



**INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT**  
**SENIOR SECTION**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**  
**CLASS X**  
**SNAKE**

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**I Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow :**

- i) *He reached down from a fissure in the earth-wall in the gloom  
And trailed his yellow brown slackness soft bellied down, over the edge of the stone  
trough*
- a) Where has the snake reached down from?  
b) Describe the snake's movement?  
c) What does 'yellow brown slackness' refer to?
- ii) *And yet those voice:  
If you were not afraid, you would kill him!  
And truly I was afraid, I was most afraid, but even so, honoured still more*
- a) What does 'those voices' refer to?  
b) Why was the speaker afraid of the snake ?  
c) Why did the speaker feel honoured ?
- iii) *And so I missed my chance with one of the lords  
Of life.  
And I have something to expiate  
A pettiness*
- a) What chance has the poet missed?  
b) What has the poet to expiate?  
c) How is the poet feeling in the concluding sentence of the poem?

**II Answer the given questions in 30-40 words**

- 1) How does the poet describe the day and the atmosphere when he saw the snake?
- 2) Why did the poet initially feel honoured on seeing the snake?
- 3) Why does the speaker consider his intention of killing the snake as a 'paltry, vulgar and mean act'?
- 4) Why does the poet make an allusion to the albatross?
- 5) Why does the poet call human education 'accursed'?

**III Answer the given question in 100-120 words**

- a) D.H Lawrence's poem 'Snake' presents a conflict of human values-the natural ones and the acquired ones. Discuss with reference to the poem?

