



Centre for Distance and Online Education  
Punjabi University, Patiala

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Class : B.C.A. PART-III  
SEMESTER-V

ENGLISH  
(Literary Skills-I)

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G.B. SHAW: ARMS AND THE MAN

LESSON NOS. :

- 1.1 Introduction to Shaw and his works
- 1.2 Detailed Summary of Act I
- 1.3 Detailed Summary of Act II
- 1.4 Detailed Summary of Act III
- 1.5 Characters and Important Questions

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1/3/23

**B.C.A. Part – III (Semester-V)  
English Literary Skills-I  
(For Sessions 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25)**

Time Allowed: 03 Hours

Max. Marks: 75  
Internal Assessment: 25  
Pass Marks: 40 (30+10)

**COURSE CONTENT**

- (A) *Arms and the Man* by George Bernard Shaw  
(B) *Composition and Writing Skills* (Orient Black Swan)  
(Prescribed Chapters: Summary Writing, Letter Writing, Report Writing, E-mails, Basic Vocabulary).

**TESTING**

**UNIT-I**

- I. This question shall comprise one essay type question (with internal choice) on theme, character, important scene, episode, plot, etc. from *Arms and the Man*. The answer shall not exceed 300 words. 13 marks
- II. This question shall comprise four short-answer questions from *Arms and the Man* to test the candidate's close reading of the prescribed text. The candidate shall answer any four out of the given six questions in about 50 words each. 4x3=12 marks

**UNIT-II**

- III. This question shall pertain to summary-writing. The candidate shall make a summary of a given passage of about 300 words in about 100 words and shall also suggest a suitable title. 8+2=10 marks
- IV. The candidate shall attempt one of the given two letters which shall be of personal nature. 10 marks

**UNIT-III**

- V. The candidate shall be asked to write a report for a newspaper or a magazine (with internal choice) on the basis of some facts provided in the question. 7 marks
- VI. The candidate shall write an e-mail on the basis of the information provided in the question. 8 marks
- VII. The candidate shall use 15 out of the given 20 words in sentences of her/his own. The given words shall be from List C of *Composition and Writing Skills*. 15x1=15 marks

  
Head  
Department of English  
Punjabi University Patiala



B.C.A. Part-III  
SEMESTER-V

ENGLISH  
(Literary Skills-I)

UNIT NO. 1

Department of Distance Education  
Punjabi University, Patiala  
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G.B. SHAW : *ARMS AND THE MAN*

Lesson Nos. :

- 1.1 Introduction to Shaw and his works
- 1.2 Detailed Summary of Act I
- 1.3 Detailed Summary of Act II
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**LESSON NO. 1.1**

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**G.B. SHAW: *ARMS AND THE MAN*****1.1.0 Objectives**

- The Objective of the lesson is to introduce the students to the life and works of George Bernard Shaw.
- To explore the authors contribution to literature.

**1.1.1 Life of George Bernard Shaw**

George Bernard Shaw was born in 1856 in Dublin in Ireland, now called Eire. He spent the first twenty years of his life there before going to London.

Bernard's father was George Carr Shaw. He belonged to an aristocratic family but had no property as he was the youngest son. In English society only the eldest inherited property at that time.

George Carr Shaw was a petty court official in Dublin. The court was abolished and he was given a pension. He sold it out and started business which failed. Actually, he was not a practical sort of a man. Bernard's mother knew it. Still, she had married him. Later when he began to waste money on drinking and neglected his family, Mrs. Shaw (mother of three children, two daughters and a son, Bernard being the youngest) decided to stand on her own feet. She was a talented lady with a very good voice. She developed it as a singer, took lessons from a teacher, George John Lee, and became an accomplished<sup>1</sup> artist.

To begin with, Bernard received lessons at home from a governess<sup>2</sup> and an uncle. Then he was sent to school in Dublin and in the country. But his impression of school was not good. In the Central Model Boys's School majority of the students were Roman Catholic. The Protestant boys looked down upon them because they were proud of the fact that their religion was the religion of the ruling class. Bernard could never forget his experience even though he stayed in this school for only eight months. His last school was Dublin English Scientific and Commercial School. He left it in 1871 at the age of 15.

In Dublin he used to go to the National Gallery. Also, at the age of 10, he spent some time at a beautiful cottage on Dalkey Hill outside Dublin. This cottage was situated in the midst of very beautiful surroundings. He could not imagine a more lovely place. From there he could enjoy the sights of the sea and the sky.

It is clear from the above that he paid little attention to lessons at school. Within him lay the capacity for educating himself. Before he was ten years old, he had read thoroughly the Bible and Shakespeare. It is said that he learnt much more from listening to his mother and friends singing Mozart<sup>3</sup> than from all his reading put together.

Bernard's entire family was interested in music. Father and mother played musical instruments. An uncle and two aunts also played with them. 'But Bernard learnt

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1. well-trained; clever.
  2. woman who is employed to teach young children in a family.
  3. a well-known musician and composer.

no instruments.

He could also later speak in public without tiring his voice. It is said that though he learnt no musical instruments he was content to make music with the English language. (There is a musical quality in his prose). Also the training which he received at home equipped him for his role as a music critic.

Bernard was 15 when he left school. He got a job as a junior clerk at an estate agent's office. Starting with a low salary of only eighteen shillings a month, he began to receive four pounds a month by the time he left. He was then the cashier. His total stay in this office was four and a half years. He left the job in 1876. His employer gave him a very good certificate, but Bernard did not like his telling him that he should not discuss religious matters with fellow clerks.

Bernard's mother went away to London in 1875 with her two daughters. After some time he also followed them there. Mrs. Shaw gave lessons in singing. This was her only source of income. Bernard was not doing anything. He roamed about the streets like a true artist collecting material for his art. He used to visit clubs where they discussed problems of the day and there was no admission fee. He would spend hours in the British Museum reading books. It is said that if the world was his school, the British Museum was the study where he did most of his homework. He would go to the National Gallery and to the gardens and pictures of Hampton Court. He never had any money in his pocket. During the first ten years of his stay in London he earned very little from his writings.

However, his heart lay in the arts and he wanted to be a painter. He was interested in the world of books, music and pictures. During this period, poverty, shabbiness and shyness were his three disgraces.

Shaw was against killing animals for fun. He had a sense of kinship with the animal world. He was brought up with animals about the house. A dog and a parrot provided him with the kind of education which he could understand and value. After witnessing the *Cenci*, a play by Shelly, he turned a vegetarian at the age of twenty five. He said his vegetarianism would entitle his funeral to be followed by 'herds of oxen, sheep, swine, flocks of poultry, a small aquarium of live fish, all wearing white scarves.' Vegetarianism might have contributed to his long life.

To avoid complication as a result of having been attacked by small pox, he grew a beard. He was not the only person in England to grow a beard because some noted persons had set a fashion but Shaw's beard made him conspicuous among literary persons and gave him a distinguishing look.

One day in 1882, he went to the Memorial Hall and heard Henry George's speech on poverty. This speech magnetised<sup>1</sup> Shaw. He read *Progress and Poverty* and the *Capital*. These books heated Shaw to deep moral passions which lasted his life time. Now his path was straight and clear. In 1884, the Socialist Fabian Society was founded and Shaw joined it. He made friends with Sidney and Beatrice Webb-husband and wife. He

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1. attracted or fascinated him greatly

described Mr. Sidney as the ablest man in England.

William Archer, a kind friend, got him his first job as a reviewer of books and pictures. Thanks to the Dublin National Gallery, he felt as much at home among pictures as among books. This was a turning point in his life. He began to earn. He realised that money was necessary. Without it man could not live; he could only exist. It is man's first duty to himself and to society to secure for himself an independent income.

Shaw was asked to write articles for *The Star* but *The Star* did not print these as they were a hundred years in advance of the times. So he was appointed a music critic and found his feel in this job. Later he began to review drama.

His Novels : Shaw used to write five pages a day with great regularity, no more and no less. It made him precise. It also taught him to write to order. Thus, in a period of six years he produced five novels. But his novels did not become popular. They were a generation or two ahead of his time.

Shaw realised that only dramas could be the vehicle for the expression of his ideas. As the dialogues have to be spoken, he must first learn how to speak effectively. Only then the speeches of his characters could be forceful. So he started speaking at platforms, debating in clubs, in Hyde Park, at street corners. He had socialistic ideas. These he would express wherever he went. He soon built reputation as a speaker. So he was invited to speak in other towns. He did not charge lecturer's fee but only third class return fare. As a speaker his guiding style was a bored and a lost audience. Before an audience can be instructed, it must be wooed<sup>1</sup> and entertained.

In 1885, Shaw wrote his first play *Widower's Houses*. When he began to write, the fashionable theatre dealt only with adultery<sup>2</sup>. So he did away with the conventional topics. Instead he wrote on current controversies. Moreover, the old drama dealt with the frivolities<sup>3</sup> of the moneyed and leisured people. In the new drama what Shaw aimed at was that the characters were to be drawn from all ranks of society. Next was *The Philanderer*. After that he wrote *Mrs. Warren's Profession*. These three are known as 'Unpleasant Plays'. These were followed by a set of plays called 'Plays Pleasant': (1) *Arms and the Man* (2) *Candida* (3) *The Man of Destiny* (4) *You Never Can Tell*.

Some other plays written by him are :

*Caesar and Cleopatra; Man and Superman; Major Barbara; The Doctor's Dilemma; Getting Married; Pygmalion; Saint Joan, Back to Methuselah.*

Shaw lived by his pen. At the age of 42, when income from the performance of his plays became reasonable, he married Charlotte Payne Townshend, a wealthy woman of his own age. ('Townshend' is pronounced as 'taunzed'.)

Nobel Prize was awarded to Shaw in 1925 but he directed that the money (8000) be used to set up an Anglo-Swedish Literary Foundation.

He did not travel much. He used to say, "One place is very much like another."

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1. attracted; moved by entreaty 2. Sexual relation of a married person with one who is not his or her lawful spouse (husband/wife), 3. silly acts

His first long journey took him to Moscow where he celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday, and talked at length with Stalin. In 1931-32, he and his wife went to South Africa. In December, 1932, they started on a world tour. Now Shaw visited the United States for the first time and delivered at New York an address on the Future of Political Science in America. He visited Bombay also. His wife died on September 12, 1943. A few weeks after his ninety-fifth birthday he fell while working in his garden and fractured his thigh. Shaw died on November 2, 1950.

He left 357,000 pounds with the request that the money be used to reform the English alphabet and spelling.

According to his wishes his body was cremated and the ashes mixed with those of his wife's and scattered in their garden.

#### Shaw's Plays from 1885 to 1897

Plays Unpleasant : The unpleasant plays include (i) *Widower's Houses*, (ii) *The Philanderer*, (iii) *Mrs. Warren's Profession*.

In *Widower's Houses* Shaw exposes the evils of landlords who have given on rent houses to poor people. These houses are dirty and not worth living. The landlords do not pay attention to improving the living conditions; they are interested in charging the rent only.

