

Term-II

EVANS TRIES AN O-LEVEL

—Colin Dexter



STAND ALONE MCQs

[1 Mark each]

Q. 1. Evans wanted to take an O-Level examination in _____.

- (A) French
- (C) Italian

- (B) German
- (D) Spanish

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

Explanation: It was in early March when the Governor of Oxford Prison rang up the Secretary of Examination Board that one of their prisoners, Evans, wanted to take an O-Level examination in German.

Q. 2. What did the prison officers used to call Evans?

- (A) Evans the Magician
- (C) Evans the Break

- (B) Evans the Shrewd
- (D) Evans the Fool

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

Explanation: The prison officers used to call Evans – Evans the Break because thrice he had escaped from the prison already.

AI Q. 3. How will you categorize 'Evans Tries an O-Level'?

- (A) The narration of Evans' talent.
- (B) A satire.
- (C) Battle of wits between the criminal and the jail authorities.
- (D) Tragic conflict between the criminal and the jail authorities.

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

Explanation: The police tries to trace the clues left by the criminals and apprehend them on the basis of these. On the other hand, the criminals devise a fool-proof plan and try to leave no clues which might help in identification later on. Since the legal system is based on evidence—both human and material—police as well as criminals and their lawyers, use their wits to turn the case in their favour and win it.

Q. 4. What would McLerry need if he had to sit for some length of time?

- (A) A small inflated rubber ring.
- (C) A copy of the Bible.

- (B) A paper knife.
- (D) The newspaper, 'The Church Times'.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

Explanation: McLerry said that he was suffering from piles and he needed it if he had to sit for some length of time.

Q. 5. How did the Governor, Oxford Prison, describe Evans to the Secretary Examinations Board?

- (A) He was very aggressive.
- (B) He was violent.
- (C) He was a congenital kleptomania.
- (D) He was shrewd but was also a lazy fellow.

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

Explanation: The Governor said that Evans was quite a pleasant sort of chap. He had no record of violence. He was one of the stars at the Christmas concert. But he was just a congenital kleptomaniac.

Q. 6. What information was given by the detective Superintendent to the Governor?

- (A) McLeery had spotted Evans. (B) Evans was seen near Elsfield way.
(C) They chased Evans but lost him. (D) All of these.

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

Explanation: The detective superintendent informed the Governor that McLeery had spotted Evans drive off along Elsfield way. After getting the car number, they started chasing but lost track and thought that Evans might have come back to the city.

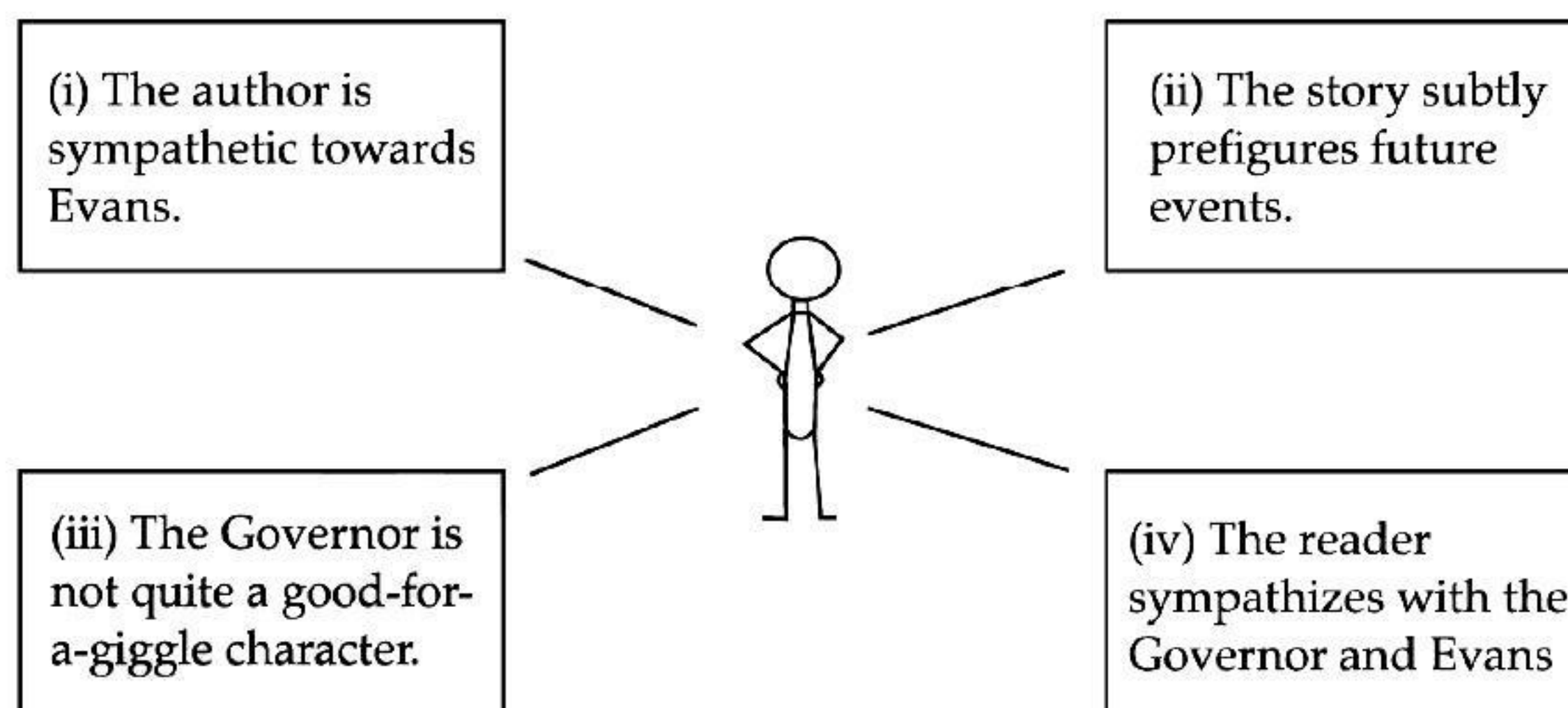
Q. 7. Why did Evans drape a blanket around his shoulder?

