

DOLL'S HOUSE EXTRACTS AND ANSWERS

SAMPLE AND PRACTICE EXTRACTS

SAMPLE EXTRACTS

Sample extract 1

Nora: I didn't find it dull.

Helmer: *(smiling)* But there was precious little result, Nora.

Nora: Oh, you shouldn't **tease** me about that again. How could I help the cat's going in and tearing everything to pieces?

Helmer: Of course you couldn't, poor little girl. You had the best of intentions to please us all, and that's the main thing. But it is a good thing that our hard times are over.

Nora: Yes, it is really wonderful.

Helmer: This time I needn't sit here and be **dull** all alone, and you needn't ruin your dear eyes and your pretty little hands-

Nora: *(clapping her hands)* No, Tovald, I needn't any longer, need !! It's wonderfully lovely to hear you say so! *(taking his arm)* Now I will tell you how I have been thinking we ought to arrange things, Torvald. As soon as Christmas is over-(A bell rings in the hall.) There's the bell. *(She tidies the room a little.)* There's someone at the door. What a **nuisance!**

Helmer: If it is a **caller**, remember I am not at home.

Maid: *(in the doorway)* A lady to see you, ma'am,--a stranger.

Nora: Ask her to come in.

Maid: *(to Helmer)* The doctor came at the same time, sir.

Helmer: Did he go straight into my room?

Maid: Yes, sir.

Questions

1. What does Nora refer to in her opening words in this extract? (2 marks)
2. What has happened that has made the couple happy? (2 marks)
3. Discuss two themes evident in this extract. (4 marks)
4. "There's someone at the door." Add a question tag (1 mark)
5. A lady has come to see Nora as reported by the maid. Who is this lady and how does her coming affect the Helmers from the rest of the play. Write your answer in note form. (6 marks)
6. Discuss one aspect of style in this extract. (2 marks)
7. Briefly explain what happens after this extract. (4 marks)
- 8 Explain the meaning of the following expressions as used in the excerpt. (4 marks)
 - i) Tease
 - ii) Dull
 - iii) Nuisance
 - iv) A caller

Sample extract 2

Nora: Oh, yes, that one; but this is another. I ordered it. Torvald mustn't know about it.

Rank: Oho! Then that was the great secret.

Nora: Of course. Just go in to him; he is sitting in the inner room. Keep

him as long as-

Rank: **Make your mind easy; I won't let him escape.** (*Goes into the HELMER'S room*)

Nora: (*to the MAID*) And he is standing waiting in the kitchen?

Maid: Yes; he came up the back stairs.

Nora: But didn't you tell him no one was in?

Maid: Yes, but **it was no good.**

Nora: He won't go away?

Maid: No; he says he won't until he has seen you, ma'am.

Nora: Well, let him come in-but quietly. Helen, you mustn't say anything about it to anyone. It is a surprise to my husband.

Maid: Yes, ma'am, I quite understand. (*Exit.*)

Nora: This **dreadful** thing is going to happen! It will happen in spite of me! No, no, no, it can't happen-it shan't happen!

Questions.

1. Place this excerpt in its immediate context. (4marks)
2. What does "it" refer to and what does it reveal about the character of Nora? (3 marks)
3. Identify and explain one type of irony in this excerpt. (2 marks)
4. Who is being referred to as he and why has he come? (3 marks)
5. Torvald mustn't know about it. Add a question tag (1 mark)
6. Describe one theme raised in this extract. (2 marks)
7. What dreadful thing does Nora fear might happen? Explain your answer. (4 marks)
8. Describe the character of the maid (2 marks)
9. Explain the meaning of the following expressions as used in the excerpt. (4 marks)

- i) Make your mind easy
- ii) I won't let him escape.
- iii) It was no good
- iv) Dreadful

Sample extract 3

Krogstad: Are you sure of that?

Mrs. Linde: Quite sure, but-

Krogstad: *(with a searching look at her)* Is that what it all means?-that you want to save your friend **at any cost**? Tell me frankly. Is that it?

Mrs Linde: Nils, a woman who has once sold herself for another's sake doesn't do it a second time.

Krogstad: I will ask for my letter back.

MrsLinde: No, no.

Krogstad: Yes, of course I will. I will wait here until Helmer comes; I will tell him he must give me my letter back-that it only concerns my dismissal-that he is not to read it-

Mrs. Linde: No Nils, you must not **recall** your letter.

Krogstad: But, tell me wasn't it for that very purpose that you asked me to meet you here?

Mrs Linde: In my first moment of fright, it was. But twenty-four hours have **elapsed** since then, and in that time I have witnessed **incredible** things in this house. Helmer must know all about

it. This unhappy secret must be disclosed; they must have a complete understanding between them which is impossible with all this concealment and falsehood going on.

Krogstad: Very well, if you take the responsibility. But there is one thing I can do in any case and I shall do it at once.

Mrs Linde: *(listening)* You must be quick and go! The dance is over; we are not safe a moment longer.

Krogstad: I will wait for you below.

Mrs Linde: Yes, do. You must see me back to my door-

Krogstad: I have never had such an amazing piece of good fortune in my life!

Questions

1. Explain what has happened before this excerpt. (4 marks)

2. Why does Krogstad say he would ask for his letter back? Explain (3 marks)

3. "Nils, a woman who has once sold herself for another's sake doesn't do it a second time."

Briefly explain what makes Mrs. Linde say this? (3 marks)

4. Identify one character trait of Mrs. Linde in this extract (2 marks)

5. What is so surprising in this extract? Explain. (2 marks)

6. "But there is one thing I can do in any case and I shall do it at once." What is it that Krogstad does and how does it affect the rest of the play?

(4 marks)

7. "I have never had such an amazing piece of good fortune in my life!" Rewrite beginning Never:

(1 mark)

8. What makes Krogstad say that he has never had such good fortune in his life? (2 marks)

9. Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases as used in the excerpt.