*The Philanderer* deals with English marriage laws which are responsible for strange sexual compacts. It makes fun of the intelligentsia.

*Mrs. Warren's Profession* : The theme of this play is that poor, unemployed underpaid women are forced to sell their affections and offer themselves for sex. Mrs. Warren flourished on sin. This play was banned by the government and could not, therefore, be acted for many years.

Plays Pleasant : This set of plays includes (i) *Arms and the Man* (ii) *Candida* (iii) *The Man of Destiny* (iv) *You Never Can Tell*.

*Arms and the Man* : It shatters the belief that war is romantic; so far it was believed that the chief concern was heroism. This play satirises love also. It is a play of challenging ideas.

*Candida* : The play displays a conflict between the poet and commonsense. We are shown how a husband has no idea that his wife possesses a soul. The theme of the play is marriage.

*The Man of Destiny* : It is the story of Napoleon when he was 27 years old, and a lady who went to him to get a private letter which was among the army despatches he had received. The point of the play is a witty conversation between Napoleon and the lady.

*You Never Can Tell* : This is probably Shaw's most popular play and the easiest to understand. The theme is love. It deals with the relations of husband and wife, parents and children, and lovers. Like Shakespeare's, 'As You Like it', it is a happy comedy.

#### 1.1.2 ARMS AND THE MAN : A BRIEF SUMMARY

A war was going on between Serbia and Bulgaria in 1885. The Serbians were

defeated. Their soldiers ran away in confusion. One officer, Captain Bluntschli, who was really a Swiss fighting on the side on the Serbs climbed up a roof and took shelter in a lady's bedroom. The young lady, Raina, was the daughter of Major Petkoff. He had not returned from the war. Raina's lover was also an officer in the army

Captain Bluntschli threatened Raina with an empty revolver and made her light a candle. Raina had just gone to bed and was in her sleeping clothes only. Soon the Bulgarian troops came in search of the fugitive<sup>1</sup>. Taking pity on the captain, Raina hid him behind a curtain.

After the search party had left, Raina gave the Captain chocolate-cream to eat. He said he always carried his confectionery in his pockets when he went to fight. Weapons, he said, were not as useful as chocolates. During the conversation that followed, captain Bluntschli gave Raina an account of the fight; how a Bulgarian officer (Sergius, her lover) had been carried away by his horse. This shattered the image, of Sergius in her eyes. As for Bluntschli, Raina persuaded her mother to let him stay on until the search was over. Bluntschli was very tired. He fell asleep in the girl's bed. By this time he had won a place in her heart.

Four months after the war was over, Major Petkoff returned home. Sergius was with him. They mentioned to Raina and her mother Catherine, what they had learnt from a Swiss officer about two Bulgarian ladies who had saved his life. Raina and Catherine rebuked them for repeating a false story.

When Sergius and Raina met alone, they reaffirmed their love for each other but soon after that Sergius was in the company of the maid-servant, Louka and flirted with her secretly. Quite unexpectedly, Captain Bluntschli came to return the coat which he had borrowed from the Petkoffs on the night when he hid in their house. This coat belonged to Major Petkoff.

Major Petkoff and Sergius had known Bluntschli as a practical man. They were glad that he came at a time when they were finding it difficult to solve a puzzling problem about the army movements. Bluntschli was quick to help them. When he was alone with Raina, he discovered her intense love for him. He told her that he had found it out by instinct and experience of the world. Sergius met Louka again. She told him the story of Raina and the Swiss officer. This gave Sergius a shock. He challenged Bluntschli and charged Raina that she had allowed Bluntschli to make love to her. Major Petkoff found a portrait of Raina in one of the pockets of his coat; it was the same coat which Bluntschli had come to return. On the portrait were written the words, "To my chocolate-cream soldier." The Major asked Raina to explain this. She gave him the story. This created tension. Bluntschli, a practical man at once asked Raina to agree to marry him. She gave her consent. Sergius married Louka.

### 1.1.3 Self-Check Exercise

1. What did Shaw decide to become first before becoming a successful dramatist ?

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1. a person running away from danger or enemy.



2. In which age was Shaw born ?
3. Why did Shaw take to drama ?
4. Whose speech magnetised Shaw ?
5. Which are his *Unpleasant* plays ?
6. Name Shaw's *Pleasant* plays.
7. According to Shaw what is the purpose of life ?
8. What does *Arms and the Man* satirise ?

#### 1.1.4 Answers to Self-Check Exercise

1. Shaw first decided to become a successful speaker before becoming a successful dramatist.
2. Shaw was born in the Victorian Age.
3. Shaw took to drama because he realised that only drama could be the vehicle of his ideas.
4. Henry George's speech on poverty magnetised him.
5. *Widower's Houses, The Philanderer* and *Mrs. Warren's Profession* are his Unpleasant Plays.
6. *Arms and the Man, Candida. The Man of Destiny* and *You Never Can Tell* are his Pleasant plays.
7. According to Shaw the purpose of life is to rise to a higher stage in the evolutionary process.
8. *Arms and the Man* satirises romantic notions about war and love.

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**LESSON NO. 1.2**

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**G.B. SHAW : ARMS AND THE MAN****1.2.0 Objectives**

- To introduce the students to the act I of the play.
- It will provide a detailed summary of the act I of the play.

**1.2.1 Act I**

A Detailed Summary :

In a small town in Bulgaria, a young lady is getting ready for the night's rest; Her bedroom is tastefully decorated. In a wooden stand, there is an image of Jesus Christ. There is a window with hinges like a door. On the opposite side, there is placed an ottoman (it is a sort of bench with neither arms nor back); The curtains and the carpet are costly. The walls are covered with paper which is cheap. There is a washstand also. Between the bed and the window is a dressing-table. Between the door and the bed there is a chest of drawers. On the chest of drawers, the portrait of a handsome youngman is placed. Some books and a box of sweets are also placed on the chest of drawers.

The window is open. On the balcony, Raina, the beautiful young woman is enjoying the beauty of the night. She is wearing a night gown and a mantle of fur. Her clothes are very expensive.

Catherine, Raina's mother, is a well-built woman. She is above forty, has black hair and black eyes. She is wearing an expensive tea gown even at night. When Catherine goes to Raina's room, she finds her daughter outside her room. She rebukes her for standing in the cold and inviting ill-health. She is glad to inform Raina what she has heard : The Bulgarians have defeated the Serbs and the Austrians. Raina's betrothed, Sergius, is the hero of the battle. Both are overjoyed and embrace each other. Raina used to doubt Sergius's bravery but he has proved his worth. At this stage their maid-servant, Louka comes to warn them that no window should be kept open. The Serbs are being followed by the victorious Bulgarians and there may be shooting in the streets. Louka and Catherine go away. Raina looks at her lover's portrait for some time. She is full of respect for him. Then she starts reading in the light of the candles burning in her room.

Soon Raina hears shooting in the street. She puts out the light. In the darkness, she hears a sound. Somebody has pushed open the shutters of her window. Then she hears the sound of breathing. Somebody has entered her room. He lights a match stick. On seeing the girl he warns her not to speak or he will kill her. He tells her to light a candle. In the light, she sees a Serbian artillery officer. Obviously, he has come to hide from his enemies who have been following him. He had climbed up a pipe into her room. The officer tells her that if he is discovered, they will kill him. Raina finds out for the first time that even soldiers are afraid of death. This shatters the image of heroes in her mind. The officer tells her that all soldiers are afraid of death. He threatens to kill her if she raises an alarm or goes out of her room. Raina tells him that she is not

afraid of death. She soon realises that she is in her night gown only. So she wants to put on her cloak, but the officer does not let her do so. He says he wants to use it if he has to run away, from there. This will provide him protection.

At this stage, they hear shooting in the street. Some people are knocking at the door of this very house and soon enter it. They say they are in search of a soldier who ran away and has been climbing up the pipe into this house. Catherine and Louka protest but they take no notice of the protest. Soon all of them go to Raina's room. The soldier in the room says that he will die fighting but Raina decides to hide him. She tells him to stand behind the large curtain. The officer and others come in when the door is opened. The soldier's revolver is lying on the ottoman but the officer is a fool not to notice it. Captain Bluntschli also (the hiding officer) remarks later that nine out of ten soldiers are born fools. Soon the search is over. The Bulgarian officer himself inspects the gallery and after feeling sorry for the inconvenience goes away.

The stranger is grateful to Raina. He tells her that he is a Swiss, not Serb. Raina sits on the ottoman but gets up with a shriek as she had sat down on the revolver. The Swiss also is frightened. The experience of war has made him sensitive. Raina tells him that she has formed a poor opinion about him as a soldier. She hands over the revolver to him and tells him to load it to protect himself against a lady like her. The stranger says that he has no ammunition. He says cartridges are useless in the battlefield. So he carries chocolate-creams in his pockets. He tells her that at present he has no chocolates and he is very hungry. He satisfies his hunger with a few chocolates from the box which Raina hands over to him. He scrapes the box and licks his fingers.

Raina forms a very unfavourable impression about soldiers from this stranger's behaviour. She finds him a coward and tells him so. He defends himself by saying he has been without food, drink and sleep for many days. That is why he is feeling so nervous. Raina wants to impress him by saying that the Bulgarian soldiers never become nervous. He says that all soldiers are alike. He tells her how the Bulgarians acted foolishly by attacking the enemy. Their guns did not fire owing to wrong ammunition, otherwise all the Bulgarians would have been blown to pieces. Raina is full of pride at the heroic deed of Sergius but the stranger tells her the truth about it. He says Sergius attacked the enemy like Don Quixote. He was foolish enough to believe that he had won the battle by his heroism (The fact was that owing to wrong ammunition the Serbian guns did not fire. Moreover, the Serbian soldiers did not have bayonets). Actually he should have been court-martialled (punished) for his foolishness.

Now Raina shows the stranger her lover's portrait. He at once recognises him. He was the same officer who led the attack. He says that probably the Bulgarian army knew that the enemy had no ammunition. This meant that Sergius was both a coward and a hypocrite. Raina loses her temper as the stranger has spoken ill of her future husband. She tells him to clear out. The stranger says that it is difficult for him to climb down the pipe. So Raina calls him a chocolate-cream soldier. She takes pity on him and persuades him to stay on for some time more. He is very much tired and finds difficult

even to stand on his legs. Still he does not want to embarrass Raina any more. He decides to leave and to climb down the pipe. Now she tells him that he is running a great risk. People will notice him and he will be caught. She prevents him from going out.

Raina is proud of her superior position. She tells the stranger about her high family. It is one of the important families in Bulgaria. They are generous. Her father is a Major.

They have double row of windows to their house and a beautiful staircase. They have a library. Their family visits Bucharest every year. Once she spent a whole month in Vienna.

She saw in an opera that a guest is sacred. So she is also treating him generously. She tells him that they wash their hands almost every day. The soldier tells her to go and inform her mother because it is not proper that a stranger should be in her room and she should not know it. Before that Raina offers her hand of friendship to him. He kisses her hand with his own hands behind his back. As his hands are not clean, so he does not want to touch her. This pleases Raina. She is convinced that he is a decent man with good manners.