- (A) To conceal his efforts of changing dress to look like McLeery (B) Because he was feeling cold
(C) To hide himself from the police (D) All of these

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

Explanation: In between intervals of Stephens' peeping into the cell, Evans was changing into the Parson's dress to look like McLeery. So, in order to conceal his effort to keep them in place, Evans draped a blanket round his shoulder. Stephens was misled into believing that Evans was feeling cold.

Q. 8. Look at the statements given below. Choose the option that correctly identifies which statements are fact and which are opinion: (CBSE QB, 2021)



- (A) Fact – (i) and (iv) ; Opinion – (ii) and (iii)
(B) Fact – (ii) and (iii) ; Opinion – (i) and (iv)
(C) Fact – (i) and (ii) ; Opinion – (iii) and (iv)
(D) Fact – (ii) and (iv) ; Opinion – (i) and (iii)

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

Q. 9. "God Almighty! There's far more going on than I —"

"Always will be, sir."

What can be collected from the aforesaid conversation between the Governor and Evans? (CBSE QB, 2021)

- (A) The Governor realized that he was likely to lose his job very soon.
(B) Evans proved that criminals are always one step ahead of the police.
(C) There were always schemes afoot unknown to prison authorities.
(D) The Governor's confidence in his control over the prison stood shattered.

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

Q. 10. A trope is a common device or theme used to describe situations or characters in a story.

Given below are some typical tropes found in a prison escape narrative.

Choose the option that is NOT a trope used in the story 'Evans Tries an O-Level'.

- (i) Prison Changes People - Spending time in prison can change one's personality, for better or for worse.
(ii) Master of Disguise - When a character masquerades as someone else.

- (iii) Wardens Are Evil - The prison is run by a ruthlessly corrupt administrator.
- (iv) The Guards Must Be Crazy - Prison staff make it almost too easy for prisoners to escape.
- (v) Breaking Out the Boss - Members of a gang bust their boss out of jail.
- (vi) Passive Rescue - A character who rescues someone from prison without using aggression or violence to break them out.
- (vii) Prison Escape Artist - A character who is known for escaping prison multiple times.

(CBSE QB, 2021)

- (A) Options (ii), (iii) and (vi)
- (C) Options (ii), (iv) and (v)

- (B) Options (i), (iii) and (v)
- (D) Options (i), (iv) and (vi)

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

EXTRACT BASED MCQs

Read the given extracts and answer the questions that follow:

(1 × 4 = 4 marks)

I. "They're not — they don't honestly think I'm goin' to try to —"

"They're taking no chances, Evans. Nobody in his senses would take any chance with you."

