

THE VOTER
CHINUA ACHEBE

COMPREHENSION I

1. Roof was a popular young man because he
 - a) Had not abandoned his village.
 - b) Want to guide his people.
 - c) Was forced to return to his village.

2. Why Marcus was considered rich and powerful? Marcus was considered rich and powerful because he had won in the election and had become the minister of culture. He was so powerful that nobody would think opposing him in the election. He had built a biggest mansion anyone had seen in Umuofia and had two long cars. On the grand opening of 'Umuofia mansion' Marcus had slaughtered five bulls and countless goats to entertain people. He also had installed a private plant recently to supply electricity to his new house.

3. Marcus Ibe had earlier been
 - a) Doctor.
 - b) School teacher.
 - c) Politician.

4. The fact that Marcus Ibe left good things of the capital and returned to his village whenever he could, shows,
 - a) His devotion to his people and love for the place.
 - b) He enjoyed all the comforts of the city in his village.
 - c) He wanted to improve the amenities in his village.

5. After the feasting was over, the villagers
 - a) praised Marcus's faithfulness and generosity.
 - b) Intended to demand more for their votes.
 - c) Realized Marcus' wealth.

6. The 'whispering Campaign' is
 - a) secret campaigning at night.
 - b) Bargaining votes.
 - c) clandestine distribution of money

7. The village elder Ezenwa, tilted the lamp a little because
 - a) He could not see properly.
 - b) The place was too dark.
 - c) He wanted to confirm the amount paid to each.

8. "Fire wood" refers to
 - a) Roof taking advantage of the situation.
 - b) The advantages of being a voter.
 - c) The benefits the elders received.

9. Roof and the leader of the POP campaign team were –
 - a) friends.
 - b) Strangers.
 - c) Known to each other.

10. Roof was mesmerized by
 a) the red notes on the notes. b) The picture of the cocoa farmer. c) The POP campaign leader.
11. Roof's act of inserting the torn ballot papers in two boxes signifies
 a) keeping his promise
 b) appeasing Iyi.
 c) Absolving himself of his guilt.

COMPREHENSION II

1. Trace the change in the attitude of the villagers before the second election. Give reasons. The people of Umuofia already belonged to en masse to the People's Alliance Party, and Marcus Ibe was their honourable minister of culture in the outgoing government. The villagers had had five years in which to see how quickly and plentifully politics brought wealth, chieftaincy titles, doctorate degrees and other honours, some of which had still to be explained satisfactorily to them. The village people were innocent that they had casted their votes free of cost in the previous election and now they slowly realized that Marcus has become rich and powerful and they would try in a different way. They also understood that Marcus who was a mere teacher, had attained enough wealth and had built a big mansion and had two long cars, and also had installed a power plant to his newly built house after joining politics. The villagers told themselves that they had underrated the power of the ballot paper earlier and should not do so again in the coming election. Thus the villagers changed their attitude before the second election.
2. What was the justification for the formation for the POP?
 The POP had been formed by the tribes down the coast to save themselves from "total political, cultural, social and religious annihilation" Though the POP was clear to know that they had no winning chances against PAP, they made attempts to win over them by giving pounds to the people and campaigning in and around the village.
3. Roof is an intelligent manipulator. Justify with reference to the story.
 Roof was popular man in his village, Umuofia. He was a trustworthy follower of chief the honourable Marcus Ibe, the minister of culture. Roof was an expert in election campaigning. He could tell the mood and temper of the electorate at any given time. He had warned the minister months ago about the radical change that had come into the thinking of Umuofia since the last election. Marcus had already prepared for the coming election, and roof was assigned to conduct whispering campaign as he was the most trusted one. In the house of Ogbuefi Ezenwa, after giving them two shillings, he spoke to the elders in favour of Marcus that the people of Umuofia should be honoured to have a leader like Marcus and reminded them about the pipe-borne water PAP had promised them. But the elders refused the shillings. They said him that they want to take advantage of the situation, for Marcus was rich. They said they would be foolish not to take down all the firewood they needed. At this point, Roof remembered how he had been taking a lot firewood. He was successful to get rich robes from Marcus on asking it. Roof could pull out any number of beer bottle from the fridge in Marcus's house. Adding to this, Roof had won a land case because he had been chauffeur- driven to the disputed site. Thus, understanding the situation of the elders, Roof gave them two more shillings and declared that was all he could give and said them that he did not care about whom they voted for. The elders picked up the shilling from the floor, without great loss of dignity. Thus Roof cleverly manipulated the situation in convincing the people to vote for PAP leader Marcus.

But, When the POP campaign leader came to Roof and asked him to cast his vote for Maduka, and was offered five pounds to support POP, Roof was in a dilemma whether to vote for Marcus or Maduka. He did not wanted to deceive his leader, for he had been faithful to him nor he did not want to lose five pounds. Moreover, he had sworn on the 'Iyi' the local goddess. So, on the Election Day, he entered the voting booth, he tore the ballot paper into two along the crease and put one half in each box. . He took the precaution of putting the first half into maduka's box and confirmed his action verbally that he votes for Maduka. In this way Roof manipulated the situation intelligently.

COMPREHENSION III

1. Not important.
2. To every human comes a time of reckoning. How does Roof's dilemma on the day of election reflect this?

On the day of Election, Roof and other organizers were prancing up and down, giving the last minute advice to the voters to vote for Marcus. The time came for Marcus to put in his ballot paper. Roof's spirit fell; but he let no one see it. All morning he had covered up his deep worry with a surface exertion which was unusual even for him. Roof moved towards the booth in a springy fashion. A policeman at the entrance searched him for illegal ballot papers and passed him. By this time the spring had gone clear out of his walk. He sidled in and was confronted by the car and the head. He took out his ballot paper from his pocket and looked at it. He thought, how he could betray Marcus even in secret. He resolved to go back to the other man and return his five pounds, but at once, he realized that he had sworn on the 'Iyi', the local goddess. Suddenly, a thought leapt into his mind. He folded the paper, tore it in two along the crease and put one half in each box. He took the precaution of putting the first half into Maduka's box and confirmed the action verbally the he voted for Maduka.

Here, Roof's dilemma is similar to the people who take money from the candidates during the election. Roof's character is a depiction of common people who take bribe for their

Vocabulary:

An Affixes is a set of letters generally added to the beginning or end of a root word to Modify its meaning. It may also make an opposite word also

The two main types of affixes are prefixes and suffixes.

For example. When the prefix 're' – is used to the word 'place', we get the word REPLACE.

When we suffix 'able' to the word 'replace' it becomes REPLACEABLE

Similarly, write ten words for prefix and suffix.

