

# UPDAAN

## 2025

### **A Question of Trust** (Footprints Without Feet) ✓

**English – B**

**Lecture – 04**

**By – Anurag Tyagi Sir**



# Topics

*to be covered*



- 1 Game ✓
- 2 A Question of Trust ✓
- 3 NCERT Exercise & Questions ✓





# Recap

*of previous Lecture*



1

Game

2

From the Diary of Anne Frank ✓

3

Exercise & Questions





**Game time!**

Identify the correctly spelt word.

(A) Enviornment

✓ (B) Environment

(C) Environmant ✗

(D) Enviroment



He accidentally let the cat out of the bag about the surprise party.

- (A) Keep a secret
- (B) Mislead someone
- (C) Create suspense
- (D) ☒ Reveal a secret

Despite the pain, she decided to bite the bullet and finish the marathon.

- ✓ (A) Face a difficult situation bravely
- (B) Make a quick decision
- (C) Ignore the pain
- (D) Avoid the problem

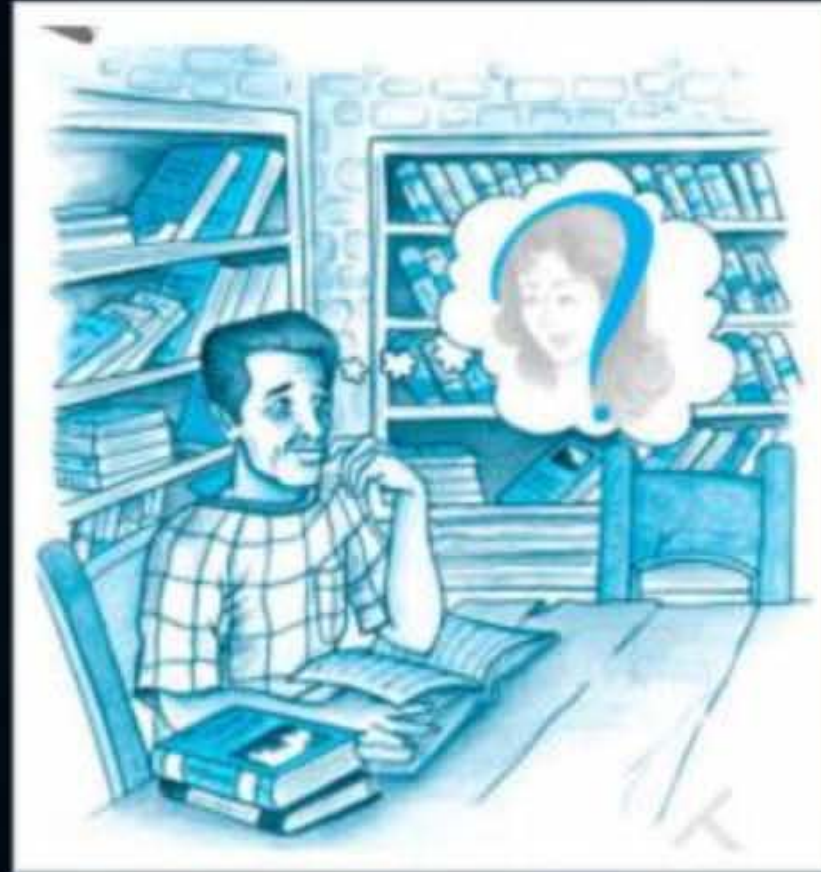




## Topic : A Question of Trust



**By - 'Victor Canning'**



- ***It is a story of Horace Dancy, a person who is considered to be a respectable and good citizen but steals for a specific reason.***



## Topic : Key Points



### Horace Danby

- 50, unmarried, lived with a housekeeper *maid*
- Well and happy—attacks of hay fever in summer *→ an allergy of nose & throat*
- Established business of lock-making
  - Successful, had two helpers
- Considered to be respectable and good citizen
  - But, not completely honest *भेजा*
    - 15 years ago— served his only sentence in prison library



