

The Age of Innocence

Edith Wharton

1 Who said this in the story? Countess Ellen Olenska, Dallas Archer, May Welland, Mrs Manson Mingott, Newland Archer.

- a 'Do we have to do things the way everyone else does? Can't you and I be different, May?'
- b 'Oh, did I tell you that I showed Ellen my ring? She thinks it's the most beautiful one she ever saw ...'
- c 'I had nothing to fear from that letter, absolutely nothing! All I feared was to bring scandal on the family, on you and May.'
- d 'You were Beaufort's wife when he covered you with jewels, and you'll have to stay Beaufort's wife now that he's covered you with dirt.'
- e 'No, you never did ask each other anything, did you? You just sat and watched each other, and guessed at what was going on underneath.'

20 marks

2 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- a ___ In New York society in the 1870s there are a lot of rules.
- b ___ Newland Archer first sees Countess Ellen Olenska at a party.
- c ___ May Welland is Ellen's cousin.
- d ___ Ellen has divorced her Polish husband.
- e ___ The van der Luydens save Ellen from problems in New York society.
- f ___ Newland has meetings with Ellen and he sends her flowers.
- g ___ Newland wants to marry May in the distant future.
- h ___ Newland explains to May about his love for Ellen.
- i ___ May knew about Newland's feelings for Ellen.
- j ___ At the end, Newland sees Ellen again after many years.

20 marks

3 Put the following events in the story in the right order. Number them 1-5.

- a ___ Newland follows Ellen to the van der Luydens' country house.
- b ___ Ellen returns to Europe.
- c ___ Newland and May get married.
- d ___ The Mingotts introduce Ellen Olenska into New York society.
- e ___ Newland visits Ellen alone at her home in an unfashionable area.

20 marks

4 Who in the story ...? Count Olenski, Dallas Archer, Ellen Olenska, Henry van der Luyden, Janey Archer, Julius Beaufort, May Welland, Monsieur Rivière, Mrs Struthers, Newland Archer.

- a ... is new to New York and doesn't understand the rules of society?
- b ... gives Ellen Olenska advice about her divorce?
- c ... goes to Florida with her family?
- d ... loses all his money?
- e ... is a woman with a bad name in New York society?
- f ... is a rich and influential man with a house in the country?
- g ... worked as Count Olenski's secretary?
- h ... is married to Ellen Olenska?
- i ... is Newland's sister who still lives at home?
- j ... takes his father on a special trip?

20 marks

5 Write a brief description of fashionable New York society in the 1870s.

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20 marks

Total marks

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Setting

Choose the best answer.

- 1 *The Age of Innocence* is set in _____.
a ☐ New Orleans b ☐ New York c ☐ Boston
d ☐ Washington
- 2 The book is about fashionable society in the _____.
a ☐ 1670s b ☐ 1780s c ☐ 1820s d ☐ 1870s
- 3 Fashionable society is a world full of _____.
a ☐ free thinking b ☐ open ideas c ☐ fixed rules
d ☐ honest opinions
- 4 Ellen Olenska lived for many years in _____.
a ☐ Europe b ☐ South America c ☐ South Africa
d ☐ Australia
- 5 Ellen Olenska is married to a _____ Count.
a ☐ German b ☐ French c ☐ Polish
d ☐ Russian
- 6 Newland Archer first sees Ellen Olenska at _____.
a ☐ a party b ☐ a restaurant c ☐ the theatre
d ☐ the opera
- 7 Newland Archer works for a _____.
a ☐ law firm b ☐ travel firm c ☐ bank
d ☐ theatre
- 8 May goes away with her family for a month to _____.
a ☐ Georgia b ☐ Virginia c ☐ California
d ☐ Florida
- 9 At Highbank, Ellen and Newland meet in _____ called the Patroon's house.
a ☐ an ancient stone house b ☐ a modern wooden house
c ☐ a large tree house d ☐ a quiet restaurant
- 10 Many years later Newland Archer visits _____.
a ☐ London b ☐ Paris c ☐ Berlin d ☐ Venice

20 marks

Characters

Choose the best answer.

- 11 May Welland is a young woman from a good family who likes to _____ the rules of society.
a ☐ laugh at b ☐ break c ☐ obey d ☐ forget
- 12 _____ has an unhappy and troubled past.
a ☐ Ellen Olenska b ☐ May Welland
c ☐ Janey Archer d ☐ Sophy Jackson
- 13 _____ is a fashionable man who understands the rules of New York society.
a ☐ Henry van der Luyden b ☐ Julius Beaufort
c ☐ Newland Archer d ☐ Monsieur Rivière

- 14 Ellen Olenska sits in _____ box at the opera.
a ☐ Mrs Mingott's b ☐ Count Olenski's
c ☐ Janey Archer's d ☐ Newland Archer's
- 15 _____ is very rich and has famous parties at her house with her husband.
a ☐ May Welland b ☐ Regina Beaufort
c ☐ Janey Archer d ☐ Adeline Archer
- 16 _____ show New York society that it is all right to invite Ellen Olenska to parties.
a ☐ The Carfrys b ☐ The Jacksons
c ☐ The Archers d ☐ The van der Luydens
- 17 _____ has a lot of debts and his business fails.
a ☐ Newland Archer b ☐ Silverton Jackson
c ☐ Julius Beaufort d ☐ Count Olenski
- 18 Ellen Olenska's family don't want her to _____.
a ☐ go away b ☐ move to Europe
c ☐ meet Newland Archer d ☐ get a divorce
- 19 _____ is Count Olenski's secretary.
a ☐ The Duke of St Austrey b ☐ Monsieur Rivière
c ☐ Mr Letterblair d ☐ Julius Beaufort
- 20 Before he gets married _____ takes his father away on a trip.
a ☐ Newland Archer b ☐ Dallas Archer
c ☐ Julius Beaufort d ☐ Lawrence Lefferts

20 marks

Dialogue

Who said or wrote this?

