

PROSE UNIT 1**TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA**

- A. J. Cronin

PUBLIC EXAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in one or two sentences each based on your understanding of the story.

- a. **Why did the driver not approve of the narrator buying fruits from the boys?** (August 2021)
The driver did not approve of the narrator buying fruits from the boys because of their **shabby appearance**.
- b. **The boys did not spend much on clothes and food. Why?** (FRT & July-'22)
The boys did not spend much on clothes and food because they had to save the money for **their sister's treatment expenses**.
- c. **Why did the author avoid going to Lucia's room?** (QY-'19)
The author did not like to disturb the **happy family party**. So he avoided going to Lucia's room.
- d. **What made the boys join the resistance movement against the Germans?** (PTA-3)
The Germans killed the boy's father and made them homeless. This made the boys join the **resistance movement**.
- e. **Describe the appearance of Nicola and Jacopo.** (PTA-1 & 6; Sep. 2020; FRT-'22)
Nicola and Jacopo had a **shabby appearance**. One had **worn jersey** and **cut-off khaki pants**. The other had **shortened army tunic gathered in loose folds**. They had brown skins, tangled hair and dark earnest eyes.
- f. **What were the various jobs undertaken by the little boys?** (Govt. MQP; March 2020; May-2022)
Selling fruits, shining shoes, hawking newspapers, conducting tourists round the town and running errands were the various jobs undertaken by the little boys.
- g. **How did the narrator help the boys on Sunday?** (HY-'19; FRT-'22)
The narrator helped the boys on Sunday by taking them to '**Poleta**' in his car driving himself.

PARAGRAPH QUESTIONSS

Answer the following in a paragraph of 100-150 words each.

- a. **What was the driving force that made the boys do various jobs?** (FRT-'22)
The boys lost their mother in their early life. Their father, a well known singer became a victim of the early war against Germany. They became homeless and suffered starvation and cold winter. They led a **pathetic life**. After the war, they found their sister. They could not feel happy because she was suffering from **tuberculosis of the spine**. The boys were the only family for their sister. They felt that it was their duty to make arrangements for her medical treatment. They were not rich enough to spend for medical expenses but they had the **optimistic view** to save their sister in one way or the other. This was the driving force that made the boys do various jobs.

b. Write a character sketch of Nicola and Jacopo.

(PTA-4)

Nicola and Jacopo were two brothers who were 13 and 12 years respectively. They belonged to the city of **Verona in Italy**. They were childish and innocent. Nicola was steady and engaging. They were engaged in different works to earn money which shows that they were hard working. The narrator was impressed by their willingness to work. Indeed, the war had not broken their spirit. Their selfless action brought a new **nobility** to human life. Their **positive attitude** gave promise of a greater hope for human society.

c. What message is conveyed through the story 'Two Gentlemen of Verona'?

(HY-'19; July-'22)

The story 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' **promises hope** for the society. The boys Nicola and Jacopo were **devoted** and sincere towards the cause of their sister's **ailment**. They were self-sacrificing, despite the harshness faced by them. This **approach** of theirs towards life shows **positivity** and nobility. Despite all the **negativity** in the world like **war, hatred, jealousy, rivalry** and **selfishness**, the boys' attitude indicated that goodness still persisted in some souls. It conveys the message that there is scope for the world, for all of us, to become a better place one day.

d. Justify the title of the story 'Two Gentlemen of Verona'.

(Govt. MQP; PTA-2; QY-'19; FRT & May-'22)

A.J. Cronin had used the title 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' in an **ironic manner**. At a very young age, the boys faced the **hardships** of life - their mother died early in their life, their father became a **victim** of the early war, their village suffered due to German occupation, their home got destroyed, suffered starvation and cold winter. The family **struggled** for life. They found their sister suffering from Tuberculosis of the spine. It was another shock to those poor kids. Despite facing so many problems in their early childhood, they did not lose hope. Their positive approach and determination enabled them to give their sister, the best they could. They did various jobs, but lived a **poor life** to save money for their sister's treatment and food. They never tried to seek anyone's **sympathy**. Hence these two young boys have every quality of being called 'The Gentlemen of Verona'.

e. Adversity brings out the best as well as the worst in people. Elucidate this statement with reference to the story.