## Danby's Weakness and his way of fulfilling it

- ✓ Loved collecting rare and expensive books *not common*
- Couldn't pursue this hobby with his limited resources
  - So, robbed a safe every year with meticulous *detailed & careful* planning
  - Gathers enough money to last one year
- ✓ Secretly buys books through an agent





## ✓ The Act of Robbery and Recce

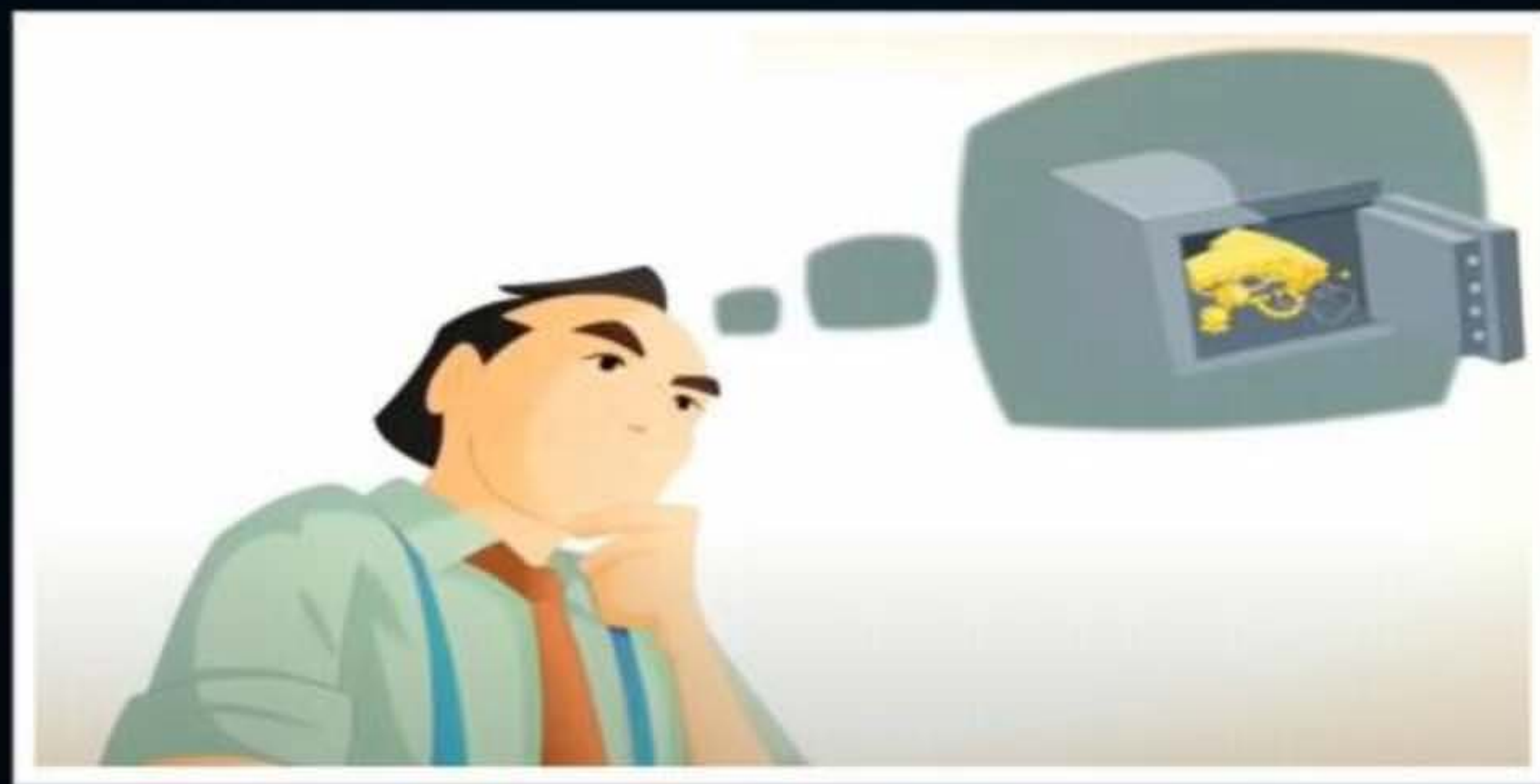
- In July – for two weeks – a house at Shotover Grange
- ✓ Rooms, electric wiring, its paths and its garden
- ✓ Finds out – family is in London -- 1 month
- ✓ 2 servants looking after the place
- One afternoon, servants away for a movie – 4 hours
- Decides to break open safe during this time
  - Behind garden wall
  - Tools packed in a bag