(4 marks)

i) At any cost

ii) Recall

iii) Elapsed

iv) Incredible things

Sample extract 4

Nora:

But it was absolutely necessary that he should not know! My goodness can't you understand that? It was necessary he should have no idea what a dangerous condition he was in. It was to me that the doctors came and said that his life was in danger, and that the only thing to save him was to live in the south. Do you suppose I didn't try, first of all, to get what I wanted as if it were for myself? I told him how much I should love to travel abroad like other young wives; I tried tears and entreaties with him; I told him that he ought to remember the condition I was in, and that he

ought to be kind and **indulgent** to me; I even hinted that he might raise a loan. That nearly made him angry, Christine. He said I was **thoughtless**, and that it was his duty as my husband not to indulge me in my whims and **caprices**— as I believe he called them. Very well, I thought, you must be saved — and that was how I came to devise a way out of the difficulty —

Mrs. Linde: And did your husband never get to know from your father that the money had come from him?

Nora: No, never. Papa died just at that time. I had meant to let him into the secret and beg him never to reveal it. But he was so ill then— alas, there never was any need to tell him

Mrs. Linde: Good heavens, no! How could you think so? A man who has such strong opinion about these things! And besides, how painful and humiliating it would be for Torvald, with his manly independence, to know that he owed me anything! It would upset our mutual relations altogether; our beautiful happy home would no longer be what it is now

Mrs. Linde: Do you mean never to tell him about it?

Nora: *(meditatively and with a half-smile)* Yes — someday perhaps, after many years, when I am no longer as nice-looking as I am now. Don't laugh at me! I mean, of course, when Torvald is no longer as **devoted** to me as he is now; when my dancing and dressing-up and reciting have paled on him; then it may be a good thing to have something in reserve — *(breaking off)* What nonsense! That time will never come. Now what do you think of my great secret, Christine? Do you still think I am of no use? I can tell you, too, that this affair has caused me a lot of worry. It has been by no means easy for me to meet my engagements punctually. I may

tell you that there is something that is called, in business, quarterly interest and another thing called payment in installments and it is always so dreadfully difficult to manage them. I have had to save a little here and there, where I could, you understand. I have not been able to put a side much from housekeeping money for Torvald must have a good table. I could not let my children be shabbily dressed; I have felt obliged to use up all he gave me for them, the sweet little darlings

Questions

1. Briefly describe what happens before the events in this extract. (3 marks)
2. State and explain any two aspects of style used in this extract. (4marks)
3. How is Mrs. Linde depicted in this extract? (4marks)
4. What is the attitude of Mrs. Linde towards Nora? Explain (3marks)
5. Explain how the "imprudence "of Nora later complicates the events of the play. (2 marks)
6. Who is a shadow character in a play? In this extract identify one shadow character. What is his/ her significance in the play? (3marks)
7. Add a question tag:

A wife cannot borrow money without her husband's consent. (1mark)

8. Explain the meaning of the following words (4 marks)

i) Indulgent

ii) Thoughtless

iii) Caprices

iv) Devoted

Sample extract 5

Mrs. Linde: Is Doctor Rank a **man of means**?

Nora: Yes, he is.

Mrs. Linde: And has no one to provide for?

Nora: No, no one; but-

Mrs. Linde: And comes here every day?

Nora: Yes, I told you so.

Mrs. Linde: But how can this well –bred man be so tactless?

Nora: I don't understand you at all

Mrs. Linde: Don't **prevaricate**, Nora. Do you suppose I don't guess who lent you the two hundred and Fifty pounds?

Nora: Are you out of your senses? How can you think of such a thing! A friend of ours who comes here every day! Do you realize what a **horribly** painful position that would be?

- Mrs. Linde:** Then it really isn't he?
- Nora:** No, certainly not. It would never have entered into my head for a moment. Besides, he had no money to lend then; he came into his money afterwards.
- Mrs. Linde:** Well, I think that was lucky for you, my dear Nora.
- Nora:** No, it would never have come into my head to ask Doctor Rank. Although I am quite sure that if I had asked him-
- Mrs. Linde:** But of course you won't.
- Nora:** Of course not. I have no reason to think it could possibly be necessary. But I am quite sure that if I told Doctor Rank-
- Mrs. Linde:** Behind your husband's back?
- Nora:** I must make an end of it with the other one, and that will be behind his back too. I must make an end of it with him.
- Mrs. Linde:** Yes, that is what I told you yesterday, but –
- Nora:** *(walking up and down)* A man can put a thing like that straight much easier than a woman –
- Mrs. Linde:** One's husband, yes.
- Nora:** Nonsense! *(Standing still)* When you pay off a debt you get your bond back, don't you?
- Mrs. Linde:** Yes, as a matter of course.
- Nora:** And can tear it into a hundred thousand pieces, and burn it up- the nasty dirty paper!
- Mrs. Linde:** *(looks hard at her, lays down her sewing and gets up slowly)* Nora,

you are **concealing** something from me

Nora: Do I look as if I were?

Mrs. Linde: Something has happened to you since yesterday morning. Nora, what is it?

Questions

1. What happens immediately after this excerpt?

(3marks)

2. Discuss any two issues brought out in this excerpt

(4

marks)

3. How is Mrs. Linde depicted in this extract?

(4 marks)

4. In which ways does the playwright use dramatic irony in this excerpt? (4 marks)

5. Because you do as your husband wishes. Add a question tag

(1

mark)

6. How effective is the use of humor in this extract?

(2

marks)

7. From this excerpt, Helmer is hardworking. How is this character trait brought out elsewhere in the play and how does it complicate the drama

(3

marks)

8. Give the meaning of the following

(4 marks)

i) A man of means

ii) Prevaricate

iii) Horribly

iv) Concealing

Sample extract 6

Nora: I don't believe that any longer. I believe that before all else I am a reasonable human being, just as you are – or at all events, that I must try and become one. I know quite well, Torvald that most people would think you right, and that views of that kind are to be found in books; but I can no longer content myself with what most people say, or with what is found in books. I must think over things for myself and get to understand them

HELMER: Can you not understand your place in your own home? Have you not a reliable guide in such matters as that? - have you no religion?

Nora: I am afraid, Torvald, I do not exactly know what **religion** is.

HELMER: What are you saying?

Nora: I know nothing but what the **clergyman** said, when I went to be confirmed. He told us that religion was this and that, and the other. When I am away from all this, and I am alone, I will look into that matter too. I will see if what the clergyman said is true, or at all events if it is true for me.

Helmer: This is unheard of in a girl of your age! But if religion cannot lead you alright, let me try and awaken your **conscience**. I suppose you have some moral sense? Or –answer me- am I to think you have none?

