker told Juliette that she had already talked to the people at the Studio regarding her role as a cook in the film. She was only waiting for her reply.

Question 6.

"They might take you on for eight days, Madame. That would mean eight hundred francs. It's really money for nothing. You would have to peel potatoes one minute and make an omlette the next, quite easy." (Page 97)

- (a) Who would take and whom for eight days?
- (b) What would working for eight days mean?
- (c) Why would she have to peel potatoes and make an omlette?

Answer:

- (a) The people at the Joinville Studio could employ Juliette for eight days for the role of a cook in a film.
- (b) Working for eight days would mean a cool eight hundred francs.
- (c) She would have to peel potatoes and make an omelette as her role as a cook in the film demanded it.

Question 7.

"It's not for us ... it's for your parents. You are simply trying to make me buy a villa so that you can put your father and your mother in it. You see, I know you. If you got what you want, do you realise what would happen? We would spend the month of August in the villa, but your parents would take possession of it every year from the beginning of April until the end of September." (Page 99)

- (a) Why is she trying to make him buy a villa?
- (b) What would happen, if she got what she wanted?
- (c) Does the speaker want to buy the villa? If not, why?

Answer:

- (a) Gaston thinks that his wife Jeanne is trying to make him buy villa not for them but for her parents.
- (b) Her parents would take possession of the villa and would bring even her sister's children with them.
- (c) No, the speaker is not interested in buying the villa. He knows that his wife is simply trying to make him buy it for her parents.

Question 8.

What's more they would bring the whole tribe of your sister's children with them. No! I am very fond of your family, but not quite so fond as that. (Page 99)

- (a) Who is the speaker and what is the occasion?
- (b) What is the speaker's fear?
- (c) Explain: "but not quite so fond as that."

Answer:

- (a) Mr. Gaston is the speaker of these lines. He has come with his wife Jeanne to see Juliette's villa which is for sale.
- (b) The speaker knows that his wife Jeanne is buying the villa to put her father and mother in it. His fear is that they will also bring her sister's children to live with them.
- (c) Mr. Gaston says that he is quite fond of her wife's family. But he reminds her very frankly that he is not so fond of her family as to keep her sister's children with him in his house.

Question 9.

'Quite so. I have, but you haven't. Anyway, there's no use discussing it. I will not buy a villa and that ends it. ' (Page 100)

- (a) Who is speaking and to whom?
- (b) What has the speaker made while this other person hasn't?
- (c) What does the speaker finally decide and why?

Answer:

- (a) Mr. Gaston is speaking here to his wife Jeanne.
- (b) The speaker claims that he has made a fortune and earned the money. He tells his wife that she hasn't earned that money.
- (c) The speaker finally decides not to buy Juliette's. He fears that his wife wants him to buy it for her parents.

Question 10.

I tell you what I will do. I will be philanthropic and let you have it for two hundred thousand. (Page 102)

- (a) Who is telling whom?
- (b) Why does the speaker claim to be philanthropic?
- (c) Is the speaker really trying to be philanthropic? Give an example from the text.

Answer:

- (a) Juliette, owner of the villa, is talking to Mr. Gaston.
- (b) The speaker claims to be philanthropic as she is 'sacrificing' the villa at a throwaway price just to help Mr. Gaston and Jeanne.
- (c) No, the speaker has no intention to be philanthropic. She is a perfect saleswoman who doesn't want to sell the villa not even a franc less than two hundred thousand.

Question 11.

You are an exception. Frenchmen usually have to consult about ten people before they get a move on. (Page 103)

- (a) Who is the speaker and what is her profession?
- (b) Why is the speaker interested in buying that villa?
- (c) Why does the speaker feel that Mr. Gaston is an exception?

Answer:

- (a) The speaker is Mrs. A1 Smith, a Hollywood actress who was going to shoot some films at the Paramount Studio.
- (b) Mrs. A1 Smith was interested in buying the villa as it was near Paramount Studio where she was going to shoot some films.
- (c) The American lady, Mrs. A1 Smith thinks that Frenchmen can't decide anything

promptly. They consult about ten people before deciding a thing. Mr. Gaston was an exception as he made the deal so fast and without consulting anyone.

Question 12.

