**THE THIEF ‘S STORY**

**Short Answer Type Questions [2 Marks each]**

**Question 1.**  
Why did Hari Singh approach Anil?  
**Answer:**  
Hari Singh was a thief who had not much luck in his work recently. So he approached Anil with the intention of robbing him, as he seemed to be an easygoing and simple man. According to Hari, winning Anil’s confidence was an easy task.

**Question 2.**  
Anil walked away. I followed casually’. Why do you think the narrator followed Anil?  
**Answer:**  
The narrator’s purpose of robbing Anil had not yet been served. He followed Anil to gain his trust and look for an opportunity that may help him give shape to his plans.

**Question 3.**  
Was Hari Singh successful in robbing Anil? Was Anil the only one who was robbed or did Hari also rob himself of something?  
**Answer:**  
Yes, Hari Singh was successful in robbing Anil. But Anil was not the only one who was robbed at that time. Hari had robbed himself as well. He had lost the chance of receiving education and being literate. He had robbed Anil monetarily but he had robbed himself of the chance for a better and brighter future, which was much more valuable.

**Question 4.**  
What did Anil and Hari agree upon to be the mode of payment?  
**Answer:**  
When Anil stated his inability to pay Hari, Anil questioned Hari if he could feed Hari. Hari realised that he had misjudged his target and moulded the situation for his benefit. Anil then agreed to feed him if he knew how to cook.

**Question 5.**  
What made Hari Singh go back to Anil’s house?  
**Answer:**  
Hari Singh realised the importance of education he was receiving from Anil. He knew that learning how to read and write and being a literate person would open doors to many opportunities. He was sure that he would then be able to earn more than a few hundred rupees he had in hand at that time. This made him go back to Anil.

**Question 6.**  
Did Hari like working for Anil? Give reasons in support of your answer.   
**Answer:**  
Yes, Hari liked working for Anil. He was happy to carry on the chores for him and was grateful for the education he was receiving. He used to make profit of about a rupee a day as well, which was a decent amount besides being fed.

**Question 7.**  
Why was it difficult for Hari to rob Anil?  
**Answer:**  
It was difficult for Hari to rob Anil because Anil was the most trusting person Hari had ever met. He was really simple and kind. Hari knew that loss of money will not affect Anil but the loss of trust will make him sad.

**Question 8.**  
State the events that took place on the night of the theft.   
**Answer:**  
The night of robbery vitas quite eventful for Hari Singh. After stealing Anil’s money and leaving Anil’s house, Hari went to the railway station but didn’t board the train to Lucknow. He walked slowly through the bazaar as he did not know anyone who would provide him shelter except Anil, for he didn’t have any friends. He was forced to take shelter under the clock tower later when it started raining heavily. That is where he realised the importance of education and decided to go back to Anil.

**Question 9.**  
How was the morning after the night of the theft?  
**Answer:**  
The morning after the night of the theft was just like a normal one. Hari woke up late and Anil had made tea by then. Anil gave a fifty rupee note to Hari and told him that he will now be paid regularly. Hari was aware that Anil knew about the theft but he didn’t show anything.

**Question 10.**  
How do you think Anil may have come to know about the theft?  
**Answer:**  
Anil may have come to know about the theft because of the dampness of the notes because of rain. He was a kind but wise .man. It wouldn’t haye been difficult for Anil to make out the series of events that would have taken place in the night.

**Question 11.**  
Had Anil really forgiven Hari Singh? Support your answer with evidence.  
**Answer:**  
Yes, Anil had forgiven Hari Singh. It is evident because Anil handed over to Hari a fifty rupee note as soon as Hari woke up. Though he knew that Hari had robbed the money at first but his subsequent actions gave him hope of change in Hari’s character.

**Long Answer (Value Based) Type Questions [8 Marks each]**

**Question 1.**  
Money can’t make a man as much as education can. Elucidate the statement.    
**Answer:**  
The statement stands true in almost all the aspects of life. Money may buy us all the luxuries and fulfil our needs but it cannot buy us knowledge, civilised thinking, skills and abilities to achieve our dreams. Education lays the platform for all to act upon our goals according to our abilities. Education enables us to keep up with the fast moving world. It opens the door to opportunities we do not know even exist. Money, on the other hand, can assist us to a certain level. It can buy us a plan but education gives us the knowledge of its execution. Just as in the story ‘A Thief s Story’, Hari Singh prioritised the chance of being literate over a few hundred rupees, we must understand that education can help us to achieve whatever we desire.