Nora: I assure you, Torvald that is not an easy question to answer. I really don't know. The thing **perplexes** me all together. I only know that you and I look at it in a quite different light. I am learning, too, that the law is quite another thing from what I suppose; but I find it quite impossible to convince myself that the law is right. According to it a woman has no right to spare her old dying father,

or to save her husband's life. I can't believe that.

Helmer: You talk like a child. You don't understand the conditions of the world in which you live.

Nora: No, I don't. But now I am going to try. I am going to see if I can make out who is right, the world or I.

Questions

1. Place this extract in its immediate context. (6 marks)
2. Discuss any two character traits of Helmer in this extract. (4marks)
3. Give evidence that Nora is an assertive character (4marks)
4. From elsewhere in the play how is Nora portrayed in a different light? (2marks)
5. I do not exactly know what religion is.(Add a question tag) (1mark)
6. In which way does Nora conflict with the law? (3marks)
7. Discuss one major issue of concern addressed in this context (3 marks)
8. What is the mood in this context? Explain. (3marks)
9. What is the meaning of the following words? (4 marks)
 - i) Religion

- ii) Clergyman
- iii) Conscience
- iv) Perplexes

PRACTICE EXTRACTS

Practice extract 1

Nora: But you must believe me, Mr. Krogstad; it is not in my power to help you at all.

Krogstad: Then it is because you haven't the will; but I have means to **compel** you.

Nora: You don't mean that you will tell my husband that I owe you money?

Krogstad: Hm!-suppose I were to tell him?

Nora: It would be perfectly infamous of you. *(sobbing)* To think of his learning my secret, which has been my joy and pride, in such an ugly, clumsy way-that he should learn it from you! And it would put me in a horribly disagreeable position-

Krogstad: Only **disagreeable?**

Nora: *(impetuously)* Well, do it then!-and it will be the worse for you. My husband will see for himself what a **blackguard** you are, and you certainly won't keep your post then.

Krogstad: I asked you if it was only a disagreeable scene at home that you were afraid of?

Nora: If my husband does get to know if it, of course he will at once pay you what is still owing you, and we shall have nothing more to do with you.

Krogstad: *(coming a step nearer)* Listen to me, Mrs. Helmer. Either you have a very bad memory or you know very little of business. I shall be **obliged** to remind you of a few details.

Nora: What do you mean?

Questions

1. Explain why Krogstad wants Nora to help him (4 marks)
2. Nora says it is not in her power to help Krogstad. Do you agree with Nora that she cannot help him? Explain your answer. (2 marks)
3. "To think of his learning my secret, which has been my joy and pride, in such an ugly, clumsy way-that he should learn it from you!" Make notes on the events that led to the secret that Nora is talking about here. (4 marks)
4. "I asked you if it was only a disagreeable scene at home that you were afraid of?" Rewrite in direct speech. (1 mark)
5. From the rest of the play, briefly discuss the major aspect of style in this extract. (3 marks)
6. What does this extract reveal about Nora and her husband's marriage? (3 marks)
7. Discuss one character trait for each of the following (4 Marks)
 - i) Krogstad
 - ii) Nora
- 8 Krogstad tells Nora that he shall be obliged to remind her of a few details. Briefly explain these details. (3 marks)
9. Explain the meaning of the following words as used in the extract
 - i) Compel
 - ii) Disagreeable
 - iii) Blackguard
 - iv) obliged

Practice extract 2

- Mrs Linde:** Nora-it was Krogstad who lent you the money!
- Nora:** Yes, and now Tovald will know all about it.
- Mrs Linde:** Believe me, Nora, that's the best thing for both of you.
- Nora:** You don't know all. I **forged** a name'
- Mrs. Linde:** Good heavens-!
- Nora:** I only want to say this to you, Christine-you must be my witness
- Mrs Linde:** Your witness? What do you mean? What am I to-?
- Nora:** If I should **go out of my mind**-and it might easily happen-
- Mrs Linde:** Nora!
- Nora:** Or anything else should happen to me-anything, for instance, that might **prevent my being here**-
- Mrs Linde:** Nora! Nora! You are quite out of your mind.
- Nora:** And if it should happen that there were someone who wanted to take all the responsibility, all the blame, you understand-
- Mrs Linde:** Yes, yes-but how can you suppose -?
- Nora:** Then you must be my witness, that it is not true Christine. I am in my **right senses** now, and I tell you no one else has known anything about it; I, and I alone, did the whole thing. Remember that.
- Mrs Linde:** I will, indeed. But I don't understand all this.
- Nora:** How should you understand it? A wonderful thing is going to happen!

Questions

1. Briefly explain what has just happened before this extract. (3 marks)
2. "Nora-it was Krogstad who lent you the money!" Explain the tone in Christine's words. (2 marks)
3. "Believe me, Nora, that's the best thing for both of you." From later in the play, which reasons does Mrs Linde give to support what she says now.

(3 marks)

4. Discuss one character trait of Nora evident in this extract. (2 marks)

5. What would be the appropriate tone to use in reading Nora's parts in this extract.

Explain your answer.

(2 marks)

6. Discuss one social theme raised in this extract. (2

marks)

7. "Nora! Nora! You are quite out of your mind." Add a question tag. (1 mark)

8. Nora says that a wonderful thing is going to happen. From the rest of the play, explain what she means by that. (4

marks)

9. Discuss one aspect of style in this extract. (2

marks)

10. Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases as used in the extract. (4 marks)

i) Forged

ii Go out of my mind

iii) Prevent my being here

iv) Right senses

Practice extract 3

Helmer: Miserable creature-what have you done?

Nora: Let me go. You shall not suffer for my sake. You shall not **take it upon yourself.**

Helmer: **No tragic airs**, please. (*Locks the hall door.*) Here you shall stay and give me explanation. Do you understand what you have done? Answer me! Do you understand what you have done?

Nora: (*looks steadily at him and says with a growing look of coldness in her face*) Yes, now I am beginning to understand

thoroughly.

Helmer: *(walking about the room)* what a horrible awakening! All these years-she who was my joy and pride-a hypocrite, a liar-worse, worse-a criminal! The unutterable ugliness of it all!-For shame! *(Nora is silent and looks steadily at him. He stops in front of her.)* I ought to have suspected that something of the sort would happen. I ought to have seen it. All **your father's want of principle** has come out in you. No religion, no morality, no sense of duty-. How I am punished for having winked at what he did! I did it for your sake, and this is how you repay me.

