



**INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**



Subject : English Lesson : Evans Tries An O- Level ,Colin Date of Worksheet : October 2019
Dexter

Name of the Student : _____ Date: _____ Class & Div : XII Roll Number :

Theme

This story depicts a clash of wit between a criminal and the law-enforcing authorities in which the prisoner Evans befools the jail authorities and manages to escape from the prison. If the government and law enforcing officials are vigilant, crime can be detected and criminals can be booked. But criminals like Evans can hoodwink the authorities and escape punishment as long as the officials are slow and lack alertness and wit.

Summary

- Evans a kleptomaniac was imprisoned thrice and all the time escaped from the prison. Now he was in the prison for the 4th time and all of a sudden developed curiosity to appear in O-level German Examination which also was an effort to break the prison.
- The Governor takes utmost care to see that he would not be fooled. Every effort was taken to make Evans prepare for the exam.
- He was tutored by a German tutor for six months. The day before the exam the tutor wishes good luck but makes it clear that he had hardly any ‘chance of getting through.’ But Evans gives an ironical twist to the tutor’s observation by saying “I may surprise everybody.”
- On the day of the exam Jackson and Stephens visited Evans cell and took away everything that may help him injure himself. Evans was insisted to take away the hat but he refused saying that it was lucky charm.
- Evans cell was bugged so that the Governor could himself listen to each and every conversation in the cell. The invigilator Rev. S. McLeery too was searched and left to complete the task. Stephen sitting outside the cell every now and then peeped into the cell.
- The exam went on smoothly. Stephen escorted the invigilator to the main gate and took a look into Evans cell and found the invigilator (actually Evans) wounded, informed the Governor. The latter was to be hospitalized but informed that he was alright and asked them to follow Evans. Thus he escaped the prison.
- When the invigilator was not found in the hospital they went to the residence of Rev. S. McLeery only to find him ‘bound and gagged in his study in Broad Street’. He has been there, since 8.15 a.m. Now everything was clear to the Governor.
- Evans escaped the prison the 4th time. But by taking the hint from the question paper the Governor reached the hotel where Evans was staying. They captured him and came to know how he planned his escape and said that his game was over. Evans surrenders himself to the Governor.
- The Governor tells Evans they would meet soon.
- The moment they are rid of the Governor, the so called prison officer-a friend of Evans-unlocks the handcuffs and asks the driver to move fast and Evans tells him to turn to Newbury. Evans, thus, has the last laugh.

I Answer the following questions in 30-40 words.

1. What kind of a person was Evans? Why did he want to sit for the O-level German examination? 2
Evans was a ‘Kleptomaniac’ and had broken jail thrice. For this reason, he was also known as ‘Evans the Break’. He was a master planner and was very sociable. He knew how to keep intimate contacts with people. In the words of the Governor, he was a pleasant sort of chap with no record of violence. His desire to sit for the O-level German examination was only a plot to deceive the authorities and

escape from the prison.

2. How does McLeery explain the presence of a small semi-inflated rubber ring? What did it actually contain? or Why did McLeery bring a smallish semi-inflated rubber ring to Oxford Prison? **(Board)** McLeery tells Jackson that he is suffering from haemorrhoids (piles) and the ring helps him when he has to sit for a long time. In reality, the ring contained pig blood, which Evans would splatter on his head and escape as McLeery who had been injured. 2
3. Who were the two visitors Evans received in the morning of the day of his exam? 2
The two visitors were Mr. Jackson, the senior prison officer of the prison's D Wing and the man called Stephens, who had been only recently recruited.
4. What made Evans clip his hair short? 2
Evans' escapes prison— duplicates McLeery (invigilate during the O-level German exam) who had short hair. In order to give a practical shape to their plan Evans' hair had to look like McLeery's. Hence Evans clipped them short.
5. Why did the Governor instruct Jackson to search McLeery? 2
The Governor asked Jackson to search McLeery, the invigilator, just in case he has brought something unwittingly which might prove to be a weapon that Evans could use and try escaping from prison.
6. Why did Evans drape a blanket round his shoulder? What did Stephens think about it? 2
In between intervals of Stephens' peeping into the cell, Evans was changing into the Parson's dress to look like McLeery. So, in order to conceal his effort to keep them in place, Evans draped a blanket round his shoulder. Stephens was misled into believing that Evans was feeling cold.
7. Why did the Governor apply for an examination for Evans? OR What facts influenced the authorities to allow Evans to appear in O-level German?**(Board)** 2
Evans was a prisoner in the Oxford Prison. He convinced the authorities that he was genuinely interested in learning German. He was taught by a German teacher for about six months. When the teacher said that Evans was prepared for an O' Level exam, the Governor of the prison applied to the Examination Board for his exam.
8. Who met Evans on the eve of the examination? What did he say? 2
It was Evans' German teacher who shook him by the hand at 8.30 p.m. on Monday, 7 June. They met in the heavily guarded Recreational Block, just across from D Wing. The teacher wished him good luck in German, which Evans failed to understand. The teacher observed that he had a remote chance of getting through. Evans remarked that he might surprise everybody. These remarks prove quite meaningful and prophetic.
9. Why did the Governor think of frisking Mc Leery? 2
Mc Leery was the invigilator of the examination and he was to sit inside Evan's cell while the latter wrote the exam. The Governor had made sure that Evans had been thoroughly frisked and there was nothing to fear about that. But when he thought about the possibility of Mc Leery carrying a paper-knife or that sort, he feared Evans would make use of that and escape by holding the parson his hostage.