**Question 2.**  
Hari Singh didn’t board the express and returned to Anil. Why did he return? On what values does this incidence put light on?  
**Answer:**  
Hari Singh was a thief and he had stolen Anil’s money. After the theft, he realised that he had robbed not only Anil but also himself of the chance of being literate and having a bright future. His conscience pricked him to think what all he could have got had he not done this. It was difficult for him to rob Anil but it was tougher for him not to back. He realised that he could not make tea, buy daily supplies and learn how to read and write then. His inner self did not agree to bypass this and forced him to return.  
Hari’s return to Anil shows that despite indulging in criminal acts, he still had a practical and positive attitude towards life. It is the awakening of Hari’s conscience and Anil’s love and care that reformed Hari’s character. It teaches us that love alone can change a person. Anil’s understanding nature and care changed Hari’s thinking to mend his ways for good.

**THE MIDNIGHT VISITOR**

**Short Answer Type Questions [2 Marks each]**

**Question 1.**  
Why had Fowler wanted to meet Ausable?  
**Answer:**  
Fowler was a writer and he had wanted to meet Ausable, a renowned secret agent. Fowler wanted to know how Ausable tackled dangerous situations. He was disappointed when he saw Ausable, as he didn’t look like what Fowler thought a secret agent should look like.

**Question 2.**  
Describe Fowler’s reaction after entering Ausable’s hotel room.  
**Answer:**  
Initially Ausable got a shock to see Max in his room. But he remained calm. Max also had a pistol with him, so Ausable didn’t try anything fishy. He just kept his cool and fooled Max by using his brain to invent stories.

**Question 3.**  
‘Ausable shows great presence of mind in a situation of danger and surprise.” Do you agree with this statement? If yes, why?  
**Answer:**  
Yes, I agree with this statement, as Ausable showed great presence of mind when Max pointed a gun at him when he entered the hotel room with Fowler, which surprised and endangered both of them. He remained calm and cool, inventing stories as required to fool Max into jumping to his death.

**Question 4.**  
Why did Max’s face turn black with anger? What did he want Ausable to do?   
**Answer:**  
Max’s face turned black with anger because he felt that his plan of extracting the important document from Ausable was in danger of failing due to the knocking on the door, which Ausable identified as the police. He wanted Ausable to send the police away.

**Question 5.**  
Why did Ausable frame the story of the balcony?   
**Answer:**  
Ausable framed the story of the balcony to counter the use of the pistol by the rival secret agent Max to threaten him. The rival would have been able to get the important report about the new missiles if Ausable had not concocted this story.

**Question 6.**  
How does Ausable manage to make Max believe that there is a balcony attached to his room?  
**Answer:**  
Ausable creates a detailed description of how his office was part of a bigger apartment and how the next door room had a direct connection with the balcony. His statement that somebody else had also broken into his office through that balcony made it a convincing story.

**Question 7.**  
Who actually had knocked at the door of Ausable’s room? Why did he come there?   
**Answer:**  
The waiter in the hotel where Ausable stayed knocked at the door of Ausable’s room. He had brought the drinks which Ausable had ordered when he arrived in the hotel with Fowler.

**Long Answer (Value Based) Type Questions [8 Marks each]**

**Question 1.**  
What information did Ausable give about the imaginary balcony? Why did he do so?  
**Answer:**  
Ausable created a detailed description of how his room was part a bigger apartment and how the next room had a direct connection with a balcony. His statement that somebody else had also broken into his office through that balcony made it a convincing story. Ausable did this to fool Max into thinking that a balcony existed just outside the window, as he knew that soon the waiter bringing the drinks he had ordered would be knocking at the door, which may prompt Max to jump into the imaginary balcony to hide.

**Question 2.**  
Ausable was a clever secret agent. Do you agree with the statement? Justify your answer.   
**Answer:** Ausable did not look at all like the conventional image of a secret agent. He was short and very fat. Besides, he spoke French and German which lacked fluency as well as the right accent; the American accent was quite palpable in his speech. However, Ausable had a very sharp and active mind because he invented two stories, one about a non-existent balcony outside his hotel window and another about the police arriving to give extra security to some important documents he was about to receive.  
He was an intelligent man and a clever secret agent to be able to invent such stories on the spur of the moment in the face of imminent danger in the form of Max, a rival secret agent.