“You folk are queer. You think about the past all the time. We always think about the future.”
(Page 104)

- (a) What do the words “You” and “We” stand here for?
- (b) Why does the speaker say that Frenchmen are ‘queer’?
- (c) How do the speaker and her countrymen differ from Frenchmen?

Answer:

- (a) Here the word ‘You’ stands for Frenchmen and ‘We’ stands for the Americans.
- (b) The French people are really funny and strange as they always think about the past unlike the Americans.
- (c) The speaker and her countrymen always think about the future while Frenchmen think about the past all the time.

Question 13:

“While you were upstairs, I had been thinking a lot about your papa and mamma.”

- (a) Who spoke these words and to whom?
- (b) How does the statement differ from the statement made by him earlier?
- (c) What impression do you form about the speaker?

Answer:

- (a) Gaston speaks these words to Jeanne.
- (b) Earlier he did not want Jeanne’s parents to stay with them but now he is showing concern for them.
- (c) He is a selfish and hypocritical man.

Question 14:

Mind you, if someone had bought it on the very day I placed it for sale, then I might have felt sorry because I would have wondered if I hadn’t been a fool to sell at all.

- (a) How long ago had the speaker put up her Villa for sale?
- (b) Why would she have considered herself a fool if she had managed to sell it on the day she put up the notice?
- (c) In what way is her remark ironic?

Answer:

- (a) The speaker had put up her villa for sale more than a month ago.
- (b) Because then she would have realized the villa’s true Worth too late.
- (c) She is fooled by Gaston and loses a lot of money.

III. Short Answer Type Questions (30-40 Words)

Question 1:

What was the maid’s suggestion to Juliette in the play ‘A Villa For Sale’?

Answer:

As Juliette’s business was hitting an all-time low, her maid suggested her to play the part of a cook in a movie so as to earn some money she also offered to teach her cooking.

Question 2:

Why was Mrs. Al Smith not interested in going over the house?

Answer: Mrs. Al Smith, an American lady, wanted a place near Paramount where she was going to shoot some films so she wanted to bring the villa down and raise a new building convenient for her. So, she was not interested in going over the house.

Question 3:

Does Sacha Guitry's 'Villa For Sale' define human behaviour through the character of Gaston? Give reasons.

Answer:

Yes, the playwright devised Gaston's character to satirize the vices that exist in man owing to competition for material acquisitions. Gaston is selfish and makes every attempt not to buy the villa for his wife.

Question 4:

Why does Juliette call her house 'a wretched place'?

Answer: The sign 'For Sale' had been put up for one month by Juliette. She was expecting a healthy deal, but could not get any prospective buyers. This set her calling her house 'a wretched place',

Question 5:

Why is Gaston not interested in buying the villa in the beginning?

Answer:

Gaston was reluctant to buy the villa because he thought his wife was buying it for her parents, who would bring her sister's children with them.

Question 6:

What is your impression about Mrs. Al Smith?

Answer:

Mrs. Al. Smith is a rich American lady who is engaged in making films. She is a self-opinionated, over-confident and a brusque lady. She is prejudiced against the French people and has a high opinion of Americans. In the end, she is outsmarted by Gaston, who is a Frenchman.

Question 7:

How did Jeanne react to Gaston's decision to purchase the villa?

Answer:

Jeanne was extremely surprised at Gaston's decision to purchase the villa. She was taken aback by her husband's views and his sudden change of plans.

Question 8:

What proposal does the maid make to Juliette? Why?

Answer:

The maid's proposal to Juliette was that she should accept the role of a cook in a film as she was facing great financial difficulties.

Question 9:

Why did Gaston quote three hundred thousand francs for the villa?

Answer:

Gaston did not want to spend money on a villa that would later be utilized more by his wife's parents and her sister's children. He quoted only three thousand francs for the villa with an expectation that the owner would refuse to sell off the villa at such a low price and he then would not be forced by his wife any longer.

Question 10:

Why was Jeanne so desperate to buy a villa in the play, 'A Villa for Sale'?

Or

Why does Jeanne want to buy a villa?

Answer:

Jeanne was desperate to buy a villa for her parents so that they could come and stay with Jeanne for a month or so every year. She also wanted to make a modern kind of study.

Question 11:

Who is better in business—Juliette or Gaston? Why?

Or

How does Gaston eventually prove himself better in business than Juliette?