Raina finds that the stranger is yawning. He is feeling sleepy. She tells him to stand up till she brings her mother. He obeys her but as soon as she leaves the room, he begins to doze and is soon asleep in her bed. Catherine and Raina soon arrive. Catherine shakes him strongly but he is fast asleep. Raina tells her mother not to disturb the poor darling. Her mother looks at her angrily wondering why she should feel so strongly towards a stranger.

#### STUDY NOTES

Shrine	:	a holy place; here a wooden structure where the portrait of Jesus Christ has been placed; shrine of beauty, liberty, art.
outer pane	:	a bed cover.
ottoman	:	long cushioned seat without back or arms.
gorgeous	:	magnificent, richly coloured (e.g. sunset; e.g. weather; e.g. dinner)
occidental	:	western (its opposite is oriental)
textile fabric	:	woven cloth.
enamelled	:	covered with enamel which is a coating for protection of metals.
variegated	:	marked with differently coloured patches, (e.g. the leaves of pansies are variegated.)
miniature	:	very small painting of a person, on a small scale (e.g. miniature railway; miniature camera).
lofty	:	high, distinguished, noble (lofty bearing means distinguished or impressive looks; lofty mountain, tree, room., principles, aims).
magnetic	:	having the power to attract others (magnetic glance : the look that attracts the attention of others.
chest of drawers	:	large wooden box with drawers for storing clothes.

reverie	:	a day dream, condition of being lost in dreamy, pleasant thoughts.
catch your death	:	you will catch cold and die.
dilating	:	opening wide; dilated means widened, enlarged, expanded.
mantle	:	loose, sleeveless cloak.
rapturously	:	full of delight.
regiment	:	a unit of army further divided into battalions, commanded by a colonel.
ecstatically	:	joyfully,
frantically	:	wildly; like a mad man.
enthusiasm	:	strong feeling of admiration or interest, e.g., He feels no enthusiasm for the army; the play, moved the audience to enthusiasm. It aroused enthusiasm in him).
gallant	:	brave (e.g. a gallant knight; gallant deeds.)
wretched	:	miserable (lead a wretched life; living in wretched poverty; wretched weather)
dandified	:	having paid too much attention to clothes and personal appearance (e.g. dandified appearance); become fashionable; living a life of ease and luxury).
chaff	:	outer covering of grain, hay or straw cut up as food for cattle.
betrothed	:	engaged to be married. (She was betrothed to an army officer).
treason	:	treachery, betrayal of one's country, disloyalty.
disillusion	:	set free from mistaken beliefs. (e.g. We thought that he was a sincere friend but we were soon disillusioned.)
humiliation	:	put to shame; losing dignity (e.g. The defeated army suffered a great humiliation.)
opera	:	a drama in which words are sung.
remorse	:	deep regret for a wrong doing (e.g.. I was filled with remorse for my failure to help him).
prosaic	:	dull, uninteresting (She is lovely but her husband is prosaic).
defiant	:	openly disobedient.
servile	:	like slaves: lacking the spirit of independence, (e.g. He is a servile flatterer.)
insolent	:	rude; insulting (e.g. insolent behaviour.)
cavalry	:	soldiers who fight on horseback. (cavalry soldier; cavalry officer).
instinct	:	natural tendency to behave in a certain way without training (e.g. Birds learn to fly by instinct.)
fugitive	:	runaway; a person who runs away from justice, danger.
grimace	:	an ugly and twisted expression on the face. expressing pain or disgust intended to cause laughter (e.g. Only rude children make grimaces).

swagger	: walk or behave in a self-important manner ; (swaggering walk; with a swagger).
adore	: worship; love deeply and respect highly. (He adores his wife) elevate : raise, make the mind higher and better (elevate minister to the post of the Prime minister; elevate the voice, elevating thoughts, conversation).
reverently	: with great respect.
scramble	: struggle with others to get something (The players scrambled for the ball.)
scratch	: make line with something sharp. (The child has scratched the paint from the toy. He scratched his hands while plucking the flowers).
crouch	: lower the body with limbs together in fear or to hide, or as the animals do when they are about to attack.
subdue	: overcome, bring under control (He subdued the savage tribe, subdued voice, softer, gentler)
retreat	: go back, withdraw (We forced the enemy to retreat. We retreated safely).
deplorable	: regrettable, over which sorrow should be expressed. (deplorable accident, deplorable conduct; deplorable plight).
bespattered	: spattered all over with mud.
tunic	: close-fitting jacket as worn by soldiers, policemen.
discern	: see clearly, with the eyes or with the mind. (We found it difficult to discern the truth of what he said).
desperate	: filled with despair and so ready to do anything, not caring for the danger. (The prisoner became desperate in his attempt to escape).
predicament	: unpleasant situation from which escape seems difficult. (He is in an awkward predicament).
menace	: danger, threat (a menace to world peace; countries are menaced by war. He made a speech filled with menace).
menacingly	: in a threatening manner. ( he advanced towards him menacingly).
disdain	: look on with contempt; think dishonourable. (a great man should disdain flatterers)
unchivalrous	: not behaving politely.
superb	: magnificent, of highest excellence, value, beauty. (The movie was superb).
imminent	: about to take place in the near future. (1. Some say war is imminent. 2. He says that storm is imminent).
blackguard	: person who is quite without honour, scoundrel.
batter	: strike hard and repeatedly. (1. They battered the door down. 2.

		Somebody was battering at the door).
din	:	loud, confused noise that continues. (In the din made by the children, I could not apply my mind to the problem).
triumphant	:	victorious, full of joy at success. (The General made triumphant entry into the town).
yell	:	a loud, sharp cry.
indignantly	:	angrily.
subside	:	become quieter after being violent, come down to a lower level. (The storm began to subside).
gesture	:	movement of the hand or head to indicate or illustrate an idea, felling. (1. Our country has made a gesture of goodwill towards the neighbours. 2. He made a gesture of refusal).
assume	:	take as true (1. You assume that he is innocent before hearing the evidence against him. 2. He is not such a fool as you assume).
intimidate	:	frighten especially in order to force. (He accused him of intimidating the witness).
sabre	:	a cavalry sword with a curved blade.
impulsively	:	acting on sudden inclination without thinking about the consequences.
furious	:	Full of anger, excitement, (a furious struggle, quarrel, storm, pace, speed).
petrified	:	turned into a stone, shocked greatly and so unable to think, feel, act properly; bewildered.
feline	:	like a cat, cunning, spiteful, treacherous.
intrude	:	force on somebody's attention or force entry without invitation (1. Don't intrude your views upon others. 2. I am sorry to intrude upon your time. 3. I hope I am not intruding).
petulant	:	full of anger; unreasonably impatient or irritable.
wink	:	to close and open eyes (She winked at me. When I was about to speak; he winked at me).
gasp	:	struggle for breath; take short quick breaths (1. After the race was over, the athlete gasped for breath for a few seconds. 2. His father was gasping with rage).
glare	:	to look; stare angrily or fiercely (The two enemies stood glaring at each other).
resume	:	go on after stopping for some time. (1. After tea, he resumed his work. 2. The stranger resumed the story after a brief silence. 3. After the speech he resumed his seat).
gracious	:	pleasant or kind (1. He thanked the gracious lady. 2. It was gracious of you to come).
demonstration	:	expression of something. (1. The workers gave a demonstration

	of their unity and strength. 2. He gave a demonstration of the yogic practices).
affable	: polite and friendly; pleasant and easy to talk to.
studied elegance	: Intentional, deliberate grace, or manners, (an elegant young man, elegant manners).
vexed	: troubled, annoyed, distressed. (1. The boy was vexed at his failure, 2. The mother was vexed that her daughter did not behave properly in the presence of guests).
grin	: smile broadly so as to show teeth.. It is an expression of amusement, foolish satisfaction, contempt etc. (He was grinning with delight).
sarcasm	: bitter remarks to wound the feelings.
disparage	: say something to suggest that somebody or something is of small value or importance.
outrage	: (i) an act of extreme violence or cruelty. (ii) an act that shocks public opinion (e.g., She was outraged by her daughter's behaviour. It was an outrage upon decency).
contemptible	: deserving hatred. (His behaviour-was contemptible. He is a contemptible liar).
confectionery	: sweets, chocolates, cakes, pastry.
gobble	: speaking with a characteristic, sound in the throat, because of anger.
ravenously	: greedily, hungrily (He was eating ravenously).
scrape	: remove by using hard edge of a tool or even with hand. (He scraped out the sweets from the box).
inevitable	: that can not be avoided; sure to happen. (Death is inevitable).
pathetic	: sad; pitiful (A pathetic sight).
grub	: food (slang).
holster	: leather case for a revolver.
charge	: sudden attack at high speed by soldiers, wild animals, a player. (The platoon made a fierce charge).
sling	: support so that it can swing. (1. He slung the basket. 2. His rifle was slung over his shoulder).
slash	: to cut, to beat. (1. Don't slash the horse in this cruel way. 2. He slashed at the bushes with his sword).
projectile	: something shot forward especially from a gun.
operatic tenor	: music of the opera. (Opera is a drama in which the words are sung. Tenor is the highest adult male voice).
Don Quixote	: hero of a Spanish novel of this name. Cervantes is its author. (Don is used before a Spanish name as they use Mr. before an English name). Don Quixote was a foolish knight who used to



	strike at the windmills with his sword. He thought they were castles.
war-cry	: word or slogan shouted in battle as har-har mahadev or Sat Siri Akal.
stifle	: give the feeling that breathing is difficult. (1. The smoke stifled the fireman. 2. We were stifled by the heat. 3. The heat was stifling.)
remorse	: sorrow, regret.
despair	: having lost all hope. (1. The mountaineers gave up the attempt in despair. 2. His foolishness drove his father to despair. 3. The student was filled with despair when he read the question paper)
angelic	: lovely or innocent, like an angel (An angel is often shown in pictures as a human being in white with wings.)
countenance	: face, its appearance and expression. (1. On hearing the news he changed countenance. 2. She is woman with a fierce countenance.)
dejection	: sadness (Coleridge has written a poem on dejection.)
stoop	: bend low (1. He stooped to pick up the ball. 2. I never believed he could stoop so low.)
maternal	: of a mother. (The maternal instinct was aroused in her.) stagger : to walk unsteadily. (1. He walked with a staggering gait. 2. The drunken boy staggered from side to side on the road.) desperation : a state of helplessness as a result of which a man acts without caring for the consequences. (The hungry man committed the act of desperation.)
rallied vigour	: collecting all his energies.
recklessly	: thoughtlessly, rashly, not thinking of consequences. He drove recklessly.)
fatigue	: condition of being very tried (During the race several persons dropped with fatigue.)
partrionizingly	: encouragingly.
pout	: put out the lips as a sign of displeasure,
notion	: idea, opinion (1. I have no notion of what he thinks about you. 2. He has notion that I am cheating. The boy's head is full of notions.)
affectedly	: not naturally, pretended.
dubiously	: having a feeling of doubt.
drowsily	: sleepily (He spoke drowsily.)
trail	: a line or mark left behind when something passes by (1. The motor-bike left a trail of smoke. 2. The flood left a trail of destruction. 3. The wounded animal left a trail of blood).

stumble	: strike the foot against something and almost falling. 1. He stumbled against the chair and fell. 2. In the dark, I stumbled over a stone.)
blissful expression:	an expression of great joy.
scandalized	: angry, shocked, one whose moral feeling or manners are offended.
stride	: walk with long steps (G.B. Shaw's the habit of striding along the road.)
vehemently	: strongly, ardently, passionately
profoundly	: deeply
sternly	: with strictness; severely; firmly, (stern means rigid, severe, unyielding, stern parents, discipline, resolve.)