Nora: Yes, that's just it.

Helmer: Now you have destroyed all my happiness. You have ruined all my future. It is horrible to think of! I am in the power of an **unscrupulous man**; he can do what he likes with me, ask anything he likes of me, give me any orders he pleases-I dare not refuse. And I must sink to such miserable depths because of a thoughtless woman.

Nora: When I am out of the way, you will be free.

Questions

1. Explain what has happened before this extract. (4 marks)
2. What does Nora mean by saying "You shall not suffer for my sake." Explain (3 marks)
3. How is Helmer's attitude towards Nora in this extract different from earlier in the play. Briefly explain. (3 marks)
4. Discuss two themes raised in this extract. (4 marks)
5. "Now you have destroyed all my happiness. You have ruined all my future." Discuss

the style evident in the statement.

(2 marks)

6. Isolate and explain the mood prevalent in this extract. (2 marks)

7. "Here you shall stay and give me an explanation." Rewrite beginning: You...(1 mark)

8. "When I am out of the way, you will be free." Give two possible meanings of Nora's words from the rest of the play (2 marks)

9. Explain the meaning of the following expressions as used in the excerpt. (4 marks)

i) Take it upon your self

ii) No tragic airs

iii) Your father's want of principle

iv) Unscrupulous man

Practice extract 4

Helmer:

(standing at the open door) Yes, do. Try and calm yourself, and make your mind easy again, my frightened little singing bird. Be at rest, and feel secure; I have broad wings to shelter you under. *(walks up and down by the door)* How warm and cosy our home is, Nora. Here is shelter for you; here I will protect you like a hunted dove that I have saved from a hawk's claws; I will bring peace to your poor beating heart. It will come, little by little, Nora, believe me. Tomorrow morning you will look upon it all quite differently; soon everything will be just as it was before. Very soon you won't need me to assure you that I have forgiven you; you will yourself feel the certainty that I have done so. Can you suppose I should ever think of such a thing as **repudiating** you, or even **reproaching** you? You have no idea what a true man's heart is like, Nora. There is something so **indescribably** sweet and satisfying, to a man, in the

knowledge that he has forgiven his wife- forgiven her freely, and with all his heart. It seems as if that had made her, as it were, doubly his own; and she has in a way become both wife and child to him. So you shall be for me after this, my little scared, helpless darling. Have no **anxiety** about anything, Nora; only be frank and open with me, and I will serve as will and conscience both to you-. What is this? Not gone to bed? Have you changed your things?

Nora: *(in everyday dress)* Yes, Torvald, I have changed my things now.

Helmer: But what for? - So late as this.

Nora: I shall not sleep tonight.

Helmer: But, my dear Nora-

Nora: *(looking at her watch)* It is not so very late. Sit down here, Torvald. You and I have much to say to one another.

(She sits down at one side of the table.)

Helmer: Nora- what is this?- this cold, set face?

Nora: Sit down. It will take some time; I have a lot to talk over with you.

Helmer: *(sits down at the opposite side of the table)* You alarm me, Nora!- and I don't understand you.

Nora: No, that is just it. You don't understand me, and I have never understood you either- before tonight. No, you mustn't interrupt me. You must simply listen to what I say. Torvald, this is a settling of accounts.

Helmer: What do you mean by that?

Questions

1. Place this excerpt in its immediate context. (5 marks)
2. How is the character of Helmer brought out in this excerpt? (4 marks)
3. Comment on the use of imagery in this excerpt. (4 marks)
4. What are the two main issues of concern that are addressed in this excerpt? (4marks)
6. I shall not sleep tonight. (Rewrite as an interrogative) (1mark)
7. What is the attitude of Helmer towards Nora in this excerpt? Explain (3marks)
8. Explain the meaning of the following vocabulary. (4marks)
 - i) Repudiating
 - ii) Reproaching
 - iii) Indescribably
 - iv) Anxiety

Practice extract 5

Nora: Yes, tremendous! A **barrister's** profession is such an uncertain thing, especially if he won't undertake **unsavory** cases; and naturally Torvald has been willing to do that, and I quite agree with him. You may imagine how pleased we are! He is to take up his work in the bank at the New Year, and then he will have a big salary and lots of commissions. For the future we can live quite differently- we can do

just as we like. I feel so relieved and so happy, Christine! It will be **splendid** to have heaps of money and not need to have any anxiety, wont it?

Mrs. Linde: Yes, anyhow I think it would be delightful to have what one needs.

Nora: No, not only what one needs, but heaps and heaps of money.

Mrs. Linde: *(smiling)* Nora, Nora, haven't you learned sense yet? In our schooldays you were a great **spendthrift**.

Nora: *(laughing)* Yes, that is what Torvald says now. *(Wags her finger at her.)*

But "Nora, Nora" is not so silly as you think. We have not been in a position for me to waste money. We have both had to work.

Mrs. Linde: You too?

Nora: Yes; odds and ends, needlework, crochet- work, embroidery, and that kind of thing *(dropping her voice)* And other things as well. You know Torvald left his office when we were married? There was no prospect of promotion there, and he had to try and earn more than before. But during the first year he overworked himself dreadfully. You see, he had to make money every way he could, and he worked early and late; but he couldn't stand it and fell dreadfully ill, and the doctors said it was necessary for him to go south.

Questions

1. Explain what happens before this extract.

(3marks)

2. Cite two character traits of Nora and comment on them.

(4marks)

3. Identify two instances of repetition in the extract and explain their significance.

(4marks)

4. Comment on the use of flashback in this extract.

(3marks)

5. Give another instance in the text where flashback is used in the play.

(2marks)

6. What thematic concerns are addressed in this extract?

(4marks)

7. There was no prospect of promotion there (Write in the interrogative) (1 mark)

8. Explain the meaning of the following words. (4marks)

i) Barrister's

ii) Unsavoury

iii) Splendid

iv) Spendthrift

Practice extract 6

Nora: Yes, you could- couldn't you?

Helmer: And I hear he is a good worker, too. But I knew him when we were boys. It was one of those rash friendships that so often prove an

incubus in afterlife. I may as well tell you plainly, we were once on very intimate terms with one another. But this tactless fellow lays no restraint on himself when other people are present. On the contrary, he thinks it gives him the right to adopt a familiar tone with me, and every minute it is "I say, Helmer, old fellow!" and that sort of thing. I assure you it is extremely painful for me. He would make my position in the bank **intolerable**.

