



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: IX

QUESTION BANK (2024-2025)
TOPIC: VILLA FOR SALE

SUBJECT: ENGLISH

Summary

The play 'Villa for Sale' is set in France near the French Hollywood area. Juliette, the owner, wishes to sell her villa but is really disappointed that no one has come up with an offer yet. The sign 'For Sale' has been there since a month but the villa doesn't seem to be an interesting prospect for anyone. Juliette confesses to her maid that she is somehow ready to get rid of the villa. The villa is located near the French Hollywood and is in reasonable condition. Juliette is expecting a lady who has recently shown some interest in the villa. She goes upstairs meanwhile, so that she doesn't look like she is eagerly waiting for the lady. As Juliette leaves the salon, the couple, Jeanne and Gaston are ushered in by the maid. From their conversation, it is evident that the wife Jeanne is more eager to buy the villa. She wants to buy it for her parents and her sister's family. Gaston is very business-minded, shrewd, but least interested in making any investment for his wife's family. Meanwhile, Juliette makes an appearance to the lady, Jeanne, she has been waiting for. She pretends to be very proud of her villa and flatters the young couple, with the hope of making a deal. Smartly, Juliette hikes up the price and then brings it down to two hundred thousand francs and pretends to do a favour for the couple. Gaston is totally irritated by now and makes it witfully clear that he has no intention of purchasing the villa. However, Jeanne expresses a desire to see the upper floor so, both Juliette and Jeanne go upstairs to have a look. Gaston is busy cribbing when the maid ushers in another customer, Mrs. Al Smith, who mistakes Gaston to be the owner of the villa, expresses her keen desire to buy the villa. His business-instincts aroused, Gaston quotes three hundred thousand francs for the villa as if it is his own and, to his utmost surprise the lady hands him the cheque and makes a quick departure. By the time when Jeanne and Juliette returned, Gaston plans his next move and fakes a sudden interest for the villa. He gives a cheque of two hundred thousand francs to Juliette, buys the villa and walks out with his wife as if nothing else happened before the ladies returned from upstairs. He has made a profit of a hundred thousand francs because of his quick wit and business acumen. He is pleased with himself.

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. Which of the following traits would you club with the character of Gaston in the play Villa for sale'?

- (a) Shrewd, hostile, arrogant
- (b) Cunning, opportunist, money-minded
- (c) Greedy, unfaithful, lacklustre
- (d) Ambitious, daring, honest

Ans. (b) Cunning, opportunist, money-minded

2. Which of the following stands correct regarding the drama Villa for Sale'?

- (a) Gaston took Jeanne to see the villa because he wanted to buy one.
- (b) Jeanne was interested in buying a villa.
- (c) Juliette wanted to buy a villa for herself because she wanted luxury.
- (d) Juliette did not plan to sell the villa because she was fond of it.

Ans. (b) Jeanne was interested in buying a villa.

3. Pick the correct inference of the following sentences regarding the play Villa for Sale'.

- (1) *The villa was on Sale which is why Jeanne and Gaston went in to see around.*
(2) *Gaston suspected that Jeanne wants to buy the villa for her parents.*
(a) (1) is true and (2) is the reason for it.
(b) (2) is false but (1) is true.
(c) (1) and (2) are true but do not explain each other.
(d) (1) is the reason behind (2).

Ans. (c) (1) and (2) are true but do not explain each other.

4. What words did the maid use to describe Juliette to convince her for the acting job?

- (1) Comical
(2) Cartoonish
(3) Funny face
(4) Pompous
(5) Ridiculous
(a) Only (1)
(b) (1) and (3)
(c) 2 and 3
(d) 1 and 5

Ans: (b) (1) and (3)

5. What is the tone of conversation between Juliette and her maid?

- (a) Playful, humorous, non-sensical.
(b) Condescending, shaming, hilarious.
(c) Insulting, disingenuous, crude.
(d) Patronizing, friendly, formal.

Ans. (a) Playful, humorous, non-sensical.

6. Why does the maid ask Juliette, 'Won't Madame be sorry?' in the opening of the play?

- (a) She is making a loss and has no more money left.
(b) She is making sure that she wants to give up on acting.
(c) She is asking if she would regret selling the villa.
(d) She is reminding her that there is a requirement of cook in the movie.

Ans: (c) She is asking if she would regret selling the villa.

7. At what part of the villa does the play take place?

- (a) The play majorly takes place in the yard.
(b) The play happens in the salon entirely.
(c) The play gets enacted in Juliette's bedroom.
(d) There is a scene that takes place in the bathroom

Ans: (b) The play happens in the salon entirely.

8. Choose the options that stand true about the villa.

- (1) The villa was fully furnished with amenities.
(2) The villa was made entirely out of white marbles.
(3) The villa had a garden full of flowers.
(4) The villa had a yard in the front.
(5) The villa was situated near Nogent-sur-Marne.
(a) (1), (4) and (5)
(b) (1), (2) and (4)
(c) (2), (3) and (4)
(d) (3), (4) and (5)

Ans. (a) (1) (4) and (5)

9. The maid tells Juliette about so many acting gigs that are available at the studio. Which of the following role did she not talk about?

