

Birth

Case Study Based Questions

1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

It was a conclusion which, in his present state, made him wince. He wished to consider marriage as an idyllic state; yes, he could not otherwise consider it with the image of Christine before him. Her eyes, shining towards him, admitted no other conclusion. It was the conflict between his level, doubting mind, and his overflowing heart that left him resentful and confused. He let his chin sink upon his chest, stretched out his legs, and stared broodingly into the fire.

(A) Which emotional state of the character is being reflected in the extract?

(B) Select the statement(s) that is/are correct on the basis of your reading of Birth.

Statement (I): Dr. Andrew did not really want to marry Christine.

Statement (II): Dr. Andrew was confident he wanted to spend his life with Christine.

- (a) Both statements (I) and (II) are correct
- (b) Both statements (I) and (II) are incorrect
- (c) Statement (I) is correct and (II) is incorrect
- (d) Statement (II) is correct and (I) is incorrect

(C) Fill in the blank.

Thein the extract is an antonym of 'pleased'.

(D) What message do these lines highlight, in the context of marriages, and the character's sense of anxiety and fear towards his own marriage?

Ans. (A) One can conclude that Dr. Andrew was feeling dejected and irritated thinking about his marriage with Christine, his love. He wished to believe the institution of marriage as the one that brings happiness and peace.

(B) (b) Both statements (I) and (II) are incorrect.

Explanation: It is hard to infer whether Dr. Andrew wanted to marry Christine or he was sceptical. Although, he was afraid that his marriage with Christine might not sustain, he hoped to believe that the institution of marriage guaranteed peace and happiness.

Hence, (b) is correct.

(C) resentful.

(D) The above lines convey that marriages do not always lead to happiness and contentment. It is common for an individual to question the institution of marriage. Dr. Andrew was afraid that his marriage with Christine might not sustain. This left him feeling frustrated. He wanted it to bring long-lasting happiness.

2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Though it was nearly midnight when Andrew reached Bryngower, he found Joe Morgan waiting for him, walking up and down with short steps between the closed surgery and the entrance to the house. At the sight of him, the burly driller's face expressed relief. "Eh, Doctor, I'm glad to see you. I have been back and forward here this last hour. The missus wants ye-before time, too." Andrew, abruptly recalled from the contemplation of his own affairs, told Morgan to wait. He went into the house for his bag. then together they set out for Number 12, Blaina Terrace. The night air was cool and deep with quiet mystery. Usually so perceptive, Andrew now felt dull and listless. He had no premonition that this night call would prove unusual, still less that it would influence his whole future in Blaenelly.

(A) Complete the sentence appropriately.

The comment "The missus wants ye-before time, too" suggests that

(B) What does the expression "walking up and down with short steps" signify about Joe Morgan's feelings?

- (a) He was worried.
- (b) He was calm.
- (c) He was impatient.
- (d) He was angry.

(C) Pick an evidence from the extract that helps one infer that the protagonist was committed to his profession.

(D) Pick out a word from the extract that means the opposite of 'neglect'.

Ans. (A) The comment "The missus wants ye-before time, too" made by Joe Morgan suggests that his wife, Susan, who was expecting their first child, needed Dr. Andrew to examine her before the delivery of her child as well. She wanted to make sure that there was no risk in delivering the baby, and the procedure takes place smoothly.

(B) (a) He was worried.

Explanation: At nearly midnight, Joe Morgan was worried and stressed as he was walking up and down, waiting for Dr. Andrew outside his house. His wife was expecting their first child. Hence, (a) is correct.

(c) An evidence from the extract that would help one infer that the protagonist, Dr. Andrew Manson, was committed to his profession would be that despite being dull and tired, he decided to take the case of Susan Morgan. He set out for Number 12, Blaina Terrace, which was Joe Morgan's house.

(D) The word that means the opposite of 'neglect' is contemplating. It means to think carefully about something for a long time.