Nora: Torvald, I don't believe you mean that.

Helmer: Don't you? Why not?

Nora: Because it is such a narrow-minded way of looking at things.

Helmer: What are you saying? **Narrow-minded?** Do you think I am narrow minded?

Nora: No, just the opposite dear-and it is exactly for that reason.

Helmer: It is the same thing. You say my point of view is narrow-minded, so I must be so too. Narrow – minded! Very well- I must put an end to this. *(goes to the hall door and calls)* Helen!

Nora: What are you going to do?

Helmer: *(looking among his papers)* Settle it. *(enter MAID)* Look here; take this letter and go downstairs with it at once. Find a messenger and tell him to deliver it, and be quick. The address is on it, and here is the money.

Maid: Very well, sir. *(exit with the letter)*

Helmer: *(putting his papers together)* Now then, little Miss **Obstinate**.

Nora: *(breathlessly)* Torvald- what was that letter?

Helmer: Krogstad's dismissal

Nora: Call her back, Torvald! There is still time. Oh Torvald, call her back! Do it for my sake- for your own sake- for the children's sake! Do you hear me, Torvald? Call her back! You don't know what that letter can bring upon us.

Helmer: It's too late.

Helmer: Yes, it's too late.

Helmer: My dear Nora, I can forgive the anxiety you are in, although really it is an insult to me. It is indeed. Isn't it an insult to think that I should be afraid of a starving quill-driver's **vengeance**? But I forgive you nevertheless, because it is such eloquent witness to your great love for me. *(Takes her in his arms.)* And that is as it should be, my own darling Nora. Come what will, you may be sure I shall have both courage and strength if they be needed. You will see I am a man enough to take everything upon myself.

Questions

1. Explain what happens before this extract.

(2marks)

2. Comment on two issues addressed in this context.

(4

marks)

3. State and explain one character trait for each of the two characters found in this context.

(4marks)

4. How is Helmer's character contrasted elsewhere in this text?

(3marks)

5. You say my point of view is narrow- minded. (write as an interrogative)

(1

mark)

6. Comment on the use of a letter as a stylistic device in this context.

(3marks)

7. How is flashback used in this context?

(2marks)

8. Explain the meaning of the following vocabulary.

(4marks)

i) Intolerable

ii) Narrow- minded

iii) Obstinate

iv) Vengeance

9. What happens after this extract?

(2marks)

Answers to Sample Extracts

Sample extract 1

1. She refers to the previous Christmas when she spent every evening for three full weeks making ornaments for the Christmas tree. Her husband says it was the dullerest three weeks he had spent. (2 marks)

2. The couple is happy that Mr. Helmer has been to the level of a bank manager. They are happy that the position will ease their financial burden and they will have a lot of money to spend. (2 marks)

3. Parental responsibility/the role of women in the society. Nora is committed to please her family. Krogstad says, "You had the best of intentions to please us all"

Falsehood-Mr Helmer tells Nora to say he is not at home if it's a visitor. (4 marks)

4. ,isn't there? (1 mark)

5. -The lady is Mrs. Linde.

-She is Nora's school days times.

-She asks Nora talk to her husband to give her job because of his title.

- She gets the job which is to make Krogstad lose his job.
- Krogstad writes a letter exposing Nora's forgery to prevent Helmer from sacking him.
- Mrs Linde speaks to Krogstad on her behalf and Krogstad withdraws his revenge plans.
- The Helmers reputation is protected although their marriage finally breaks. (6 marks)

6.Flashback. "How could I help the cat's going in and tearing everything to pieces?" This refers to the previous Christmas (2 marks)

7. Helmer goes into his room while the maid ushers in Mrs. Linde. Mrs. Linde greets Nora in a dejected voice but Nora does not seem to recognize her. Later she remembers her as Christen and observes that Christine has changed greatly. She agrees she has changed because they last met nine or ten years back. (4 marks)

8i) Provoke

ii) Boring/uninteresting

iii) Bother, an inconvenience

iv) Visitor

(4 marks)

Sample extract 2

1. Before the extract, Nora has just told Dr Rank that being with Torvald is like being with papa. The maid enters from the hall and give Nora a card. Dr Rank asks her whether there is anything wrong. She says it is about a new dress. After the extract, Nora bolts the door of Helmer's room. The maid opens the hall door for Krogstad and shuts it after him. (4 marks)

2. It refers to the dress for attending the Stensborg dance with. She is cheating Dr. Rank because in real sense, she has received a card. This exposes her insincere character. (3 marks)

3. Dramatic irony. The readers know that she has received a card from the maid but Krogstad does not know it. (2 marks)

4. It is Krogstad. He has received his dismissal letter from Mr. Helmer. He wants the matter to be arranged between them so that nobody would know about it. (3 marks)

5. „must you? (1 mark)

6. Secrets. Nora is a secretive person. She does not want her husband to know that

Krogstad is in the house. Helen, you mustn't say anything about it to anyone. It is a surprise to my husband.

(2 marks)

7. Nora believes that her husband will bear the guilt of her forgery once it is discovered. She does not want him to do that when she is alive. Therefore, she plans to kill herself rather than be alive when that happens. (4 marks)

8. Respectful. She addresses or responds to Nora using the word "ma'am. (2 marks)

9.i) Relax

ii) I will keep him in the room

iii) it was useless

iv) terrible/ very bad thing (4 marks)

Sample extract 3

1. Before the extract, Krogstad asks Christine if she still have the courage to have him back after what he has done. Christine tells him she understand that it was despair that made him do that. He regrets that he cannot undo what he has done. Mrs Linde tells him that the letter is still in the letter box. (4 marks)

2. He does not want Nora's husband to know the secret of forgery that she has kept from him for many years. He has reunited with Christine and is very happy. He does not want to ruin the Helmers' marriage who are friends to Christine. (3 marks)

3. She once sacrificed her love for the sake of her bedridden mother and two young brothers. By saying that, it means she cannot be doing it the second time for another person because that experience was enough. (3 marks)

4. Selfless: "she sacrificed for another person, her mother and brothers. She says "a woman who has once sold herself for another's sake doesn't do it a second time. (2 marks)