(August 2021)

When man suffers from **hardship** and **difficulty** the best or the worst of his will be brought out. Some will try to overcome the adversity with negative elements like **anti-social dealings** and others will use the positive energy to overcome the **adversity**. The best or the worst comes out due to the pressure of adversity. In this story, the two boys use their best to overcome their problems. Nevertheless, the main idea of the author is to underline the virtues that make a man a real man. The story captures the sentiment that true **humanity** is not about letting go, and it is about **courage** and **determination**. They lost everything in their life except hope. The hope pushes them to use their positive energy. So this story is an example to prove that adversity brings out the best in people.

f. Which character do you like the most in the story and why?

I like the characters of the two boys, 'Nicolo and Jacopo' the most, as they were devoted, sincere and **self-sacrificing**, despite the **harshness** faced by them. Although the boys were childish, simple and natural, there was a **grave seriousness** on their faces. This was indicative of the rude and harsh life, which they had faced at such an early age. As they had lost their parents and home, and their sister was battling an ailment, the young boys were serious towards life. They had lost their childhood. Despite all the negativity in the world like war, hatred, **jealousy, rivalry** and **selfishness**, the boys' attitude indicated that **goodness** still persisted in some souls. It also conveys to us that there is scope for the world to become a better place one day.



SUPPLEMENTARY UNIT 1

GOD SEES THE TRUTH, BUT WAITS

- Leo Tolstoy

PUBLIC EXAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions in a paragraph in about 150 words each.

- a. Discuss the meaning and importance of the saying “God Sees the Truth But waits”. (PTA-5)

An important element of the story is that the truth comes out, but only after waiting a long time. The reader knows from the beginning that Aksionov is **innocent**. A clever reader also figures out fairly early that Makar Semyonich must be the real **villain**. Justice, however, is not arrived at, until the very end of the story, when years later after the crime. Makar **confesses** and Aksionov dies as a contented man. The author is **cynically** pointing out that justice sometimes arrives too late. But we must have faith that God will eventually bring justice to every **situation**.

- b. Forgiveness is the best form of revenge. Substantiate the statement with reference to the story. (PTA-2)

It is very easy to take revenge, but it is very difficult to forgive others. It needs a broad and great heart. It is common for a person to make a mistake but forgiveness is an attribute of God. **Forgiveness** is the best form of taking **revenge**, as it makes the opponent to suffer from a sort of **humiliation**.

In this story, though Makar had murdered a merchant and he was the cause for the twenty-six years imprisonment of Aksionov, he was forgiven by Aksionov. This act of Aksionov made Makar suffer humiliation and he admitted his fault to the authorities. He wept bitterly and beat his head on the floor. Thus Aksionov's forgiveness is the best form of revenge on Makar.

PARAGRAPH QUESTIONSS

Write a paragraph in about 150 words by developing the following hints:

1. Ivan Dmitrich - Merchant - Russia - decides - business venture - Wife - bad dream - Ivan disregards - meets another merchant - travel together - retrieve separately - Stopped by - police - Sentenced - Siberia - new prisoners came - discloses the fact - Makar - admits - Aksionov dies. (OR) (PTA-3)

Aksionov - Vladimir - bade good bye - wife had a bad dream - charged with murdering a merchant - driven to Siberia - Makar Semyonich confessed - Aksionov was already dead - order for his release. (HY-'19)

(OR)

Aksionov - imprisoned - murder not committed by him - 26 years in prison - hair turned grey - lean and thin - pray to God - called 'Saint' by mates - lived peacefully - died peacefully. (OR) (QY-'19)

Aksionov - Vladimir - trip to a fair - wife tried to stop - meets a merchant - stays in an inn - police arrested - murder charge - no mercy - sent to Siberia - grew old - inmates respected - met Makar Semyonich - found out the truth - Semyonich admitted his crime - Aksionov forgave - died at last. (OR)

Ivan Dmitrich Aksionov - lived - Vladimir - wife and children - trip - Nizhny Fair - wife - bad dream - not to start - local police - arrested Aksionov - charged with murder - petition - turned down - sent - mines of Siberia - grew old - frequently prayed to God - respected by inmates - gentle behaviour - one day - met - Makar Semyonich - Aksionov - found out the truth - Makar admitted - Aksionov - forgave - died in peace. (August 2021)

(OR)