### IMPORTANT PASSAGES EXPLAINED

1. "I should think so. You have't been under fire for three days as I have. I can stand two days without shewing it much, but no man can stand three days. I am as nervous as a mouse."

These lines are taken from Shaw's play '*Arms and the Man*', Act I

The runaway soldier was hungry. Raina offered him a box of chocolate creams. After eating the confectionery he returned the box to Raina. She took it from him and threw it away. This sudden action of Raina frightened him. He told her not to do things in a hurry. He had frightened her earlier. She should not revenge herself on him. Raina admitted that she was a woman but she was as brave as a soldier. The soldier agreed that she was brave but so far as he was concerned he had a very hard time. For three days he had been under fire. One could bear two night's inconvenience and hardship but beyond that it was not within a man's power to endure constant fear of death. The last three days had made him nervous so that even a slight noise or a sudden movement filled him with fear of death.

2. "There are only two sorts of soldiers: old ones and young ones. I've served fourteen years : half of your fellows never smelt powder before. Why, how is it that you've just beaten us ? Sheer ignorance of the art of war, nothing else."

These lines are taken from '*Arms and the Man*', Act I. The soldier hiding in Raina's room is in a sad plight. He is very much shaken and feels like crying only if Raina would scold him. Raina tells him that Bulgarian soldiers are made of a sterner stuff. The Serbian soldier tells her that all soldiers are alike. He divides them into two classes : those that are old and experienced and those who are young and fresh. He belongs to the first category. So far as the Bulgarian soldiers are concerned, half of them are freshers. In the present war they had an experience of fighting and firing for the first time. Still they came out victorious. The reason for this was not their superiority in the art of war but its ignorance. He is very sure that this gave them advantage over others.

3. "Well, come, is it professional to throw a regiment of cavalry on a battery of machine guns, with the dead certainty that if the guns go off: not a horse or man

will ever get within fifty yards of the fire ? I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw it".

These lines occur in Act I of "*Arms and the Man*". The soldier who is hiding in Raina's room tells her how the Bulgarians won victory in the war.

The soldier tells Raina that the Bulgarian army acted foolishly. They attacked the Serbians, who had a strong battery of machine guns. If the guns had started firing, not one of the Bulgarians would have survived. It is another thing that their ammunition was wrong and so the guns did not go off. No experienced army would have acted in the manner Bulgarians did. Death was sure in the face of the enemy gun fire and yet they attacked the enemy not knowing the consequences. Only their good luck helped them.

4. "He did it like an operatic tenor. A regular handsome fellow with flashing eyes and lovely moustache, shouting his war-cry and charging like Don Quixote at the windmills. We did laugh."

These lines have been taken from Act I of '*Arms and the Man*'. The words are spoken by the soldier who is hiding in Raina's room.

The soldier is giving Raina an account of the attack by the Bulgarians on the Serbs. The man who took the lead actually was afraid of advancing but his horse ran away with him, On seeing this his companions also followed him. Raina tells him he is a hero who took the lead in the attack but the soldier tells her that he acted like a leading male singer in an opera. He was indeed an impressive young man but he looked like Don Quixote—a character in Cervantes' novel by that name. Don Quixote was also a dreamer who thought that the windmills were giants and castles and he must fight and kill them. The leader of assault party also made a show of his strength against the enemy who was powerless because they had no ammunition to fire. So when the Serbians saw Sergius waving his sword without any need or occasion they only laughed at him because they were not actually fighting.

Now explain the following passages with reference to the context:

1. I wondered whether all his qualities and his soldiership might not prove mere imagination when he went into a real battle. I had an uneasy fear that he might cut a poor figure there beside all those clever officers from the Tsar's Court.
2. I was only a prosaic little coward. Oh, to think that it was all true ! that Sergius is just as splendid and noble as he looks ! that the world is really a glorious world for women who can see its glory and men who can act its romance ! What happiness ! What unspeakable fulfilment."
3. A narrow shave; but a miss as good as a mile. Dear young lady, your servant the death, I wish for your sake I had joined the Bulgarian army instead of the other one. I am not a native Serb.
4. You can always tell an old soldier by the inside of his holsters and cartridge boxes. The young ones carry pistols and cartridges, the old ones, grub.
5. And there was Don Quixote flourishing like a drum major, thinking he has done

the cleverest thing ever known, where as he ought to be courtmartialled for it. Of all the fools ever let loose on a field of battle, that man must be the very maddest. He and his regiment simply committed suicide : only the pistol missedfire : that's all.

6. You see, sleep or no sleep, hunger or no hunger, tired or not tried, you can always do a thing when you know it must be done.
7. I tell you these things to shew you that you are not in the house of ignorant country folk who would kill you the moment they saw your Serbian uniform, but among civilised people. We go to Bucharest every year for the opera season; and I have spent a whole month in Vienna.
8. I thought you might have remembered the great scene when Ernani, flying from his foes just as you are tonight, takes refuge in the castle of his bitterest enemy an old Castilian noble. The noble refuses to give him up. His guest is sacred to him.
9. Where am I ? That's what I want to know; where am I ? I Must keep awake. Nothing keeps me awake except danger.

### 1.2.2 Self-Check Exercise

1. What sort of a girl was Raina before her encounter with Captain Bluntschli ?
2. What was Raina's reaction when her mother told her about Sergius's role in the battle ?
3. What was Raina's opinion of Sergius ?
4. Describe the appearance of the soldier who took shelter in Raina's room.
5. How did the soldier react to knocking at Raina's door?
6. Why did Raina take off her cloak before opening the room?
7. Why did the Russian officer come to search Raina's room ?
8. How was Louka more intelligent than the Russian officer ?
9. What was the soldier's attitude towards Raina after the search party had left ?
10. What was Raina's opinion of the soldier ?

### 1.2.3 Answers to Self-Check Exercise

1. Before her encounter with Captain Bluntschli, Raina was a romantic sort of a girl.
2. She felt overjoyed to hear about Sergius's role in the battle.
3. Raina was doubtful about Sergius's capacity for fighting.
4. The soldier was about 35 years old and of middle height. His uniform was torn and dirty. But in spite of all this, he was energetic.
5. First he handed over the cloak to Raina and then he got ready to fight. He told Raina not to stand in his way.
6. She wanted to give the impression that she had been sleeping.
7. The Russian officer came to search Raina's room because he had learnt that a Serbian soldier was hiding there.
8. The Russian officer had seen the revolver lying on the ottoman, but he could not

connect it with the presence of the Serbian soldier in the room. Louka at once found it out. She also saw that he was behind the curtain.

9. The soldier was highly obliged to Raina for saving his life.
10. Raina thought that the soldier was a cowardly fellow.

### **Act I**

#### **Short Notes (Solved)**

Q.1. What good news does Catherine bring to Raina ?

Ans. Catherine comes to Raina's bedroom with the good news that the Bulgarians have won in the battlefield. She also tells her about the heroism of her lover, Sergius who led the cavalry charge against the Serbians in the battlefield and won the war.

Q.2. Why did Raina doubt Sergius' heroism ?

Ans. Raina doubted Sergius' heroism because she thought that he was only a dreamer and a visionary and not a real hero and that his heroic ideas were just hollow and romantic.

Q.3. Describe the cavalry charge led by Sergius.

Ans. Sergius led the cavalry charge on his own responsibility. He was the first man to rush through the enemy guns without caring for his own life.

Q.4. Why did Louka ask Raina to close all the windows and doors ?

Ans. Louka, the maid-servant comes to Raina's room and asks her to close all the windows and doors because there was shooting going on in the streets as the Serbians were running away and were being chased by the Bulgarians.

Q.5. Who enters into Raina's room ?

Ans. It is Captain Bluntschli who enters Raina's room. He is a Swiss who joined the Serbian army as a professional. He enters Raina's room to take shelter there and to save himself from the Bulgarian army.

#### **(Unsolved) Act-I Short Notes**

Q.1. What sort of a character is Raina?

Q.2. To what kind of a family does Raina belong?

Q.3. Who is Raina's mother and what kind of a character is she?

Q.4. Who is Louka and what kind of information does she bring to Raina in this part of the story?

Q.5. What is Raina's reaction when the Bulgarian soldiers come to search her room?

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 LESSON NO. 1.3
 

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## G.B. SHAW : ARMS AND THE MAN

**1.3.0 Objectives**

- To introduce the students to the act II of the play.
- It will provide a detailed summary of the act II of the play.

**1.3.1 ACT II**

## A Detailed Summary

Four months after the first scene, in the garden of Major Petkoff, a small table with two chairs is laid for breakfast. Louka, the maid-servant, is seen smoking. Nicola the manservant is lecturing to her. He is a middle-aged man of cool temperament, Louka is looking at him with contempt, because Nicola is advising her to be respectful towards the lady of the house and her daughter. Actually he wants to marry Louka and then to open a shop in Sofia. He says good relations with the Petkoff family will help in his business. Louka tells him that she knows some secrets of the family. So neither Major Petkoff nor his wife can take any action against her. Nicola says he also knows some secrets. But they are poor people. If their employers turn them out, nobody will employ them. Their employers are rich. Others will believe them and not the poor servants. Louka taunts him by saying that he is a born servant and has the soul of a servant in him.

At this stage Major Petkoff returns home from the war. Nicola is the first to receive him. Louka runs to get some coffee for the master. Catherine is informed. She tells her husband that they should have crushed the enemy : it was not correct for them to make peace. The husband says that if the war had continued he would have been compelled to stay away from her longer. This he did not like. Catherine complains of sore throat. Petkoff tells that this is because of her cleaning her neck everyday. She calls him a "barbarian". She says that the Russian generals who fought on their side must have thought him so. Petkoff tells her that they were very much impressed when he told them that he had a library in his house. Catherine says that they would have been all the more impressed if they had come to know that they had installed an electric bell also. The Major is curious to know what an electric bell is. Catherine tells him that civilized people do not shout for their servants : they press the bell and the servants appear. The Major tells her that civilized people do not hang their washings outside. She says that civilized people, do not take any notice of such things.

Now Sergius also comes. Petkoff sees him coming. He tells his wife to keep him busy till Raina comes and engages him in conversation. He himself does not want to talk much to him because Sergius always complains to him that he has not been promoted. He says that he can be promoted only in peace, not in war because he is not dependable.

