

Semester - VI - Commercial Communication - *Gems of Wisdom* (2015-16)

Lesson - Six *The Model Millionaire* (Oscar Wilde)

- 1. Describe Hughie Erskine in your words. Or Describe the professions that Hughie tried and give reasons for his failure in them.**

- 2. Why is Hughie Erskine not able to marry Laura Merton? Or What was the colonel's condition for Hughie to marry his daughter? (2015)**

Hughie Erskine was a charming and good-looking young man in London. He was poor. He got two hundred pounds a year from an old aunt. Hughie loved Laura Merton, the daughter of a retired colonel from India. The colonel was fond of Hughie but did not permit him to marry Laura without ten thousand pounds of his own.

- 3. Who was Alan Trevor? Why did he like Hughie Erskine? Or What was Trevor doing when Hughie came to his studio? (2014)**

Alan Trevor was a successful painter. He had a studio in London. He paid a shilling an hour to his models. Trevor was a great friend of Hughie Erskine. The painter liked Hughie's charming personality and generous nature. Hughie had a permission to enter Trevor's studio at any time. One morning Trevor was giving final touches to a picture when Hughie came to the studio.

- 4. Describe the beggar who posed as a model in Trevor's studio? Or What was the true identity of the beggar in the studio?**

- 5. What is the end of the story *The Model Millionaire*? Or How was Hughie Erskine able to marry Laura Merton in the end?**

Lesson - Seven *Too Dear* (Leo Tolstoy)

1. How does the author describe the Kingdom of Monaco? Or What were the different kinds of taxes in Monaco? (2014)

Monaco was a tiny kingdom on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea near the borders of France and Italy. Monaco had a population of about 7000 inhabitants and an army of 60 men. There were taxes on wine and tobacco in Monaco. But the special source of revenue was the gaming house. People played roulette in the gaming house and the proprietor paid taxes to the king.

2. What unprecedented crime was committed in Monaco? Or What punishment did the judges pronounce for the murderer?

People of Monaco were peaceful but once a man committed a murder. Such a crime had never taken place there before. The judges tried the case in a judicial manner. As per the law of the kingdom, they pronounced death sentence for the murderer.

3. What was the hitch in executing the murderer? Or Why did the Kingdom of Monaco not hire the services of the governments of France and Italy to execute the criminal? Or Why did the Kingdom of Monaco alter the criminal's punishment from death sentence to life imprisonment? (2015)

4. What arrangements were made to keep the murderer in the prison? (2014) Or Why did the council decide to dismiss the guard?

There was no suitable prison for the murderer in Monaco. The ministers found a place to keep the prisoner and put a guard to watch him. The guard fetched food for the criminal from the palace. In one year the kingdom spent about 600 francs to keep the criminal in the prison. This was very expensive. The ministers wanted the criminal to run away and so the king dismissed the guard.

5. Why did the prisoner not escape from the prison? Or What was the prisoner's condition for his release? Or How did the prisoner live after his release from the prison?

Lesson - Eight *The Ant and the Grasshopper* (Somerset Maugham)

1. What lesson does La Fontaine's fable *The Ant and the Grasshopper* teach? Or How does Maugham twist La Fontaine's fable in his story?

La Fontaine's fable teaches the moral that industry is rewarded in the world. In this fable the industrious ant is rich and the idle grasshopper is poor. Somerset Maugham's story about two brothers - George and Tom Ramsay - is based on La Fontaine's fable. In the story George, the elder brother, is honest and hard-working but lives an ordinary life. On the other hand, Tom, the younger brother, is dishonest but he becomes rich and happy. Maugham shows that real life is different from fables.

2. What kind of relationship did George Ramsay share with his brother Tom?

3. How did Tom begin his life? Or Why did George help Tom at first? Why did he wash hands of him then?

4. How did Tom blackmail his brother? Or How did Tom get the money for his trip to Monte Carlo? (2014)

George was a respectable lawyer. He did not like to see his younger brother Tom working as a waiter or a taxi-driver. To save the reputation of his family, George gave money to Tom. Once George came to know that Tom had cheated a man called Cronshaw, he gave five hundred pounds to settle the affair. When Cronshaw got the money he and Tom went to Monte Carlo together for one month.

5. Why was George Ramsay in deep gloom? Or How did Tom finally get rich? Or Why was George so upset by Tom's good fortune? (2015)

Lesson - Nine *The World-Renowned Nose* (V M Basheer)

1. Describe the life of the poor cook before his nose grew long. (2014) Or What amazing thing happened to the cook when he was 24 years old? (2015) Or Why was the cook dismissed from his service?

