

**1) The author of the short story 'Karma' is –**

- a) O. Henry
- b) R.K Narayan
- c) Khushwant Singh
- d) Mulk Raj Anand

**Ans-c) Khushwant Singh**

**2) The name of Lady Lal –**

- a) Lakshmi
- b) Lalita
- c) Lachmi
- d) Lila

**Ans-c) Lachmi**

**3) Sir Mohan Lal preferred to travel in –**

- a) First class
- b) Sleeper class
- c) General third class
- d) Zenana inter-class

**Ans-a) First class.**

**4) Sir Mohan Lal always had with him the newspapers –**

- a) The Statesman
- b) The Times
- c) The Guardians
- d) The Patrika

**Ans-b) The Times.**

**5) Sir Mohan Lal spent in England –**

- a) Five years
- b) Three years
- c) Seven years

d) Two years

**Ans-a) Five years**

**6) Lady Lal's tiffin carrier was made of –**

a) Steel

b) Aluminium

c) Glass

d) Brass

**Ans-d) Brass.**

**7) Lady Lal sat on –**

a) A cane chair

b) Her own steel trunk

c) A fixed wooden seat of the platform

d) None

**Ans-b) Her own steel trunk.**

**8) Sir Mohan Lal studied at –**

a) Oxford University

b) London University

c) Leeds University

d) Cambridge University

**Ans-a) Oxford University**

**9) 'Karma' written by Khushwant Singh is –**

a) A short story

b) An essay

c) A play

d) A report

**Ans-a) A short story.**

**Q.Compare the personalities of Sir Mohan Lal and Lachmi.**

**Answer:-**Sir Mohan Lal was an anglicized Indian who took pride in everything British and hated anything that was Indian. His treatment of Indians was so cruel that he was ashamed to travel even with his wife and did not like his in-laws. On the other hand Lachmi was an extremely ordinary and simple lady who did not even reciprocate the hatred of her husband. She thought of herself as a submissive, docile wife of an aggressive, flamboyant person. Lachmi could mix freely with the lower class people and was comfortable with everything common and Indian. Thus the personalities of Sir Mohan and Lachmi were poles apart.

**Q.What does the word “Karma” mean? Is the word an appropriate title of the story? Analyse briefly.**

**Answer:-**“Karma” means “work” and the hidden sense in the word is that one would receive from reward or punishment from destiny according to ones own activity in ones lifetime. Good jobs have rewards in store while bad jobs could spell out future problems.

The story narrates the unexpected predicament of the anglicised and very proper Sir Mohan Lal who loved everything British and hated everything Indian. Being an Indian, Sir Mohan was not supposed to do so. Therefore at the end Sir Mohan was manhandled by the British with whom he was so obsessed. This makes the story an example of the result of bad karma in life. Therefore, the title is appropriate and nothing could have been better.

**Q.How did Sir Mohan compare and contrast his youth in England with his later experience in India?**

**Answer:-**For Sir Mohan Lal, his youth in England was a fairy tale of Oxford Colleges, masters, dons, tutors, boat races and rugger matches. Those were the times of grey bags and gowns, of sports blazers and mixed doubles, of dinners at inns of court, and nights at Piccadilly. In comparison to this, he considered his life in India a dirty one with vulgar countrymen and sordid details of the road to success and of nocturnal to the upper storey, and obese old Lachmi smelling of sweat and raw onion. His youth was the time to mix with the Britishers always and

his later years was for him the time to wait for communicating with his foreign friends while reading the Times over and over again and seeping his “ek chota”.

**Q.What reason was cited by Lachmi for not travelling in the same compartment with his husband?**

**Answer:-**Lachmi’s reasons for not travelling in the same compartment with her husband were that she was a native woman who did not understand English and did not know their ways. As a result, she would be an embarrassment for her husband who was a vizier and a barrister and who met Englishmen and officers in the train. But the real reason seems to be Sir Mohan’s attitude. He did not want to travel with his wife and was ashamed of her. The husband and the wife did not have any love left between them. Lachmi was helpless and Sir Mohan considered her a liability while travelling. Lachmi had nothing to do but to accept her fate while faking that everything was okay.

**Q.Write a short character sketch of Sir Mohan Lal analysing his conversations with himself in front of the mirror.**

**Answer:-**From his conversations with himself in front of the mirror, we find that Sir Mohan detested everything Indian and looked down upon them with pity and patronage. He found the Indians inefficient, dirty and indifferent. He was proud of himself for being distinguished, efficient and handsome. Sir Mohan, thus, denied himself his own identity. He was indifferent to the problems and sufferings of the Indians and of India, his motherland. His pride was falsely founded on his feeling of superiority. He failed to understand that the British looked down upon him in the same way he looked down upon Indians. Thus, he remained a snob in front of the mirror which smiled back at him as if to tell him that he would be taught a lesson soon.

**Q.How did Sir Mohan Lal feel when he saw two Englishmen coming up to the coupe? Why was he half smiling and half protesting?**

**Answer:-** Sir Mohan Lal felt comfortable when he saw the approaching British soldiers and his heart warmed up at the prospect of a good conversation with them. He thought of welcoming them by talking to the guard though they were

entitled to travel only second class. He felt assured that his journey would not be a boring thing after all.

Sir Mohan was half smiling because he wanted to welcome the British soldiers in the coupe and play the gracious host. He wanted to show them his generosity and wanted them to be thankful. He was half protesting because the soldiers did not care for taking his permission and barged inside the first class compartment and spoke ill of Sir Mohan and wanted him out of the train.