

Objective Type Questions

I. Extract based questions

I. Read the following extract and answer the questions / complete the sentences that follow:

Max was slender, a little less than tall, with features that suggested slightly the crafty, pointed countenance of a fox. There was about him — aside from the gun — nothing especially menacing.

"The report," he murmured. "The report that is being brought to you tonight concerning some new missiles. I thought I would take it from you. It will be safer in my hands than in yours."

Ausable moved to an armchair and sat down heavily. "I'm going to raise the devil with the management this time, and you can bet on it," he said grimly. "This is the second time in a month that somebody has got into my room through that nuisance of a balcony!"

1. Owning a gun gave a menacing impression to Max's character because

- a. a gun is only used by police officials.
- b. he was carrying it without any official license.
- c. a gun has a threatening implication.
- d. the gun was particularly huge.

2. Choose the option that displays the correct analogy.

- a. crafty fox menacing gun
- b. report missile management devil
- c. crafty fox management balcony
- d. armchair grim balcony nuisance

3. Choose the part of the house through which Ausable thought Maxwell had entered his room.

- a. Main Door
- b. Balcony
- c. Window
- d. None of these

4. Delnaaz is a new tenant in her locality and Mrs. Mehta is the landlady. Choose the option that lists an action that would require Mrs. Mehta to 'raise the devil' with Delnaaz.

1. She uses the elevator five times a day.	2. She feeds the stray dogs in the street.
3. She works late at night and stays home in the afternoon only.	4. She plays music louder than is necessary late into the night.

- a. Option 1 b. Option 2 c. Option 3 d. Option 4
5. Which word replaces 'sat down heavily' in the sentence—'Ausable moved to an armchair and sat down heavily'?
- a. dumped b. flumped c. pumped d. jumped

II. Extract Based questions

Ausable did not fit any description of a secret agent Fowler had ever read. Following him down the musty corridor of the gloomy French hotel where Ausable had a room, Fowler felt let down. It was a small room, on the sixth and top floor, and scarcely a setting for a romantic adventure.

Ausable was, for one thing, fat. Very fat. And then there was his accent. Though he spoke French and German passably, he had never altogether lost the American accent he had brought to Paris from Boston twenty years ago "You are disappointed," Ausable said wheezily over his shoulder.

1. "Following him down the musty corridor of the gloomy French hotel where Ausable had a room..." Choose the correct option to replace the underlined words.
- a. expansive, abnormal b. lighted; formal
c. damp; dingy d. uncanny; smart
2. Amy is an American woman who teaches French and German in a primary school. This means that Amy is
- a. an empathetic teacher. b. a rational human being.
c. an experienced guide. d. a multilingual instructor.

3. It can be inferred from the extract that a secret agent is expected to be
(1) fit. (2) compassionate. (3) apologetic. (4) suave. (5) violent.
a. Option 1, 3 & 5 b. Option 1 & 4 c. Option 2, 4 & 5 d. Option 2 & 3
4. The reason Fowler was disappointed by Ausable when he met him was because Ausable
a. lived in a shady French hotel. b. was related to the cops.
c. didn't have the personality of a spy. d. had a very strange accent.
5. Choose the option that lists the INCORRECT statements about the given passage.
1. Fowler had no expectations at all from Ausable.
2. Fowler was elated when he met Ausable.
3. Ausable was living in France as a spy.
4. Ausable had acquired the French accent over twenty years ago.
a. 1,2 b. 3,4 c. 1,3 d. 2,4

III. Extract Based questions

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. Ausable blinked a few times.

1. Who was standing in the room with a pistol in his hand?
a. Ausable b. Fowler c. Max d. A waiter
2. Ausable blinked because he
a. was getting adjusted to the light
b. got afraid of the man with a pistol
c. was thrilled to have reached his room
d. started thinking of how to get rid of the man
3. What was the thrill of the day for Fowler?
a. Coming of the light
b. Opening of the main door
c. Seeing a man with an automatic pistol in his hand
d. Ausable taking out a gun from his pocket.
4. How did Fowler really feel before entering the room?
a. excited b. entertained c. relaxed d. boring

5. Which word in the extract means the same as 'genuine/real'?

- a. Thrill
- b. Authentic
- c. Automatic
- d. None of the above

IV. Extract Based questions

IV. Max bit his lip nervously. The knocking was repeated. "What will you do now, Max?"

Ausable asked. "If I do not answer the door, they will enter anyway. The door is unlocked. And they will not hesitate to shoot."