5. It is surprising that Krogstad can change his mind about revenging against the

Helmers. He was much determined to have his own way with them and his change and readiness to withdraw the letter catches the readers by surprise (2 marks)

6.Krogstad writes Nora another letter that sets free Nora and her husband. He also returns the bond had all the evidence of forgery. Mr. Helmer is very happy now that he is saved and tells Nora he has forgiven her. However, this comes when it is too late for he had already condemned her for her actions. Nora decides leave him and the children. (4 marks)

7.Never had I such an amazing piece of good fortune in my life! (1 mark)

8. Christine had left him for a richer man who would help her support her sick mother and two young brothers. She has given him another chance for she wants to have somebody to live and work for. (2 marks)

9.i) at any cost-no matter what/despite the danger involved.

ii) recall-ask or call back

iii) Elapsed -pass

iv) Incredible things-unbelievable things (4 marks)

Sample extract 4

1. Mrs. Linde comments that a wife is not allowed to borrow a loan. Nora thinks if the woman is business minded it is in order to borrow. Christine does not agree. Nora conceals part of the loan transaction. Nora lies that she got the money from an admirer. Christine thinks of her as mad and imprudent.

2. Flashback. It is through flashback that Nora reveals to Mrs. Linde how she borrowed a loan from Krogstad.

Flash-forward. Nora tells the readers about a time in the future. She says she will disclose the secret to Helmer when she gets old. This reveals the character of Nora as

secretive.

Irony. It is ironical that Nora borrows money to cater for expenses aimed at taking care of the health condition of Helmer yet she keeps it as a secret to Helmer himself.

3. Social. She engages Nora in a conversation that reveals Nora's secretive nature.

Critical. She thinks of Nora as imprudent for not informing her husband about the loan issue. She is all questions to Nora.

4. Sympathetic. She sympathizes with Nora who has chosen to clear the loan debt all alone..."poor Nora..."So it has all had to come out of your own necessities of life, poor Nora?

5. She signs the bond three days after her father's death. She forges her father's signature. Krogstad is to use it in the court as it is an illegality. He uses the issue to mount pressure so as to keep his job. He intends to use the press to blackmail Helmer

6. A character who is not present in the lifespan of the play. Papa. His significance is in the plot development. Nora uses him to build her argument on injustices meted on women.

7., can she?

8i) Lenient/tolerant

ii) Careless

iii) Desires

iv) Committed/dedicated

Sample extract 5

1. Torvald comes home. Nora tells Christine to go to the children for Torvald cannot bear dressmaking. Nora manipulatively tells Helmer that she has been missing him. Torvald thinks the dressmaker has been around..

2. Materialism - Nora thinks of a rich admirer who leaves money to her. Mrs. Linde believes the story yet such a man does not exist. Mrs. Linde inquires whether Rank is a rich man.

Friendship. Nora and Mrs. Linde share intimate feelings. They discuss the riches of Krogstad and other petty things.

3. Materialistic - She is concerned with Nora's imaginations about a rich man. The imaginations are mere imaginations yet they raise a fuss. She wishes benefit financially from Rank if he has no one to provide for.

Inquisitive – she inquires so much from Nora the riches of Rank, the false admirer, where Rank takes his money. Thinks Nora was lent money by Rank.

4. Readers know there is nothing like a rich admirer but only mere imaginations yet Mrs. Linde does not. Mrs. Linde thinks Rank gave a loan to Nora, yet the reader knows it is Krogstad who lent money. Mrs. Linde does not know about the bond Nora talks about yet the reader knows she talks of the loan she gets from Krogstad

5. „don't you”

6. It is comical when Mrs. Linde believes that Nora has an old rich admirer who will leave money to Nora after his death. Mrs. Linde misinterprets the imagination and it raises a fuss. This lightens the stage.

7. He overworked himself in the past. He fell ill. Dr advised he should be taken to South. Nora borrows Krogstad some money to take him for a trip. Later Krogstad raises issues with the loan.

8. i) A rich man

ii) evade/deviate/avoid

iii) Terrible/nasty

iv) Hiding

Sample extract 6

Before – Helmer accuse Nora of neglecting her most sacred duties. Duty to her husband and children. Nora refutes saying there are other sacred duties, duties to herself. Helmer tells her the duty to her husband and children comes before that of hers.

After – Helmer accuses Nora of being ill and delirious. Nora says she is most clear and certain in her mind. Helmer questions how a sober mind can forsake her children.

2. Abusive – he calls Nora blind, foolish woman

Chauvinistic – he has low opinion for his wife . She has a sacred duty to husband and children not herself.

Emotional – he shouts at Nora. He gets angry with Nora

3. Authoritatively states that she has a sacred duty to herself first then to husband and children. She is ready to pursue the opinion of the few. She assertively questions a law that does not allow a woman the right to spare her old dying father or save her husband's life .

4. Before this she is humble – she is at peace when called skylark , song bird , squirrel etc.

She is naïve - Mrs. Linde calls her a kid and less experienced. She accepts such labels.

5. Do I?

6. she questions the logic of the law if it does not allow a woman to spare her old dying father or save her husband's life . The law should have such provisions.

7. Gender equality - the wife goes through name calling from her husband . Nora feels she has a duty to herself. She says she should be treated as a human being. The law should grant gender equality.

8. Tense - the heated argument in the dialogue characterized by different viewpoints

carries a lot of conflict. Nora promises to quit the marriage.

9. i) belief in a supernatural power

ii) Ordained Christian minister

iii) Moral sense of right and wrong

iv) Baffles/ vexes

CHAPTER SEVEN

GENERAL ESSAY QUESTIONS AND SAMPLE ESSAYS

1. The suppressed woman in the Victorian society has to use many tricks to survive. React to the assertion drawing your illustrations from the play.
2. Naivety is Nora's greatest undoing. Write an essay justifying this statement.
3. Appearance can be deceptive. Support drawing your illustrations from the play.
4. There can be no escaping from our past actions. Show the truth of this statement using the play.
5. A couple should be open with each other for their marriage to stand. React to this assertion by closely referring to the play.
6. A suppressed or oppressed woman resorts to falsehood and secrets to survive. Justify the validity of this statement by referring to Nora.
7. All Nora's shortcomings can be blamed on her husband. Do you agree? Write an essay agreeing or disagreeing with the observation.
8. Mr. Helmer does not deserve Nora for a wife. Write an essay in support of this assertion.
9. Nora is the Kingpost in her marriage and family. Discuss by drawing illustrations from the play.
10. The play *A Doll's House* addresses a clash between the moral and the human laws. How much do you agree with the observation?
11. Some actions no matter how good intentioned can attract a lot of condemnation in the society. Discuss.
12. Selflessness should have limits. To what extent do you agree with the assertion?

