

Read the following passage carefully:

During a leisurely visit to the idyllic island of Capri, the narrator becomes curious about a solitary Englishman named Thomas Wilson, whose gentle demeanor and quiet presence stand out amid the vibrant life of the island. In conversation with a local hotelkeeper, the narrator is told the strange and fascinating story of this man who had chosen a life so different from the one society typically prescribes.

Years ago, Wilson had been a respectable and well-placed bank manager in London. Dutiful, punctual, and quiet, he had never been known for extravagance or ambition. One year, he took a vacation to Italy and found himself deeply enchanted by the peaceful beauty of Capri. The soft light, the lush gardens, the simplicity of life, and the unhurried rhythm of the island stirred something profound in him. He felt he had discovered the life he was meant to live.

On returning to London, he made a radical and deliberate decision: to abandon his career, give up his comforts, and retire early. At the age of thirty-five, he calculated that his savings could purchase an annuity that would sustain him for exactly twenty-five years—until he turned sixty. After that, with his funds exhausted, he intended to end his life quietly and without fuss.

And so, Wilson returned to Capri, purchased a modest cottage with a garden, and settled into a life of calm routine. He spent his days reading, walking, tending to his flowers, and enjoying the peace that had so captivated him. He lived simply, avoided extravagance, and seemed entirely at ease with his unconventional choice.

But time passed. When the twenty-five years came to an end, the man who had once planned his life with clarity and calm resolve could no longer carry out his final act. He had grown too accustomed to ease, and the will to end his life had slowly ebbed away. Stripped of income, he sank into poverty. His house fell into disrepair, and he became dependent on the charity of sympathetic locals. Eventually, in a moment of desperation, he attempted suicide using charcoal fumes, but the attempt failed and left him partially brain-damaged. From then on, he lived in a state of mental fog, slow of speech, blank in expression, childlike and broken.

The narrator meets him during these final years, and finds him pitiable but still strangely gentle. Shortly afterward, Wilson dies—quietly, without drama, and largely unnoticed. Yet his story lingers in the narrator’s mind—a haunting tale of a man who stepped away from convention in pursuit of freedom, only to become a prisoner of his own idyllic dream.

On the basis of your understanding answer the following questions:

1. Main motive behind Wilson's departure from conventional life

- A. Escape from physical illness
- B. Preference for unstructured living
- C. Evasion of legal consequences
- D. Desire for scholarly isolation

2. Emotional tone reflected in Wilson’s early life decision

- A. Reckless and impulsive
- B. Systematic and composed
- C. Anxious and wavering
- D. Distracted and unsure

3. Pattern of Wilson’s personality over time

- A. Arrogant to modest
- B. Driven to visionary
- C. Intentional to feeble
- D. Doubtful to faithful

4. Effect of prolonged ease on Wilson’s determination

- A. Strengthening of focus
- B. Renewal of purpose
- C. Diminishing of discipline
- D. Awakening of ambition

5. Narrator’s interpretation of Wilson’s later condition

- A. Bold resistance to norms

B. Symbol of philosophical triumph

C. Slow collapse into pity

D. Embodiment of artistic success

6. Assertion (A): Wilson avoided carrying out his final decision.

Reason (R): Continuous exposure to comfort weakened his mental firmness.

A. A and R are true; R explains A

B. A and R are true; R does not explain A

C. A is true; R is false

D. A is false; R is true

7. Irony in the outcome of Wilson's plan

A. Growth in personal assets

B. Retention of high intellect

C. Collapse through overindulgence

D. Achievement through marriage

8. Implied consequence of sustained comfort

A. Increase in security

B. Boost in originality

C. Decline in resilience

D. Protection from sorrow

9. Vocabulary – Closest in meaning to firm in decision-making

A. Apathetic

B. Resolute

C. Vacillating

D. Submissive

10. Closest in meaning to mentally weakened or clouded

A. Energetic

B. Unblemished

C. Disoriented

D. Perceptive