

MASTERG.NET CBSE COACHING CLASSES

Janakpuri, New Delhi • Complete Marking Scheme & Solutions Manual

Subject: English Communicative (Class X)

Max. Marks: 40

Chapter: Mrs. Packletide's Tiger (Saki)

Time Allowed: 1.5 Hours

OFFICIAL EVALUATION CRITERIA & COMPLETE MODEL ANSWERS

SECTION I: MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (1 MARK EACH)

Q1. Saki writes that Mrs. Packletide's movements and motives were largely governed by her dislike of Loona Bimberton. In this context, she is described as an "exception" in a world chiefly swayed by:

- (a) vanity and social prestige
- (b) hunger and love [Correct]**
- (c) wealth and power
- (d) sportsmanship and adventure

ANSWER & VALUATION RULE:

(b) As explicitly stated by Saki, the text notes that while the general world is ruled by the fundamental urges of hunger and love, Mrs. Packletide's soul is solely driven by an extraordinary, abnormal motivation: malicious envy of her social rival. (1 Mark).

Q2. The literary device employed by the author in describing the old, weak, domestic-animal-hunting predator as a "venerable herd-robber" is:

- (a) Metaphor
- (b) Oxymoron [Correct]**
- (c) Hyperbole
- (d) Personification

ANSWER & VALUATION RULE:

(b) It is an oxymoron because it couples two completely conflicting concepts: "venerable" (deserving deep historical or moral respect due to age/character) and "herd-robber" (a cheap thief/predator targeted by angry farmers). (1 Mark).

Q3. When Mrs. Packletide's face is described as "changing colour as rapidly as though it were going through a book of patterns before post-time," it indicates that she was immediately:

- (a) thrilled and excited by her target
- (b) deeply amused by Louisa Mebbin's comments
- (c) completely shocked, terrified, and anxious about her secret being exposed [Correct]**
- (d) indifferent to the sudden crowd of excited natives

ANSWER & VALUATION RULE:

(c) This striking description captures her immediate panic and loss of composure when she realizes that her hired companion, Louisa, has identified the critical blunder: the tiger wasn't shot by her bullet. (1 Mark).

Q4. Louisa Mebbin's "protective elder sister attitude towards money" manifested primarily as a character trait of being:

- (a) highly generous but systematically structured
- (b) completely independent and charitable
- (c) pathologically miserly, stingy, and opportunistic [Correct]**
- (d) professional and strictly rule-bound

ANSWER & VALUATION RULE:

(c) Saki uses this mockingly sweet euphemism to hide the raw reality of Louisa's character: she is intensely greedy, hates tipping people, and is always tracking how to exploit financial opportunities. (1 Mark).

Q5. At the end of the narrative, Mrs. Packletide completely abandons big-game hunting because:

- (a) she felt extreme remorse for killing an innocent domestic goat
- (b) the secondary, incidental expenses of protecting her fake fame became too heavy to bear [Correct]**
- (c) Loona Bimberton had finally accepted defeat and apologized
- (d) the government of India banned trophy hunting expeditions

ANSWER & VALUATION RULE:

(b) She realizes that keeping her fake public triumph secure requires exorbitant hush-money payments (like buying a complete weekend cottage for an extortionist), which completely drains the fun out of her pursuits. (1 Mark).

SECTION II: REFERENCE TO CONTEXT (EXTRACT BASED) (5 MARKS EACH)

Q6. Extract: "Mothers carrying their babies home through the jungle..."

"Mothers carrying their babies home through the jungle after the day's work in the fields hushed their singing lest they might curtail the restful sleep of the venerable herd-robber."