13. Friends come in handy when we are in distress and troubled. Write an essay justifying the statement drawing your illustration from the play.
14. Pride and arrogance leads to man's downfall. Write a composition affirming the statement.
15. A guilty person is always afraid and sensitive. Substantiate this position.
16. When one is pushed to the corner, they must devise means of survival. Write an essay defending this observation.
18. Symbolism is the backbone of the play *A Doll's House*. Write an essay to show the truth in the statement.
19. The play *A Doll's House* is one that one cannot stop reading up to the end. Validate the statement.
20. Write an essay showing the value of flashback in the play.
21. Write an essay showing how irony effectively communicates major issues in the play.
22. "Family dialogue and equality are key for a successful marriage." Using illustrations from *A Doll's House* write a composition justifying the assertion.
23. Write an essay on, "Money and material possessions are not the keys to a happy marriage" by drawing illustrations from *A Doll's House*.
24. "Hypocrisy and materialism are traits that should not be condoned in the society." Write a composition in support of this statement by closely referring to *A Doll's House*.
25. Using illustrations from Henrik Ibsen's play '*A Doll's House*,' write a composition to illustrate the truthfulness of the statement, "Divorce leads to suffering to both the husband and the wife."
26. "Hypocrisy and immorality adversely affect the lives of Dr. Rank and Krogstad." Write a composition to defend this statement.
27. "Ibsen satirizes the family of Helmer and Nora," Write an essay to validate this statement.
28. "You reap what you Sow." By referring closely to the lives of Nora and Helmer in *A*

Doll's House by Henrik Ibsen, write a composition in support of this statement.

Sample Essay on Characters

"The materialistic nature of Mrs. Linde and Nora leads to their unfulfilling lives." Write a composition in support of this truth.

In the society, human beings are encouraged to be contented and sincere in their lives. Materialism and hypocrisy will always lead to unattractive lives. This is in tandem with the life of Mrs. Linde and Nora in the play *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen.

Nora is very excited of her husband's promotion to the position of the bank boss. She brags all over to her friends about how their family will be rich. When advised by Mrs. Linde that the most important point is that the family will have enough to spend she is not happy with the comment. She maintains that they will have heaps and heaps of money. She is all eyes looking for opportunities to seek more money. At one time, she locks up herself and does photocopying work. Other times she is doing embroidery and sewing. This leads to her discontented life.

As the ball draws near, she keeps on nagging her husband to buy her dresses. She dresses charmingly during the ball. She makes materialistic imagination. She imagines a case whereby she is married by an old rich gentleman who later dies and leaves back a lot of cash for her. The materialistic life must have contributed to her pathetic end where she divorces her husband.

Nora's illusions and imaginations do not sit well with Mrs. Linde. Even though Nora is merely fondling with mere imagination of a case whereby she is in love with a wealthy man who dies and leaves all the wealth in her name, Christine does not get convinced that these are just imaginations. Even the following day she questions about the same admirer. She inquisitively asks Nora whether Dr. Rank is a man of means. She questions where he takes his money. She wishes to be married by Rank so that Rank can have someone to provide for.

Krogstad bitterly describes Mrs. Linde as a woman who jilts men and clings to other men who are more lucrative. At one time, Linde left Krogstad for he had no prospects. When they meet later while he is rich she wishes to marry him. She troubles herself working in a school, a shop to get money. Later she stays a single life.

From the above illustrations, it is true that materialism leads to unfulfilled life. None of the above discussed characters has a happy ending. Mankind is advised to be contented with the little that they have, for materials and property cannot warrant happiness.

Sample Essay on Themes

A marriage founded on falsehood and secrets is bound to fall apart. To what extent do you agree with the statement? Draw your illustrations from the play *A Doll's House*.

Marriage should be founded on mutual trust between the wife and husband. Any sort of secret or insincerity between them is bound to bring irreparable damage to the marriage once the truth comes in.

Nora has many secrets and falsehoods that she keeps behind her husband. She secretly borrows a loan from Krogstad to fund her husband's trip to Italy for his recovery. She has kept this matter a secret from him for eight years and is not ready to reveal it to him any time soon. The secret is finally revealed when Krogstad writes a letter to her husband that exposes the forgery. Helmer reacts angrily to this discovery and Nora angry that he does not understand her, decides to walk out of the marriage.

Nora also is not sincere on how she uses the money she gets from Krogstad. She saves most of it to repay Krogstad's loan. She says that she has survived on cheap clothes and also keeps borrowing money from him to service the loan. All this is discovered at the end of the play. They react differently to the discovery making their marriages to break.

Nora cheats Krogstad that there was nobody who had visited him when he was way while Krogstad has just left the room where he had been pleading with her to speak to

her husband to prevent the sack. As she cheats him thus, her husband has just met with him as he leaves the house. Nora's speaking to Krogstad and refusing to admit it reveals a very serious weakness in the marriage. It shows mistrust and underscores the dark secrets that Nora has been keeping behind her husband. Finally, some of these actions contribute to the dissolution of the marriage.

Nora cheats her husband that she has forgotten the dance practice and dances poorly so that she can compel her husband to help her practice. The truth is that she has not forgotten how to dance but wants to buy time so that her husband cannot open the letter box. She and Christine have agreed to keep him as much as possible from his letters so that she can speak to Krogstad first. Nora instead should just be open with her husband and tell him the truth. She increases tension in their marriage and is the one who suffers most. Finally, the truth comes out and the marriage breaks.

It is important for a couple to be sincere with each other no matter the seriousness of the matter. This can help prevent far-reaching damage to their marriage.

Sample Essay on Style

Identify and explain four issues that happen in the play, *A Doll's House*, against the expectations of the reader

In the society, once in a while things happen against human expectations. In the play, *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen, the same happens and the reader cannot help getting shocked by some of these instances. This essay will illustrate some of them.