Answer:

Gaston was a better businessman as he outsmarts Juliette in making a deal. Juliette waits for one month before, Gaston sells it within seconds, without even buying it, and that too at a much higher price.

Question 12:

Briefly describe Mrs. Al Smith.

Answer:

Mrs. Al Smith is an American lady who works in films. She is a rich business woman who does not like to waste time. She is highly self-opinionated and a jingoist. She is thoroughly professional by nature and quick in taking decisions.

Question 13:

What were the expectations of Juliette after putting the 'Villa for Sale' sign?

Answer:

Juliette was facing hard time as her business was running very low. She decided to sell off her villa. Since it was near Joinville, the French Hollywood, she was expecting to find a buyer soon who would be willing to buy it for a good price.

Question 14:

Explain "the whole thing was going to be much more of a sell than a sale."

Answer:

Madame Juliette means that selling the villa is not going to be easy. Instead of buyers being eager to purchase it, she will have to work hard to persuade them—that is, she will have to "sell" the idea to them rather than them wanting to buy it willingly.

Juliette had put her villa for sale expecting a healthy deal but even after a period of one month, she could not strike a good deal as there were hardly any buyers.

Question 15:

What were the flaws pointed out by Gaston in the villa put up for sale by Juliette?

Answer:

Gaston pointed out that the garden was merely a yard with a patch of grass in the middle. The salon was impossible and the one existing could not be called a salon. He felt that the 25 yards of cretonne and a desk of paint was no special offer at all.

Question 16:

“On the principle of people who like children and haven’t any can always go and live near a school.” Explain this comment contextually.

Answer:

Gaston made this comment in response to Juliette’s observation that even though the garden of the villa was very small yet it made no difference as it was surrounded by other gardens. In harmony with this line of thought, people who don’t have children of their own but like children, ran go and live near a school

Question 17:

In what way did Juliette flatter Jeanne?

Answer:

Juliette flattered Jeanne by saying that the villa would suit her as she suited it and also by saying that there was no other graceful house for the elegant lady Jeanne.

Question 18:

Why is Mrs. Al Smith in a hurry?

Answer:

Mrs. Al Smith was a film maker. She did not waste time as she always had a lot of work to do. She did not have time for petty things. Hence, she was always in a hurry.

Question 19:

Why was Juliette disappointed?

Answer:

Juliette was in a hurry to dispose off the villa as her business was very low. As the villa was near Joinville, near French Hollywood, she was expecting to find a buyer soon for a lucrative price. She felt disappointed as she was unable to find a suitable buyer for her villa even after a month.

Question 20:

Why did Mrs. Al Smith want to buy the Villa?

Answer:

Mrs. Al Smith was an American lady who worked in films. She wanted a place near Paramount where she was going to shoot some films as it would be quite convenient for her.

Question 21:

Give any two personality traits of Jeanne. Support your answer with examples.

Answer:

Two personality traits of Jeanne are as follows:

- (i) Jeanne is easily impressed. Juliette’s praise of her impresses her and she feels flattered.
- (ii) She is docile. She takes her criticism lightly.

Question 22:

In the end, Gaston has changed his views of buying the Villa. Give reasons to support your answer.

Answer:

He has done better business during the absence of Juliette and Jeanne. Being an opportunist, he changes his mood of buying the Villa in the end.

Question 23:

Why did the maid agree to act in the film?

Answer:

Her mistress gave her a fixed salary and she would earn much more by acting daily for one hour only. So, the maid agreed to act in films to add spice to her salary.

Question 24:

Gaston was indeed a clever businessman. Explain.

Answer:

Gaston really proved to be a clever businessman. Very cleverly he sold Juliette's Villa, pretending to be its real owner, for three hundred thousand francs. He then bought the villa for two hundred thousand francs, thus making a cool hundred thousand francs profit for himself.

Question 25:

While you were upstairs, I have been thinking a lot about Papa and Mama. Describe how Gaston contradicts himself through this dialogue.

Answer:

Earlier, he did not want Jeanne's parents to stay with them, but now he is showing concern for them.

