

2. Oliver Asks for More

(a) Text-based Multiple Choice Questions

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| (i) (b) | (ii) (c) | (iii) (c) | (iv) (d) | (v) (c) |
| (vi) (b) | (vii) (a) | (viii) (c) | (ix) (b) | (x) (c) |

(b) Comprehension Passages

PASSAGE 1

- (i) The poor people did not have any money. They did not have any place to live in. Such type of people lived in workhouses.
- (ii) The babies born in the workhouse were named from A to Z. The last one was named Swubble. The present one was named Twist, and the next one would be Unwin.
- (iii) Oliver's young mother was lying ill in the room. There was also a doctor and an old woman who were standing by her side.
- (iv) First, she wanted to have a look at her newly born child. Secondly, she did not want to live any more. These were her two wishes.
- (v) The old woman reacted by saying that she was too young to die. The doctor put the child in the arms of the dying mother.

PASSAGE 2

- (i) 'She' referred to in the first line is the dying young mother. Earlier, she had expressed the wish that she did not want to live any more.

- (ii) After kissing the baby the woman fell back dead. The words 'Poor dear' convey the feelings of pity and sympathy for the young unwed mother.
- (iii) The doctor was told that the baby's mother was brought to the workhouse the previous night. She was lying in the street. Nobody knew where she came from and where she was going.
- (iv) When the doctor looked at the dead woman's ringless hand, he easily concluded that she wasn't married. It was the usual story during those days.
- (v) When the doctor went away for dinner, the old woman sat in front of fire, took the baby in her lap and dressed it in very old clothes. Such clothes were used for those babies who were born in workhouses.

PASSAGE 3

- (i) The organisers of the workhouse were unable to find out who the baby's father was. They did not know even the name of his mother.
- (ii) Mr Bumble was an important officer in the town. He invented a name for the baby. The baby was given the name Oliver Twist.
- (iii) 'We' mentioned in the passage are the important persons of the town. They named the new babies in order from A to Z.
- (iv) Oliver looked pale, lean and thin at the age of nine. He looked so because he was underfed at the workhouse. He also didn't have warm clothes to cover his body.
- (v) The usual food of workhouse boys was thin soup thrice a day. However, Sunday used to be a special day when they received a piece of bread each.

PASSAGE 4

- (i) The master hit Oliver with a spoon because he had asked for more. In fact they were not permitted to do so.
- (ii) He called Mr Bumble for help. Hearing that Oliver had asked for more, Mr Bumble took him away and shut him in a dark room.
- (iii) This sentence is spoken in a ridiculous tone. It is thus spoken because it was quite unexpected of any boy to ask for more. The boys were expected to be satisfied with whatever little they were given.
- (iv) The notice said that five pounds would be given to anybody who would take Oliver Twist.
- (v) The boys in the working house were treated very badly. The house keepers like Mr Bumble were very callous. They exploited the boys. Nobody was expected to raise a voice against them.

PASSAGE 5

- (i) 'he' referred to in the first line is the doctor who was present by the side of the young woman when her son was born. She was lying ill at that time.
- (ii) The absence of ring on the finger shows that the young woman was unmarried. Her partner had deserted her at the crucial time.
- (iii) When 'he' had gone home, the old woman sat down on a chair in front of fire. Then she began to dress the baby.
- (iv) The newly born baby was dressed in very old clothes used for babies who were born in the workhouse.
- (v) The last line shows the society of that time in poor light. The affluent section of the society didn't bother about the poor and the destitute. They had no sympathy for these people and thus they openly flouted the Christian values.

PASSAGE 6

- (i) Oliver had mustered up courage to request for more soup as he still felt hungry. He did so at the behest of all the boys in the workhouse.
- (ii) Mr Bumble beat Oliver in front of everybody so that it would be an example for them. Then no body would dare ask for more.
- (iii) Oliver could not sleep in the darkness of the room at night. He was cold, lonely and frightened. Moreover, the stick wounds would not let him sleep.
- (iv) Mr Sowerberry was a lean and thin fellow who wore black clothes. He earned money by making coffins.
- (v) Mr Sowerberry informed Mr Bumble that he made coffins for two women who had died in the workhouse the previous night.