The hero of the story is a cook. He was not intelligent. He could not read or write. He was absolutely satisfied with his life in the kitchen. An amazing thing happened when the cook was 24 years old. His nose grew in length and reached his navel in one month. Night and day people came to see the long-nosed man and destroyed the peace of the house where he worked. So the employers dismissed the cook.

2. Describe the cook's condition after he was dismissed from service. Or How did poor the cook become a millionaire?

The cook's nose grew in length and reached his navel. Night and day people came to see the long-nosed man and destroyed the peace of the house where he worked. So the employers dismissed the cook. After losing the job, the cook sat all day long in his hut. He and his mother starved. But he was constantly disturbed by the curious visitors. When the mother shut the door of the hut, people paid her bribes to see the long-nosed one. The cook became a millionaire in six years.

3. What are the pleasant consequences of the wide publicity of the cook's long nose?

4. What were the conspiracies against the long-nosed one? Or What charges did one of the secretaries make against the long-nosed one and what were the consequences for him?

5. Why was a medical check-up of the long-nosed one ordered? Or What was the verdict given by the panel of doctors on the long nose of the cook? What did the President do then? (2015)

Lesson - Ten *The Diamond Necklace* (Guy de Maupassant)

1. Who was Mathilde's husband? What was his profession? (2015)

Mathilde Loisel was a charming young woman. Monsieur Loisel was her husband. Loisel was a clerk in the Ministry of Public Instruction in Paris. Mathilde had to marry an ordinary clerk because she had no dowry.

2. Why was Mathilde unhappy with her life? Or How did Mathilde react on reading the invitation for the party?

3. What were the intentions of Monsieur Loisel in getting invited for the party at the Minister's house?

Mathilde Loisel was a charming young woman. Her husband Monsieur Loisel was a clerk in the Ministry of Public Instruction. With a great trouble, he got an invitation for a party at the Minister's house. All the important people in Paris would come to the party. Mathilde always longed for good company. Her husband wanted to please Mathilde by taking her to the party.

4. What impression did Madame Loisel create at the party? (2014)

Mathilde bought a new gown at 400 francs and borrowed a diamond necklace from her friend Madame Forestier. Mathilde was a great success at the party at the Minister's house. She was prettier than any other woman there. All important men wanted to dance with her. She danced with them till early morning. Mathilde forgot all her troubles in the triumph of her beauty.

5. How did the loss of the necklace bring about a disaster in Mathilde's life? Or Describe how heroically Mathilde suffered hardships after the loss of the necklace.

6. Why was Madame Forestier unable to recognize Mathilde after ten years? Or How did Madame Forestier surprise Mathilde at the end of the story *The Diamond Necklace*?

Hughie Erskine (2014) or Baron Hausberg as a model millionaire (2015)

Hughie Erskine was a charming and good-looking young man in London. He was delightful but ineffectual. Hughie had personality but no profession. He did not know how to make money. He had tried different trades - stock exchange, tea, dry sherry - and failed in all of them. He got two hundred pounds a year from an old aunt. Hughie was poor but popular.

Alan Trevor was a successful painter. He had a studio in London. The painter liked Hughie's charming personality and generous nature. One morning, when Hughie came to the studio, Trevor was giving final touches to a life-size picture of a beggar. His model was an old man with a wrinkled, miserable face. Hughie felt pity for the model and gave him a sovereign.

In reality, the model for the beggar's picture was Baron Hausberg, one of the richest men in Europe. Hausberg was impressed by Hughie's kindness and sent him a cheque for ten thousand pounds as a wedding gift. Thus Hughie was able to marry Laura Merton. Baron Hausberg was a millionaire model for Alan Trevor but he proved himself a model millionaire for Hughie Erskine.

The title *Too Dear* (2015) the end of the story

Monaco was a tiny kingdom on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea near the borders of France and Italy. Monaco had a population of about 7000 inhabitants and an army of 60 men. There were taxes on wine and tobacco in Monaco. But the special source of revenue was the gaming house. People of Monaco were peaceful but once a man committed a murder. As per the law of the kingdom, the judges pronounced death sentence for the murderer.

Monaco had neither a guillotine nor an executioner. France and Italy respectively demanded 16000 and 12000 francs for the machine and the services. The costs were too high. The soldiers of the Monaco army were not prepared to kill the man. Finally, the ministers altered the punishment from death sentence to life imprisonment. There was no suitable prison in Monaco. The ministers found a place to keep the prisoner and put a guard to watch him. In one year the kingdom spent about 600 francs to keep the criminal in the prison. This was very expensive.

The ministers wanted the criminal to run away and so the king dismissed the guard. The criminal agreed to go away only if the king paid him a pension of 600 francs a year. Then he left the king's dominions and bought some land. He lived comfortably and gambled regularly. But it was good that he lived peacefully in the new country.