*name of a place*



## Expectation from Loot

- *Jewellery* ~~Jewelry~~ worth 15 thousand pounds
- If sold one by one – can gather 5k pounds – enough for 1 yr
- Interesting books coming up in Autumn – would buy them





## Entry in the house

- Noticed housekeeper—hang key to the kitchen door on a hook
- Always careful – no fingerprints
  - Pair of gloves – took key – opened the door
- Small dog in kitchen –
- *'All right, Sherry'* – call dogs by right names – show love



## ✓ Drawing Room

- ✓ Bowl of flowers on table– nose tickled– sneezed
  - Put down bag and arranged his tools
- Safe not hard to open  
*a person who trespasses to steal*
- Burglar alarm poorly built – cut his wire, hall
- Came back and sneezed loudly again as smell of flowers came





## Foolish Rich people

- ✓ 'How foolish people are when they own valuable things'
- Magazine article – describing this house – plan of all rooms, picture
- 'SAFE' behind a painting





# Part I



#Q. What does Horace Danby like to collect?

- ☐ A Antique coins
- ☒ B Rare and expensive books
- ☐ C Fine paintings
- ☐ D Vintage jewelry

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- A** Antique coins
- B** Rare and expensive books
- C** Fine paintings
- D** Vintage jewelry

**Ans: (B)** Rare and expensive books



#Q. Why does Horace Danby steal every year?

- ☒ A To pay off his debts *4511*
- ☐ B To support his housekeeper
- ☒ C To fund his passion for collecting rare books
- ☐ D To invest in his lock-making business

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- D** To invest in his lock-making business

**Ans: (C)** To fund his passion  
for collecting rare books



झिंकारा बजना



But Horace found that the flowers were hindering him in his work. He <sup>Covered</sup> buried his face in his <sup>handkerchief</sup> handkerchief. Then he heard a voice say from the doorway, "What is it? A cold or hay fever?" "Before he could think, Horace said, "Hay fever," and found himself sneezing again. The voice <sup>Continued</sup> went on, "You can cure it with a special treatment, you know, if you find out just what plant gives you the disease. I think you'd better see a doctor, if you're serious about your work."





I heard you from the top of the house just now. "It was a  
*Confidence; firm*  
 quiet, kindly voice, but one with firmness in it. A woman was  
 standing in the doorway, and Sherry was rubbing against  
*beautiful*  
 her. She was young, quite pretty, and was dressed in red.  
*organised decorative items*  
 She walked to the fireplace and straightened the ornaments  
 there. "Down, Sherry," she said. "Anyone would think I'd been  
*continue*  
 away for a month!" She smiled at Horace, and went on.





“However, I came back just in time, though I didn’t expect to  
 meet a चोर burglar.” Horace had some hope because she  
 seemed to be happy & entertained amused at meeting him. He might avoid  
 trouble if he behaved with her treated her the right way. He replied, “I didn’t  
 expect to meet one of the family.” She nodded. “I see what  
असुविधा inconvenience it is for you to meet me. What are you  
 going to do?” Horace said, “My first thought was to run.” “Of  
 course, you could do that.





But I would telephone the police and tell them all about you.