1. Who is Max ?

- a spy
- b. a tourist
- c. a businessman
- d. a waiter

2. Max became nervous because:

- a. he got scared of Ausable.
- b. he thought the police had come.
- c. the door was unlocked.
- d. Ausable did not get up to open the door..

3. Actually the door was knocked at by _____.

- a. Henry, the waiter
- b. The Hotel Manager
- c. The Police
- d. Ausable's assistant

4. Who was the third person present in the room?

- a. Max
- b. Ausable
- c. Fowler
- d. Henry

5. Which word in the extract is opposite in meaning to this word 'confidently'?

- a. Bit
- b. Nervously
- c. Hesitate
- d. Anyway

Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Discuss, briefly, the reasons owing to which Fowler was interested in meeting Ausable.

Fowler had come to gather necessary material for his book on secret agents. Also, like all people, he too was interest in meeting a real secret agent. He had formed quite a romantic picture of secret agent as represented in books and films.

2. Ausable was always one step ahead of everyone. Highlight any two instances from "The Midnight Visitor" when this holds true.

Although, Ausable was fat and sloppy, he knew all the tricks of his trade. He not only convinced crafty Max that there was a balcony below the window of his room but also was successful in killing Max without using any weapon.

3. Henry unintentionally saved Ausable's life. Briefly comment.

Henry was a waiter in the same hotel in which Ausable was living in. Henry, fortunately, knocked at the door, when Ausable was convincing Max about an imaginary balcony. Assuming that it was police at the door, Max desperately jumped through the window. Hence, Ausable was saved.

4. Fowler's day took a one-eighty degree turn by the end of the evening. Examine the statement with reference to "The Midnight Visitor".

Fowler was, initially, disappointed to meet Ausable as he found him fat and boring man. But Fowler's day took a one eighty degree turn by the end of the evening, as he was much surprised by the tactful nature of Ausable. He cocked-up a story about the balcony and the police. Ausable also got the intruder, Max, killed without firing a shot. Hence it proved to be a thrilling episode.

5. "Stereotypes are often misleading". Elaborate on the given quote in the context of "The Midnight Visitor".

Ausable did not fit any description of a secret agent. He did not seem to be so smart, active, movable aggressive and romantic as we read in book or see in films. He was very fat and sloppy. The Crack of pistols, wine and dark eyed beauties- had nothing to do with Ausable. Hence, stereotypes are often misleading.

6. Max was unprepared for his mission. Discuss with reference to the chapter "The Midnight Visitor".

Though Max was very cunning and he came prepared with a gun but he was indeed no match to Ausable. He was easily misled by Ausable into believing that there was a balcony attached to the room. So we can say that Max was a little spy before Ausable and he was also unprepared for his mission.

7. How is Ausable different from other secret agents?

Fowler was disappointed on seeing Ausable who was unlike other secret agents. According to him, the secret agents are tall, smart, agile, dashing and alert people surrounded by darkness, pistols and drugs in the wine. On the contrary, Ausable was fat was fat and sloppy with heavy American accent. He was not at all flashy or romantic like other agent.

Short Answer Type Questions

1. Who was Ausable?

Ausable was a secret agent. A very important document concerning some new missiles was under his safe custody. He didn't look like a secret agent as we read in books or see in films. He was fat and sloppy. His office was in a small room on the sixth and top floor. Fowler was very disappointed to meet him.

2. Ausable did not fit any description of a secret agent. Comment.

Ausable did not fit any description of a secret agent. He did not seem to be so smart, active, movable, aggressive and romantic as we read in books or see in films. He was very fat and sloppy. Crack of pistols, wine and dark eyed beauties are normally associated with secret agents like James Bond. These qualities had nothing to do with Ausable.

3. Why did Fowler feel let down after meeting Ausable?

The younger writer, Fowler had formed a very romantic and grand picture of a secret agent in his mind. This picture was based as it is found in books or shown in films. He found Ausable not cracking pistols or surrounded by dark eyed beauties like James Bond. Rather he was a fat and sloppy man. He lived in a very small room at the sixth floor. Fowler felt rather let down after meeting Ausable.