IV. Choose the right answer from the following questions:

1. Who is the owner of the villa that is for sale?
 - A. Marie
 - B. Juliette
 - C. Gaston
 - D. Jeanne

Answer: B. Juliette

2. What is Juliette's main problem at the beginning of the play?
 - A. She has lost her money
 - B. Her husband has left her
 - C. She cannot find a buyer for her villa
 - D. She wants to buy a new villa

Answer: C. She cannot find a buyer for her villa

3. Who is Juliette's maid?
 - A. Jeanne

- B. Marie
- C. Jeanne-Marie
- D. Louise

Answer: B. Marie

4. What reason does Marie give for the villa not being sold?
- A. It is haunted
 - B. It is too far from the city
 - C. The price is too high
 - D. It is too old

Answer: C. The price is too high

5. How does Gaston come to Juliette's villa?
- A. He was invited by Juliette
 - B. He got lost and came by mistake
 - C. He followed a friend
 - D. He came to collect rent

Answer: B. He got lost and came by mistake

6. What was Gaston originally looking for?
- A. A friend's house
 - B. Another villa for sale
 - C. A hotel
 - D. The theatre office

Answer: B. Another villa for sale

7. How does Gaston describe Juliette's villa when he first enters?
- A. Spacious and luxurious
 - B. Dark and gloomy
 - C. Beautiful but overpriced
 - D. Small but charming

Answer: D. Small but charming

8. What surprise connection do Juliette and Gaston discover during their conversation?
- A. They are distant relatives
 - B. They live in the same street
 - C. Juliette was the one who sold Gaston a theatre ticket earlier
 - D. Gaston had already visited the villa before

Answer: C. Juliette was the one who sold Gaston a theatre ticket earlier

9. What had Gaston complained about earlier that day?
- A. His car broke down
 - B. He lost his wallet

- C. He was cheated by a theatre ticket-seller
- D. He missed his appointment

Answer: C. He was cheated by a theatre ticket-seller

10. What happens to Gaston's attitude as he talks to Juliette?
- A. He becomes annoyed and leaves
 - B. He gets angry about the house
 - C. He starts enjoying her company
 - D. He decides to report her to the police

Answer: C. He starts enjoying her company

11. What is the tone of the play "Villa for Sale"?
- A. Tragic and serious
 - B. Comic and light-hearted
 - C. Sad and emotional
 - D. Dark and mysterious

Answer: B. Comic and light-hearted

12. Who wrote the play "Villa for Sale"?
- A. D.H. Lawrence
 - B. William Shakespeare
 - C. Sacha Guitry
 - D. G.B. Shaw

Answer: C. Sacha Guitry

13. What kind of play is "Villa for Sale"?
- A. A romantic tragedy
 - B. A farce / one-act comedy
 - C. A detective drama
 - D. A historical play

Answer: B. A farce / one-act comedy

14. What was Juliette trying to do when Gaston entered?
- A. Read a newspaper
 - B. Argue with Marie
 - C. Clean the villa
 - D. Negotiate with another buyer

Answer: B. Argue with Marie

15. What does Gaston ultimately decide to do?
- A. Leave without buying
 - B. Buy the villa
 - C. Complain to the authorities
 - D. Rent the villa

Answer: B. Buy the villa

16. What emotion does Juliette feel at the end of the play?

- A. Disappointed
- B. Angry
- C. Cheerful and hopeful
- D. Confused

Answer: C. Cheerful and hopeful

17. What does the play mainly highlight about human nature?

- A. Greed and selfishness
- B. Jealousy and betrayal
- C. Chance, irony, and unpredictability
- D. Bravery and loyalty

Answer: C. Chance, irony, and unpredictability

18. Which of the following best describes Juliette's personality?

- A. Lazy and rude
- B. Talkative and clever
- C. Shy and quiet
- D. Sad and dull

Answer: B. Talkative and clever

19. What makes the play humorous?

- A. Use of serious dialogue
- B. The tragic ending
- C. Misunderstandings and witty exchanges
- D. The mysterious setting

Answer: C. Misunderstandings and witty exchanges

20. What message does the play convey?

- A. Life is full of coincidences and surprises
- B. Money can buy happiness
- C. One must never trust strangers
- D. Hard work always pays off

Answer: A. Life is full of coincidences and surprises

V. ASSERTION–REASON QUESTIONS

Directions:

For each question, choose the correct option:

- A. Both A (Assertion) and R (Reason) are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C. A is true, but R is false.
- D. A is false, but R is true.