Ivan Dmitrich Aksionov - young merchant - sets out to fair - against wife's warning - stays in an inn - next morning sets off - gets arrested - supposed to have killed the merchant - is sent to Siberia - spends the time reading and praying - gains respect - Makar Semyonich - comes there - seems to know Aksionov - his behaviour makes Aksionov suspect - finally learns that Makar had murdered - the merchant - Aksionov forgives Makar - orders of release arrive - Aksionov is dead. (May-2022)

Aksionov lived with his wife and children in the town of Vladimir. One day, he decided to make a trip to the fair. His wife tried to stop him because she had a bad dream. Aksionov disregards his wife's dream and leaves for the fair. He meets another merchant and stays with him in an inn. Next day, at dawn, he leaves the inn to go to the fair. But the local police officer arrested and charged him with a murder of the merchant. A petition of mercy was turned down and he felt devastated. He was sent to work in the mines of Siberia. He grew old there. Aksionov frequently prayed to God. He bought the book 'The Lives of the Saints' in prison. He was respected by all the inmates due to his gentle behaviour. One day, he met Makar Semyonich and found out the truth about him. Eventually, Makar Semyonich admitted his crime. Aksionov forgave him, accepted the truth, attained self-realization and died in peace.

2. Ivan Dimitrich Aksionov - merchant in Vladimir - prone to drinking - goes to fair on business - meets another merchant - retire separately - stopped by the police - charged of murder and robbery - sentenced and sent to Siberia - 26 years in jail - new prisoner Maker Semyonich - admits his crime - Aksionv dies. (Govt. MQP)

(OR)

Aksionov - young merchant of Vladimir - lives with family - goes to Nizhny fair - meets a merchant friend - during travel - stays in an inn - leaves inn before daybreak - gets arrested - innocent prisoner - accused of murder - spends 26 years in prison - meets Makar - Aksionov saves Makar - Makar feels guilty - confesses his Crime - Aksionov forgives criminal - dies peacefully. (Sep. 2020)

(OR)

Ivan Dmitrich Aksionov - Young merchant - lived - Vladimir - Nizhny fair - wife - bad dream - stayed at inn - met another merchant - murdered at night - Aksionov arrested - petition rejected - sent - mines of Siberia - 26 years - grew - old - gentle - prayed often - respected by inmates - one day - met - another prisoner - found out - he murderer - Makar confessed - Aksionov forgave - died in peace - before order - for release came. (July-'22)

(July-'22)

Ivan Dmitrich Aksionov was a merchant. He lived with his wife and children in the town of Vladimir, in Russia. When he was young, he was prone to drinking, but after marriage he gave it up. One day, he went to the Nizhny fair. During his travel, he met another merchant. He stayed with him in an inn. Next day he left the inn before dawn. On the way, a local police officer arrested him. Aksionov was accused of murder. He was sentenced and sent to Siberia prison. For twenty-six years he lived as a convict. His hair turned grey. He often prayed to God. His fellow-prisoners called him as a Saint. One day, he met a new prisoner, Makar Semyonich and found out that he was the man who had killed the merchant. Later Makar dug a hole to escape from the prison. The Governor came and questioned all the prisoners to find out who had dug the hole. Though Aksionov knew that Makar was the culprit, he did not reveal. Thus he saved Makar. Eventually, Makar felt guilty and admitted his crime. Aksionov forgave him, accepted the truth, attained self-realisation and died in peace.

3. Aksionov - made a trip to a fair - wife stopped him - bad dream - local police officer arrested - charged him murder - blood stained knife - Aksionov swore he had not done - imprisoned - wife met him in jail - saw her husband - fell down - reminded him her dream - asked for truth - suspected him - Aksionov wept - said good bye to his family. (FRT-'22)

Leo Tolstoy in his short story 'God sees the Truth but Waits' presents two characters – Aksionov and Makar Semeyonich. In Russia during the nineteenth century, a young, attractive businessman named Ivan Dmitrich Aksionov lived with his wife and children. Although he had been a bit wild in his youth, he had now settled down and lived a responsible, productive life. One day he decided to make a trip to a fair where he could sell some of his merchandise. Although his wife had a bad dream about this trip, Aksionov decided to proceed. He was a very plain minded man but unfortunately he was wrongly accused of a murder. He was sent to a prison in Siberia. In the later part Makar was introduced as the real culprit of the murder. This time he was caught for another crime and came to Siberia. Makar realised that Aksionov was punished for his crime but he was not willing to reveal this. Aksionov become very composed and accepted his situation. Once he had a chance to stand against Makar but he did not do it. This touched the heart of Makar and made him ask pardon from Aksionov.