- (a) The role of a cook for a hundred francs per day.
- (b) The role of a maid.
- (c) the role of the gardener for two hundred francs a day.
- (d) The role of a beggar for thousand francs.

Ans: (c) the role of the gardener for two hundred francs a day.

10. What was the justification that Gaston gave about taking the painting signed by Carot?

- (a) He wanted to keep that as a souvenir of his memorable deal.
- (b) He wanted it as a collector of old paintings.
- (c) He wanted to sell it along with the villa at a higher price.
- (d) He had promised Mrs. Al Smith that she can keep the painting.

Ans. (a) He wanted to keep that as a souvenir of his memorable deal.

11. Which of the following stereotypes was not said by Mrs. Al Smith?

- (a) Frenchmen have to consult about ten people before making a move.
- (b) French people are rude and snobbish to any outsider.
- (c) Europeans love to stay in the past and talk about it all the time.
- (d) Europeans love their grandparents.

Ans. (b) French people are rude and snobbish to any outsider.

12. What does Mrs. Al Smith assume Gaston to be?

- (a) Jeanne's husband
- (b) Housekeeper
- (c) Butler
- (d) Juliette's husband

Ans. (d) Juliette's husband

Short Answers:

1. Does Juliette stick to her words when she said that she would sell the villa for any price? Why/Why not?

Ans: No, Juliet does not stick to her words. She quotes a price which was more than double the cost of the house to her. It was no sacrifice selling the villa at that price.

2. Who is a better business person - Juliette or Gaston? Substantiate with examples from the text.

Ans: Gaston is a better businessman because he quickly seizes an opportunity to make money out of a situation he seems to be stuck in.

3. The ending of the play was a win-win situation approach for Gaston, Juliette, and Mrs. Al Smith. Explain.

Ans: By the end of the play, everyone had the deals they desired. Juliette sold the villa at the price she asked, Gaston earned a huge profit without having to do much and Mrs. Al Smith got the land she wanted, near the Paramount studios.

4. In what box of characteristics would you put Mrs. Al Smith?

Ans: Mrs. Al Smith is a narcissist who has a superiority complex about her wealth and American heritage. She is quick to show off the power of her money and status to Gaston. She also belittles Europeans in general for not being culturally similar to Americans.

5. What does 'queer' mean in the context of the dialogue being said in the extract?

"You folk are queer. You think about the past all the time"

Ans: 'Queer' means strange. Mrs. Al Smith calls Gaston, or French people in general, as 'weird' for being stuck to their past. It is because, when Mrs. Al Smith wanted to know the price of the villa, Gaston was spinning a story about how the painting belonged to his grandfather.

6. What does Mrs. Al Smith claim to be?

Ans: Mrs. Al Smith claims that she is a star in France and came to buy a villa near the Paramount studio where her shooting takes place. She was flaunting before Gaston by telling him she's not interested in the furniture or the villa itself. She just wants the land and she'd make a bungalow over there.

7. What other formalities did Mrs. Al Smith quote to Gaston once she signs the cheque?

Ans: Mrs. Al Smiths asks Gaston to leave by the next day so that her architect can come and take a look at the villa on the following Thursday. She tells him that her lawyer, Mr. Who will get in touch with Gaston's lawyer to discuss further paperwork and formalities regarding their deal.

8. What do we learn about Gaston in this scene other than that he's an opportunist?

Ans: Gaston is quick-witted and a level-headed person besides being shrewd and business-minded. He didn't fumble or give away any false impression to Mrs. Al Smith and he carefully chose his words so as to not offend her any further for, just in case she might break off the deal.

9. Juliette's maid had a quirky way of talking to her madame. How does this translate her sense of humour?

Ans. Juliette's maid wasn't the type to get a hint when to stop talking. She keeps insisting on her madame to join acting for she has a funny and comical face suitable for the role of a cook or even a beggar and, she can also make some decent money out of it.. This results in a light- hearted banter between the characters.

10. How was Jeanne completely opposite to her husband Gaston in terms of characteristics?

Ans. Jeanne was an amiable young woman who did not dare blatantly hurt people's feelings. She is poised and open-minded enough to at least look at the villa before making any decision. On the other hand, Gaston talks rudely and comes straight to the point about making the deal.

11. What sort of details from the play 'Villa for Sale' can you combine to give a brief description of the villa?

Ans. The villa is of modest size, with a yard in the front, surrounded by neighbouring gardens. It has a living room, two large bedrooms and one small one, two servants' rooms, one bathroom with a bath in it. The villa was also furnished with furniture and décor along with amenities like electricity, gas, phone line, etc.

Long Answer Type Questions:

1. Give a character sketch of Juliette.

Ans. Juliette is portrayed as a greedy person for, she quotes a price that is more than double of her cost for the villa. She seems to be a fickle-minded person who cannot decide whether she loves her villa or not, then feels that no one seems to be keen to buy it. She is also an opportunist. She is ready to sell her villa for a sum of hundred thousand francs but when she sees Gaston and Jeanne, she quotes a price of two hundred and fifty thousand francs. She wants to take advantage of Jeanne's liking of the house. She also shows tact when she tries to sell her villa by highlighting its plus points.