**Question 3.**  
Why did Max scream shrilly when he dropped to the balcony?   
**Answer:**  
A person screams shrilly when something unexpected happens to him. Here, Max screamed shrilly when he dropped to the ‘balcony’, because actually there was no balcony at all; it was only a figment of Ausable’s imagination. Ausable had described it so vividly, including its history and use, that Max was convinced there was a balcony just outside the window and tried to jump onto it without looking. As the room was on the sixth floor, Max would certainly have been died by falling from such a height.

**Question 4.**  
A calm mind can help you tackle direst stress. Explain.  
**Answer:**  
Certainly, a calm mind can help us to tackle direst stress. If Ausable had panicked and done something fishy, then Max probably would have killed him. But Ausable kept his cool. Apart from this story, there can he some real life examples also. We are always told to focus when we are appearing for exams or not to panic in a difficult situation because such things hamper our thinking ability. We are not able to take proper decisions at this time. If we keep our mind cool and focus, then only can ,we find ways to get out of crunch situations.

**Question 5.**  
Presence of mind is basically mental preparedness or the ability to think and act wisely in a dangerous or surprising situation. How would you react to the situation if you see a small child being knocked down by a speeding motorcycle or car, which speeds away after hitting the child?  
**Answer:**  
First aid should be given to the child at once. Public help may also be asked, if necessary. Depending on the seriousness of the injury, the child may be shifted to hospital. Simultaneously, we should try to note the license, plate number of the offending vehicle, so that the police may be intimated to arrest the criminal. If the child is conscious and can talk coherently, we should try to find out the name and telephone number of any of its family members to inform them about the mishap.

**A QEUSTION OF TRUST**

**Short Answer Type Questions [2 Marks each]**

**Question 1.**  
Whom did Horace Danby see in the kitchen? How did they greet each other? What tact did Horace apply there?   
**Answer:**  
Horace Danby saw the family dog, Sherry, in the kitchen. The dog greeted Horace by stirring, making a noise and wagging its tail in a friendly way. Horace greeted the dog by tactfully calming it down, calling it by its name and showing love to it.

**Question 2.**  
How did Danby prepare for the robbery at Shotover Grange?   
or  
How did Horace Danby plan his robberies?  
**Answer:**  
Danby always planned his robberies meticulously. He prepared for the robbery at Shotover Grange by studying the house, the electric wiring, paths and garden. He knew that the family normally lived in the city and knew about the movement of the servants, who had gone out that afternoon. He had kept his tools ready, packed in a bag.

**Question 3.**  
What was the passion of Horace Danby and how did he satisfy it?  
**Answer:**  
The passion of Horace Danby was collecting rare and expensive books. To satisfy this passion, he needed money and arranged it by robbing one safe every year and then secretly buying the books through an agent.

**Question 4.**  
Describe the safe at Shotover Grange.  
or  
Where was the safe at Shotover Grange? What was there inside it? What did Horace expect to get if he sold them one by one?   
**Answer:**  
The safe at Shotover Grange was kept in the drawing room behind a poor painting and had jewels worth about 15000 pounds kept in it. It had a poorly built burglar alarm, but could be opened only through a specific code. Horace expected to get 5000 pounds if he sold the jewels one by one.

**Question 5.**  
How can you say that Horace Danby was good and respectable but not completely honest?  
**Answer:**  
Horace Danby was good and respectable because he was an expert in his profession of making locks. However, as he loved collecting rare and expensive books, he robbed a safe every year to finance the purchase of these books through an agent. Thus he was not completely honest

**Question 6.**  
How did flowers hinder Horace in his work?   
**Answer:**  
Flowers hindered Horace in his work because he had hay fever, a disorder affecting the nose and throat, caused by allergy to pollen or dust. Due to this problem, whenever he came close to flowers, he began to sneeze’ and could be caught. He had to cover his face.

**Question 7.**  
Why was Horace Danby sure that his robbery at Shotover Grange woukhbe a successful one?   
**Answer:**  
Horace Danby was sure that his robbery at Shotover Grange would be a successful one because he had studied the house, the drawing room where the safe was kept, the wiring and its garden. He had also studied the movement of the servants, so he had planned well, thus ensuring that nothing could go wrong.

**Question 8.**  
Why does Horace Danby get angry when anyone talks about ‘honour among thieves’?  
**Answer:**  
When anyone talks about ‘honour among thieves’, Horace Danby gets angry because the young lady who cheated him was also a thief, yet did not follow this saying.