The character of Tom Ramsay (2015) or the end of *The Ant and the Grasshopper*

La Fontaine's fable *The Ant and the Grasshopper* teaches the moral that industry is rewarded in the world. In this fable the industrious ant is rich and the idle grasshopper is poor. Somerset Maugham's story about two brothers - George and Tom Ramsay - is based on La Fontaine's fable. In the story George, the elder brother, is honest and hard-working but lives an ordinary life. On the other hand, Tom, the younger brother, is dishonest but he becomes rich and happy. Maugham shows that real life is different from fables.

George Ramsay was a respectable lawyer. He was honest and hard-working. Tom, his younger brother, began life decently. But one day, without warning, Tom left his business and abandoned his family. He blackmailed George for money. He also borrowed from others. Tom's actions brought discredit to the family. George gave Tom large sums of money to make a fresh start in life. But George's efforts to reform Tom failed completely. Ultimately he washed his hands of his younger brother.

Maugham met George Ramsay at a restaurant and found him very upset. George believed that Tom would end in the gutter. But Tom became engaged to a rich woman old enough to be his mother. When the woman died she left Tom half a million pounds and lots of property. George now felt that God was unjust to him. The story of the two bothers shows that, in real life, industry may be punished and idleness rewarded.

The Character of the Long-Nosed one (2014)

The hero of the story is a cook. He was not intelligent. He could not read or write. He was absolutely satisfied with his life in the kitchen. An amazing thing happened when the cook was 24 years old. His nose grew in length and reached his navel in one month. Night and day people came to see the long-nosed man and destroyed the peace of the house where he worked. So the employers dismissed the cook. But the long nose had pleasant consequences for the poor cook.

People paid bribes to see him and he became a millionaire in six years. He became a public hero. He acted in three movies. Six poets wrote epics on him and nine writers published his biographies. The cook had a big house with a permanent guest-house. He had two beautiful female secretaries. He got a gold medal from the President. Newspapers published the long-nosed one's comments and opinions on world events.

The long-nosed one became a public hero. Different political parties invited him to join them. In conspiracy with a political party, one of the secretaries accused that the long nose was made of rubber. The government ordered a medical check-up. Expert doctors came from 48 countries to examine the nose. The panel of doctors gave a unanimous verdict that the nose was genuine and not made of rubber. The President nominated the long-nosed one as a Member of Parliament.

The loss and replacement of the necklace (2014)

Mathilde Loisel was a charming young woman. Her husband Monsieur Loisel was a clerk in the Ministry of Public Instruction. Mathilde loved jewels and luxuries. Her beauty was far above her poverty. She married an ordinary clerk because she had no dowry. Plain dresses and simple food made her sad. With a great trouble, Monsieur Loisel got an invitation for a party at the Minister's house. All the important people in Paris would come to the party. Mathilde always longed for good company. Mathilde threw away the invitation card because she had no dress or jewels for the occasion.

Mathilde borrowed a diamond necklace from her friend Madame Forestier. She was prettier than any other woman at the party. She danced with them till early morning. Mathilde forgot all her troubles in the triumph of her beauty. But she lost the necklace at the end of the party. Mathilde and her husband paid 36,000 francs to replace the lost necklace. They borrowed 18,000 francs on interest. Now they saved money in all possible ways to repay the debt. They moved to a cheaper house and dismissed the servant. Mathilde did all the household work herself.

The loss of the diamond necklace proved a disaster for Mathilde. Her life changed completely. For ten years she suffered hardships heroically and looked older. After ten years Mathilde met Madame Forestier but her friend could not recognize her. Madame Forestier told Mathilde that her necklace was an imitation and not worth more than five hundred francs. Thus Mathilde's sufferings for ten years were meaningless.

Objective questions: (*The Model Millionaire*)

1. Hughie Erskine had every accomplishment except making _____. (impression, money, sherry)
2. The word "_____" best describes Hughie's personality. (intelligent, charming, rich)
3. Hughie Erskine loved _____.
4. Laura Merton's father was a retired _____.
5. An old _____ gave an allowance of _____ pounds to Hughie every _____.
6. Alan Trevor was a _____. He paid a _____ an hour to his models.
7. _____ posed as a beggar's model in Trevor's studio.
8. Hughie gave a _____ to the model in Trevor's studio.
9. _____ sent a cheque for _____ pounds to Hughie as a wedding gift.
10. Baron Hausberg wrote on the sealed envelope that it was a wedding gift from _____.
(an old beggar, a model millionaire, a beggar model)

True and False: (*The Model Millionaire*)

1. Hughie was an intelligent man.
2. Hughie's father bequeathed him a sword and fifteen volumes of *History of Peninsular War*.
3. Hughie pitied the beggar model in Trevor's studio.
4. Hughie said that "model millionaires are rarer still".
5. Colonel Merton was fond of Hughie.