*arrest immediately*  
They'd get you at once. "Horace said, "I would, of course, cut

the telephone wires first and then..." he hesitated, a smile on

his face, "I would make sure that you could do nothing for

some time. A few hours would be enough." She looked at

him seriously. "You'd hurt me?" Horace paused, and then

said, "I think I was trying to *scare* frighten you when I said that."

"You didn't frighten me."





Horace suggested, "It would be nice if you would forget you ever saw me. Let me go." The voice was <sup>angrily</sup> suddenly sharp. "Why should I? You were going to rob me. If I let you go, you'll only rob someone else. Society must be protected from men like you." Horace smiled. "I'm not a man who <sup>endangered</sup> threatens society. I <sup>चोरी करना</sup> steal only from those who have a lot of money. I steal for a very good reason. And I hate the thought of <sup>जेल</sup> prison."





to appeal ; to plead

Continued

She laughed, and he begged, thinking that he had persuaded her, "Look, I have

hopeless

no right to ask you for anything, but I'm desperate. Let me go and I promise

सच बोला रहा हूँ

never to do this kind of thing again. I really mean it." She was silent, watching

intently

him closely. Then she said, "You are really afraid of going to prison, aren't you?"

Close to him

She came over to him shaking her head. "I have always liked the wrong kind of

people."





She picked up a silver box from the table and took a cigarette from it. Horace, *make her happy* eager to please her and seeing that she might help him, took off his gloves and gave her his cigarette lighter. "You'll let me go?" He held the lighter towards her." "Yes, but only if you'll do something for me." "Anything you say." "Before we left for London, I promised my husband to take my jewels to our bank; but I left them here in the safe.





I want to wear them to a party tonight, so I came down to get them, but..."Horace smiled. "You've forgotten the numbers to open the safe, haven't you?" "Yes," replied the young lady." Just leave it to me and you'll have them within an hour. But I'll have to break your safe." "Don't worry about that. My husband won't be here for a month, and I'll have the safe <sup>repaired</sup> mended by that time."

And within an hour Horace had opened the safe, given her the jewels, and gone happily away. For two days he kept his promise to the kind young lady. On the morning of the third day, however, he thought of the books he wanted and he knew he would have to look for another safe. But he never got the chance to begin his plan. By noon a policeman had arrested him for the jewel robbery at Shot over Grange.







His fingerprints, for he had opened the safe without gloves, were all over the room, and no one believed him when he said that the wife of the owner of the house had asked him to open the safe for her. The wife herself, a <sup>old</sup> gray-haired, Someone who is rude, harsh sharp-tongued woman of sixty, said that the story was nonsense. Horace is now the assistant librarian in the prison.





beautiful

He often thinks of the charming, clever young lady who was in the same profession as ~~s~~he was, and who tricked him. He gets very angry when anyone talks about 'honour among thieves' //



## Topic : Message



- ① Greed and immoral actions never end well.
- ② Appearances can be deceptive.
- ③ Do not trust blindly!
- ④ Value of Integrity!





# Part II

#Q. Who is speaking to Horace Danby in the house?

- ☐ A The actual owner of the house
- ☐ B A servant who stayed back
- ☒ C A young woman pretending to be the owner's wife
- ☐ D A neighbor who noticed him sneezing



#Q. Who is speaking to Horace Danby in the house?

- A** The actual owner of the house
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- D** A neighbor who noticed him sneezing

**Ans: (C)** A young woman pretending to be the owner's wife

\*\*\* दोषी  
#Q. Who is the real culprit in the story?

- ☐ A The housekeeper
- ☒ B The young woman who tricks Horace
- ☐ C The owner's wife
- ☐ D The police officer who arrests Horace



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- A** The housekeeper
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**Ans: (B)** The young woman who tricks Horace

#Q. What does Horace Danby like to collect?

#Q Why does he steal every year?

#Q. Who is speaking to Horace Danby?

#Q Who is the real culprit in the story?

