

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

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Session: 2026-2027 Notes

Class : X

Subject : English

Chapter- Patol Babu

Answer the following questions

Q1. Nishikanto's offer stirred Patol Babu to the core. Comment.

Ans. When Nishikanto Ghosh came to Patol Babu's house, he wanted to tell him some film production business and had talked about a role in a movie, for which a fiftyish, exciting news. He had met his youngest brother-in-law. Naresh Dutt, who was in the short, bald headed man in his fifties was required. He also knew about Patol Babu's interest in acting and he had asked Naresh Dutt to consider Patol Babu for the role. Patol Babu had not expected such a news at the start of the day, that an offer to act in a film should come at this age to a nonentity like him was beyond his wildest dreams.

Q2. How does Patol Babu reconcile to the dialogue given to him?

Ans. When Patol Babu saw the paper on which just one word 'Oh' was written, he was terribly disappointed. But then he was reminded of the advice given to him by his mentor, Gogon Pakrashi, that the role was not big or small, it was the manner in which one performed it and made it as effective as possible that was important. At this, he decided to give all that he could to the role and performed it most superbly.

Q3. Patol Babu was a meticulous man. Elucidate.

Ans. He ignored the fact that the dialogue was just a monosyllable. He started thinking of ways to utter it in the most effective manner. He even went quietly to a side street to practise his role, and in front of a large glass window he rehearsed how to emote pain and surprise in the right proportion. Finally, he portrayed that insignificant role in the most significant manner.

Q4. How did Patol Babu manage to make his role special? What special touches did he give to the role?

Ans. Patol Babu convinced himself that even "Oh!", can be said in different ways to suit the requirement of the situation it has to be uttered in. He went to a quiet corner, and began rehearsing in front of a huge glass window. He worked extensively to bring about modulations in his voice, variety in his facial expressions, and on the appropriate body reactions as a result of the bump. He measured the distance he had to walk to make the timing and impact of the collision perfect. To make the scene look more authentic he suggested holding a newspaper in his hand, which was accepted by the director.



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Q5. Do you agree with the statement that Patol Babu is a practical man who comes to terms with whatever life has to offer? Give reasons for your answer.

Ans. Yes, Patol Babu is really a practical man who comes to terms with whatever life has to offer. He has taken the ups and downs of his life in his stride. In his heydays he used to be a theatre artist. He was a popular actor and was in great demand. In fact he would appear in advertising handbills of theatre clubs and people would buy tickets just to see him perform. He enjoyed so much popularity and fan following, yet he did not go overboard. He continued to be the man he was simple, humble and respectable. Then the demands of life took him away from theatre and he got busy with his job at the railway factory. He switched his job for a higher salary. He joined Hudson and Kimberley where he had worked for nine years. But then World War II broke out and he lost his job due to retrenchment. The long struggle for survival began. He tried everything he could, opened up a variety store, did odd jobs in companies, sold insurance policies, but success eluded him everywhere. He kept trying like every practical man would do. When the film role was offered to him, he was trying to take up a job with a scrap iron dealer. In performing the film role too, though there was an initial emotional glitch, he motivates himself to view things in a practical manner. He puts in immense efforts to perform well. Perhaps it would not be wrong in saying that he displayed a trace of impracticality only on one occasion, when his emotions did not let him accept a remuneration for his role. On the whole, Patol Babu was a practical man who comes to terms with whatever life has to offer.

Q6. No work is big or small, it is the manner in which it is executed that makes it big or small. Discuss with reference to the chapter.

Ans. This is an old proverb that has been passed down from generations. What does this mean? Well it certainly does not tell you to look at your work with folded hands and chant prayers.

You need to worship, and dedicate your whole being toward the task on hand to experience pleasure and contentment. It also teaches us the dignity of labour. No work is big or small. Work is work, and it has to be done with passion and love. Half-hearted, non-committal performances lead to incompleteness and unhappiness. The joy and satisfaction is derived only when you are devoted to what you are doing. What will be the plight of a patient whose doctor wanted to be an architect, and has little or no passion towards his profession? Chaos! But one must also remember that what we desire, might not always be. Therefore, making the best of what comes our way is what a sensible person should do. As man proposes to do something, but the will of God might not be there, as He has other plans for you. The motto of every one should be to put in one's best, hoping for the best to come back to you.

This fact has been very explicitly portrayed by the protagonist of the story, "Patol Babu, Film Star. His devotion gives him a satisfaction that could not be weighed against money.