

The Proposal

Previous Year Questions

Q.1. Based on your understanding of the Play, 'The Proposal', what do you think of relationships?

Prepare a speech draft on relationships based on Natalya's and Anne Frank's characters.

You may begin this way.

Good morning everyone.

Relationships are the bond between two people based on mutual likes, understanding, need or love. I'd like to discuss relationships as portrayed in the two texts.....

You may end this way

To conclude, I'd like to say that

Thank you,

(Reference: The Proposal & from the Diary of Anne Frank)

Q.2. "Oh, what a burden, Lord, to be the father of a grown-up daughter!" Explain what this line conveys about Chubukov as a father.

Q.3. Justify the title of the play "The Proposal' with reference to the characters and plot.

Q.4. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

Lomov : He is old, but I wouldn't take five Squeezers for him. Why. how can you? Guess is a dog, as for Squeezer, well it's too funny to argue. Anybody you like has a dog as good as Squeezer... you may find them under every bush almost. Twenty-five roubles would be a handsome price to pay for him.

Natalya : There's some demon of contradiction in you today, Ivan Vassilevitch. First you pretend that the Meadows are yours; now, that Guess is better than Squeezer. I don't like people who don't say what they mean, because you know perfectly well that Squeezer is a hundred times better than your silly Guess. Why do you want to say he isn't?

Lomov : I see, Natalya Stepanovna, that you consider me either blind or a fool. You must realise that Squeezer is overshot!

(i) To pay a 'handsome price' most nearly means:

- (a) to pay good looking money
- (b) to pay for a good looking dog
- (c) to pay a lot of money
- (d) to pay less money

(ii) Fill in the blank with one word only.

Lomov degrades Squeezer by commenting that dogs like him are very _____.

(iii) What is the demon of contradiction in what Lomov says?

(iv) Based on the given extract, state whether the following statement is True or False.

The argument between Natalya and Lomov is a lover's quarrel.

(v) Lomov argues that

- I. Squeezer is more intelligent than Guess.
- II. Natalya does not love animals.
- III. Guess is a better dog than Squeezer.
- IV. Natalya disagrees with Lomov's opinion.

Choose the correct option:

- (a) I and III
- (b) Only III
- (c) II and IV
- (d) III and IV

Q.5. Read the following extracts and answer the questions.

NATALYA : Forgive us, Ivan Vassilevitch, we were all a little heated. I remember now: Oxen Meadows... really are yours.

LOMOV : My heart's beating awfully. My Meadows... My eyebrows are both twitching....

NATALYA: The Meadows are yours, yes, yours. Do sit down. [They sit] We were wrong.

(i) 'We' refers to _____

(ii) Why was Lomov's heart beating 'awfully'?

(iii) Fill in the blank with a correct word from the brackets.

The use of the phrase 'twitching eyebrows' adds to the sense of _____
(agitation/pleasure).

(iv) Why does Natalaya say "Forgive us, Ivan... We were wrong"? Substantiate in about 40 words from the given extract.

Q.6. Write a brief character sketch of Lomov.

Q.7. What was the objective of Lomov's visit to Chubukov's house ?

Q.8. Russian society emerges as an important character in the play, "The Proposal". Support your answer giving instances.

Q.9. Natalya and her father Chubukov 'turn around' when Lomov puts his proposal in the open. As a reader briefly describe what you think of Natalaya and Chubukov from the play "The Proposal".

Q.10. Read the extract given below and attempt the questions that follow:

Lomov : But you can see from the documents, honoured Natalya Stepanovna. Oxen Meadows, its true were once the subject of dispute, but now everybody knows they are mine. There's nothing to argue about. You see my aunts grandmother gave the free use of these Meadows in perpetuity to the peasants of your father's grandfather, in return for which they were to make bricks for her. The peasants belonging to your father's grandfather had the free use of Meadows for forty years, and had got into the habit of regarding them as their own, when it happened that.

Natalya : No, it isn't at all like that! Both grandfather and great grandfather reckoned that their land extended to Burnt Marsh which means Oxen Meadows were ours. I don't see what there is to argue about, its simply silly.

(i) The subject of dispute was regarding

- (a) free use of Meadows.
- (b) making of bricks.
- (c) peasants using Meadows.
- (d) ownership of Meadows.

(ii) Find the word from the extract which means 'continuance':

- (a) dispute
- (b) perpetuity
- (c) belonging
- (d) reckoned

(iii) Lomov's aunt's grandmother gave Oxen Meadows to Natalya's father's grandfather in lieu of _____

(iv) According to Natalya why did Oxen Meadows belong to them?

(v) Fill in the blank with ONE WORD only :

The peasants had free use of Meadows for _____ years

Q.11. Forgiveness is the foundation of a cordial relationship. Do you agree ? How is this message conveyed in the play 'The Proposal' ?

Q.12. How did Chubukov react when Lomov asked for the hand of his daughter in marriage?

Q.13. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

"But, please, Stephen Stepanovitch, how can they be yours? Do be a reasonable man! My aunt's grandmother gave the Meadows for the temporary and free use of your grandfather's peasants. The peasants used the land for forty years and got accustomed to it as if it was their own, when it happened that

- (a) Who is the speaker of the above lines ?
- (b) Why did his aunt's grandmother give the meadows?
- (c) Why did the peasants treat the land as their own?
- (d) What light do these lines throw on the speaker's character?