4. What is the important paper that Ausable talks of?

Ausable is a secret agent. He has been assigned an important job. He has an important paper regarding some new missiles under his custody. The paper may well affect the course of history. It is of so much importance that several men and women have risked their lives to get it. Even Max, a secret agent himself comes to grab it from Ausable's room.

5. How did Fowler had his first authentic thrill of the day?

Fowler was rather bored and disillusioned after meeting the secret agent, Ausable. But soon, he had his first authentic thrill of the day. The moment Ausable switched on the light, he found a man standing halfway across the room. He had a small automatic pistol in his hand.

Fowler was stunned. The man demanded the report concerning some new missiles from Ausable. Fowler had his first authentic thrill of the day.

6. Why and how did Max enter Ausable's room?

Max's entry was not merely accidental. He had entered Ausable's room through a passkey. When Ausable switched on the light, he found him standing with a small automatic pistol in his hand. He had come to grab a very important paper that was related to some new missiles. Several men and women had already risked their lives to get that report.

7. Describe Max as a secret agent

Max was a secret agent and a rival and enemy of Ausable. He was slender, a little less than tall. He appeared crafty and had pointed countenance of a fox. There was nothing especially menacing about him except his pistol. He came to Ausable's room to steal a very important paper concerning some new missiles. He is outwitted by Ausable and made to jump out of his window.

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

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.

9. What position did Max take before he jumped out of the windows?

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.

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

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.

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

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.

12. How did clever Ausable out wit and get rid of his rival or enemy secret agent Max?

Ausable very cleverly convinced Max that there existed a balcony below the window sill 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.

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

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.

14. What happened to Max after he jumped out of the window?

At last, the crafty Max was trapped in. He was outwitted by the cleverer secret agent Ausable. Ausable, the quick-witted secret agent, made Max believe that there was a balcony below his windowsill. He also made him believe that the knockings at the door were made by the police. The confused, panicked and unnerved Max jumped out of the window. He cried only for once. That was the end of the crafty rival secret agent and Ausable got rid of him forever.

15. How do you judge Ausable as a secret agent?

Ausable was fat in body but exceptionally quick in mind and manipulations. He might look fat and sloppy but was much more than that. His sharp mind could cook up any story that could fit in a particular situation. The story of the balcony and the police were cooked up only to confuse and unnerve Max. Although he didn't look like secret agents as described in books or shown in films, he was a highly competent and sharp-witted secret agent.

Long Answer Type Questions

1. Ausable's employer has been asked to write a recommendation letter for

Ausable so that he may be promoted to a higher rank in the secret services.

As his manager, draft the letter detailing his personality traits with reference to the instance in the chapter as a prime example of Ausable's genius. You may begin this way:

22, Rue Nationale Paris

26 March' 78

The General Director

Department for Internal Security

11-A, Rue de Dunkerque

Paris

Subject: Letter of Recommendation

This is to state that Monsieur Ausable has been a committed employee with us for the past two years. In this time, he has

... ..

(continue).....

Yours sincerely

ABC

22, Rue National

Paris.

26 March 78

The General Director

Department of Internal Security

11-A, Rue de Dunkerque

Paris

Subject : Letter of Recommendation

This is to state that Monsieur Ausable has been a committed employee with us for the past two

years. In this time, he has very well proved that presence of mind and intelligence are more powerful than gun. His sharp reaction, particularly to a dangerous situation, is very quick and thorough. He has outwitted and defeated many rival secret agents who had come to take away the important reports.

Ausable has my enthusiastic recommendation. He is a kind, intelligent, quick-witted and a strong person who has a clear sense of direction, purpose and decision-making. I am confident that he will bring the same warmth, support, insight and hard work to his new work place and position.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further information.

It's a privilege to have such devoted employees like Ausable in our department wishing him a bright future ahead.

Yours sincerely

ABC

2. A new secret agent has asked Ausable's opinion on the traits they should be looking for in a person filling in his shoes. Create a conversation between Ausable and the new agent about indispensable traits that a secret agent must have.

New agent: Monsieur Ausable, you have been famous as a committed employee in our department. I have also heard a lot about your quick wiliness, intelligence and hard work. But when I saw you I was really surprised to see your simple way of living. Please guide me by throwing some light on the traits a secret agent must have.