1. **Assertion (A):** Juliette was frustrated because her villa had not been sold.
Reason (R): The price of the villa was too high for buyers.
Answer: A
2. **Assertion (A):** Gaston came to Juliette’s villa intentionally to buy it.
Reason (R): He had read the advertisement and wanted to see the house.
Answer: D
3. **Assertion (A):** Marie, the maid, thought that Juliette’s villa was not being sold because of its high price.
Reason (R): Marie believed that lowering the price might attract buyers.
Answer: A
4. **Assertion (A):** The meeting between Juliette and Gaston was accidental.
Reason (R): Gaston had come looking for a different villa and entered the wrong house.
Answer: A
5. **Assertion (A):** Juliette and Gaston had met earlier in the day.
Reason (R): Juliette was the ticket-seller who had sold Gaston a theatre ticket.
Answer: A
6. **Assertion (A):** Gaston was angry with Juliette when he realized she had sold him the theatre ticket.
Reason (R): He felt cheated by the poor seats she had given him.
Answer: C
7. **Assertion (A):** The play “Villa for Sale” is a tragic story about loss and failure.
Reason (R): It ends with Juliette failing to find a buyer for her villa.
Answer: D
8. **Assertion (A):** Gaston finally decided to buy the villa.
Reason (R): He was attracted to both the house and Juliette’s lively personality.
Answer: A
9. **Assertion (A):** The play highlights irony and human folly through humorous incidents.
Reason (R): The characters’ misunderstandings and coincidences lead to comic situations.
Answer: A

10. **Assertion (A):** The tone of “Villa for Sale” is serious and gloomy.

Reason (R): It deals with the themes of loneliness and betrayal.

Answer: D

VI. Competence Based Questions :

Question 1:

Do you agree that Mrs. Al Smith is the representative of the American outlook. How?

Answer:

I do agree that Mrs. Al Smith is the representative of American outlook. She is always complaining that the French people have a queer way of doing business. They usually consult ten people before they decide on anything. She takes pride in saying that the Americans only think about the future whereas the French stick to the past. Thus she is proud of her culture and critical of the French. She also believes that Frenchmen are apprehensive and backward looking. She is not justified in her opinion. Gaston proves that he is a shrewd businessman who can outsmart any American.

Question 2:

Why was Mrs. Al Smith not interested in going over the house?

Answer:

Being an American filmmaker, Mrs. Al Smith wanted a place near Paramount where she was going to shoot some films. She wanted to knock the villa down and build a bungalow in its place. So, she wasn't interested in going over the house. Moreover, she trusts and believes others easily. She does not care to examine and analyse Others when she presumes that Gaston is the owner of the villa, she asks him the price of the villa and gives him a Cheque for the amount and leaves the place in a hurry.

Question 3:

Gaston clinched a deal with Mrs. Al Smith and made a good profit. Will you call his deed a businessman's skill or unethical practice? Discuss the values Gaston lacked and what would you have done if you had been Gaston?

Or

How was the sale of the villa a battle of wits between Gaston and Juliette in the play ‘Villa for sale’? Discuss the values Gaston should have possessed with regard to moral ethics.

Answer:

Juliette had thought of giving away the villa at only double the price she had bought it But later she changed her mind on seeing Gaston and Jeanne and quoted a price really higher than its actual worth. Gaston too was not interested in buying the villa but eventually changed his mind on meeting Mrs. Al Smith. Juliette didn't harm as she did business ethically. On the contrary, Gaston was unethical, manipulative, unscrupulous and opportunistic. He first rolls in his villainy and never bothers about social or moral values. Thus, Gaston should have possessed moral standards, righteousness and truth.

Question 4:

What message does the play “Villa for Sale” convey? Discuss how the characters and events help to bring out this message.

Answer:

The play “*Villa for Sale*” by Sacha Guitry conveys the message that people often fail to recognize the true worth of things and judge them only by their outward appearance. Madame Juliette, the owner of the villa, is eager to sell her house as she believes it has lost its charm and value. However, when Gaston, a clever visitor, arrives, he immediately sees an opportunity to make a profit. Using his wit, he buys the villa at a very low price and later sells it to an actress at a much higher rate within minutes.