✓ #Q Did you begin to suspect, before the end of the story, that the lady was not the person Horace Danby took her to be? If so, at what point did you realise this, and how?



unobvious

#Q. What are the subtle ways in which the lady manages to deceive Horace Danby into thinking she is the lady of the house? Why doesn't Horace suspect that something is wrong?

doubt

#Q. "Horace Danby was good and respectable — but not completely honest". Why do you think this description is apt for Horace? Why can't he be categorised as a typical thief?

amrati

☆☆☆

made a mistake

#Q. Horace Danby was a meticulous planner but still he faltered. Where did he go wrong and why?



#Q Do you think Horace Danby was unfairly punished, or that he deserved what he got?

H.K.

#Q Do intentions justify actions? Would you, like Horace Danby, do something wrong if you thought your ends justified the means? Do you think that there are situations in which it is excusable to act less than honestly?

H.W.

#Q. Do intentions justify actions? Would you, like Horace Danby, do something wrong if you thought your ends justified the means? Do you think that there are situations in which it is excusable to act less than honestly?





Thumbs Up — Unfair

Thumps down — Deserve

#Q. Horace was clever but the lady in red was cleverer. Do you agree with this statement? Justify your answer. (CBSE 2019)

Or

"The lady in red was a more professional thief than Horace Danby," Elaborate.

**Ans.** Yes, it is true that Horace was clever but the lady in red was cleverer than him. The lady in red was a more professional thief than Horace Danby. Horace Danby is a meticulous planner who had carefully planned the robbery. He had all the information he needed to carry out his plans.

He not only had read a detailed description of the house but also knew that the servants were going for a movie.



Even while robbing he wore gloves and was careful not to leave any fingerprints.

However, all his planing falls short with the presence of the lady in red.

The lady in red also knew everything about the house. However, her presence of mind gave her an upper hand in the robbery. The charm and confidence with which she carries herself in front of Horace make him believe that she is the owner of the house. She exploited Horace's fear of being discovered very skillfully and ensured that Horace's fingerprints were left on the site. She even robbed the safe without Horace knowing her real identity.

She not only tricked Horace Danby but also left him to be blamed for the robbery.



**#Q.** Horace was a successful thief because he carefully planned his robberies. Should we call him a successful thief and still appreciate his work? Why or why not?

(CBSE 2013)

**Ans.** Yes, Horace is a successful thief as he carefully planned his robberies and completes them well. As a thief, he had never been caught expect for once. Horace's last robbery at Shotover Grange was very carefully planned. Before carrying out his plans, he had made sure to carefully study the infrastructure of the house for two weeks. He had briefly looked at the electrical wiring, the path and the gardens of the house.



Horace cleverly entered the house and made sure to wear gloves so that no fingerprints were left. He had even studied the schedules of the people in the house. All the meticulous planning does make him a successful thief.

However, we cannot appreciate his work. The wealth that he had gathered was a result of his robberies. It did not belong to him. By stealing other people's valuables, he may have become successful but can never stop to be a thief/criminal. He may be efficient but would not be appreciated.

**#Q.** 'Honour among thieves' is considered a popular code. Examine 'A Question of Trust' as a story woven around this code. (CBSE SQP 2023)

**Ans.** It is commonly believed that thieves don't betray or double cross each other. They say thieves don't commit crime against each other, rather they may even help each other. This goes hand-in-hand with the protagonist of 'A Question of Trust', Horace Danby, who was careful in his thievery and conducted a theft once a year. He prepared for his thefts so well that it would have been impossible for him to be ever be ever be caught.

In the story, then his only fault was trusting the lady in red blindly. He failed to anticipate the role of the lady in red, who fooled him.



The lady in red did not follow the code of honour that normally exists between two thieves even though she herself was a thief. In fact, she made a fool of him and incriminated him for a theft that she actually committed. Thus, Horace ended up going to a prison and for the first time in his life. He felt very betrayed by a fellow thief.

