

# Weekly sample question answers

## Time limit – 1 hours

### Question 1.

Ali in the story The Letter is a lonely man. How does the writer bring out Ali's loneliness?

Answer:

Ali lived all alone, passing his days in wait of a letter from his only child Miriam. The writer while describing Ali's journey to the post office says he walks his lonely way, where except for the occasional bark of a dog, the distant steps of a workman going early to work or the screech of a bird disturbed before its time, the whole town was wrapped in deathly silence.

### Question 2.

In the story The Letter what are the changes that come over Ali after the marriage of his daughter Miriam?

Answer:

Ali misses his daughter once she goes away. He realizes how much he loves her. It also brings to him the realization that the world is based on love. This makes him give up hunting. He can no longer bear to see the pain of the partridges separated from their parents who have been killed. He patiently waits for his daughter's letter and goes to the post office daily without bothering about the cold or the heat. He bears the jests and rude remarks of the clerks at the post office.

### Question 3.

What made Ali a good shikari?

Answer:

Ali had the hunter's instinct in his blood and bones. A clever shikari, his skill and love for the hunt made it impossible for him to pass a day without hunting. Due to his sharp eyesight, Ali easily spotted the earth brown partridge, almost invisible to others and the cunningly hidden hare crouching in the yellow brown scrub.

**Question 4.**

“The post office, one of the uninteresting buildings in the world, became his place of pilgrimage.” Who is being referred to here? Why did he come to the post office? Why has the journey been described as a pilgrimage?

Answer:

Coachman Ali is being referred to here. He went daily to the post office waiting for his daughter's letter. A pilgrimage is a journey, which is often long and difficult, to a special place for religious reasons. Ali's visits to the post office have been described as a pilgrimage because he went to the post office daily, braving the bitter cold and the heat, with the faith that he would receive his daughter's letter.

**Question 5.**

Describe the Postmaster.

Answer:

The Postmaster was a man with a face as sad and as inexpressive as a pumpkin. He did not display any signs of liveliness or excitement. He carried out his job without compassion or feeling. He did not understand Ali's feelings till his own daughter fell sick.