"Who's goin' to listen in?"

"I'll tell you who's going to listen in, laddy. It's the Governor himself, see? He don't trust you a bloody inch — and nor do I. I'll be watching you like a hawk, Evans, so keep your nose clean. Clear?"

He walked towards the door. Evans nodded. He'd already thought of that and number two handkerchief was lying ready on the bunk — a neatly folded square of off-white linen.

"Just one more thing, Einstein."

"Ya? Wha's 'at?"

"Good luck, old son."

(CBSE QB, 2021)

Q.1. Which of the following qualities of Jackson do NOT come through in the given extract?

- (A) Soft-hearted
- (B) Gullible
- (C) Sceptical
- (D) Authoritative

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

Q.2. "Nobody in his senses would take any chance with you". Why not?

- (A) Jackson did not like Evans and was keen to get rid of him.
- (B) Evans had quite a reputation for escaping from prisons.
- (C) Evans had been transferred to Oxford prison and needed care.
- (D) The Governor was uneasy about Evans' German O-Level exams.

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

Q.3. In the given extract, "Einstein" is meant as a _____.

- (A) compliment
- (B) misconception
- (C) taunt
- (D) provocation

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

Q.4. The above extract employs several idiomatic expressions. Which of the following is not an idiom?

- (A) To not trust an inch
- (B) To watch like a hawk
- (C) To keep nose clean
- (D) To be ready on the bunk

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

II. "Perhaps you won't be with us next September, Evans."

James Roderick Evans appeared to ponder the Governor's words deeply. "No. P'r'aps I won't," he said.

As the prison van turned right from Chipping Norton on to the Oxford road, the hitherto silent prison officer unlocked the handcuffs and leaned forward towards the driver, "For Christ's sake get a move on! It won't take 'em long to find out —"

"Where do ye suggest we make for?" asked the driver, in a broad Scots accent.

"What about Newbury?" suggested Evans.

(CBSE QB, 2021)

Q.1. How would you describe Evans in the above extract?

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| (A) Solemn | (B) Cheeky |
| (C) Anxious | (D) Cheerful |

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

Q.2. A 'broad accent' is that which is :

- (A) applied widely, all over the world.
- (B) recognised by broadcasters.
- (C) associated with the traditional speech of the local people.
- (D) developed over several years for the purposes of special communication.

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

Q.3. Evans suggested Newbury because :

- (A) the police had already been to Newbury and would not expect to find him there.
- (B) he was being playful and wanted to crack another joke at the police's expense.
- (C) he wanted the thrill of another chase and the opportunity to outsmart authorities.
- (D) he did not want to risk going to a new place, and opted for something more familiar.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

Q.4. Silent : Loud :: Ponder : _____

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| (A) Meditate | (B) Repeat |
| (c) Exaggerate | (D) Overlook |

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

III. "It's a slightly unusual request, Governor, but I don't see why we shouldn't try to help. Just the one fellow, you say?"

Q.1. Who is 'I' here?

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| (A) Evans | (B) Oxford Prison Superintendent |
| (C) Governor | (D) Secretary of the Examinations Board |

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

Q.2. Who made a slightly unusual request?

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| (A) Evans | (B) Governor |
| (C) Station Head Officer | (D) Commissioner of Police |

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

Q.3. Why, according to the Governor, had Evans started taking classes in O-level German?

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| (A) To upgrade his academic qualification | (B) To pass time in the prison |
| (C) To become a translator | (D) To reform himself |

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

Q.4. Why did Evans select German only for his O-level examination?

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| (A) He knew the German teacher | (B) He loved the language |
| (C) He was planning to shift to Germany | (D) None of these |

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

IV. "Oh, don't worry about that. I'll be sending you all the forms and stuff. What's his name, you say?"

Q.1. Who is the speaker here?

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| (A) Secretary of the Examination Board | (B) Governor of Oxford Prison |
| (C) James Roderic Evans | (D) None of these |

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

Q.2. Whom is he talking to?

- (A) Secretary of the Examination Board
- (C) James Roderic Evans

- (B) Governor of Oxford Prison
- (D) None of these

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

Q.3. Which forms and stuff is the speaker talking about?