Sergius joins Petkoff and Catherine. He says his services to the army have not been recognized, so he has decided to resign.

At this stage Raina joins the company. She goes and stands beside her father

who kisses her. Sergius continues to discuss the army. He says that war is not the profession of heroes but cowards. They attack the enemy when they find him weak. When they find him strong, they avoid him.

Petkoff says fighting is really a trade. Sergius says in that case he will leave it to the traders. Petkoff mentions that in the Serbian army, there was a Swiss officer. They consulted him about the exchange of prisoners. Raina wants to know what he looked like. Her mother rebukes her for asking this silly question. Major Petkoff tells Sergius to relate to the ladies what they learnt from the Swiss officer, how he had entered a lady's bedroom at midnight and how the daughter and the mother had lent him a coat. Raina and her mother object to Sergius relating the story in their presence. Petkoff tells them that they belong to a soldier's family. So they should not be so sensitive.

Petkoff and his wife leave Sergius and Raina alone. Raina says she is not worthy of Sergius' love: he has been putting his life in danger in the war and she was doing nothing at home. Sergius tells her that her love inspired him to do great deeds. Raina admits that she is very happy that they have discovered a noble type of love. She goes into the house to get her hat.

Sergius is alone, Louka joins him. Sergius tells her that a soldier needs recreation after a long stay in the battlefield. He catches hold of Louka. She says that Raina might notice them together if they stand in the open. So they move a little away. Again Sergius puts his arms round Louka. She bluntly tells him that aristocratic people are all alike; Raina makes love to somebody in his absence and he is also doing the something when she is away. Sergius feels jealous. He wants to know who the man is. She says that she has not seen him but she heard his voice in her room. She says that she is sure that Raina has given her heart away. In a fit of anger, Sergius squeezes Louka's arm with great force. Her arm is bruised and she complains of it. She wants him to make good her hurt. He offers her money. She bursts into tears because she feels insulted. She rolls up her sleeve and looks at her injury. Then she offers her arm to Sergius to kiss. He does not do so. She drops her arm with dignity and goes into the house. Raina and Catherine arrive. Catherine tells Sergius that Petkoff wants him. So Raina and Catherine go out. Sergius joins Petkoff in the library.

Catherine tells her daughter that if Sergius came to know about that real story of the runaway soldier who stayed in her bedroom, he may not marry her. Raina says that she does not like Sergius's sense of morality and decency. It would be better if he came to know the real story about the Swiss officer. She is not keen to marry him.

Louka informs Catherine that a Serbian officer wants to see her. He has a carpet bag with him. Catherine feels worried. She at once judges that the Serbian soldier has come to return the coat which they had lent him. She tells Louka to bring him at once, Nicola should bring his bag. When the captain is brought before her, she tells him to leave at once because the relations between the Serbs and the Bulgarians are still not normal. She tells him to leave his address, so that his bag could be sent to him.

When Bluntschli is writing down his address, first Petkoff and then Sergius arrive

on the scene. They welcome him heartily. Catherine says that she has been pressing him to stay but he says that he is in a hurry to leave. Petkoff and Sergius want him to stay on and help them solve a problem.

As Petkoff, Sergius, Catherine and Bluntschli are talking, Raina appears. She recognizes the Swiss officer and all at once cries, "Oh ! The chocolate cream soldier". All are amazed at this remark. But Catherine is a shrewd woman. She tells Raina to behave properly in the presence of a guest. Raina at once cleverly tells them that she had made an ornament for the ice pudding but Nicola had just spoiled it by putting down a pile of plates on it. Petkoff is angry with Nicola. First he brought the guest to the lady and not to Petkoff even though he knew that he was in the library. Then he has spoiled Raina's chocolate soldier. Then he brings Bluntschli's bag. When the master rebukes Nicola he is confused. But as he is intelligent, he realises the situation and keeps quiet. When he goes away, Petkoff abuses him. He says he will dismiss him. Raina and Catherine put Petkoff in good humour. Now all request Bluntschli to stay on. He agrees.

#### STUDY NOTES

landscape	: Inland scenery.
encroaches	: goes beyond what is natural or right. Here it means encroaching upon land; advancing beyond the encroaches upon the municipal land).
paling	: fence.
minarets	: tall, slender spires of stone or brickwork on the top of a building.
disdain	: look with contempt. (1. He disdains flatterers. 2. He disdained my offer of help).
washing	: washed clothes hung out on the line to dry.
imperturbable	: not easily disturbed.
complacency	: self-satisfaction.
servitude	: slavery, condition of being forced to work for others and having no freedom.
accurate	: exact, correct.
illusion	: something that does not exist; false idea or belief (1. He cherishes the illusion that everyone admires him. 2. I have no illusions about his ability).
sash	: strip of cloth worn round the waist or over one's shoulder for ornament or as a part of uniform.
knicker bockers	: a type of trousers gathered in below the knees.
gaiters	: cloth or leather covering for the leg from knees to ankle.
	: hair : top of the head.
defy	: refuse to obey or show respect to. (1. He dares not defy his superiors. 2. If you defy the law, you will be in trouble).
sedately	: calmly; seriously; gravely.
compassionate	: having pity, having feelings for the suffering of others. (The



	:	officer granted compassionate leave to the soldier).
stamp	:	put one's foot down with force. (1. He stamped the ground angrily. 2. He stamped about the room).
blab	:	talk foolishly, tell a secret. (Louka said that she would blab out the secret).
cunning	:	clever at deceiving. (He is a cunning old fox).
scorn	:	contempt, feeling that somebody or something deserves no respect. (1. He dismissed my proposal with scorn. 2. She scorns telling lies.)
pluckily	:	bravely.
cognac	:	French brandy.
perfunctory	:	done as duty but without care or interest. (It is a perfunctory stock taking.
stately	:	impressive, dignified, (stately building, stately grace.)
demobilise	:	release from military service.
decree	:	order given by authority or having the force of a law. (The judge issued a decree.)
spring	:	jump up
erect	:	upright, standing on end (stand erect.)
outraged	:	treating violently; shocked.
appease	:	make quiet or calm. (I tried to appease his anger.)
subdued	:	overcome; bring under control. (He subdued the horse.)
relent	:	become less severe; give up unkind or cruel intentions (The father relented and allowed the children to see the television programme).
ridiculous	:	absurd; deserving to be laughed at. (He looked ridiculous in a woman's clothes.
absurd	:	unreasonable, foolish, ridiculous.
syllable	:	A syllable is a unit of pronunciation consisting of a vowel sound alone or of a vowel with one or more consonants. The number of syllables in a word generally depends upon the number of vowel sounds in it e.g. but, go, drop have one syllable. But mistake, neglect, paling have two syllables each. Chocolate has three, arithmetic (arithmatic) has four. (If 'e' comes at the end of word, it does not form a separate syllable : e.g. 'takes' is a word of one syllable : 'plate' also has one.
hardihood	:	boldness
chieftain	:	chief of a tribe.
apprehensive	:	uneasy, worried. The mother was apprehensive for her child's safety.)
pugnacious	:	fond of fighting.

assertive	:	showing positive assurance. (He spoke in an assertive tone).
parisian	:	connected with Paris.
precisely	:	exactly.
advent	:	coming or arrival of an important season, event (Since the advent of jet aeroplanes, travel has become fast.)
brood	:	think about troubles for a long time. (She was brooding over her misfortunes.)
perpetual	:	never ending, going on for a long time or without stopping. (The poet was tired of his daughter's perpetual chatter.)
cynical	:	contemptuous (a cynical smile, remark.)
jejune	:	dry, uninteresting (generally used for wings.)
credulity	:	too great readiness to believe things.
validity	:	state of being correct, sound.
concept	:	idea underlying a class of things, general notion.
wincing	:	showing bodily or mental pain of distress by a movement.
petty	:	small, unimportant. (petty troubles, details, officials, farmers, shopkeepers, cash etc.)
disillusion	:	set free from mistaken beliefs (Midas thought gold would make him happy but he was soon disillusioned.)
ironic	:	expressing irony (an ironic smile; remark.)
effusively	:	freely (express one's feeling, gratitude, pleasure).
make a fuss	:	show unnecessary excitement about unimportant things.
scrupulous	:	careful not to do anything which is morally wrong (scrupulous honesty).
gallantry	:	bravery, devotion to women. (He was given a medal for gallantry.)
superb	:	magnificent.
campaign	:	series of planned activities to gain a special object, e.g. a campaign to raise funds; a political campaign).
etiquette	:	rules for formal behaviour among people, or in a class or society or a profession, medical etiquette, legal etiquette.
vexed	:	annoyed, troubled, distressed (1. The boy was vexed at his failure, 2. He was vexed that I did not help him.)
ecru	:	colour of unbleached linen; pale brown.
dainty	:	pretty, neat and delicate (a dainty little lady; dainty spring flowers).
tinsel	:	glittering substance used for ornaments; cheap, showy brightness.
impulsive	:	acting suddenly (a girl with an impulsive nature.)
chivalrously	:	acting with courage, honour, devotion to the weak and helpless.
abominable	:	unpleasant.
bagman	:	commercial traveller.
over reach	:	fail in one's object by being too ambitious.

keen	: sharp, strong, deep. active, sensitive, eager (a knife with a keen edge, a keen wind, a keen sight, a keen intelligence, a keen sportsman; keen on going abroad).
humbugged	: deceived or tricked.
consummate	: complete, perfect (consummate skill, taste).
bourgeois	: person of the middle class of society especially shopkeeper having the habits and outlook of this class.
grinning	: smiling broadly showing the teeth : showing foolish satisfaction (grinning with delight).
fascinated	: charmed, attracted greatly. (The children were fascinated by toys in the window).
stateliness	: dignity.
humility	: humble condition or state of mind.
the seamy side of life	: the less attractive aspects of life e.g. poverty, crime etc.
flinch	: move back (We should not flinch from an unpleasant duty).
forage	: food for horses and cattle, search for food etc.
intervene	: come between; interfere so as to prevent something (intervene in a dispute, intervene between people).
offend	: displease, annoy.
ignoble	: shameful, dishonourable (an ignoble man, action)
radiant	: shining bright, showing joy or love (the radiant sun; a radiant face.)
loftiest	: highest,
exalted	: state of spiritual delight.
twirl	: turn round and round quickly. (He twirled his moustache),
akimbo	: with hands on the hips, elbows bent.
swagger	: walk or behave in a self-important manner (with a swagger).
apostle	: leader or teacher of reform, of a new faith or movement.
dexterously	: cleverly, skillfully.
inexorable	: unyieldingly.
plaintively	: sadly, sorrowfully.
betray	: deceive.
demurely	: quietly, seriously.
recoil	: draw or jump back, shrink (recoil from doing something).
torment	: cause suffering (tormented by hunger, mosquitoes).
furtively	: secretly.
buffoon	: clown, jester.
sardonically	: mockingly, scornfully.
damnation	: ruin (to suffer eternal damnation).
retreating	: going back; withdrawing.

