

SSLC-2022 BOOST DOSE A+ SCORER

FOCUS AREA BASED TEST PAPER

ENGLISH

THE SNAKE AND THE MIRROR

ANSWER KEY

1. About ten O'clock at night.
2. There was a regular traffic of rats to and from the beam on the roof in the homeopath's room. This sound made by the rats was familiar to him.
3. 'I had just set-up medical practice and my earnings were meagre'.
4. His possessions were a suitcase with sixty rupees, some shirts and dhotis and a black coat.
5. Meagre
6. The narrator of the story, the homeo doctor, lived in a small not electrified rented room.

The day in which the incident happened the doctor couldn't sleep because of the sound of rats those who were sharing the room. He went out to the veranda for some air. After some time he went back to the room and sat on a chair near the table and began to read a book. There was a mirror on the table. He saw his reflection in the mirror. He took the comb and ran it through his hair. He made a strong decision that he would shave daily and grow a thin moustache. Another earthshaking decision was also taken that he would always keep an attractive smile on his face. He decided that he would marry only a rich fat lady so that she could not run after him if he tried to escape after making some silly mistakes. Suddenly he heard a dull thud as a rubber tube had fallen to the ground. When he looked back realised that it was a full grown cobra. It wriggled over the back of the chair and landed on his shoulder. He was frozen. He couldn't move from there. It spread its hood and was staring at the doctor. He sat there like a stone image. The snake slithered from the chair to his left arm. He felt it as a molten fire in his hand.

He sat breathless. Suddenly the snake turned its head. It saw its own image in

the mirror. It then released the doctor's arm and fell into his lap. Then it moved towards the mirror. Without wasting a second the doctor got out and jumped into the yard. He ran and reached a friend's house. He smeared oil all over the body and had a bath. On the next day he returned back to his room with his friend and two others for shifting his belongings. But everything had been stolen except his dirty vest. He felt insulted in front of his friend and others. The story is blended with humour.

Even when the narrator's arm was coiled around by the snake he thinks of its actions humorously. He didn't claim that it is the first snake that had ever looked into a mirror. He was in doubt if it was admiring its own beauty or it was trying to make a decision about growing a moustache or using eye shadow and mascara. Or wearing a vermilion spot on its forehead. He could not identify whether the snake was male or female. When it moved towards the mirror the narrator imagines that perhaps the snake wanted to enjoy its reflection very close.

7. The story 'The Snake and the Mirror' presents a contrast between dream and reality. A young homeopath is the main character of the story. He lived in a rented room and had little money. He was a great admirer of beauty and loved to spend time looking at the mirror enjoying his beauty. He dreams of marrying a fat wealthy woman doctor and wishes to become rich. One summer night while he was in the room he heard a noise. At first he did not pay much attention but when he heard the sound of something falling down, he looked around and found a cobra wriggling over the back of his chair, near his shoulder.

Then it coiled around his left arm. Getting scared the doctor sat there like a stone image. When it moved towards the mirror,

he ran and reached his friend's home. The next day he returned back to his room with his friend and two others for shifting his belongings from there. But everything was stolen except his dirty vest. He felt insulted in front of his friend and others. Later he narrated this incident to his friends. When his narration ended, one of his friends, rather than asking about the snake, asked whether his wife was thin or fat. It gives an interesting twist to the story.

8.

XYZ High School

Notice

Dear friends, June 12, 2021
Our English Club has decided to stage a play based on the story, The Snake and the Mirror. The details are given below.

Date: 27/6/2021

Venue : School Auditorium

Time : 2 pm

Inauguration : Satyan Anthikkadu
(Film Director)

Chief Guest : Mr. Vasudevan
(Panchayat President)

All teachers and students are
welcome.

Secretary

(Sd/-)

Name

me", said the homoeopath. However no arrests have been made so far.

10. The doctor in the story 'The Snake and the Mirror' is a bachelor. He has been portrayed

as a person who can value himself critically and humorously. He wished to marry a rich woman doctor. And she must be fat so that he can run away from her when he makes mistakes. He shares his experiences of his encounter with a snake to his friends. It is the starting of his medical career. So his earning was meagre. He lives in a small room which is not electrified and is full of rats. Even when his arm was coiled around by the snake, he thinks of its actions humorously.

11. a) sparing a little time with me?

b) Did you see the snake again?

c) Somebody had stolen all my belongings.

d) Did you lose anything valuable?

e) didn't you?

12.a) The friend asked the homeopath whether his wife was really fat.

**Prepared by,
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9. Robbery in Homoeopath's House

Kochi, July 5: A homoeopath's house in North Avenue was robbed on Tuesday night. The homoeopath was living alone in that small rented room. He had just set up medical practice. The worth of valuables robbed is not known yet, but sources said the small belongings have gone missing. The homoeopath had an encounter with a cobra and he escaped from it and was at his friend's house at that night. The next morning when he came to move his things from there, he found he had little to carry. Somebody had stolen his suitcase contained his small earnings along with his clothes. The room had been cleaned out. "The robbery of my medical books is a great loss for