- (A) To release the prisoner
- (C) To appear for an exam

- (B) To confer a degree
- (D) To extend the course duration

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

Q.4. Which exam will he appear for in German?

- (A) A-level
- (C) G-level

- (B) E-level
- (D) O-level

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

V. "I said, "Good luck". Good luck for tomorrow." "Oh. Thanks, er, I mean, er, Danke Schon." "You haven't a cat in hell's chance of getting through, of course, but — " "I may surprise everybody."

Q.1. Who is wishing 'Good Luck'?

- (A) German student
- (C) Prison Governor

- (B) German teacher
- (D) Examination Controller

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

Q.2. Who is being wished good luck?

- (A) Evans
- (C) Dr. Sadao

- (B) Douglas
- (D) McLeery

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

Q.3. What does 'cat in a hell chance' mean?

- (A) Good
- (C) Almost no

- (B) Excellent
- (D) Moderate

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

Q.4. What does the phrase "I may surprise everybody" actually turn into?

- (A) The prisoner escaped the prison
- (B) Student cleared the exam with flying colours.
- (C) The student did not appear for the exam.
- (D) The prisoner was shot while trying to escape.

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

VI. "Can you come outside a minute, sir? You too, Stephens."

Q.1. Who speaks these words?

- (A) Jackson
- (C) Governor

- (B) McLeery
- (D) None of these

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

Q.2. Why has McLeery come to the prison?

- (A) To carry out his duty as Examiner
- (C) To carry out his duty as Prison incharge

- (B) To carry out his duty as Invigilator
- (D) To carry out his duty as Governor

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

Q.3. Who is the examinee?

- (A) James Roderick Evans
- (C) Jackson

- (B) McLeery
- (D) Stephens

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

(iv) Other than Stephens, who is the other person who is asked to come out?

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| (A) Jackson | (B) Governor |
| (C) McLeery | (D) Evans |

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

VII. "Would you mind if I put a blanket round shoulders, sir? It's a bit parky in 'ere, isn't it?" Silence.

Q.1. Who wrote these lines?

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| (A) Susan Hill | (B) Colin Dexter |
| (C) Kamala Das | (D) Jack Finney |

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

Q.2. Who are 'I' and 'you' in the above lines?

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| (A) Evans and Jackson | (B) Evans and McLeery |
| (C) Jackson and Stephens | (D) Jackson and Evans |

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

Q.3. What was the real motive of 'I' draping his shoulder with a blanket?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (A) To cut his hair | (B) To change his makeup |
| (C) To change into parson's dress | (D) To change into student uniform |

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

Q.4. Who was Stephens supposed to call in case of any change in the cell?

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| (A) Jackson | (B) Evans |
| (C) Governor | (D) McLeery |

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

VIII. "And which one of you two morons was it who took Evans for a nice little walk to the main gates and waved him bye-bye?"

Q.1. Who speaks these words?

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| (A) Governor | (B) Stephens |
| (C) Jackson | (D) McLeery |

Ans. Option (A) is correct.

Q.2. To whom are these words spoken to?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| (A) McLeery and James Roderick | (B) Stephens and Jackson |
| (C) Stephens and James Roderick | (D) McLeery and Jackson |

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

Q.3. Who was the one who had escorted Evans to the main gates?

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| (A) McLeery | (B) Jackson |
| (C) Stephens | (D) James Roderick |

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

Q.4. Why is the speaker angry?

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (A) Evans had cut his hair | (B) Evans had cleared the exam |
| (C) Evans had escaped from the prison | (D) Evans had learnt German |

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

IX. "I don't think there's anyone — " "Yes, there is. You'll find one of your ambulances picked him up from Elsfield Way about — "

Q.1. Who is the speaker of the second line?

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| (A) Stephens | (B) Governor |
| (C) Superintendent | (D) McLeery |

Ans. Option (B) is correct.

Q.2. Who is the speaker asking for?

- (A) Stephens
- (C) McLeery

- (B) Jackson
- (D) Evans

Ans. Option (C) is correct.

Q.3. Why was the ambulance called?

- (A) To take Evans to the hospital
- (C) To take Jackson to the hospital

- (B) To take Governor to the hospital
- (D) To take McLeery to the hospital

Ans. Option (D) is correct.

Q.4. Where did the person to be hospitalized go?

- (A) Injured
- (C) Died

- (B) Escaped
- (D) None of these

Ans. Option (B) is correct.