stride	:	long step.
grimly	:	sternly : severely, mercilessly.
eavesdropping	:	the act of listening secretly to some conversation.
writhing	:	twisting or rolling about in pain.
meditate	:	think about, consider. (He meditates mischief).
gloomily	:	feeling sad; hopelessly, in a depressed manner.
whimpering	:	uttering weak, frightened or complaining sounds.
bruised	:	injured, affected by a blow or knock.
defiantly	:	disobediently.
slighting	:	discourteously, without respect.
shako	:	form of military hat.
intensity	:	strength or depth of feeling.
remorsefully	:	sadly; with repentance.
distracted	:	confused; bewildered (He was distracted between love and duty.)
timid	:	shy ; easily frightened.
coquetry	:	flirting.
perceptible	:	that can be easily seen.
brown study	:	deep in thought, day-dreaming.
gravel	:	small stones with coarse sand, as used for roads and paths.
whisking	:	brushing away quickly; going, taking suddenly. (1. whisked off to prison. 2. He was whisked off to the top floor in the lift.)
recommencing	:	restarting.
impertinence	:	being impertinent; the act of showing disrespect.
capriciously	:	suddenly changing,
propriety	:	state of being correct in behaviour and morals.
scandalise	:	shock, offend the moral feelings or manners.
perversely	:	wilfully choosing a wrong course.
flippantly	:	not showing proper respect.
salver	:	tray on which servants hand letter cards, refreshment etc,
peremptorily	:	in a manner that cannot be disobeyed, commandingly, insisting upon obedience.
vehemently	:	strongly; forcefully.
swoop	:	come down on something with a rush. (The police swooped down on the demonstrators).
impetuous	:	moving quickly or violently, done hastily, acting on impulse, acting energetically.
coaxing	:	make somebody do something by kindness or patience. (The nurse coaxed the child to take medicine).
animosities	:	strong dislike, active enmity.
agony	:	great pain or suffering of body or mind. (1. The wounded man was in agony. 2. He suffered agonies with toothache.)

fluster	:	make nervous or confused; nervous state.
whimsical	:	odd, quaint, strange.
fancy	:	liking, desire.
testily	:	irritably.
servile	:	like a slave.
discretion	:	prudence, carefulness, tactfulness,
blustering	:	storm; being rough or violent, speaking in a forceful but rather unsteady manner.
infernal	:	of hell, devilish (infernal cruelty.)

### IMPORTANT PASSAGES EXPLAINED

1. Soldiering, my dear madam, is the coward's art of attacking mercilessly when you are strong, and keeping out of harm's way when you are weak. This is the whole secret of successful fighting. Get your enemy at a disadvantage; and never, on any account, fight him on equal terms.

(Act.II)

These words are spoken by Sergius.

The war came to an end. Petkoff returned home. Sergius came to call on them. During the conversation, he announced that he did not like the war. There was no chivalry in it. It only meant destroying the enemy by any means. When the enemy is weak, we hit him but when he is strong we avoid him. If we are not as strong as the enemy we try to become so and then give a fight. Our effort is to catch him when he is in a weak condition.

2. We shouldn't have been able to begin fighting if these foreigners hadn't shown us how to do it: we knew nothing about it and neither did the Serbs. Egad, there'd have been no war without them.

After the war Sergius visits the Petkoffs and announces his decision to leave the army. They are discussing the war. Petkoff says that they have learnt the art of fighting from the foreigners. They have inspired them to fight. The Russians led one side and the Austrians the other. This is how the Bulgarians and the Serbs entered the war.

In these words, Shaw is criticising war. Neighbouring countries would live peacefully if the foreigners did not make them fight.

3. Dearest all my deeds have been yours. You inspired me. I have gone through the war like a knight in a tournament with his lady looking down at him.

These lines are taken from Act II of *Arms and the Man*.

The war is over. Sergius comes to call on the Petkoffs. When he and Raina, his beloved, are together, Raina compliments him on earning name and fame in the war. Sergius tells her that he succeeded because he always had Raina in mind. She inspired him. He fought bravely so that he could rise in her estimation. He was like a knight of the past ages. They used to take part in competitions of courage and skill while their ladies watched them. They did their best to come out successful in the competitions so

that they could win the love of the ladies.

4. Which of the six is the real man ? That is the question that torments me. One of them is a hero, another a buffoon, another a humbug, another perhaps a bit of a blackguard.

These words are spoken by Sergius to Louka, the maid servant in Act II.

Sergius loved Raina but his love was not deep. The moment she went in to get her hat, Sergius came across the maid-servant and began to flirt with her. Louka thought she was seriously in love with her. Sergius admitted that there were many aspects of his personality. He was not one man but a mixture of so many personalities. He did not know what really he was. He was a hero. At the same time he was sort of jester also. Then a cheat and scoundrel too. For him it was difficult to decide what he actually was.

Sergius was a frank person. He admitted his weakness. He knew that his character was not strong. At one time one quality dominated, at another time some other quality was in the foreground.

Now explain with reference to the context the following passages :

1. The mistress knows all about it. And I tell you that gentleman even comes here again, Miss Raina will marry him, whether he likes it or not. I knew the difference between the sort of manner you and she put on before one another and the real manner.
2. What would Sergius, the hero of Slivnitsa, say if he saw me now ? What would Sergius, the apostle of the higher love, say if he saw me now ? What would the half dozen Sergiuses who keep pepping in and out of this handsome figure of mine say if they caught us here ?
3. That's quite enough fuss about nothing : a soldier's daughter should be able to stand without flinching to a little strong conversation.
4. Being a thorough soldier, he ran away like the rest of them, with our cavalry at his heels. To escape their sabers he climbed a waterpipe and made his way into the bedroom of a young Bulgarian lady. The young lady was enchanted by the persuasive commercial traveller's manners. She very honestly entertained him for an hour or so, and then called in her mother lest her conduct should appear unmaidenly.
5. No. All Austrians, just as our officers were all Russians. This was the only Swiss I came across. I'll never trust a Swiss again. He humbugged us into giving him fifty able bodied men for two hundred worn out chargers. They weren't even eatable !
6. You know how to hurt with your tongue as well as with your hands. But I don't care. No I've found out that whatever clay I'm made of, you are made of the same. As for her, she's a liar; and her fine airs a cheat; and I'm worth six of her.
7. Oh, I know Sergius is your pet. I sometimes wish you could marry him instead of me. You would just suit him. You would pet him, and spoil him,

and mother him to perfection.

8. Scoundrel ! He's got out of hand while I was away. I'll teach him. Infernal blackguard ! The sack next Saturday ! I ' ll clear out the whole estbalishment.

### 1.3.2 Self-Check Exercise

1. Why did Louka behave insolently towards the members of Petkoffs family ?
2. Why was Major Petkoff happy when the war was over ?
3. Why was Catherine angry with Major Petkoff ?
4. What is Petkoff's opinion about Sergius ?
5. What was Sergius's opinion about the war ?
6. What was Raina's reaction when Sergius related the story of the soldier who took shelter in a lady's room at night ?
7. How did Sergius behave towards Louka when she tried to offer him a cup of coffee?
8. Whom did Raina address as "the chocolate cream soldier" ?
9. What did Catherine fear if Sergius came to know about the real story of the runaway soldier ?
10. Why had the Serbian soldier come again to Petkoff's house ?

### 1.3.3 Answers to Self-Check Exercise

1. Louka behaved insolently towards the members of Petkoff' family as she knew some secrets of the family and they dared not say a word against her.
2. Major Petkoff was happy when the war was over because he had no desire to fight.
3. She was angry with Major Petkoff because she did not want that their country should make peace with Serbia.
4. In Major Petkoff's Opinion Sergius was a bore as he always complained that he had not been promoted. According to him Sergius was a poor soldier.
5. Sergius says that in war soldiers act as cowards. They attack the enemy when they themselves are strong and the enemy is weak. But when the enemy is strong, they keep out of harm's way.
6. Raina reacts sharply to the story. She is angry with Sergius for repeating an immoral story in her presence.
7. While Louka advanced her hand towards the pot he held, he slipped his arm round her waist and tried to kiss her.
8. Raina addressed Captain Bluntschli as the chocolate cream soldier.
9. Catherine feared that if Sergius came to know the real story of the runaway soldier, he might not marry Raina.
10. The Serbian soldier had come to Petkoff's house to return the coat which they had lent him.

**Act - II (Solved) Short Notes**

Q. 1. What advice does Nicola give to Louka ?

Ans. Nicola advises Louka to mend her ways and be more respectful towards her employer as he tells her that if she defies them she will be thrown out. He warns her that if she does not do so, he will not marry her.

Q. 2. What is Major Petkoff's opinion about Sergius ?

Ans. In Major Petkoff's opinion, Sergius was a bore as he always complained to Major Petkoff that he had not been promoted in spite of his victory in the battlefield. According to him, Sergius was a poor soldier and a fool in spite of his victory.

Q. 3. What is Sergius's opinion about the war ?

Ans. In Sergius's opinion soldiering was a cowardly act of attacking the enemy when he is weak. But when the enemy is strong they keep out of harm's way. He thinks that soldiering is a trade like any other trade.

Q. 4. Whom does Raina address as her "chocolate cream soldier" and how she tries to explain it away to her father ?

Ans. Raina addresses Bluntschli as her "Chocolate cream soldier" and when her father asks her about it, she says that she had made a beautiful soldier for the ice pudding that morning which Nicola has spoiled.

Q. 5. Discuss the scene depicting the 'higher love' and Raina's and Sergius' reaction to it.

Ans. Sergius tells Raina that it was her love alone which inspired him and gave him strength enough to fight in the battlefield. He embraces her lovingly. Raina, on her part, calls him her hero, her king. This is the scene depicting their so-called higher love for each other.

**(Unsolved) Act - II Short Notes**

Q. 1. Why does Sergius flirt with Louka ?

Q. 2. Whom does Raina really love and why does she fall in love with this man ?

Q. 3. How do Catherine and Raina react when Bluntschli comes to return the Coat ?

Q. 4. Why does Catherine ask Raina to behave properly before strangers ?

Q. 5. How is Louka injured by Sergius ?



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**LESSON NO. 1.4**

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**G.B. SHAW : ARMS AND THE MAN****1.4.0 Objectives**

- To introduce the students to the act III of the play.
- It will provide a detailed summary of the act III of the play.

**1.4.1 Act III****A Detailed Summary :**

Bluntschli is working in the library. It has a single bookshelf. Some old novels and a few gilt books are placed in the shelves.

Sergius and Major Petkoff are also in the library. The former is without work. He is chewing the end of his pen. The latter is reading a newspaper. A hookah is placed near him. Catherine is busy with embroidery. Raina has a novel in her lap. She is not reading it, she is looking out at the mountains. These can be seen from this room.

Major Petkoff wants his coat as he does not feel comfortable in the one which he has on. He has looked for it in the closet but has not found it there. Catherine tells him it is there. He promises her a piece of jewellery if it is found. She sends a servant who brings the coat. Both Petkoff and Sergius are astonished at this.

