

Multiple Choice Questions

1. **How was Ausable different from other secret agents?**
 - (a) All of these
 - (b) He had an unusual accent
 - (c) He was clumsy
 - (d) He was fat
2. **Which accent did Ausable carry?**
 - (a) Indian
 - (b) American
 - (c) British
 - (d) Irish
3. **How did Ausable react when he saw Max in his room?**
 - (a) He got angry
 - (b) He trembled with fear
 - (c) He lost his patience
 - (d) He stayed calm
4. **Why had Max secretly entered Ausable's room?**
 - (a) All of these
 - (b) He had an unusual accent
 - (c) He was clumsy
 - (d) He was fat
5. **What important papers did Ausable have?**
 - (a) A report concerning missiles
 - (b) Documents reporting a medical scam
 - (c) A report against government officials
 - (d) Confidential financial statements
6. **What was Fowler's reaction on seeing a man pointing a pistol towards him?**
 - (a) He hid behind the curtains
 - (b) He started shouting for help
 - (c) He got a thrill
 - (d) He ran outside the room
7. **What did Ausable and Fowler find on switching on the room's light?**
 - (a) A waiter
 - (b) A cat lying on the floor
 - (c) Some confidential documents on the table
 - (d) A man pointing a pistol at them
8. **How did Max manage to enter Ausable's room?**
 - (a) It was a friendly entry
 - (b) Through the balcony
 - (c) Using the pass key
 - (d) Jumped inside through an open window

9. **What was pointed to as 'first authentic thrill of the day' by Fowler?**
(a) His encounter with a man pointing a pistol towards him and Ausable
(b) Having drinks with Ausable
(c) Meeting Ausable
(d) Having a glance through the confidential documents
10. **How did Ausable manage to get rid of Max?**
(a) He cooked up a convincing story
(b) He shot him dead
(c) He locked him in the balcony
(d) He called the cops

Fill in the blanks :

11. Ausable shifted from _____ city.
12. Fowler was _____.

True / False

13. Ausable was a secret agent.
14. Max's face turned 'black with anger' in the story The midnight visitor.

Very Short Type Questions

15. Who is Fowler and what is his first authentic thrill of the day?
16. How did Max enter the room? Why did he tell this to Ausable?

Short Type Questions

17. Give a brief character sketch of Fowler? What are the values reflected in his character?
18. Why was Fowler disappointed after meeting Ausable? Did he change his idea at last?

Essay Type Questions

19. A new secret agent has asked Ausable's opinion on the traits they should be looking for in a person filling in his shoes. Create a conversation between Ausable and the new agent about indispensable traits that a secret agent must have.
20. What fake story was made by Ausable in the hotel room? What made it a convincing story?

HOTS

21. **Assertion (A) :** Ausable was a clever secret agent.
Reason (R) : Do you agree with the statement? Justify your answer.
(a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
(b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(c) A is true, but R is false.
(d) A is false, but R is true.



1. (a)

He was very different from the conventional notion of a secret agent. Fiction had given them a glamorous outlook and Ausable was nowhere near.

2. (b)

Ausable could never lose his American accent which he had developed from his stay at Boston.

3. (d)

Ausable did not lose his patience at all upon seeing Max. In fact he gathered all his wits and cooked up a story to trap him.

4. (c)

Ausable had some important papers that Max wanted to take away from him at any cost.

5. (a)

He was very different from the conventional notion of a secret agent. Fiction had given them a glamorous outlook and Ausable was nowhere near.

6. (a)

Ausable was a secret agent and he had some confidential documents concerning missiles with him.

7. (c)

Fowler was a young writer who was looking forward to some adventure on meeting a secret agent. He was definitely excited and thrilled during the encounter.

8. (d)

Max, another secret agent had entered the room secretly and he wanted to forcibly take some important papers from Ausable.

9. (a)

Fowler's meeting with Ausable had been quite boring initially. But after the encounter he found the first engaging moment of the day.

10. (a)

Ausable was a witty man. He cooked up a story to trap Max. He befooled him and made him jump to death.