10. Why did Evans not take off his hat when Jackson ordered him to do so? **(Board 2019)**
When the prison officer Jackson ordered Evans to take off his hat, he did not do so because he begged to keep it on as it was his lucky charm. In reality, his hat was a device to hide his cropped hair that he used to pull off a disguise.
11. How did Evans have the last laugh at the Governor? **(Board 2016)**
The Governor was a complacent and a gullible person. In the end, after recapturing Evans, he heaved a sigh of relief and ordered his prison officer to handcuff him and take him away in the van. So Evans was taken away by his own friends disguised as the prisons officers. And once again Evans escaped leaving the Governor shocked and surprised.

II Answer the following questions in 120-150 words.

1. How did Evans outwit the Governor and his staff?

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James Evans was imprisoned in the Oxford Prison but he had a group of cunning, clever and smart friends outside. They made a plan to get him out of the prison. Evans started night classes in 'O' Level German. The services of a German teacher were made available to him and he was from the technical college but he was Evans' friend. The prison authorities never thought to check him. At the Examination Board too they won over someone to act as an informer. They knew from Evans that McLeery would be put on invigilation. They bound and gagged McLeery in his flat and sent someone else to impersonate McLeery. Evans cut his hair short and hid under a bobbly hat. Mr. Jackson did not insist to take off the hat lest he should hide something under it. McLeery's semi-inflated rubber ring was not examined since it contained pig's blood. Thinking him as a bonafide person, they did not search him properly. The Governor allowed Stephens to stay outside the examination room and it provided a chance for Evans to work out his plan. The Governor did not check whether the prison van was appropriately needed by the magistrate or not. Evans dodged Carter when they took him to search for Evans and escaped. At the Golden Lion Hotel, he was nabbed by the Governor. When the Governor asked for police van and the prison officers, Evans' men succeeded in duping the Governor. Despite all precautions, Evans escaped from a high security jail.

2. What were the precautions taken for the smooth conduct of the examination? OR What did the jail authorities do to prevent Evans' escape from Oxford prison? **(Board)**

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Since Evans had already escaped from the jail on three earlier occasions, there was always a lurking fear that he might make another attempt to escape. Therefore all possible precautions were taken to see that the O-level German examination arranged in the prison did not provide him with any means of escape. The Governor personally monitored all security arrangements and heavily guarded the Recreation Block from where he expected the prisoner to make another break. Evans' cell was thoroughly checked by Jackson to ward off the possibility of the presence of an incriminating material which might hamper the smooth conduct of the examination. Evans' cell was thoroughly frisked a night before and all sharp-edged objects like razor, nail-file, scissors, etc., were taken away from him ; and to keep a strict watch on the activities of the cell during the examination, the Governor got it bugged. Prison officer Stephens was deployed to observe Evans from a peep-hole every minute or so. The invigilator, too was frisked to make sure that he carried no objectionable material with him. Another prison officer Mr Jackson was in constant contact with the Governor on the phone. Both the

gates of the wings of Evans' cell were locked tightly. Thus the authorities left no stone unturned in ensuring the smooth and safe conduct of the examination.

3. How did Evans manage to escape on the examination day? OR Describe the tricks used by Evans to escape from the prison?(**Board 2017**) 8

Evans was a very smart and clever prisoner in the H.M. Oxford Prison. He had no record of violence and used to participate in Christmas concerts. He was good at imitations but he had escaped from the prison three times. So he was kept on high and tight security. In the jail, Evans started 'O' Level German classes. Now he wanted to appear for the examination. Keeping in view his previous history, a tight security was alerted in his cell since he had to answer his paper in his room. Stephens was appointed to watch him till the paper was finished. The Governor too himself was much alert and microphone was attached in his room so that every word could be heard by the Governor himself. His room was too thoroughly searched and the objectionable items like the nail scissors and nail- file were taken away. The razor blade was also taken away after the shave. Even McLeery was searched and a knife was removed from his suitcase. Despite these precautions, Evans fooled the prison officers.

QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE

1. What different queries does the Secretary of the Examinations Board make from the Governor before conducting the examination for Evans and why?
2. Who do you think made a call regarding a correction in the question paper? What did it really want to convey?
3. Who is Carter? What does the Governor want him to go and why? (**Board**)
4. How did the Governor manage to reach Evans in the hotel?
5. What did the jail authorities do to prevent Evan's escape from Oxford Prison? (**Board 2019**)
6. Which article in McLeery's suitcase played perhaps the most significant role in Evans' escape and how? (**Board 2018**)
7. What impression of Evans did the Governor give to the Secretary of the Examination Board? (**Board 2018**)
8. What was his German teacher's opinion of Evan's proficiency in German? (**Board 2016**)
9. What could the Governor have done to securely bring Evans back to the prison from the 'Golden Lion'? (**Board 2015**)

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What impression do you form of 'Evans the Break'?
2. Comment on the ending of the play 'Evan Tries An O-Level.
3. How far do you agree with the observation: "He was just another good-for-a-giggle, gullible governor that was all"?
4. Do you think the title 'Evans Tries an O-Level' is appropriate? Give reasons in support of your answer.
5. How did the Governor manage to reach Evans in the hotel?
6. Who do you think is the driver of the van who eventually takes Evans to freedom?
7. Write a character sketch of the Governor of Oxford Prison based on the story, 'Évans Tries an O-Level.'(Board 2019, 2017, 2013)