**Question 9.**  
What are the subtle ways in which the lady manages to deceive Horace Danby into thinking she is the mistress of the house?  
**Answer:**  
The subtle ways in which the lady manages to deceive Horace Danby into thinking she is the mistress of the house are her grace, charm, comfort level, knowledge, persistence, way of talking confidently and familiarity with the household. She even threatens to get him arrested, which convinces Horace Danby that she is genuine.

**Question 10.**  
What did Horace Danby wonder about for a moment? What did he think and decide?   
**Answer:**  
On seeing the poor painting in front of the safe, Horace Danby wondered for a moment whether to collect pictures instead of books. But then, he thought that books were better in a small house like his, as paintings took up too much room.

**Question 11.**  
What did Horace do every year and why?  
**Answer:**  
As Horace was fond of rare, expensive books, he stole a safe every year, to have just enough money to last twelve months for buying such books to his heart’s content.

**Question 12.**  
Whom did Horace meet at Shotover Grange? How did the meeting affect his plans?  
**Answer:**  
Horace met a young, pretty woman dressed in red at Shotover Grange. She pretended to be the owner’s wife and deceived him into breaking open the safe to remove the jewels for her. She threatened even to call the police. This meeting adversely affected his plans, as he was not able to get away with the jewels.

**Long Answer (Value Based) Type Questions [8 Marks each]**

**Question 1.**  
What precautions did Danby take to avoid arrest? What blunder did he commit in his last venture?  
**Answer:**  
To avoid arrest, Danby always studied all aspects of the safe he had targeted that year thoroughly, including the habits of the owners and servants, the layout of the house, any burglar alarms etc. He carried a set of select tools to break open safes and always wore gloves, so that he left behind no fingerprints.  
In his last venture at Shotover Grange, he committed the blunder of not wearing gloves while cracking open the safe, probably because he was distracted by the young lady threatening to call the police, thus leading to his arrest soon afterwards.

**Question 2.**  
Why was Horace Danby arrested although he failed to profit from the robbery at Shotover Grange?  
**Answer:**  
Horace Danby was arrested although he failed to profit from the robbery at Shotover Grange, because he broke open the safe to give the lady in red the jewels, thinking her to be the wife of the owner who had forgotten the number combination to open the safe. Actually he wanted to escape scot-free, as he had been caught red-handed by the lady and wanted to keep her happy. However, his fingerprints were all over the room, as he had forgotten to wear his gloves while opening the safe. Thus he was arrested soon afterwards.

**Question 3.**  
Horace was clever but the lady in red was cleverer. Do you agree with this statement? Justify your answer.  
**Answer:**  
Yes, I agree with this statement. Horace was clever, as he planned the robbery carefully, studied the target, took the proper tools and also took his gloves, to ensure leaving no fingerprints. But the young lady in red had all the necessary information, and, posing as the mistress of the house, exploited Horace’s fear on being discovered, tricked him into cracking open the safe and handing her the jewels. She even ensured that Horace left his fingerprints at the site, as she distracted him by picking up a cigarette which Horace offered to light after removing his gloves. Thus the lady outwitted him.

**Question 4.**  
Would you do something wrong (i.e. commit a crime) if you thought that the ends justify the means? Do you think that there are certain situations you can be excused for acting dishonestly?  
**Answer:**  
Yes, intentions do justify actions. If something wrong is done unintentionally, it may be pardoned. However, it cannot be excused if it is carried out even when knowing it is wrong. As Horace had the intention to rob the safe by breaking it open, his crime is intentional. Although he had good intentions in helping the lady (who he thought was the mistress of the house), his crime cannot be excused. Breaking open the safe cannot be justified at all. There may be certain situations when you can be excused for acting dishonestly, but this is not so in Horace’s case.

**Question 5.**  
Horace was a successful thief because he carefully planned his robberies. Should we call him a successful thief and still appreciate his work? Why or why not?   
**Answer:**  
Yes, as a thief, Horace is successful because he carefully planned his robberies and completes them well. He was living his life as a good and honest citizen. However, the wealth he gathered due from his successful robberies did not belong to him. By stealing other people’s valuables, he may have become successful but he is actually a criminal. He may be efficient in – conducting his’-crimes so that he is successful, but we still cannot appreciate his work.