4. Aksionov prayed in jail - grew old - read a book - petition of mercy - respected by inmates - gentle behaviour - met Makar Semyonich - did not accept his proposal to escape - Makar realised - confessed - found out the truth - forgave Makar - Makar confessed - Aksionov found dead - order for his release. (FRT-'22)

Leo Tolstoy in his short story 'God Sees the Truth But Waits' describes the story of Aksionov, who was wrongly punished for a murder. Although Aksionov strongly said that he was not guilty, he was arrested and charged with the murder. Even his wife wondered if he might have been involved, since the circumstantial evidence was so striking. When his wife suspected him he hid his face in his hand and wept. He said to himself that only God alone seemed to know the truth. It was only to Him alone he could appeal. Only from God could he expect mercy. Then he stopped writing any appeal for mercy to the government. He only prayed to God. After being severely flogged, he was sent to work in the mines in Siberia. During his twenty-six years of imprisonment there, his hair turned white, his happy-go-lucky personality disappeared, and his body began to weaken. He never showed any sign of happiness and he frequently prayed to God.



POEM

FIGURES OF SPEECH - A GLANCE

1. The Castle	2. Our Casuarina Tree
3. All the World's a Stage	4. Ulysses
5. A Father to his Son	6. Incident of the French Camp

1. **Simile** : It is a comparison made between two objects of different kinds which have some resemblance / similarities. It is introduced by a word of comparison, such as, 'like, so, as, as ... so'.

இரு வேறுபட்ட பொருட்களையோ, விஷயங்களையோ 'like' அல்லது 'as' போன்ற வார்த்தைகளில் ஒன்றை பயன்படுத்தி, நேரடியாக, ஒப்பிட்டுச் சொல்வதாகும்.

(e.g.) "Grew thin and treacherous as air" (Poem 1)

The path grew weak and unpredictable as air.

"And shining morning face, creeping like snail" (Poem 3)

The schoolboy's movement is compared to snail's movement. **Direct** comparison, using the word, 'like'.

"To follow knowledge like a sinking star". (Poem 4)

The pursuit of knowledge is **directly** compared to a sinking star using the word, 'like'.

2. **Metaphor** : It is a figure of speech that makes an implicit, implied, or hidden comparison between two things that are unrelated, but which share some common characteristics.

இதுவும் இரு வேறுபட்ட விஷயங்களை ஒப்பிடுவது தான். ஆனால், நேரடியாக இல்லாமல் மறைமுகமாக ஒப்பீடு செய்வதாகும். ஆகவே இதில், 'like' 'as' ஆகிய வார்த்தைகள் வராது.

(e.g.) "Oh then our maze of tunneled stone". (Poem 1)

The tunneled stone is compared to maze. It is an **implied** comparison, without using the words "like" or "as", or "so".

"For always roaming with a hungry heart" (Poem 4)

Ulysses compares himself to a predatory animal. It is an **implied** comparison, without using the words "like" or "as", or "so".

3. **Alliteration** : It is the repetition of the same **consonant** sound in successive or nearby words. Note that in alliteration the sound and sense go together.

ஒரே வரியிலுள்ள பல வார்த்தைகளின் முதல் எழுத்து ஒரே மெய்யொலியாக திரும்பத்திரும்ப ஒலித்து வருதல்.

(e.g.) "There lies the port the vessel puffs her sail" (Poem 4)

In this line, "**p**" is repeated ("**p**ort, **p**uffs" are alliterated words.).

"Let once my army- leader Lannes" (Poem 6)

In this line, "**L**" is repeated (Let- Leader- Lannes).

"Waver at yonder wall" (Poem 6)

In this line, "**w**" is repeated (waver- wall).