MARKING SCHEME & MODEL ANSWERS:

- (i) The "venerable herd-robber" refers to the highly decrepit, old, and weak tiger that inhabited the villages near the foothills. (1 Mark)
- (ii) The mothers silenced their lullabies specifically to avoid waking or startling the sleeping tiger, as they did not want to disrupt its rest. (1 Mark)
- (iii) The biting irony is that a dangerous wild predator is treated with delicate, mock respect and maternal tenderness, not out of actual fear or moral respect, but because it is an ancient, feeble creature that can barely stay awake. (1 Mark)
- (iv) The primary economic motive was the highly attractive cash reward of one thousand rupees offered by Mrs. Packletide to ensure a successful, risk-free shoot. (1 Mark)
- (v) Their greatest immediate worry was that the old tiger might naturally pass away due to old age, sickness, or exhaustion *before* the formal day of the shooting expedition arrived. (1 Mark)

Q7. Extract: "How you shot the goat and frightened the tiger to death..."

"How you shot the goat and frightened the tiger to death," said Miss Mebbin. "No one would believe it," said Mrs. Packletide, her face changing colour..."

MARKING SCHEME & MODEL ANSWERS:

- (i) When Mrs. Packletide fired her rifle, her bullet completely missed the tiger and struck the tethered goat, killing it instantly. The old tiger, startled and overwhelmed by the deafening sound of the gunshot, succumbed to sudden heart failure and collapsed dead. (1 Mark)
- (ii) Miss Mebbin's hidden intention was to subtly establish absolute psychological leverage and power over her employer by demonstrating that she was the sole keeper of a socially devastating secret. (1 Mark)
- (iii) The villagers immediately recognized the blunder, but they gleefully chose to hide the truth and fake the narrative because they wanted to ensure they received their promised cash reward of one thousand rupees without delay. (1 Mark)
- (iv) Miss Mebbin aggressively blackmailed Mrs. Packletide by threatening to directly leak the truth to her bitter rival, Loona Bimberton, unless she was provided with enough financial funds to purchase a premium piece of real estate. (1 Mark)
- (v) She named the property "Les Alouettes" (The Larks), which stands as a permanent, mocking monument to the foolishness and vanity of her elite employer. (1 Mark)

SECTION III: SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (3 MARKS EACH)

Q8. Why is Mrs. Packletide mockingly compared to 'Nimrod' by the author? Contrast her actual skills with the literary allusion used.

MODEL ANSWER & MARKING BREAKDOWN:

- **Literary Allusion:** Nimrod is a legendary, mighty biblical hunter famed for supreme physical courage, tracking prowess, and unmatched skills. (1 Mark)
- **Contrast:** Mrs. Packletide has zero interest in actual sportsmanship, courage, or wildlife tracking. Her entire expedition is completely staged, artificial, and devoid of any danger. (1 Mark)
- **Satirical Impact:** Saki deliberately introduces this extreme contrast to mock her shallow high-society pretense, highlighting the absurdity of a cowardly woman using financial bribes to purchase a fake reputation as an elite apex hunter. (1 Mark)

Q9. How did Loona Bimberton react to Mrs. Packletide's instant media fame? Cite specific behavioral responses she displayed to indicate her intense envy.

MODEL ANSWER & MARKING BREAKDOWN:

- **Media Avoidance:** Loona was completely smitten by intense pangs of jealousy. She completely refused to look at any illustrated newspapers or society magazines for weeks to avoid seeing her rival's victory portraits. (1 Mark)
- **Social Boycott:** She flatly declined the grand invitation to the high-society luncheon party hosted in her honor at Curzon Street, recognizing it as a direct trap designed to humiliate her. (1 Mark)
- **Suppressed Malice:** Though she sent a tightly worded, obligatory letter of thanks for the tiger-claw brooch on her birthday, her suppressed emotions were noted to be deeply dangerous, revealing her immense psychological frustration. (1 Mark)

Q10. Describe the elaborate precautions and arrangements orchestrated by the villagers to ensure Mrs. Packletide could "hunt" without any personal risk or physical exertion.

