

Answers to all questions

Question 1 (T) In line 295, the Host talks about the gifts of fortune and nature; what are these gifts that fortune and nature provide? Does he talk positively or negatively about these gifts? Explain why.

Besides the gifts of fortune and nature, you also have spiritual gifts, but he does not mention it. Why do you think? Please explain.

(A spiritual gift is a supernatural ability given by God to the believer for the purpose of serving. It may be a God-given talent that is directed by the Holy Spirit. It is not a mere human talent. Spiritual gifts can be things like predicting what will happen, heal people, do miracles, speak languages that one never learned but is somehow able to speak it through the Holy Spirit).

Possible answer

He talks negatively about these gifts. He says that the gifts of fortune and nature “are cause of death to many creature”. He talks badly about the gifts endowed by Fortune and Nature because of the outcome in the Physicians tale, see footnote [1].

He probably does not mention spiritual gifts because he wants to avoid criticizing God or the Church. After all, they are on a spiritual journey to go see Saint Thomas A. Becket whose holy remains are in Canterbury.

Question 2 (T) It is suggested in footnote 4 that the Host is an uneducated man because he does not pronounce the names of the medical authorities accordingly. He tries to show off but fails to do so.

Can you find another example in the text that shows this yet again?

In line 310 he mispronounces “Saint Ronyan”. He even says in the following line “Said I not well? I can not speak technical terms;”

The Pardoner then confirms in line 320 how it should be pronounced: “Saint Ronyon!” with an “o” and not with an “a”.

Question 3 (T) What impression do you get of the Pardoner when you read lines 318 - 328? Please explain your answer.

(Tip: Think for example how the pilgrims react when they hear that he is next in line to tell a tale).

Possible answer:

Seeing how the “gentlefolk” react (line 323-325), the Pardoner doesn’t have such a good reputation, at least not in telling tales.

He also confirms this when he says, “I must think about some respectable thing while I drink”. This already indicates that his intentions were to tell a story that might be considered disrespectful by the pilgrims.

Question 4:

(T) If you read lines 335 - 346 again, do you think the Pardoner is who he says he is, or do you think he is an imposter? List the points for and against by quoting from the text.

Possible answer:

For:

- He has papal bulls (It’s difficult to tell whether they are real or not) (336)

- He speaks Latin (Church officials were able to speak Latin as it was the Church vernacular) (344)
- He has indulgences from popes, cardinals, patriarchs and bishops to show (342-343)
- Against:**
- He needs to show his papal bulls otherwise, people, priest and Clerks do not believe him (336-340)
- He speaks a few words of Latin to 'add spice' to his preaching. This can be an indication that he can't really speak Latin but he does speak some words to convince the audience.

Question 5:

(L) What is meant by " Although she had taken two or three priests" in line 371?

That the wife has had sexual intercourse with two or more priests.

Question 6:

(C) Time to put your maths skills to the test!

In line 390 the Pardoner talks about how much money he earns. Calculate what the sum would be in pounds (£) in the medieval period. Then insert the amount in the link provided to calculate what the purchasing power of that sum was in 2017. Where you have to fill the 'year of currency', choose 1390. Make sure you provide your calculation of how you got to the pound. Write down what the sum is worth in 2017.

Here is the link if the website does not work in this view box-

>[\[http://nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency-converter\]](http://nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency-converter)

(The value of money was calculated in pounds, shillings and pence.

12 pence= a shilling

20 shillings= a pound

Marks were also used (for the purpose of accounting).

1 mark= 13 shillings and 4 pence.)

Did you know that according to Baugh, Chaucer earned up to £99 annually in his most affluent years? (Benson, 907).

The Pardoner earns 100 marks.

1 mark= 13 shillings and 4 pence.

100 marks x 13= 1300 shillings

100 x 4 pence= 400 pence

1 pound= 20 shillings

20 shillings = 240 pence.

1300 shillings / 20 shillings= 65 pounds

400 pence / 240 pence (20 shillings)= 1.66 pounds

65 pounds + 1.66 pounds= 66.66 pounds.

Input value:

Year: 1390

Pounds: 66

Shillings: 5 (5x 1 shilling or 12 pence= 60 pence)

Pence: 6

Worth 2017: £43882.07

Question 7:

(T) Read lines 403-406 & 427-433.

These lines can be used as an argument against what?

It could be an argument against him being a real pardoner.

Question 8:

(T) See lines 407-422.

Whom is the Pardoner talking about and about what exactly? And how does he handle the situation?

He is referring to the people who make trouble for Pardoners (420). Once he finds them sitting in church he will make sure to put them to shame through his sermon.

Question 9:

(R) See lines 439-446.

What would you do if you were a pardoner in the medieval period?

Not applicable.

Question 10:

(L) See line 452.

What kind of drink is he referring to

This is probably wine because vine is a plant from the grape family and wine is made from grapes.

For the complete key to the questions, please contact us through the 'contact' page on canterburytales.nl or click on the hyperlink. We also have slideshows, lesson plans, the vocabulary practice key, rubric to the final assignment, and a website survey so you can get a general view of your students' opinion of the lessons.