# CBSE

## Question & Concept Bank Chapter-wise & Topic-wise

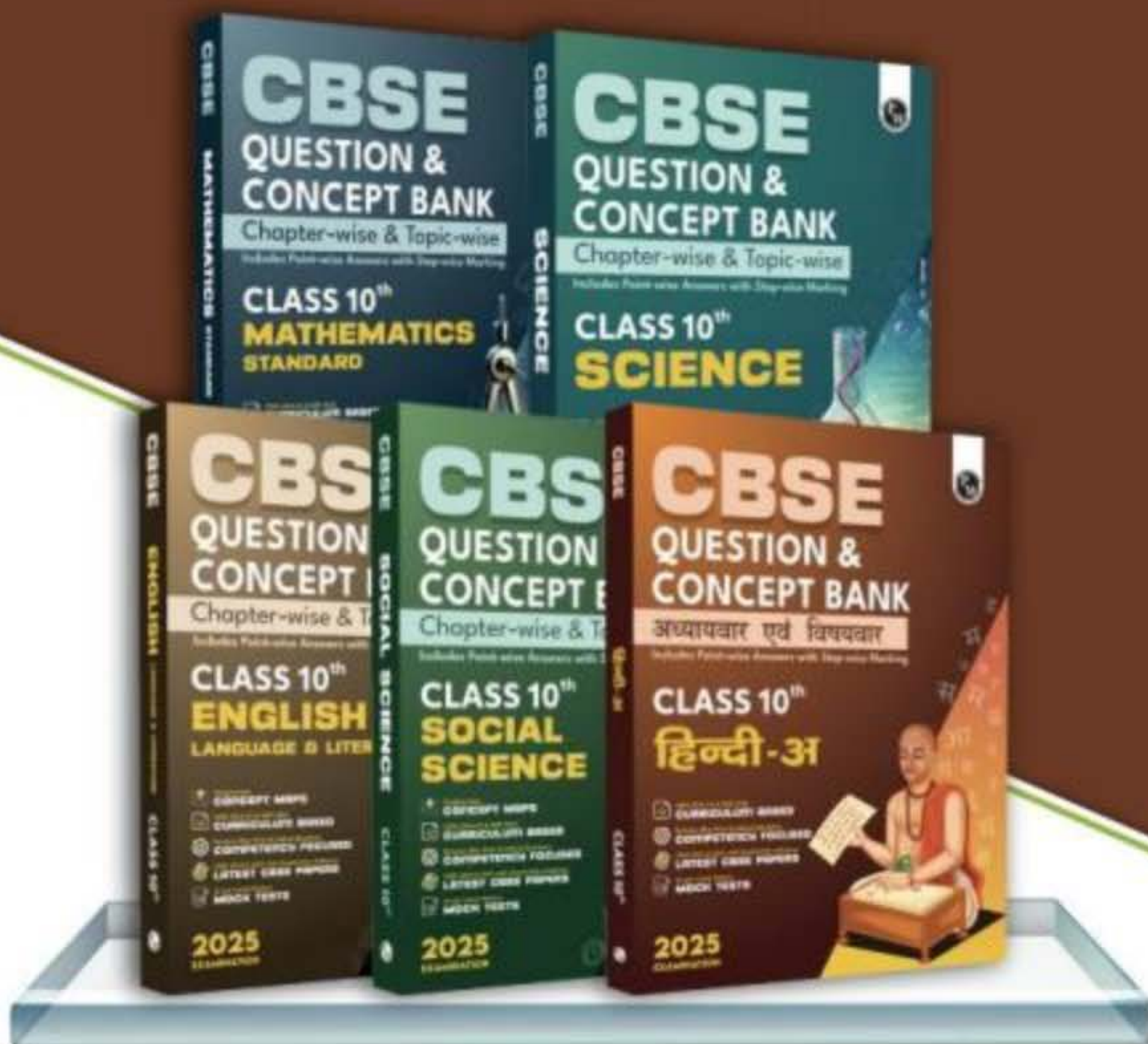
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