Bluntschli has finished his work. He hands over the papers to the Major. The Major, Sergius and Catherine all go to instruct the messenger who is to carry the orders. Bluntschli and Raina are left in the room. Raina says Bluntschli is looking much better than when she last saw him. She wants to know if his fellow soldiers thought him a coward for running away from the battlefield. He says all the soldiers love life. So to save their lives they run away. She then accuses Bluntschli of having told some friend that he spent a night in her bedroom. She tells him that Sergius would be angry if he came to know about it. She tells Bluntschli that she has told only two lies in her life - once to the officer searching her room and secondly when she told her father that Nicola had spoiled her cake with the figure of a chocolate cream soldier. She lied in both the situations to save Bluntschli's life. He says that she is not sincere to Sergius. At first she resents but then she admits that Bluntschli has analyzed her character correctly.

Raina refers to her photograph which she had put in one of the pockets of the coat which they had lent to Bluntschli. He says he did not come across it. Raina feels worried about it. She says her father is wearing the coat at this time and may discover it. At this stage Louka brings letters for Bluntschli. One of them conveys news of his father's death. The other informs him of what property and assets he has left. Bluntschli goes out to issue instructions to his servants. Louka tells Raina that Bluntschli is not at all pained at his father's death. She says Sergius is a better man : he is very kind. Raina gets angry and leaves the room.

Now Nicola comes in. He tells Louka that he has received twenty leva from Sergius and ten from Bluntschli. The first person has given the money out of vanity, the second one for supporting the lies of Raina and her mother. He wants to give ten leva

to Louka. She rejects the money. She says Nicola has the soul of a servant. So the rich people have bought him with gifts of money. Nicola tells Louka that she must not think highly of herself otherwise she will be ruined. He tells her to behave in the presence of her superiors according to her position. He once again tells her of his plans. She has personal charms and a sweet nature, so she will help him in securing business from the Petkoffs and other rich families. Louka loses her temper at this suggestion. Nicola at once leaves the room.

Now Sergius comes into the room. He wants to make amends for the bruise of Louka's arm. She steps back. She says all officers and rich men want to play with the affections of the poor people. Then she asks Sergius if the poor men's sons are braver soldiers than the rich men's sons. He replies that the common soldiers are brave no doubt but they are terribly afraid of the officers. He is proud of his courage but Louka says moral courage is superior to physical courage. She tells him that if she were woman of high status (even the Empress of Russia) and if she loved a poor man, she would have the courage to marry him. Sergius says that he cannot marry her because he loves Raina. Louka tells him that Raina loves Bluntschli. Sergius is mad with rage. He says he will kill Bluntschli. Louka says Bluntschli has already beaten Sergius in love. Now he will beat him in the duel also. Sergius says he does not believe that Raina can love any body else behind his back, Louka tells him that he also makes love to her (Louka) behind Raina's back. Sergius is impressed by her arguments. He decides to marry her. Then she leaves the room.

When Sergius and Bluntschli meet, Sergius challenges him to a duel. Bluntschli does not know why he is angry with him. However, he agrees to fight. He says he is an artillery man. So he will make use of a machine gun against Sergius who will fight with the sword. Now Raina also joins them. She overhears their talk. Sergius accuses her of unfaithfulness. He accuses Bluntschli of playing foul with him. Bluntschli says that if he is the cause of spoiling their relations he will leave next morning. He removes Sergius' doubts by telling him that his enemies were after him when he took shelter in Raina's room. He frightened her with a pistol. After sometime he left the house. Sergius is satisfied with this version of the story but Raina complains that Bluntschli's friend gave publicity to this story. Bluntschli tells her that the friend got killed soon after. Then Raina says Sergius got this story from Louka. Perhaps Sergius had appointed Louka to spy on her. Moreover, Raina says that he had been making love to Louka. The result of this conversation is that the relations between Sergius and Raina are strained.

Bluntschli tries to help Sergius and Raina to be friends again but Raina says that Sergius will have to fight a duel with Nicola because Louka is engaged to him. Sergius loses his temper and abuses Raina. Bluntschli tries to quieten him. When they are calm, they ask him if he (Bluntschli) has been making a fool of them. Bluntschli replies that he has only been trying to remove their misunderstanding. He then inquires about Louka and Raina says that she must be overhearing their conversation. Bluntschli defends Louka. He says he himself once listened outside a tent when there was a

mutiny brewing. At that time his life was at stake. Louka says that she listened because her love was at stake. So she was not ashamed.

At this moment, Major Petkoff appears on the scene. He is without a coat. It is being mended. Soon Nicola brings it. Raina helps him put it on. In doing so she cleverly takes out her photograph from the coat's pocket. She throws it before Bluntschli who covers it with a paper. Sergius notices all this. Major Petkoff says he discovered in the coat pocket Raina's portrait with the words, "Raina to her Chocolate Cream Soldier, a Souvenir." Now it is not there. He says this was probably meant for Sergius who would not like to be known as a chocolate cream soldier. Now Bluntschli says it was meant for him. He relates the story how he took shelter in Raina's room and how she served him chocolate creams when he was very hungry. The Major asks Raina whom she is engaged to : Sergius or Bluntschli, She says Sergius is engaged to Louka. The Major is surprised. He says Nicola has been getting money from him on the pretext of his marriage with Louka. Nicola says he has been giving this information only to protect her. Louka now tells Sergius that he has brought dishonour to her. He offers to marry her to compensate for it. Catherine is shocked. She tells Louka that she has been reporting stories about Raina and Bluntschli. In this way she has spoiled the chances of Sergius's marriage with Raina, Bluntschli says Raina is a girl of seventeen. So it is natural for her to behave the way she did. He explains that Raina only acted in a childish way by presenting her photograph and calling him a chocolate cream soldier. Otherwise there was a great difference of age between them. So there was no question of their marrying each other. But he is told that Raina is twenty-three years old. At this he at once proposes to her. Catherine objects to this alliance. She says the Petkoffs are superior in wealth and status. Major Petkoff however only wants to know if Raina's future husband was well-off. Bluntschli gives details of his property and wealth. Raina's father and mother agree to her marriage with Bluntschli. Raina does not want to be sold to the highest bidder. Bluntschli says that even though he is a rich man, he will always remain the chocolate cream soldier for her. He is in a hurry to come back soon for his marriage. He tells Sergius also to get married on his return.

#### STUDY NOTES

trophy	:	something kept in memory of a victory or success.
chase	:	hunting.
mellow	:	soft.
gnawing	:	biting.
prosaic	:	dull; uninteresting.
majestically	:	with great dignity, impressively
mackintosh	:	rain coat made of cloth treated with rubber
bravo	:	well-done; excellent:
charger	:	army officer's horse.
revelry	:	dreamy, pleasant thoughts
hallucinations	:	seeing something which is not present.

rapt	: deep in thought.
discarded	: given up; thrown away.
grunt	: make a low sound.
splutter	: speak quickly, confusedly, indistinctly.
docket	: endorse, here arrange papers subjectwise
Sergius's charge	: the cavalry charge made by Sergius
capital story	: excellent; first rate (He made a capital speech.)
discretion	: prudence, carefulness, wisdom.
incredulous	: not believing.
sceptically	: doubtfully.
wincing	: showing bodily or mental pain or distress.
flippant way	: non-seriously, in a light-hearted manner.
quite touched	: moved with sympathy.
recoils	: feels shocked when she hears soldiers are in the habit of telling lies and adopting all sorts of means to save their lives,
wry	: pulled or twisted to show disgust.
dubiously	: feeling doubt.
noble attitude	: pretend to be noble.
thrilling voice	: serious voice.
unflinchingly	: quite calmly.
babyish	: submissively, obediently.
familiarity	: the state of knowing something well.
easily	: comfortably.
find me out	: discovered my true character.
Infatuated	: madly in love.
Hand aufs Herz	: hand on heart.
complacently	: with satisfaction.
indignantly	: angrily.
reluctantly	: unwillingly.
pursing his lips and rounding his eyes	: trying to remember in surprise.
vexed	: distressed, troubled, annoyed.
pawned it	: deposited it with a pawnbroker and borrowed some money from him.
redeemed	: got back by making payment.
phlegmatically	: not showing much interest; slow in reacting, feeling.
flounces away	: moves with quick, impatient movement.
flaming	: in an excited state of mind.
looped up	: rolled up in a circle.
civil	: polite; politely helpful.

subsequent	
accumulations	: letters which came afterwards.
remorsefully	: feeling deep, bitter regret.
musings	: thinking.
crosses herself	: she makes the sign of the cross.
whacking	: big, heavy, bulky.
solicitor	: lawyer.
in a crescendo of	
dismay	: his confusion rising.
disparaging	: talking against, showing as if he is of little importance.
amorously	: lovingly.
countenance	: face, its expression.
contrary	: opposed, obstinate, self-willed.
gleam	: shine.
swagger	: vanity; showing of.
regally	: kingly ; here like a princess, proudly.
squatting down	: sitting on heels.
forlornly	: like a person who seems cut off from others, unhappy, uncared for.
daunted	: discouraged.
implacable disdain	: great contempt.
made a woman of	: made you a fashionable and attractive woman.
scrambling up	: rising with difficulty.
dainty	: sweet and attractive.
defiantly	: disobediently.
a little more of one	: a little more foolish.
one of my grandest customers	: procuring business for me.
won't do	: will not serve the purpose.
sharp and impudent	: unkind and disrespectful.
high and mighty	: belonging to a higher position and so rude.
genteel	: indicating good breeding and so well-mannered.
expected to be	: acted as a maid-servant.
ordered about	
your place	: your position.
retort	: give a sudden, sharp reply.
sedately	: calmly, seriously, gravely.
reflectively	: thoughtfully.
fascinated but on her guard	: charmed by his touch but not surrendering herself completely.
flinching	: withdrawing, moving back.

wistfully	:	longingly.
unlike a woman	:	cruel.
levity	:	lack of seriousness.
bull terrier	:	a type of dog.
brows	:	angry looks.
fervently	:	emotionally.
give me the man	:	Sergius speaks about moral courage which he says is superior to physical courage.
seems to grow up	:	seem to grow intellectually or to become mature.
sprawling	:	sitting or lying with the arms and legs loosely spread out.
tormented	:	pained.
damnation	:	a curse.
mockery	:	a joke; ridicule.
vehemently	:	with force.
my affianced bride	:	the woman with whom I am engaged.
wait my pleasure	:	wait till agree to marry her.
preoccupied	:	busy.
brook no rivals	:	tolerate no rivalry in love.
flushing	:	becoming red in the face.
to be trifled with	:	to be treated non-seriously.
sabre	:	sword, cavalry sword with a curved blade.
striding forward	:	walking with long steps.
scandalised	:	disgraced.
peppery	:	in a hot-tempered manner.
predicament	:	trying or unpleasant situation.
a hollow sham	:	an empty thing : sham is something intended to deceive.
muzzle	:	mouth, barrel.
informant	:	person who gives information.
sardonic	:	mocking, scornful.
disenchantment	:	feeling that what she thought was not correct.
cynically	:	contemptuously.
romance	:	a love affair.
farce	:	something ridiculous.
whimsically	:	humorously.
genuine combat	:	a real fight.
solicitous	:	troubled, anxious.
bounding	:	jumping.
fresh abysses	:	new deep, bottomless, holes; here new difficulties.
sarcastically	:	using bitter remarks.
chivalry	:	qualities of courage, honour, nobility, loyalty, devotion to the weak and helpless.

