

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

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Session: 2025- 2026

NOTES

Class - IX

Subject - English

Topic: The Man Who Knew Too Much

Q1.RTC-

1. "And day in and day out, he lectured as in this droning, remorseless voice on every aspect off human knowledge. At first we had a certain respect for him, but soon we lived in terror of his approach. We tried to hit back at him with clumsy sarcasms and practical jokes."

(a) "At first we had a certain respect for him, but soon we lived in terror of his approach." What does this tell us about the narrator and his friends?

Ans. This tells us that the narrator and his friends started to dislike Private Quelch.

(b) What made the narrator and his friends live in terror of Private Quelch's approach?

Ans. Private Quelch's habit of showing off his knowledge and correcting publicly the mistakes of his colleagues, so that they were embarrassed, made them live in terror of Private Quelch's approach.

(c) What is meant by the word 'remorseless'?

Ans. The word 'remorseless' means 'without guilt'.

(d) Which quality of Quelch is highlighted in the extract?

Ans. The characteristic of being superior and show off is highlighted in the extract.

2. He was not a man to be trifled with.

He was our hero and we used to tell each other that he was so tough that you could hammer nails into him without his noticing it.

(a) Who is 'he' in the above statement?

Ans. 'He' here refers to Corporal Turnbull, a young officer who had come back without any injuries from Dunkirk.

(b) What does 'trifled with' mean?

Ans. The word 'trifled' means to treat without genuine respect.

(c) What does this statement describe about him?

Ans. The statement clearly describes Corporal Turnbull as a very tough man, who knows how to handle stubborn and over-smart people.

(d) What does the given description imply?

Ans. The given statements/description implies that the person was very strong and brave.

Answer the following questions in brief:

1. What is a 'nickname'? Can you suggest another one for Private Quelch?

Ans. Nickname is the alternative name or the informal name given to a person depending upon his most prominent character traits. The nickname is generally given by friends and colleagues. Private Quelch was nicknamed 'Professor'. The other nicknames for him can be 'Mr. Intelligent'.

2. What did the Professor mean by 'intelligent reading'?

Ans. By intelligent reading', the Professor meant reading thoroughly and not only for the sake of reading. When one reads thoroughly and not only with full concentration, one is able to understand each and every detail of the topic one has read.

3. Did Private Quelch's day-to-day practices take him closer towards his goal? How can you make out?

Ans. Quelch's goal was to become an officer in the army, which was very ambitious.

However, his day-to-day practices did not take him closer to this goal.

The reason was that he displayed his vast knowledge by rudely interrupting his seniors when they were instructing the soldiers. In fact, he tried to ridicule the instructors, thus irritating them. We can make this out by the fact that he was transferred to the camp kitchen, which took him farther from his goal.

4. How did Private Quelch manage to anger the Corporal?

Ans. During the Corporal's lecture, Private Quelch interrupted him by telling the correct number of fragments of a grenade. Later on, when the Corporal resumed his lecture, Private Quelch interrupted again and asked him to start off with the characteristics of grenades. As a result, the Corporal got angry.

5. Do you think Private Quelch learnt a lesson when he was chosen for cookhouse duties? Give reasons for your answer.

Ans. No, Private Quelch did not learn a lesson when he was chosen for cookhouse duties. There also he didn't stop exhibiting his knowledge and intelligence. He lectured the cooks on the loss of vitamin values in peeling potatoes.

Long Answer Type Questions:

1. Did Private Quelch's day to practice take him closer towards his goals?" How can you make it out?

Ans) No, Private Quelch's daily practices did not bring him closer to his goal of getting a commission in the army. In fact, his constant showing off and correcting of superiors, while intended to impress, ultimately led to him being assigned to permanent cookhouse

duties, a significant setback. This demonstrates that his approach was counterproductive, highlighting the importance of humility and respect for authority in achieving one's ambitions.

Private Quelch's ambition was to secure a commission, and he believed that showcasing his knowledge and intelligence would impress his superiors and lead to promotion. He constantly interrupted lectures, corrected his instructors, and generally acted as if he knew more than everyone else. This behavior, while perhaps intended to demonstrate his capabilities, ultimately alienated his peers and angered his superiors, particularly Corporal Turnbull.

His habit of interrupting and correcting Corporal Turnbull during a lecture on grenades led to Turnbull assigning him to permanent cookhouse duties as a form of punishment and a lesson in humility. This was the opposite of what Quelch desired, as cookhouse duties were menial and far removed from the battlefield. Even in the kitchen, he continued to show off his knowledge, criticizing the methods of the other cooks, further proving that his approach was not conducive to achieving his goals.

Q2. Write the character Sketch of Private Quelch.

Private Quelch was the man who knew "Too Much," yet he was unable to win the trust and affection of his superior officers and his fellow soldiers. He had a reputation for sharing his knowledge with others. Due to his lanky, stooped looks and habit to lecture others about his education, he had earned the nickname "Professor." He never hesitated to correct an error made by his superior officer. He frequently interrupted the instructors during training sessions and even gave officers advice on how to approach a subject. He gradually came to be disliked by his coworkers because of his habit. He humiliated them by pointing out their errors in front of everyone. His coworkers felt embarrassed by this. He was taught a lesson by Corporal Turnbull by assigning him permanent cookhouse duties. There he also showed off his knowledge. He proved that old habits die hard.

Q3. Write the character Sketch of Corporal Turnbull.

Corporal Turnbull was a young man who had come back from Dunkirk, France to deliver a lecture on hand grenades. He was a wise and practical man. Despite his youth, he was not a man to be taken lightly. It was known that he had all of his gear properly accounted for when he came back from the war. He served as a role model for the entire platoon. Highly admired, he was personified by saying that one could hammer nails into him without his noticing it. He was a tough and rugged man. He was a fastidious person. He did not have a tendency to belittle those who displayed their knowledge. He adhered to discipline, attentively observed, and then approached a person with determination. He correctly assessed Private Quelch's personality and assigned him to the cookhouse to curb his tendency to brag and attempt to outdo others. Turnbull was reputed to be a cool-headed individual who did not tolerate being agitated. Even though he appeared to be calm, he actually performed effectively in his duty.