

2. ... it was a small rented room. I had just set up medical practice and my earnings were meagre.

a. In what field of medicine had the doctor trained in?

- i. Veterinary
- ii. Homeopathy
- iii. Surgery
- iv. Dentistry

b. With his meagre earnings, what kind of room was the doctor able to rent?

c. Fill in the blank with one word only.

The room was also with rats which ran to and fro from the beam to the floor.

d. For what reason did the doctor have meagre earnings?

- i. He did not have a good reputation as a doctor.
- ii. His field of work did not pay him enough.
- iii. His clinic was in a very small village.
- iv. He had just started his medical practice.

e. Select the option that uses the word 'set' in the same way as used in the extract.

- i. She set the cup down with a bang.
- ii. He set in motion a review of the accident.
- iii. They played a set of tennis before going home.
- iv. She set the table beautifully for the dinner guests.

Answers

- a. ii.
 - b. The room had no electricity, which made it hot and stuffy, and the part which opened out into a veranda, had no ceiling.
 - c. infested
 - d. iv.
 - e. ii.
3. One feels tempted to look into a mirror when it is near one. I took a look.
- a. What change did the doctor make in his appearance when he looked in the mirror?
 - i. He cut off a lock of hair that had been falling untidily on his face.
 - ii. He trimmed his moustache to make it look more attractive.
 - iii. He adjusted the parting in his hair to make it straight and neat.
 - iv. He combed his hair onto one side to make it look fashionable.
 - b. For what reason did the narrator make the above-mentioned change?
 - c. Fill in the blank with one word only.

The doctor felt that it was important for his stature to look good and make his _____ felt.
 - d. The narrator often mentions that he was a doctor. What does this tell us about him?
 - i. He was proud of his chosen profession.
 - ii. He does not want anyone to forget his profession.
 - iii. He was extremely vain about his social stature.
 - iv. He was very impressed by his own capabilities.
 - e. Select the option that correctly uses the word 'look' in the same way as used in the extract.
 - i. She had a look at what the children were doing in the garden.
 - ii. Look at that boy running across the road through the traffic!
 - iii. One should look carefully both ways before crossing the road.
 - iv. Something about that man in the corner doesn't look right to me.

Answers

- a. iii.
- b. The doctor was young and believed in making himself look handsome, especially since he was a bachelor and a doctor.
- c. presence
- d. i.
- e. i.

4. Suddenly there came a dull thud as if a rubber tube had fallen to the ground ... surely nothing to worry about. Even so I thought I would turn around and take a look.

- a. What was the 'lovely thought' that struck the doctor just before this?
 - i. He would work hard to make his presence felt in society.
 - ii. He would keep his parting neat to look more handsome.
 - iii. He would always keep a smile to look more attractive.
 - iv. He would get married to a fat, successful, rich lady doctor.
- b. What were the extremely poor hygienic conditions the narrator was living in?
- c. Fill in the blank with one word only.

The reason why the narrator had to live in a broken-down shabby room was because his earnings were too

- d. What was the doctor doing when the 'rubber tube' fell to the ground?
 - i. Reading
 - ii. Sleeping
 - iii. Planning
 - iv. Walking
- e. Select the option that does not use a synonym of the word 'dull' from the extract.
 - i. The grey walls gave the classroom a gloomy and uninspiring look.
 - ii. The soup tasted absolutely bland as compared to the spicy noodles.
 - iii. The old man walked with slow steps till the edge of the field.
 - iv. I'm feeling rather tired and drab after the terrible cold I had last week.

Answers

- a. iv.
 - b. The narrator shared his room with rats, which ran up and down the beam, and the since there was no electricity, his room was stuffy with no fresh air.
 - c. meagre
 - d. iii.
 - e. iii.
5. The snake turned its head. It looked into the mirror and saw its reflection. I do not claim that it was the first snake that had ever looked into a mirror. But it was certain that the snake was looking into the mirror.
- a. When the snake fell on the narrator, the doctor's first reaction was
 - i. to cry out in fright.
 - ii. to fling the snake aside.
 - iii. to sit absolutely still.
 - iv. to jump out of his chair.
 - b. What thoughts flitted through the narrator's mind while the snake was admiring itself in the mirror?

c. Fill in the blank with one word only.

While the snake was coiled around the doctor's arm, he was turned to

d. Identify the option that correctly corresponds to the situation the doctor was caught in.

i. In a situation of fear, one should pray and find something cheerful to focus on.

ii. The only way to deal with fear is to face it and go into fight-mode.

iii. Sometimes it is better to stay calm and wait for the fearful situation to blow over.

iv. Prayer is the only thing that delivers one when one is faced with danger.

e. Select the option that correctly uses the word 'claim' in the same way as used in the extract.

i. He put in a claim with the airline for his lost luggage.

ii. I don't claim to have all the answers to all your questions.

iii. It seems that her claim to the plot of land is legitimate.

iv. The invaders laid claim to all the villages they had destroyed.

Answers

a. iii.

b. The narrator wondered about the gender of the snake, and whether the snake was admiring its own beauty in the mirror, or whether it was making an important decision about growing a moustache, or using eyeshadow and mascara, or putting a bindi.

c. stone

d. iii.

e. ii.