

CBSE TEST PAPER-01
Class - 10 English Communicative
(The Dear Departed)

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

Mrs. Slater: We could put that shabby old chest of drawers upstairs where the bureau is now. Elizabeth could have that and welcome. I've always wanted to get rid of it.

- a. Who is Mrs. Slater speaking these lines to?
- b. What is Mr. Slater's opinion about putting the old chest of drawers upstairs?
- c. '.....' to get rid of it'. 'It' here is.....
- d. Where is the bureau?

OR

Mrs. Slater: We've ordered ours, you may be sure. (Acidly) I never could fancy buying ready-made things.

Mrs. Jordan: No? For myself it's such a relief to get into the black. And now perhaps you'll tell us all about it. What did the doctor say?

- a. What have Mrs. Slater and her husband ordered?
- b. What is the meaning of the 'No' here?
- c. What kind of women are both Mrs. Slater and Mrs. Jordan?
- d. What is meant by the phrase getting into the black?

2. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each:

- a. Why does Mrs. Slater decide to shift the bureau from grandfather's room before the arrival of the Jordans? How does Henry react to the suggestion?
- b. What does Mrs. Jordan describe as a 'fatal mistake'? What is the irony in the comment she makes on Mrs. Slater's defence?
- c. What change does grandfather make in his new will? What effect does it have on his daughters?
- d. What are the three things that grandfather planned to do on Monday next? (8)

3. Answer any one of the following questions in 80-100 words:

How does the spat between his daughters lead to grandfather discover the truth.

OR Bring out the irony in the title of the play.

CBSE TEST PAPER-01
Class - 10 English Communicative
(The Dear Departed)
[Answers]

1. Answers

- a. She is speaking to her husband Mr. Henry Slater.
- b. She wanted to get rid of it by keeping in grandfather's room.
- c. 'It' here is the old chest of drawers.
- d. The bureau is in grandfather's room.

OR

- a. They have ordered the mourning dress.
 - b. Mrs. Jordan means to say that she likes to wear readymade clothes.
 - c. They are too artificial and lack human emotions as they are not feeling any pain that their father had died.
 - d. The phrase 'getting into the black' means that Mrs. Jordan felt comfortable wearing a ready-made black mourning dress.
2. a. Mrs. Slater wants to shift the bureau down because this was a recent purchase and was eye-catching. Moreover, she did not want her sister to even have a look at it. Henry suggested that she should divide the grandfather's assets mutually between herself and her sister.
- b. Mrs. Jordan meant by 'fatal mistake' that Slater had not called another doctor to examine when grandfather was lying with his eyes closed. She called this as 'professional etiquette.' But Mrs. Jordan is a hypocrite as she is chiding Mrs. Slater for not calling the doctor but she herself could not make it on time for such a grave occasion.
 - c. The grandfather announced that he would bequeath his wealth to Mrs. Shorrocks whom he was going to marry on the coming Monday and that he would look after him in old age. He also reminded both his daughters about how eager they were to divide his assets when he was still alive. His daughters were aghast to hear this.
 - d. Three things he planned to do are that he would go to his lawyer and change his will, he would go to insurance company and pay his premium, and he would also go to St.

Philips Church and marry Mrs. John Shorrocks.

3. Both the sisters are discussing about their share and Mrs. Slater spills the beans when she tells grandfather that it was her husband who was wearing his slippers and they had brought his bureau downstairs. She also tells him that she was the one who had declared that he was dead. Grandfather is shocked when he comes to know all this. He is upset that his daughters want him to die. He also sees his clock downstairs. He understands that his daughters do not love him. They only want his wealth and belongings. They have no interest, whatsoever, in his well-being. For them he is nothing more than a nuisance and they wish that he is out of their lives at the earliest. They are very happy that he is dead. Mrs. Slater does not even call the doctor to confirm. She decides, informs her sister and even gives the tailor order for the mourning outfits.

OR

The title of the play 'The Dear Departed' literally means that somebody dear has departed/died and is no more with us. It makes everyone closely connected with the departed person sad and upset. Everyone is at a loss and tries to cope up with the situation. In this case, the title is ironical because nobody in the family loved grandfather. He was dear to no one. They all are relieved that he is no more. They talk of everything from mourning outfit to what all he has left behind but nobody is in a hurry to even go and see him. He is supposed to be dead and lying in his room. They all decide to have tea, discuss the obituary that should go in the newspapers but no one either has tears in his/her eyes or is missing the grandfather. They are very businesslike and their business seems to be what each one of them will get now that the old man is dead. In no way was he 'dear' to his daughters or their husbands. Mrs. Jordan had not even visited her father in the last three years since the time he had moved to Mrs. Slater's home. So much for a dear father! If she was there today, it was to show off in the society and to ensure that she gets her share of whatever he has left behind. Ironical, isn't it?