

**St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School**  
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**Session 2024-2025 Notes**

**Class: IX**      **Topic: The Man Who Knew Too Much**      **Subject: English**

**Q1. Why was Private Quelch labeled as the ‘Professor’?**

Ans. Private Quelch earned the nickname ‘Professor’ due to his serious character, horn-rimmed spectacles, and extensive knowledge. His habit of lecturing and finding fault with others contributed to his fellow trainees labeling him as such.

**Q2. Describe Corporal Turnbull.**

Ans. Corporal Turnbull was a robust man with physical toughness. Having returned from Dunkirk, he was tough, serious, and somewhat revengeful. His vengeance against Private Quelch showcased his no-nonsense attitude.

**Q3. In what ways did the Professor’s aspirations in the army conflict with his actual conduct?**

Ans. The Professor aspired for a commission, yet his impractical and tactless behavior, including public corrections and interruptions, conflicted with the disciplined conduct expected in the army. His habit of correcting others, even superiors, made him an outcast as his actions were perceived as arrogant and disruptive.

**Q4. How did Private Quelch’s attitude towards his fellow trainees change when he was nominated for cookhouse duties?**

Ans. Private Quelch’s attitude remained steadfast even after being nominated for cookhouse duties. He continued his interruptions and sermons, revealing a lack of humility or change in behavior.

**Q5. “Too much knowledge is also a bane’. Comment on the statement with reference to Private Quelch’s character.**

Ans. The statement “Too much knowledge is also a bane” finds justification in the character of Private Quelch. While knowledge is generally regarded as an asset, Quelch’s excessive focus on showcasing his intellect becomes a drawback in the army training camp. His constant corrections, interruptions, and desire to flaunt his knowledge alienate him from his peers and superiors. Instead of fostering camaraderie, his approach becomes a source of irritation and resentment. The relentless pursuit of intellectual superiority becomes a hindrance, leading to his ultimate downfall when he is nominated for permanent cookhouse duties.

This narrative illustrates that an imbalanced emphasis on knowledge, without consideration for social dynamics, can indeed become a disadvantage, supporting the notion that “too much knowledge is also a bane.”