

**Welland Gouldsmith School, Patuli**  
**Class VIII-English Literature**  
**Online Work**  
**ANSWER KEY TO THE CHAPTER : POIROT AT HIS BEST**

**Assignment:**

**Que 1. Find words/phrases from the chapter, to match the meanings given below:**

**(a) A man who does not do things that are wrong or illegal -**

Ans (a) A man of morals

**(b) Not knowing about something; in a state of ignorance**

Ans (b) In the dark

**(c) Strange or difficult to explain**

Ans (c) Uncanny

**(d) Very detailed, careful and thorough**

Ans (d) Minute

**Que 2. With reference to the chapter “Poirot at His Best”, answer the following questions:**

**(a). Give a character sketch of Lady Millicent.**

**Ans 2 (a).** Lady Millicent’s face was covered with a veil of black Spanish lace. When she lifted her veil, she revealed a pretty face with blue eyes. Her clothes were simple but expensive and she spoke in a soft musical voice. She appeared to be a lady belonging to the upper classes of society. However, by the end of the story, Poirot uncovers her true identity as “Gertie” and we learn that she is part of a criminal gang of thieves.

**(b). Which two deductions of Captain Hastings are proved wrong ?**

**Ans 2 (b).** Firstly, on seeing Lady Millicent, Captain Hastings “thought at once” that she belonged to the upper classes of society. This is proved wrong when Poirot says that her shoes did not match her attire and also when her true identity as a thief is disclosed.

Secondly, Captain Hastings could hardly believe that criminals were even aware of Poirot’s existence. This is proved wrong when the case is solved and it turns out that Gertie had tried to hire Poirot to find the jewels.

**Que 3. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:**

“Here’s an Englishman who died mysteriously in Holland”, I said.

“They always say that and later they find that his death is perfectly natural.”

“Well if you are determined to sulk!”

“Oh look!” said Poirot, who has rolled across to the window. Here in the street is what they called in novels a ‘heavily veiled’ lady. She mounts the steps, she Rings the bell, she comes to consult us.”

**(a) Whom does “I” refer to, in the aforementioned extract? What is his connection to the second speaker, “Poirot” ? Identify one word from the extract, which tells us that Poirot is unhappy.**

Ans 3 (a) In the aforementioned extract, “I” refers to Captain Hastings.

Captain Hastings is an ex military Captain, he is Poirot’s best friend and detective partner. He is also the narrator of the story.

One word from the extract which tells us Poirot is unhappy is the word “sulk” which means to be in a bad mood.

**(b)** What does “heavily veiled” mean? What reason does Poirot give for the woman to veil her face?

**Ans 3(b)** ‘Heavily veiled’ means wearing a thick covering over the head and face.

Poirot reasons that a young and pretty woman does not veil her face to hide her identity, unless it is something important.

**(c)** How is the death of the Englishman in Holland related to the case of the stolen jewels?

**Ans 3(c).** The Englishman who had died in Holland was the real Mr Lavington. He too was part of the gang of thieves who had stolen the jewels from Bond Street. He had betrayed his gang by keeping the jewels for himself. The real reason for Gertie’s assumed identity as Lady Millicent was to enlist Poirot’s help in finding the jewels.

**(d)** What has Poirot just said he regrets? How does he go against his morals to solve this case?

**Ans 3(d).** Poirot has just said that he regrets that he is a man of morals and that it would be pleasing to work against the law for a change.

In order to search Mr. Lavington’s house for the Chinese puzzle box, Poirot presents a fictitious card and one official card of Inspector Japp to Mr Lavington’s housekeeper, saying that he has been sent by Scotland Yard to check some burglar-proof fittings. During this visit to Mr Lavington’s home, Poirot discreetly saws through a window latch and tells the servants not to touch the windows. Later that night he and Hastings return, enter through the open window, find the Chinese puzzle box, take it and leave.