4. **Repetition** : It is a literary device that repeats the same words or phrases a few times to make an idea clearer and more memorable.
- சொல்லவரும் கருத்துக்கு முக்கியத்துவம் கொடுக்கும் வகையில் ஒரே வரியில், ஒரே சொல் திரும்பத் திரும்ப வருவது.
- (e.g.) “Tell him to be alone often and get at himself
and above all tell himself no lies about himself” (Poem 5)
5. **Anaphora** : Repetition of a certain word or phrase at the beginning of successive lines, or repetition of a **word** or a **phrase** at the **beginning** of a sequence of sentences, paragraphs.
- அடுத்தடுத்த வரிகளின் ஆரம்பத்தில் ஒரே வார்த்தை திரும்பத் திரும்ப வருவது.
- (e.g.) “Tell him time as a stuff can be wasted.
Tell him to be a fool every so often” (Poem 5)
- ‘Tell him’ is the Anaphora used here, as it is the repetition of words at the beginning of successive lines to create a sonic effect.
6. **Personification** : An inanimate object or abstraction is given human qualities or abilities. (i.e.) Giving human qualities to non-living things.
- விலங்கு, பறவை போன்ற உயிருள்ள பொருட்களுக்கும், மரம், செடி போன்ற தாவரங்களுக்கும், நிலம், நீர், வீடு போன்ற உயிரற்றவைகளுக்கும், மற்றும் மனிதப் பண்பு இல்லாத எந்த விஷயத்திற்கும், மனிதப் பண்புகளைக் கொடுத்துச் சொல்வது.
- (e.g.) ‘There was a little private gate
A little wicked wicket gate” (Poem 1)
- The small door or gate is personified as an evil one.
7. **Antithesis** : It is a literary device that emphasises the idea of contrast.
- (e.g.) “The growth of a frail flower in a path up
has sometimes shattered and split a rock” (Poem 5)
- “Brutes have been gentled where lashes failed” (Poem 5)
8. **Transferred Epithet** : It is a figure of speech in which an epithet grammatically qualifies a noun other than the person or a thing, it is actually meant to describe.
- ஒரு வரியிலுள்ள ஒரு குறிப்பிட்ட noun (பெயர்ச்சொல்)ஐ விவரிப்பதற்கு மாறாக வேறொரு noun-க்கு விளக்கம் தரும் வகையில் ஒரு adjective அமைத்தல்.
- (e.g.) “and left them **dead years** before burial.” (Poem 5)
- “Let him have **lazy days** seeking his deeper motives” (Poem 5)
- Days are not lazy, but his son should be lazy enough to seek his in born abilities.
- “Bringing changes into a **world resenting** change” (Poem 5)
- The people in the world are referred here to dislike the change.
9. **Allegory** : An allegory is a complete narrative that involves characters and events that stand for an abstract idea or event. In other words, a story, poem, or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one.
- (e.g.) ‘The Castle’ an allegorical poem.

10. Zoomorphism : It is the shaping of something in animal form or terms. This is used to illustrate movement, making the tree seem more actively alive and also implying movement. This is a subtle indication of the process of life.

(e.g.) *"LIKE a huge Python, winding round and round*

The rugged trunk, indented deep with scars",

(Poem-2)

The vine is described in animal terms (as a python).

(Since the vine is compared with a python, using the word "like", we can tell the figure of speech applied in the first line as **Simile** also.)

11. Rhyming : It is making the last words in the lines produce the same sound.

ஒவ்வொரு வரியின் கடைசி வார்த்தை, அல்லது சில வரிகளின் கடைசி வார்த்தைகளில் ஒரே மாதிரியான ஒலி வரும்படியான வார்த்தைகளை தேர்ந்தெடுத்து வகைப்படுத்துதல்.

All through that summer at ease we lay,

And daily from the turret wall

We watched the mowers in the hay

And the enemy half a mile away

They seemed no threat to us at all.

The rhyming words are lay - hay - away and wall - all.

(Poem 1)

12. Rhyme scheme : Describing the order of rhyming words at the end of lines of a poem or verse.

பாடலின் ஒவ்வொரு வரியின் கடைசி வார்த்தையின் ஒலியை வைத்து, ஒரே மாதிரி ஒலி வரும் வார்த்தைகளைப் பிரித்து, அவற்றைக் குறியீடு செய்து எழுதுதல்.

Look at the four lines

Unknown, yet well-known to the eye of faith! a

Ah, I have heard that wail far, far away b

In distant lands, by many a sheltered bay, b

When slumbered in his cave the water-wraith a

Rhyme scheme of the given stanza is - **a b b a**.

(Poem-2)



POEM UNIT 1**THE CASTLE**

- Edwin Muir

PUBLIC EXAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Read the poem and answer the following in a short paragraph of 8-10 sentences each.

