

MA ENGLISH

SEMESTER II

PAPER II

DRAMA

JUSTICE BY JOHN GALSWORTHY

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INTRODUCTION TO THE AUTHOR:

John Galsworthy was an English novelist and playwright. Notable works include *The Forsyte Saga* and its sequels, *A Modern Comedy* and *End of the Chapter*. He was born on 14th August 1867 in the United Kingdom and died on 31 January 1933 in Hampstead, London, UK. Some of his important plays are -- *Strife*, *The Skin Game*, *The First and the Last*, *The Eldest Son*, and *Escape*. He received the Nobel Prize in 1932. Through his writing he campaigned for a variety of causes, including prison reform, women's rights, and animal welfare, and also against censorship. He opposed the slaughter of animals and fought for animal rights. He was offered a knighthood in 1918, but he refused it in 1921. Galsworthy was elected as the first president of the PEN international literary club and was appointed to the order of merit in 1929. He donated the prize money from the Nobel Prize to PEN International.

MCQs:

1. Galsworthy's tragedies are called – **Social tragedies**

2. Who is given solicitor punishment in *Justice*?

Ans. **Falder (The Junior Clerk)**

3. Mute Scene and Trial Scene Occurs in the play -

Ans - **Justice**

4. “Law is what it is, a majestic edifice Sheltering all of us” who says the dialogue ?

Ans - **The judge**

5. The title of the play *Justice* is

Ans – **Ironical**

6. *Justice* shows the problem of - **English legal system**

7. Who is Cleaver in the play - **Government Counsel**

8. When was the play published ? – **1910**

9. “ Justice is a machine that when someone has once given is the starting push rolls on of itself who says - **Frome (Falder's defense council)**

10. Who discovers the forgery of William Falder – Coke son Robert

11. Who did the act of forgery of William Falder?

Ans: Falder did it, he forged the check of nine pounds for ninety.

12. Why has Galsworthy treated the theme of law & Justice?

Ans. – Because he was himself a qualified advocate.

13. Who issued the cheque of a pound - **Cokeson.**

14. Who is Ruth HoneyWill - **Wife of a drunkard**

15. Who killed Falder and how ?

Ans - He killed himself by jumping from the window.

16. Falders age is **23 yrs**

17. How many years was alder sentenced ?

Ans: - Three Years.

18. How Many Children Ruth has ?

Ans :- Two children.

19. How is the Play

Ans : - The play is a protest against Dehumanised justification

20. Who said the following lines “ It is a matter of life and death.

Ans:- Honeycomb to Cokeson

21. Mute Scene appears in –

Ans:- Act. III, Scene III

22. “ How one touch him now ; never again ; He’s safe with Gentle Jesus”, who said this?

Ans:- **Cokeson said this line**

23. What did Ruth do when Falder was in prison ?

Ans: - She told herself to a man.

24. When was Galsworthy awarded the Nobel prize ?

Ans: - In 1932

25. His masterpiece is –

Ans:- Indian Summer of Forsyte

26. His first play is

Ans: - *The Silver Box*

27. First successful play is -

Ans: - *The Man of Property*

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What is the theme of John Galsworthy's play *Justice*?

Ans -- The play aimed to bring reforms in the British system of Justice. The play is not just about bringing reforms in Solitary confinement but about the Judicial process and the broader relationship of punishment to crime.

2. What is the plot of the play *Justice* by John Galsworthy?

Ans - The play concerns the plight of 23 - year - old William Falder, a junior clerk in the law firm of James How & Sons, who embezzles money from his employer, aiming to use it to free Ruth Honeywill, the woman he loves, from her wrecked marriage.

3. Do you think the play *Justice* is a social tragedy?

Ans - The play *Justice* is a Social tragedy. It deals with the life of a common man, a junior clerk, William Falder. He commits a forgery under the pressing need of money for helping the wrecked woman Ruth Honeywill. She is tortured by her husband and Falder wants to drag her out of that drudgery.

4. Where does the mute scene appear in *Justice*?

Ans - The Mute Scene (Act III, Scene iii) is very important from a theoretical point of view since through this Galsworthy presents the deep agony of a helpless man, Falder in solitary confinement. The scene arouses not only our pity and fear but also our hatred for the system. It is hard-gripping in the silent force.

5. How does Falder commit forgery?

Ans - Falder is, in fact, passionately loves a married woman and commits an act of forgery to save her from her tyrant husband. This certainly is 'error of judgement' and he has to suffer both physically and mentally. He ultimately commits suicide. Thus, his tragic flaw brings about him.

5. Does Mr. Frome make a strong defence for Mr. Falder in Justice by Galsworthy?

Ans - Frome does mount a very strong defence for Falder in the play. His speech is often cited for his eloquence, and for it's historically important espousing of empathetic legal treatment for a man whose guilt is not a question.

Q1. Write a note on theme of John Galsworthy's *Justice*

Ans - *Justice* deals with the issues of crime and punishment criticizing the judicial system of the world where the rich always go free leaving the poor to rot in the prison.

Highlighting the incident of forgery where the culprit is put behind the bars resulting in the triumph of justice. Galsworthy wants his readers to realize the circumstances under which the poor man decides to commit this illegal act. Thus, persuading the audience to read and watch the play with humanity instead of the eyes of the worldly law system.

Revolving around the story of the poor Clerk Falder and miserable wife Ruth, socially and Sexually harassed by her husband, the play throws light upon the misery and plight of the poor individuals of the society leading their lives like outcasts. Feeling for the helplessness of Ruth, Falder takes her out of her misery by forging a cheque in order to help her, the miserable wife. He Promises Ruth a happy and satisfied life away from all these troubles, however, Falder is caught by his superiors and brought him to the court where the judge finds him guilty of forgery and illicit relationship with a married woman, therefore he just decides to see Falder in a solitary continent to spend the rest of his days

there. Even when Falder gets out of the prison, he never finds freedom in his life and thus embraces death to get rid of his troubles and worries even when Falder gets out of the prison he never finds, freedom in his life and thus embraces death to get rid of his troubles and worries, Showing the apparent triumph of the justice and the judicial and the judicial system in the play, Galsworthy, wants his readers to ponder upon the terrible lives of Falder and Ruth that lead them to indulge in such unlawful acts .

The playwright has shown the failure of the legal system which gives severe punishment to the poor without taking into regard the circumstances behind their crimes. The poor Falder is sentenced easily when he forges a cheque out of necessity but Ruth's rich husband is never punished for harassing his wife. The double standard of the judicial system is highly criticized by the author which symbolises the rich and punishes the poor and downtrodden. John Galsworthy in his play, *Justice* adopts a satirical tone to criticize the unfair practices of the judicial system.

In the ironic title of the play, the playwright highlights a thought provoking social issue of injustice through a humanitarian lens to decide whether the judiciary proclaiming justice and inequality for all or the poor men leading a miserable life is to be blamed for the crimes committed in the world .