MODEL ANSWER & MARKING BREAKDOWN:

- **Target Selection:** They actively sourced a highly enfeebled, elderly, and sick tiger that was physically incapable of attacking and had abandoned hunting large wildlife in favor of easy village livestock. (1 Mark)
- **Containment Strategy:** Local children were stationed at the borders of the jungle to quietly keep the tiger contained, while village mothers hushed their babies to avoid disrupting the tiger's crucial sleep. (1 Mark)
- **Staging the Venue:** They constructed a completely safe elevated wooden platform (machan) for the ladies, tied up a loud, bleating domestic goat as vulnerable bait, and provided an ultra-safe shooting environment. (1 Mark)

Q11. Bring out the central structural similarities between the core characters of Mrs. Packletide and Loona Bimberton. How do they mirror each other's flaws?

MODEL ANSWER & MARKING BREAKDOWN:

- **Shallow Vanity:** Both women are superficial socialites who base their complete self-worth on shallow media attention and public validation. (1 Mark)
- **Competitive Malice:** Their lives are completely governed by a toxic, insecure desire to outdo each other. Loona's 11-mile flight sets off Mrs. Packletide's fake tiger hunt, showing they both value performance over genuine achievement. (1 Mark)
- **Pretense over Authenticity:** Neither woman possesses genuine integrity or authentic character. They are willing to use deceit, exhibitionism, and public posturing solely to inflict sadistic psychological defeat on their peer circle. (1 Mark)

SECTION IV: LONG ANSWER & VALUE BASED QUESTIONS (6 MARKS EACH)

Q12. "False vanity and deep social insecurity invariably culminate in heavy emotional and financial loss." Analyze the short story to trace this progression.

DETAILED EVALUATION GUIDELINES (6 MARKS):

Introduction (1.5 Marks): The answer must explicitly establish that Mrs. Packletide's fake victory was fueled entirely by an artificial, malicious desire to overshadow Loona Bimberton, which directly left her highly vulnerable to severe exploitation.

Analysis of Exploitation (3 Marks):

- *The Villagers:* Shrewdly calculated her immense desperation. They extracted a massive fee of one thousand rupees for providing an ancient, dying tiger and a completely staged arena, manipulating high-society vanity for economic survival.
- *Miss Louisa Mebbin:* Operated with zero loyalty. She immediately tracked the critical forensic failure—the bullet killing the goat—and weaponized it. She extorted a weekend cottage through ruthless blackmail, turning her employer's vanity into a massive financial liability.

Conclusion (1.5 Marks): The final realization that "incidental expenses are heavy" serves as a brilliant satirical conclusion. It proves that a life built on fraudulent showmanship and superficial competition always results in a loss of both capital and personal integrity.

Q13. Feature Article: "The Anatomy of Pretense: Saki's Biting Satire on the Hypocrisy of Edwardian High Society."

MODEL ESSAY STRUCTURE & CONTENT BREAKDOWN (6 MARKS):

Introduction (1.5 Marks): Must focus on Saki's mastery of sharp wit, dark humor, and biting irony used to puncture the deep-seated hypocrisy, moral hollowness, and superficial conventions of the wealthy British upper class during the colonial era.

Core Themes & Character Dissection (3 Marks):

- *Trophy Hunting & Disregard for Nature:* Exposes how majestic wild animals and indigenous populations were completely weaponized as cheap, transactional props to fuel the fragile egos of wealthy imperial elites.
- *Deceit as Currency:* Analyzes the complete lack of moral integrity across all social strata. Mrs. Packletide lies about her kill, the villagers lie for bribes, and Miss Mebbin uses extortion, showing a highly transactional, decaying society.
- *The Power Shift:* Highlights the delicious irony where Miss Mebbin (a lower-class companion) completely outsmarts and financially dominates her aristocratic employer using sheer wit and calculation over social status.

Conclusion (1.5 Marks): Summarizes that true respect cannot be bought through financial manipulation. Saki's story serves as a timeless, razor-sharp cautionary tale on the absolute absurdity of letting malicious peer rivalry dictate one's life choices.