The huge amount of money totaling two hundred and fifty pounds borrowed in secrecy by Nora takes the reader by a big surprise. The loan is meant to cater for a genuine reason; ensuring health condition of Helmer is attained through a trip to the South. It is ironical that the greatest beneficiary of the lump sum amount, Helmer Torvald, is not informed about it. The readers marvel at the way a civilian like Mrs. Linde learns about it even before Nora's husband as well as how Nora manages to conceal the secret for such a long time. All along this time, Helmer thinks it is Nora's who lent the money.

The eight year old relationship between Nora and Helmer is hard to believe. The couple lives as a husband and a wife for eight good years yet they have never engaged in any serious conversation. The husband treats his wife like a doll and uses funny names to label her. Names like 'Squirrel, Skylark and Songbird" appear like a big joke for a husband to call his wife. It is also interesting that at first, Nora is comfortable with the titles and even fondles them. The wife is also not allowed to borrow money to save the life of his father while her work is to dance and chirp to the husband.

Owing to the fact that the play is set at Christmas season, a moment associated with the birth of Jesus Christ by the Christian community, the readers expect virtues to prevail over vices. It is ironical that Krogstad is termed as one whose breath is infectious with poison and hypocrisy. Helmer says he cannot bear his hypocrisy. Dr. Rank is equally dying as a result of his father's crooked life characterized by excesses. Rank suffers consumption of the spine, a dangerous disease connected to the lifestyle of his father. All these detestable things happen on the backdrop of the birth of Christ, the savior.

Nora is depicted as a play thing by her husband. To him, she is a play thing, a doll, a spendthrift and all sort of deprecating names. Her husband has lived all his life believing that she is fully under his control, indeed like a child. However, Nora is capable of so great and heroic things. She has saved her husband, she has been repaying the loan without any constant source of income, and finally, she musters the courage to walk out of the marriage. Her character at the end sharply contrasts with what Helmer thinks of her.

These happenings which are against our expectations contribute to the many turns, twists and surprises in this play just as life is full of surprises.

General question 12

Selflessness should have limits. To what extent do you agree with the assertion? Draw your supporting evidence from the play *A Doll's House*

Some individuals do actions that know no boundaries for people that they love.

However, in the play *A Doll's House*, unchecked selflessness has caused great tribulations to such people no matter their initial good intentions.

Nora is an excessively selfless character. Her dedication to her husband is unequalled. When her husband gets sick due to overworking, she borrows two fifty pounds from Krogstad to fund his trip to Italy for his healing. This is despite the fact that she could have easily borrowed from her father the money. She keeps this as a secret for many years for she does not want to injure his manhood. She has even planned to kill herself to prevent her husband from carrying her guilt. Unfortunately, Helmer cannot do such a thing for her, cannot sacrifice his honour for the one he loves. This is a great and painful lesson to Nora that her selflessness is her own undoing.

Christine sacrificed her love for Krogstad to marry a man who was not of her choice and woman she did not leave. She instead marries a man who was well up financially so that she can take care of her bedridden mother and two younger brothers. This is a great selflessness on her part. Sacrificing her love life for another person even if it is a relative is not an easy thing. This later comes to heavily bear on her because the husband soon dies and leaves her childless and with nothing. Even the mother she was sacrificing for dies and the brothers grow up. This has made her a dejected widower.

Krogstad selflessness has cost him greatly. He confesses having committed an indiscretion, when he forged a name, a great risk to save his wife's life. This action has ruined his moral reputation completely. He lives to regret this for after his action; every way was closed for him. His present tribulations can be attributed to this past action of his selflessness.

Again, Christine's sacrifice and selflessness is witnessed in the way she helps Nora, her friend after she faces harassment from Krogstad. She gets out of her to do all she can to prevent the Helmers facing an impending repercussion from the vengeful blackmailing Krogstad. It is a great risk for her to trade her personal life for the sake of Nora her friend. Accepting Krogstad and being ready to be associated with such a

character, whose name is spoiled and tainted beyond repair means that her reputation may also be ruined. She will also have to take care of Krogstad's children which definitely will be a great financial burden to her. She seems not to consider all these possible scenarios as she pursues the goal of saving her friend.

Helping others is a virtue that all should strive to possess. However, one should not go overboard in doing so because it may be the cause of his or her own destruction.

General Essay 28

"You reap what you Sow." By referring closely to the play *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen, write a composition in support of this line.

This essay will depict how Nora chooses to be secretive and materialistic and ends up in an unpleasant life as shown by Ibsen in *A Doll's House*. It will equally show how Helmer chooses to be chauvinistic and mean and therefore this leads into a life of separation.

Nora chooses to be secretive after getting a loan from Krogstad. She stays for a long time without informing Helmer the main and direct beneficiary of the loan. As a result, Helmer continues to falsely think that it is Papa who catered for the trip to the south. The secret is first revealed to Mrs. Linde, her friend after things go wrong. At this time Krogstad mounts a lot of pressure and blackmails Helmers so as to keep his job in the bank. At long last, the secrecy leads to the couple's misunderstanding and eventual divorce.

Krogstad prepares for his fate. He is hypocritical and immoral. When making the loan transactions with Nora he is not truthful and sincere. He lets Nora forge her father's signature and postdates the transaction. Later he chooses to expose the great secret to Helmer even after Nora has managed to conceal the secret to Helmer for a long time. He threatens to spill the beans by printing the story in the newspapers so that he can taint the image of Helmer. This heinous action must have contributed to his ugly life where he has to upbring his many kids all alone after he fell out with Mrs. Linde.

Helmer on the other hand chooses to be chauvinistic. He upholds himself as a superior being as compared to his wife. He uses all demeaning names on his wife like "skylark" and "squirrel". He refuses to buy his wife's piece of advice even when it makes sense. When Nora comments that he is "narrow minded" he gets infuriated and even abuses his wife. This mounts pressure on Nora who later divorces him.

Lastly, on learning that Nora borrowed Krogstad money secretly, Helmer reacts in a selfish manner. The loan was used on account of his own deteriorating health and it was a sign of his wife's sacrificing and intelligent nature. Instead of being understanding to his wife and commenting on areas that need improvement on the part of the wife and himself, he calls her names. It leads to embittered wife who later decides to leave the marriage.

In conclusion, it is clear that one reaps what they sow. Human beings should be keen to plant what is virtuous so as to harvest good results in life.