- a. Human greed led to the mighty fall of the citadel. Explain.

(PTA-2 & 6; March 2020)

(OR)

Describe how the castle was seized and captured.

(QY-'19)

(OR)

Bring out the message of the poem "THE CASTLE".

(HY-'19)

(OR)

Describe the capture of the Castle.

(PTA-5)

The poem 'The Castle' by Edwin Muir tells the story of an unspecified battle. Though the castle had strong towers, high and thick walls, it was captured by the enemies by the greediness of an old guard of the castle. He gets bribed by the enemies and let them in through a little private gate, where no one could enter by any wicked tricks. They entered the castle through the intricating path of the castle and captured the citadel for gold. The narrator lamented over the disloyalty of the guard and he was feeling ashamed to tell anyone about this shameful act of the guard. He regretted for not finding any weapon to fight with the enemy called gold. Thus 'Human greed led to the mighty fall of the citadel'.

Read the given lines and answer the questions that follow in a line or two.

- a. All through the summer at ease we lay,
And daily from the turret wall
We watched the mowers in the hay

- (i) Who does 'we' refer to?

(PTA-2 & 4; HY-'19; Sep. 2020)

'We' refers to the soldiers.

- (ii) How did the soldiers spend the summer days?

(PTA-2 & 4; HY-'19)

The soldiers spent the summer days totally stress-free and relaxed.

- (iii) What work do the mowers do?

(Sep. 2020)

The mowers will trim the grass and level the lawns.

- b. Our gates were strong, our walls were thick
So smooth and high, no man could win.

- (i) How safe was the castle?

(Govt. MQP; PTA-1 & 3; March 2020)

The castle's gates were strong and the walls were thick.

- (ii) What was the firm belief of the soldiers?

(Govt. MQP; PTA-1 & 3; March 2020)

The firm belief of the soldiers was that no one could win them.

(iii) What 'gates' are talked of here?

(QY-'19)

The castle's gates are talked of here.

(iv) Explain 'no man could win'.

(QY-'19)

The soldiers firmly believed that no one could enter into the strong and well-protected castle.

c. *We could do nothing, being sold.*

(i) Why couldn't they do anything?

(PTA-5; QY-'19)

They couldn't do anything because it was an **unspecified** battle.

(ii) Why did they feel helpless?

(PTA-5; QY-'19)

They felt helpless as they had a **traitor** among them inside the castle.

d. *'There was a little private gate*

A little wicked wicket gate

The wizened warder let them through'.

(i) What do you mean by a 'wicked wicket gate'?

(PTA-6)

A wicked wicket gate is an evil small door or gate.

(ii) What is the figure of speech used in the second line?

(PTA-6)

There are two figures of speech used here.

(i) Personification : The small door or gate is personified as an evil one.

(ii) Alliteration : wicket - wicked

Explain the following with reference to the context in about 20-30 words each.

a. *They seemed no threat to us at all.*

(Govt. MQP; PTA-3)

Reference : This line is taken from the poem 'The Castle' written by Edwin Muir.

Context : The narrator talks about the confidence of the soldiers.

Explanation : As the castle was strong and there was no trace of the enemies found at a distance of half - a mile. So it seemed that there was no threat at all.

b. *I will maintain until my death.*

(PTA-2)

Reference : This line is taken from the poem 'The Castle' written by Edwin Muir.

Context : The narrator lamented over the disloyalty of the greedy warder.

Explanation : The wicked old guard of the castle got gold as a bribe and allowed the enemies into the castle through a little wicket gate. As it was a shameful act of betrayal the narrator decided to say they could do nothing as they were sold for some gold.

c. *"The wizened warder let them through".*

(PTA-1)

Reference : This line is taken from the poem 'The Castle' written by Edwin Muir.

Context : The narrator revealed that the enemies were let in the castle by an old guard.

Explanation : The wicked old guard of the castle got gold as a bribe and allowed the enemies into the castle through a little wicket gate.

d. *'Only a bird could have got in'.*

(QY-'19)

Reference : This line is taken from the poem 'The Castle' written by Edwin Muir.

Context : The narrator revealed that the castle was so strong that no one could capture it and only a bird could have got in.

Explanation : The castle had no strong foothold for climbers. Only if they could fly they could enter the castle. This was challenging in the castle.