Objective questions: (*Too Dear*)

1. Monaco is a _____. (republic, kingdom, colony)
2. Monaco lies on the shore of the _____ Sea. (Mediterranean, Atlantic, Pacific)
3. Monaco had a population of about _____ inhabitants. (700, 7000, 70000)
4. The Kingdom of Monaco inquired for _____ from the governments of France and Italy. (pistol, poison, guillotine)
5. Monaco had an army of _____ men. (60, 600, 6000)
6. The special source of revenue for Monaco was _____. (stock-market, roulette, betting)
7. What unprecedented crime was committed in Monaco? _____ (murder, robbery)
8. The judges pronounced _____ as punishment for the criminal. (imprisonment, death sentence, exile)
9. The Kingdom of Monaco spent about _____ francs a year for the imprisonment of the criminal. (60, 600, 6000)
10. The Kingdom of Monaco fixed _____ francs a year as the pension for the criminal. (600, 6000)

True and False: (*Too Dear*)

1. Monaco was a small kingdom but the king had a palace, ministers, bishop and army.
2. Only Monaco had a gaming house in Europe.
3. There was a big prison for criminals in Monaco.
4. The criminal brought his own food from the palace kitchen after the guard was removed.
5. The criminal bought some land outside Monaco after he got pension from the king.

Objective questions: (*The Ant and the Grasshopper*)

1. As a child, Maugham had sympathies with the _____ after reading the fable *The Ant and the Grasshopper*.
2. Tom _____ George after the latter washed his hands of him. (threatened, blackmailed)

- George Ramsay was a _____ by profession.
- _____ stands for industry and prudence in the fable *The Ant and the Grasshopper*.
- Tom was a _____ for his family. (dark horse, black sheep, white elephant)
- George was _____ older than Tom. (one year, two years, five years)
- Though George was forty-seven, he looked _____ (55, 60, 65)
- Tom had _____ children. (two, three, four)
- Tom and Cronshaw spent a month at _____ after receiving a cheque for 500 pounds from George. (Mount Carmel, Monte Christo, Monte Carlo)
- The character of George Ramsay represents the _____ in the fable *The Ant and the Grasshopper*.

True and False: (*The Ant and the Grasshopper*)

- George Ramsay was a lawyer by profession.
- George and Tom Ramsay were brothers.
- Tom had been a sore trial for his family for twenty years.
- Tom ended his life in the workhouse.
- Tom is called an "unfortunate" brother by the narrator.

Objective questions: (*The World-Renowned Nose*)

- _____ is the author of *The World Renowned Nose*.
- The World Renowned Nose* is a _____ story. (true, fictitious)
- The man with the long nose was a _____. (sweeper, cook)
- In one _____ the nose grew and reached the navel. (month, week)
- In _____ years, the cook and his mother became millionaires. (three, six)
- The long-nosed one acted in _____ films. (three, six)
- The Government gave a _____ medal to the long-nosed one. (gold, bronze)
- The _____ *Submarine* was one of the films in which the long-nosed one acted. (Human, Super, Real)
- One of his _____ accused the long-nosed one of deception. (maid-servants, secretaries)
- The doctors gave a _____ verdict that the long nose was genuine. (divided, unanimous)

True and False: (*The World-Renowned Nose*)

- The cook's long nose was made of rubber.
- When he became a millionaire, the cook had a permanent guest-house for the visitors.
- The President accused the long-nosed one of deceiving people.
- The long-nosed one joined a political party.
- The opposition parties formed a United Front against the Government.

Objective questions: (*The Diamond Necklace*)

- _____ is the author of *The Diamond Necklace*.
- Monsieur Loisel was clerk in the Ministry of Public _____. (Information, Instruction)
- Madame Forestier was Mathilde's _____. (schoolmate, cousin, neighbour)
- Monsieur Loisel was saving money to buy a _____. (goat, gun, boat)
- Mathilde left the party at about _____ in the morning. (six, five, four)
- Mathilde and her husband paid _____ francs for a new diamond necklace.
- Mathilde lived in a flat in _____. (Reims, Paris, Frankfurt)
- Jeanne was the first name of Madame _____. (Sorestier, Forestier, Lorestier)
- Mathilde and her husband lived a hard life for _____ years. (ten, five, eight)
- Madame Forestier's necklace was worth not more than _____ francs. (500, 5000, 15000)

True and False: (*The Diamond Necklace*)

1. Mathilde and her husband offered a reward to newspaper offices for the lost necklace.
2. Mathilde and her husband borrowed 20,000 francs on interest.
3. Mr. Loisel got for Mathilde an invitation to a ball at the Minister's palace.
4. Mathilde bought a new gown for the party at four hundred francs.
5. Madame Forestier's diamond necklace was genuine.