2. Jeanne is very excited when she learns that Gaston has bought the villa. She comes home and quickly writes a letter to her mother to share her joy. Write the letter on her behalf.

Dear Mother,

Finally, it's done! We have bought the villa that I told you about the last time we met. It has been on sale for a month now and I was very anxious as I was not sure Gaston would agree. He was reluctant to buy the villa at first but something made him change his mind and he has bought it! I am so happy today that I am unable to contain my happiness to myself. Now you don't have to spend your life in that dilapidated house. You can shift into the Villa as soon as we get the possession and get the renovation done. Sister and her family can also come there and spend time with you there.

With love and best wishes,

Your daughter,

Jeanne

3. Shrewd and opportunist people often find a way to make profit even when situations may not favour them. How does this hold true for Gaston according to the play 'Villa for Sale'?

Ans. Gaston is a shrewd businessman who spends his money only where there is profit. He reluctantly goes to see Juliette's villa for sale citing that it was his wife's wish to have a look. He quickly refuses to spend two thousand francs for the villa and further denies any of Juliette's offers.

But when Mrs. Al Smith mistakes him for the owner of the house, it takes him seconds to reassess the situation in his head and the profit he can make by playing along. He isn't afraid of being caught and seals the deal of the villa. As soon as Juliette and Jeanne arrive, he acts overenthusiastic about buying the house and even signs the cheque intentionally to make the deal look legit.

4. Do you agree that the character of Mrs. Al Smith in the play 'Villa for Sale' is a stereotype of excessively rich people who are stubborn in achieving whatever they want? Give reasons to support your answer.

Ans: Mrs. Al Smith is a stereotypical rich celebrity who is extravagant to buy whatever she likes. She is only going to shoot movies at Paramount studios but is willing to spend three hundred thousand francs happily just to demolish the villa and make a new bungalow over it, so that she can be close to the work location. She is full of herself and has a superiority complex about her American identity. She asks Gaston if he speaks 'American' and is continuously spewing stereotypes about French people and Europeans in general. She takes offence when Gaston makes her the offer 'same as anybody'. She is quick in executing her plans and is ready to contact her lawyer and architect as she signs the cheque.

Reference to Context Type:

1. "I tell you what I will do. I will be philanthropic and let you have it for two hundred thousand."

(a) Who is the speaker here?

Ans. The speaker here is Juliette.

(b) What word in the extract means 'a person who freely gives money or other help to people who need it'?

Ans. Philanthropic

(c) What is the speaker selling? Does the sale go through?

Ans. The speaker is selling her villa and yes, the sale is done.

2. "A maid, Madam. They prefer the real article. They say maids are born; maids not made maids. They are giving me a hundred francs a morning for doing it".

(a) Who is the speaker here?

Ans. The speaker here is Juliette's maid

(b) Who is 'they' referred to?

Ans. 'They' here is referred to the people from film industry-the French Hollywood.

© What is meant by 'real article'?

Ans. By 'real article' they mean a person who is a maid in real life.

3. "But the sign has been hanging on the gate for over a month now and I am beginning to be afraid that the day I bought it was when I was the real fool."

(i) Why is Juliette disappointed?

- (a) she is unable to get the role of a cook in the films.
- (b) her maid is leaving as she has got a role in the films.
- (c) she is unable to find a suitable buyer for her villa.
- (d) Gaston is offering a very low price for the villa.

Ans. (C) she is unable to find a suitable buyer for her villa.

(ii) Why does she call herself a fool?

- (a) she has decided to sell her villa.
- (b) there are no buyers for the villa.
- (c) she had bought the villa for more than it was worth.
- (d) the villa was too close to the film studios.

Ans. (b) there are no buyers for the villa.

4. "But your parents would take possession of it, every year from the beginning of spring until the

end of September. What's more they would bring the whole tribe of your sister's children with them."

- (i) What does Gaston mean by 'take possession'?
- (a) her parents would stay with them for a long time.
 - (b) Juliette's sister has many children.
 - (c) Gaston does not like children.
 - (d) Juliette's sister's children are badly behaved.

Ans. (a) her parents would stay with them for a long time.

5. "While you were upstairs, I have been thinking a lot about your Papa and Mamma."

(i) What is the discrepancy between what Gaston said earlier and what he says now?

- (a) Earlier he did not want Juliette's parents to stay with them but now he is showing concern for them.
- (b) Earlier he wanted Juliette's parents to stay with them but now he does not want them to come over.
- (c) Earlier he wanted to buy a house for them but now he wants them to come and stay in their villa.
- (d) Earlier he stayed in Juliette's parents' villa but now he wants them to stay with him and Juliette.

Ans. (a) Earlier he did not want Juliette's parents to stay with them but now he is showing concern.

6. Juliette says "..... now I have only one thought that is to get the wretched place off my hands. I would sacrifice it at any price", Does she stick to her words? Why / Why not?

Ans. No, Juliet does not stick to her words. She quotes a price which was more than double the cost of the house to her. It was no sacrifice selling the villa at that price.