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|  | **PRE-VIEWING TASKS – *An Ideal Husband*** |

**Activity 1**

1. Sir Robert Chiltern
2. Mrs Cheveley
   1. prizadeven / ambiciozen
   2. neoporečen
   3. samopravičniški / licemerski
   4. obremenilen
   5. pogumno / hrabro
   6. domiseln

**Activity 2**

Lord Caversham (f), Vicomte de Nanjac (h), Phipps (g), Mrs Laura Cheveley (b), Sir Robert Chiltern (a), Miss Mabel Chiltern (e), Lady Gertrude Chiltern (c) & Lord Arthur Goring (d)

**Activity 3**

Discuss the following questions in small groups and report back to the class:

1. What do you think it meant to be rich in 19th century London?
2. How does it compare to being rich in the 21st century?
3. What attributes do you think an ideal husband should possess?
4. How would the definition of ‘ideal’ differ between men and women?
5. Do you think the roles of husbands/wives have changed since 1890?

**ALL OPEN ANSWERS – REQUIRE JUSTIFICATION**

**WHILST-VIEWING TASKS – *An Ideal Husband***

Part 1

1. T, F, F, T, F, T
   1. A hand-written note.
   2. No.
   3. His wife, Lady Chiltern, because she did not want him associating with Mrs Cheveley in person since she knew of her dishonest, selfish, and manipulative nature.
2. His father advises him to go to bed, not keep such late hours and to find a wife.
3. Miss Mabel states that his idea of romance is to talk to her like a doctor.
4. He refers to the Argentine Canal plan as a ‘swindle’, yet refers to his own affair as a ‘speculation’. Basically, both affairs were swindles.

Part 2

1. F, T, F, T, T, F
   1. The legitimacy of the question is subjective and predominantly depends on the seriousness of the ‘crime’.
   2. Whilst the justice system makes allowances for minors (youths), an adult, be they younger or older is usually treated the same.
2. It appears that Lady Chiltern has a very rigid view of morality and believes that “a leopard cannot change its spots”.
3. Sir Roberts must’ve been under immense pressure for him to disregard his best friend’s denial and question his honour.
4. Perhaps, it was foolish since she barely knew Sir Robert compared to the intimate relationship shared by Lord Goring. On the other hand, Sir Robert’s desperation may’ve convinced her that he would do anything to remedy the situation, so the eventual outcome was not foreseen.

Part 3

1. F, T, T, T, F, T
2. Perhaps, she believed that the reason Mrs Cheveley was blackmailing Sir Robert wasn’t because of the stock market, but simply a case of an old school friend extracting revenge.
3. Because of the letter addressed to Lord Goring (written in his wife’s handwriting).
4. She hoped this would elicit a romantic marriage proposal.
5. Open answer – requires justification.

**POST-VIEWING TASKS – *An Ideal Husband***

1. 2, 6, 1, 9, 7, 3, 5, 8 & 4.
2. 2, 7, 5, 3, 8, 4 & 6
3. 3, 7, 1, 4, 8 & 6
   1. **MARRIAGE**
      1. Love can be lost by unloving and uncompromising behaviour.
      2. Oscar Wilde sums it up neatly in one of his epigrams: "It is when we are wounded by our own hands, or by the hands of others, that love should come to cure us - else what use is love at all? All sins, except a sin against itself, love should forgive."
   2. **FRIENDSHIP**
      1. Firstly, Lord Goring was a ‘sounding board’ for both Sir Robert and Lady Chiltern. Secondly, he acted as a mediator to facilitate their reconciliation. Lastly, he risked everything to ensure the return of Sir Robert’s incriminating letter.
      2. It would depend upon the crime and the circumstances.
   3. **REDEMPTION**
      1. Open answer – requires justification.
      2. There is no one right answer to this question. The competing issues are whether the one act in his youth made him unfit for public office. Our feeling is that generally, he should have been forgiven, had he made restitution of his ill-gotten gains.
   4. **TRUSTWORTHINESS**
      1. If he had it would’ve been big risk; how could he trust Mrs Cheveley to not double-cross him. Also, it would have gone against everything he stood for.
      2. There is none.
   5. **RESPONSIBILITY**
      1. Open answer – requires justification.
   6. **CARING**
      1. Open answer – requires justification.
      2. Undoubtedly, upon reflection this factor helped influence Lady Chiltern to adopt a less-moralistic view of her husband’s failings. However, her altruistic personality would have helped her to realise how much ‘good work’ her husband could achieve with a cabinet position.

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| **WITTICISM** | **RELEVANT NOW? (YES/NO)** |
| In the old days, we had the rack. Now we have the press. | YES – as the influence of the press weakens, social media has emerged as a form of investigative journalism with the ability to provide almost instantaneous feedback. |
| Wonderful woman, Lady Markby, isn't she? Talks more and says less than anybody I ever met. | YES – there are still men and women who talk a lot but say very little, e.g. politicians. |
| Scandals used to lend charm or interest to a man. Nowadays, they crush him. | YES – President Nixon and Watergate  NO – President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky |
| Even you are not rich enough, Sir Robert, to buy back your past. No man is. | YES – this is even more the case in the digital age when information is so easily obtained and almost impossible to erase. |
| Morality is simply the attitude we adopt toward people we dislike. | YES – it seems that societies continue to adopt different levels of morality depending on the target, e.g. the USA’s stance on the civil rights abuses of other countries yet ignoring their own civil rights abuses. |
| Fashion is what one wears oneself. What is unfashionable is what other people wear. | NO – if one follows the whims of the fashion industry.  YES – if one ignores the whims of the fashion industry. |
| To love oneself is the beginning of a lifelong romance. | YES – you need to love yourself before you an love another |
| I love talking about nothing .... It is the only thing that I know anything about. | YES – this can be referred as small-chat. In fact some people are very good at talking about something they know nothing about. |
| I always pass on good advice. It is the only thing to do with it. It is never of any use to oneself. | YES – even today there are people who think it is their duty to offer advice even when it is irrelevant or even unwanted. |
| When one pays a visit it is for the purpose of wasting other people's time, not one's own. | YES – in some societies this can appear to be the case, especially when the visit is unannounced and there is an expectation to provide refreshments. |