11. Fill in the blank : Boston

12. Fill in the blank : A young and romantic writer

13. True and False : True

14. True and False : True

15. Fowler is a young romantic writer. He comes to meet Ausable who is a secret agent to see how Ausable tackles exciting situations. He wants to write a book on detectives. But he gets disappointed because Ausable does not seem to have any quality of a secret agent. His first authentic thrill of the day is when he sees a man standing before them holding Fowler's small automatic pistol in his hand.

16. Max had got a passkey. So he entered Ausable's room through the door. He told this to Ausable because the latter had fabricated a story that it was the second time in a month that somebody had got into his room through the balcony. Max said that he had no idea about the balcony.

17. Fowler is a young and romantic writer, who loves reading mysterious stories. He wants to write a book on detectives. He has a fantasy to meet a secret agent or to see mysterious figures in the night, the crack of guns, drugs in wine, etc. He is not much interested in meeting dull people. He gets easily bored and disappointed. Fowler forms a very romantic and grand picture of a secret agent in his mind. Though he is a writer, he is very timid by heart. He finds Ausable not cracking pistols or surrounded by dark-eyed beauties like James Bond. He feels let down after meeting Ausable.

The moment he enters Ausable's room and his eyes meet Max with an automatic pistol in his hand, he is thrilled. He is scared, the moment he realizes that it is a waiter and not the police who has knocked at the door. He wants to know about the man in the balcony. He has a horrible experience.

18. Fowler was a very young and romantic writer. He wrote for a magazine. He had read in the books about secret agents being mysterious and smart. He wanted to meet Ausable, the secret agent to learn how Ausable tackled with some exciting situations. However, he was disappointed because he thought Ausable was an unfit secret agent on account of his fat body and American accent. But Ausable showed his presence of mind and quick wit when he confronted Max in his room. Max came there to take an important paper related to missiles. Ausable misled Max by fabricating a story about a balcony next to the window of his room. And when someone knocked at the door, he told Max that it was the police who had come to protect him. Max took the entire story as gospel and jumped out from the window to hide in the balcony. But it was the end of Max. Now Fowler was very happy to see Ausable's intelligence and changed his opinion about him.

19. New agent: Monsieur Ausable, you have been famous as a committed employee in our department. I have also heard a lot about your quick wiliness, intelligence and hard work. But when I saw you I was really surprised to see your simple way of living. Please guide me by throwing some light on the traits a secret agent must have.

Ausable: Well! Being a secret agent may not match the glamorous and flashy images from movies and television. Spying is often a low-key, tireless and thankless endeavour. However, it is certainly not for those who lack commitment or the joint of heart. One needs to develop a number of practical and risk-averse characteristics for spying. As a spy, you need to have keen senses and develop them further through training in how to collect and evaluate vital information. Also, you must have a natural adaptable and high functioning ability to interact with others. While doing so, it is essential that you keep your composure and be able to work independently. You see appearances are deceptive. You need to have a clever mind and be witty to become a successful secret agent.

20. Ausable was a clever secret agent. One day, when he entered his room, he found Max in his room who aimed at him with a pistol. But Ausable was a quick-witted man. He did not lose his courage. He fabricated a story about a balcony which extended under his room window.

He said that he had informed the management to block that window as anyone might enter his room using that window but they hadn't yet. And that it was the second time that someone had entered his room through the balcony. Just then there was a knocking at the door and Ausable said that he had called in the police to have extra protection as he was having an important paper with him. This showed that he had the presence of mind. Max took the entire story as gospel, retraced his steps, reached the window-sill and jumped down the balcony which never existed. Ausable's quick wit, presence of mind and persuasion made it a convincing story.

21. Yes, I agree that Ausable was a clever secret agent. He did not look at all like the conventional image of a secret agent. He had great presence of mind. He was short, very fat and felt it difficult to move. Besides, He could speak German and French passably. He had an American accent he used in every language. However, Ausable had a very sharp and active mind because he invented two stories, one about a non-existent balcony outside his hotel window and another about the police arriving to give extra security to some important documents he was about to receive. He was an intelligent man and a clever secret agent to be able to invent such stories on the spur of the moment in the face of imminent danger in the form of Max, a rival secret agent.