Through this humorous situation, the playwright highlights human greed, foolishness, and the tendency to undervalue what we possess. The play also emphasizes the importance of being practical and observant rather than emotional or impulsive. Madame Juliette’s lack of awareness contrasts sharply with Gaston’s sharpness, teaching the lesson that one should not judge things superficially or act in haste.

Thus, the play humorously yet effectively conveys that value lies in perception and awareness — not merely in appearances.

Question 5:

What does the sale of the villa reveal about Gaston?

Answer:

Jeanne wanted the villa for her parents and her sister’s children. Gaston was not at all enthralled on account of it and found fault in the villa and said that the price was too high for the purchase. Juliette, the owner of the villa offered two hundred thousand francs while Mrs. Al Smith was ready to buy it for three hundred thousand francs. As Mr. Gaston was mistaken for the owner, he struck the deal in order to make money. Gaston is an opportunist. He was clever and hypocritical. He could turn any situation to his advantage. He had great presence of mind and insight into Mrs. Al Smith’s psychology.

Question 6:

Gaston is a practical and shrewd man, while Madame Juliette is emotional and impatient. How do their contrasting personalities create humour and drive the plot of the play “*Villa for Sale*”?

Answer:

The contrast between Gaston and Mrs. Juliette forms the backbone of the play’s humour and plot. Madame Juliette is desperate to sell her villa and complains about the lack of buyers, showing her impatience and frustration. She is emotional and easily influenced, which makes her an easy target for Gaston’s cleverness. Gaston, on the other hand, is calm, observant, and witty. He quickly understands the situation and uses Madame Juliette’s eagerness to his advantage.

His clever manipulation, pretending to buy the villa for his wife while actually planning to sell it to an actress at a higher price, creates situational comedy and irony. The play humorously exposes human greed and folly, showing how intelligence and composure can triumph over emotional decisions. Their opposite traits make the dialogue lively and the ending unexpectedly funny, giving the play its comic brilliance.

Question 7.

What role does money and materialism play in the story of “Villa for Sale”? How does the playwright use humour to criticize these attitudes?

Answer:

Money and materialism are central themes in “*Villa for Sale*.” Every character in the play is driven by financial motives. Madame Juliette wants to sell her villa for money; Gaston wants to make quick profit; and even the actress is willing to buy the villa without much thought, just to own a fashionable property.

Through humour and irony, the playwright Sacha Guitry criticizes how material greed often blinds people to real value. Madame Juliette fails to appreciate her own property and sells it cheaply, while Gaston’s cunning deal exposes how people exploit others for gain. The quick exchange of money and property without emotional connection reflects the shallow nature of materialism.

In a humorous way, the play warns against the obsession with wealth and property, suggesting that real wisdom lies in recognizing true worth rather than chasing profit.

Question 8.

“Appearances can be deceptive.” Explain this statement with reference to the play “Villa for Sale.”

Answer:

The play “*Villa for Sale*” perfectly illustrates the saying “*Appearances can be deceptive*.” Madame Juliette believes her villa is worthless because it looks old and unattractive to buyers. She fails to see its potential and real value. Gaston, however, looks beyond appearances and immediately realizes its worth when he hears that a famous actress is interested in buying it.

Gaston’s quick thinking helps him profit from Madame Juliette’s ignorance. The villa, which appeared useless to one person, becomes a source of easy money for another. This twist creates humour and irony while conveying the message that what seems unimportant or unattractive may, in fact, be valuable.

Through witty dialogue and clever characterization, the playwright reminds readers that external appearances can mislead, and real intelligence lies in seeing beyond the surface.

Question 9:

You are Gaston. You reveal your fake deal with Mrs. Al Smith to your wife Jeanne and she leaves you to stay with her parents. Write a letter to her expressing your repentance over the issue and requesting her to come back.

Answer:

73-A, Joinville
Britain

14th October, 20xx

Dear Jeanne,

I was well aware of the fact that you wanted the villa for your parents. Though I was disinterested in the beginning, I had reconciled with the situation. Entry of Mrs. Al Smith made me sense profit and I could not refrain myself from making toe deal with her. I had no intention of hurting you or anyone else. I just tried to grab the opportunity that came to me. I am sorry for the betrayal and will surely undo the wrong. ! shall buy an equally elegant villa for your family. But please come back early.

Waiting for you.

With love
Gaston