- 21 'I didn't think the Mingotts would have attempted that.'
a ☐ Sillerton Jackson b ☐ Julius Beaufort
c ☐ Henry van der Luyden d ☐ Newland Archer
- 22 'That's why I came home. I want to forget everything in my recent past...'
a ☐ Janey Archer b ☐ Mrs Lovell Mingott
c ☐ Ellen Olenska d ☐ Mrs Lemuel Struthers
- 23 'May needs twelve sets of everything, and every piece must be sewn by hand ...'
a ☐ Louisa van der Luyden b ☐ Mrs Welland
c ☐ Ellen Olenska d ☐ Adeline Archer
- 24 'The real loneliness is living among all these kind people who only ask me to pretend!'
a ☐ May Welland b ☐ Medora Manson
c ☐ Ellen Olenska d ☐ Janey Archer
- 25 'But you are the woman I would have married if it had been possible.'
a ☐ the Duke of St Austrey b ☐ Henry van der Luyden
c ☐ Julius Beaufort d ☐ Newland Archer

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- 26 'I know you intend to see Ellen when you're in Washington...'
a ☐ May Welland b ☐ Janey Archer c ☐ Regina Beaufort d ☐ Louisa van der Luyden
- 27 'Her life with him now would be unbearable. I worked for the Count for many years, but I promise you, I shall never work for him again!'
a ☐ Sillerton Jackson b ☐ Mr Lovell Mingott c ☐ Monsieur Rivière d ☐ Lawrence Lefferts
- 28 'Is it your idea, then, that I should live with you as your mistress, since I can't be your wife?'
a ☐ May Welland b ☐ Sophy Jackson c ☐ Regina Beaufort d ☐ Ellen Olenska
- 29 'Why – she's going back to Europe. Grandmother agrees, and has arranged to make her independent of her husband.'
a ☐ May Welland b ☐ Louisa van der Luyden c ☐ Regina Beaufort d ☐ Janey Archer
- 30 'I say, Father, what was she like? Confess – you and she were great friends, weren't you? Wasn't she awfully lovely?'
a ☐ Newland Archer b ☐ Dallas Archer c ☐ Julius Beaufort d ☐ Sillerton Jackson

20 marks

Vocabulary

Choose the best answer.

- 31 when a person is very clever or successful
a ☐ basic b ☐ bald c ☐ brilliant d ☐ busy
- 32 a man on his wedding day
a ☐ bridegroom b ☐ best man c ☐ bride d ☐ bridesmaid
- 33 behaviour or events that people think are bad and shocking
a ☐ wedding b ☐ scandal c ☐ success d ☐ victory
- 34 metal or wooden covers for windows, to keep out the heat and light
a ☐ shutters b ☐ curtains c ☐ tiles d ☐ doors
- 35 to think that someone or something is bad or wrong
a ☐ respect b ☐ admire c ☐ approve d ☐ disapprove
- 36 when someone is evil or of bad character
a ☐ willing b ☐ wicked c ☐ worried d ☐ wonderful
- 37 to become red in the face; especially when you feel embarrassed
a ☐ bruise b ☐ breathe c ☐ blush d ☐ brush

- 38 thin pieces of coloured material that are worn on a woman's dress or hair
a ☐ rings b ☐ skirts c ☐ sheets d ☐ ribbons
- 39 a company or business
a ☐ farm b ☐ firm c ☐ field d ☐ fortune
- 40 to have a very good opinion of a person because of their positive qualities
a ☐ embarrass b ☐ hate c ☐ respect d ☐ disappoint

20 marks

Plot

Choose the best answer.

- 41 Newland Archer becomes engaged to _____.
a ☐ May Welland b ☐ Ellen Olenska c ☐ Regina Beaufort d ☐ Sophy Jackson
- 42 Newland Archer also feels attracted to the beautiful _____.
a ☐ May Welland b ☐ Ellen Olenska c ☐ Medora Manson d ☐ Mrs Lemuel Struthers
- 43 Newland Archer is worried about his fiancée because she likes to _____.
a ☐ spend money b ☐ travel a lot c ☐ follow rules d ☐ have dangerous friends
- 44 Newland Archer learns more about Ellen Olenska when he helps with her _____.
a ☐ divorce b ☐ books c ☐ house d ☐ studies
- 45 Julius Beaufort starts to _____ Ellen Olenska.
a ☐ beat b ☐ warn c ☐ rob d ☐ chase
- 46 Newland Archer wants to marry May Welland _____.
a ☐ as soon as possible b ☐ in two years c ☐ in three years d ☐ in five years
- 47 When Ellen runs away, Newland _____ to the van der Luyden's house.
a ☐ drives her b ☐ walks with her c ☐ follows her d ☐ sends her
- 48 Newland Archer _____ May Welland.
a ☐ kills b ☐ marries c ☐ leaves d ☐ divorces
- 49 May Welland _____ Newland and Ellen.
a ☐ knew all about b ☐ didn't know about c ☐ hated d ☐ tried to kill
- 50 At the end, Newland Archer decides to _____ Ellen Olenska.
a ☐ meet b ☐ marry c ☐ phone d ☐ walk away from

20 marks

Total marks