Ausable: Well! Being a secret agent may not match the glamorous and flashy images from movies and television. Spying is often a low-key, tireless and thankless endeavour. However, it is certainly not for those who lack commitment or the joint of heart. One needs to develop a number of practical and risk- averse characteristics for spying. As a spy, you need to have keen senses and develop them further through training in how to collect and evaluate vital information. Also, you must have a natural adaptable and high functioning ability to interact with others. While doing so, it is essential that you keep your composure and be able to work independently. You see appearances are deceptive. You need to have a clever mind and be witty to become a successful secret agent.

3. Give a character - sketch of Ausable highlighting his presence of mind and intelligence.

Ausable is a different kind of secret agent . Generally secret agents that are described in detective books and shown in films are very smart and fun-friendly. Wine and dark-eyed beauties are associated with them. However Ausable doesn't present such a romantic picture. He is very fat and sloppy. He lives in a small room at the sixth floor. Fowler is disappointed after meeting Ausable.

They say that appearances are often deceptive. This is quite true in case of Ausable. Physically, he may be fat but mentally he is very agile and quick witted. He knows all the tricks of his trade. He is very quick to react and can cook up stories that may fit in all kinds of situations. He convinces even the crafty Max that there is a balcony below the window of his room. This is a well thought out trap and Max unwittingly falls into it. Then he cooks up the story of the police. He again succeeds in convincing Max that the loud knockings at the door are that of the police. He tells Max that the loud knocking at the door are that of the police. He tells Max that he himself has sought the protection of the police as he has the important report concerning some new missiles with him. In this way, he gets rid of his rival and enemy Max who jumps out of the window only to cry for the last time in his life.

4. Presence of mind and intelligence are more powerful than a gun. How far is it true in case of Ausable, the secret agent?

Ausable is actually not of that kind as we read in detective stories and books. Nor is he like the heroes of James Bond films. Ausable is an exception. The young writer Fowler is disappointed after meeting Ausable. Ausable does not fit any description of a secret agent. He is fat and sloppy. His room is rather small and that too on the sixth floor. However appearances are generally deceptive. Ausable proves that presence of mind and intelligence are more powerful than a gun.

Presence of mind and intelligence are the assets of Ausable. His sharp reaction, particularly to a dangerous situation is very quick and thorough. When he finds crafty Max in the room with a pistol in his hand, he at once understands the purpose of his visit. The rival secret agent, who has come to take away the important report that concerns with some new missiles, must be outwitted and defeated in his own game. Ausable cooks up the stories of the balcony and the police so convincingly that Max falls into his trap. While there is no balcony below the window of his room. The knockings at the door are not of the police but of his waiter. The confused and unnerved Max jumps out of the window in desperation. Thus through his presence of mind and intelligence, Ausable proves himself more powerful than a gun.

5. How did crafty and foxy Max fail to take away the all important report concerning some new missiles from Ausable?

Or

How did Ausable outsmart and outwit the crafty Max and got rid of him?

Naturally, it was a fight between two secret agents belonging to two different organisations. The bone of contention was the all important report concerning some new missiles. It was with Ausable and Max wanted to take it away by the use of his gun. The report was so important that several men and women had risked their lives to get it. Someday that report might well have affected the course of history.

No doubt, Max had come prepared. When Ausable switched on the light, he found Max standing halfway across the room with a small automatic pistol in his hand. Ausable had to use his presence of mind and fertile brain to outwit Max. His cooking up of two stories related to the balcony below his window and the police, were his masterstrokes. In his simple way, Ausable succeeds in convincing Max that both the stories were true. Actually there was no balcony below his window. He wanted to unnerve Max by planting the false story that the loud knockings at the door were of the police. In desperation, Max jumped out of the window and Ausable got rid of his crafty rival forever.

6. Sometimes, appearances can be very deceptive. How does this statement prove with his story?

Yes, it is true that sometimes we fail to identify the real personality of a man due to his different appearances. So, it can be said that appearances can be deceptive. Fowler was young and romantic. He was a writer of adventurous stories. Ausable was a secret agent - a detective. He faces danger in his work. So, Fowler wanted to meet him for some adventurous stories. But when he met Ausable in a French hotel with a damp corridor, Fowler felt disappointed. But Ausable proved himself after reaching his room. A man named Max was found inside Ausable's room with a gun in his hand. Ausable at once proved that he possessed quality

of a true detective. He told Max about a balcony next to the window, and police at the door. Max believed him because Asuable's way of talking was so real.

Thus, we find that sometimes appearances can be deceptive.