viper	:	a poisonous snake ; here a treacherous person.
cut short	:	cause him to stop talking.
sweeps majestically	:	moves with dignity.
agony of mortification	:	pain of shame.
averted head	:	face turned in the other direction.
calumny	:	false statement about a person damaging his character.
eaves dropper	:	one who listens to other person's talk secretly.
provocation	:	act of making another person angry.
slightingly	:	insultingly.
paltry taunt	:	worthless remark, full of contempt.
tranquil air	:	calm manner.
genially	:	politely, kindly.
pretence	:	excuse, pretext.
enigmatically	:	mysteriously.
vehement protest	:	strong protest in saying something against some action.
exasperated	:	irritated, provoked, confused.
unction	:	pretended enthusiasm or earnestness.
above her station	:	she thought of herself as superior to her position as a servant.
her custom	:	her support, people patronizing her.
impressive discretion	:	impressing as a wise man.
crawling baseness	:	worst type of meanness.
testily	:	impatiently.
republican	:	citizen of a Republic.
disgust	:	strong feeling of dislike.
snorts	:	show displeasure.
gracious	:	pleasant and kind in behaviour.
vagabond	:	a person who wanders about and has no fixed place.
souvenir	:	an object that reminds us of a person, place or event.
triumphantly	:	feeling victorious.
refutation	:	proving wrong ; contradiction.
deuce	:	the situation where one player has to win two points consecutively to win the game.
complacently	:	with satisfaction.
stupefied	:	confused ; not able to think clearly.
discomfiture	:	confusion, embarrassment.
sagacity	:	wisdom.
suitor	:	desirous of marrying.
darts	:	moves like an arrow.
impetuously	:	hastily, moving quickly, thoughtlessly.

eiderdown quilts	:	quilts filled with soft feathers of large wild duck (eider is the type of the duck : down means soft feathers).
dessert	:	sweet dish or fruit served after dinner.
awe	:	fear and respect combined.
mutinously	:	revoltingly.
sulk	:	showing bad temper : refusing to talk.
omnibus	:	former name for a bus.
succumbing	:	yielding (to flattery)

### IMPORTANT PASSAGES EXPLAINED

1. What an army: They make cannons out of Cherry trees and the officers to send for their wives to keep discipline.

These words are spoken by Bluntschli in Act III of '*Arms and the Man*.' He has completed the papers and handed these over to Major Patkoff. He has to pass these on to the soldiers but he has not the courage to do so. So he requests his wife to accompany him. When they go away Bluntschli makes this comment in the presence of Raina.

Bluntschli says that the Bulgarian army is worthless. The officers are timid. Their equipment is also worthless. Instead of guns made of iron or steel they make them from the soft wood of cherry trees. The soldiers are not disciplined. The officers have not the courage to give orders to them. They take the help of their wives to make the soldiers carry out their orders. Thus, he paints a realistic picture of the Bulgarian army.

2. If you are incapable of gratitude you are incapable of any noble sentiment. Even animals are grateful. Oh, I see now exactly what you think of me ! You were not surprised to hear me lie. To you it was something I probably did every day : every hour : That is how men think of women. :

These words are spoken by Raina in Act III.

Raina complains that she had to tell a lie to save the life of Bluntschli. He says soldiers often come across people who tell lies. Secondly they also come across people who save their lives. So there is nothing unusual in what Raina did. Raina says he is ungrateful. She thinks that an ungrateful person is incapable of doing anything noble. Again he probably thought that Raina was in the habit of telling lies. That is why his impression about women was not correct, she added.

3. How easy it is to talk : Men never seem to me to grow up : they all have schoolboy's ideas. You don't know what true courage is.

These words are spoken by Louka, in Act III of '*Arms and the Man*.' She is talking to Sergius. She asked him if the poor men's sons also proved good soldiers. Sergius replied that they fought well but they were terribly afraid of the officers. He says there is hardly any man who can act in the light of his conscience. At this Louka says that men grow up but they do not become mature intellectually. She means to say that Sergius is still a schoolboy. He has had a lot of experience but he is not wise. He has no clear idea of what real courage is.

4. You lie : it is not so, by all the stars : If I loved you and I were the Czar



himself, I would set you on the throne by my side. You know that I love another woman, a woman as high above you as heaven is above earth. And you are jealous of her.

These words are spoken by Sergius. Louka accuses him of being a coward. She tells him that if she were the Empress of Russia and she loved a poor man, she would have the courage to marry him. Sergius also says the same thing in reply to impress her. If he were the Emperor of Russia and she a poor woman as she is, he would marry her if he loved her. But at present he loved Raina. She was much superior to Louka. Perhaps that was the reason why she was jealous of Raina. We know that Sergius was a superficial man. He did not love Raina, otherwise he would not have made love to Louka behind Raina's back.

5. Take care, Sir, It is not our custom in Bulgaria to allow invitations of that kind to be trifled with.

These words are spoken by Sergius. He learnt from Louka that Bluntschli stayed in Raina's bedroom. As Raina is betrothed to him, he wants to teach him a lesson. So he challenges him to a duel. Bluntschli says that he is an artillery officer, so he will take his machine gun with him if Sergius went on horse back and fought with a sword because he was a cavalry man. When Bluntschli speaks about the machine gun, Sergius thinks he is jesting. So he tells him that the matter is serious. It is a question of his honour. He should therefore not treat the invitation lightly.

Now explain the following passages with reference to the context:

1. Remember : I am a soldier. Now what are the two things that happen to a soldier so often that he comes to think nothing of them ? One is hearing people tell lies (Raina recoils) : the other is getting his life saved in all sort of ways by all sorts of people.
2. If you are incapable of gratitude you are incapable of any noble sentiment. Even animals are grateful. Oh, I see now exactly what you think of me ! You were not surprised to hear me lie. To you it was something I probably did everyday : every hour : That is how men think of women.
3. When you strike that noble attitude and speak in that thrilling voice. I admire you; but I find it impossible to believe a single word you say.
4. What I got through to Pirot I had to put it in safe keeping somehow. I thought of the railway cloak room; but that's the surest place to get looted in modern warfare. So I pawned it.
5. Grief: A man who has been doing nothing but killing people for years : What does he care ? What does any soldier care?
6. I've often thought that if Raina were out of way, and just a little less of a fool and Sergius just a little more of one, you might come to be one of grandest customers, instead of only being my wife and costing me money.
7. The way to get on as a lady is the same as the way to get on as a servant : you've got to know your place : that's the secret of it.

8. Yes: I am brave man. My heart jumped like a woman's at the first shot; but in the charge I found that I was brave. Yes : that at least is real about me.
9. I would marry the man I loved, which no other queen in Europe has the courage to do. If I loved you, though you would be as far beneath me as I am beneath you, I would dare to be the equal of my inferior, Would you dare as much if you loved me ?
10. The Swiss will kill you, perhaps. He has beaten you in love. He may beat you in war.
11. If I choose to love you, I dare marry you, in spite of all Bulgaria. If these hands ever touch you again, they touch my affianced bride.
12. You have deceived me. You are my rival. I brook no rivals. At six o'clock I shall be in the drilling ground on the Kisscura road, on horseback, with my sabre. Do you understand ?
13. Yes, you block-head : she received me with a pistol at her head. Your cavalry were at my heels. I'd have blown out her brain if she'd uttered a cry.
14. I'am a professional soldier ; I fight when I have to, and am very glad to get out of it when I haven't to. You're only an amateur : you think fighting's an amusement.
15. The reason is that it takes two men.....real men.....men of heart, blood and honour to make a genuine combat. I could no more fight you than I could make love to an ugly woman. You're no magnetism : you're not a man : you're a machine.
16. A shocking sacrifice, isn't it ? Such beauty : such intellect : such modesty : wasted on a middle-aged servant man. Really, Surgius, you cannot stand by and allow such a thing. It would be unworthy of your chivalry.
17. I musn't judge her, I once listened myself outside a tent when there was a mutiny brewing. It's all a question of the degree of provocation. My life was at stake.
18. Why, bless my heart and soul, look at the young lady and look at me. She, rich, young beautiful with her imagination full of fairy princes and noble nature and cavalry-charges and goodness knows what: And I, a commonplace Swiss soldier who hardly knows what a decent life is after fifteen years of barracks and battles, a vagabound, a man who has spoiled all his chances in life through an incurably romantic disposition.
19. The Petkoffs and the Saranof's are known as the richest and most important families in the country. Our position is almost historical : we can go back for twenty years.

#### 1.4.2 Self-Check Exercise

1. What did Raina accuse Bluntschli of ?

2. What were the two occasions when Raina uttered lies ?
3. Why did Raina tell the two lies ?
4. Is Raina sincere to Sergius ?
5. Who brought letters to Bluntschli ?
6. What is Nicola's future plan ?
7. How will Louka help Nicola in his business ?
8. What was Louka's argument that impressed Sergius ?
9. Who spied on Raina ?
10. Why was Louka not ashamed of overhearing the conversation among Bluntschli, Sergius and Raina ?
11. What words were written on Raina's photograph ?
12. Whom did Sergius marry ?

#### **1.4.3 Answers to Self-check Exercise**

1. Raina accused Bluntschli of having told some friend that he had spent a night in her bedroom.
2. The first occasion was when Bluntschli was hiding in her room behind the curtain and she told the Russian officer that no fugitive was there. The second occasion was when she addressed Bluntschli as a chocolate cream soldier and when her mother scolded her, she explained that Nicola had spoiled her chocolate cream soldier which she had made of ice pudding.
3. She told the two lies to save Bluntschli's life.
4. No, Raina is not sincere to Sergius.
5. Louka brought letters to Bluntschli.
6. Nicola's future plan is to open a shop.
7. Louka will help Nicola in his business by securing business from Petkoffs and other rich families.
8. Louka's argument that impressed Sergius was that most men and women thought that they were faithful in love but actually they were not.
9. Louka spied on Raina.
10. Louka was not ashamed of over-hearing their conversation because her love was at stake.
11. The words "Raina - to her Chocolate Cream Soldier - a Souvenir" were written on Raina's photograph.
12. Sergius married Louka.

#### **Act-III**

#### **Solved - Short Notes**

- Q. 1. Why does Raina tell Bluntschli that she cannot help telling Sergius about his stay in her rooms ?
- Ans. Bluntschli, who had taken shelter in Raina's room requests her not to tell Sergius or anybody else that he stayed in her room. However, Raina says

that she cannot help telling Sergius about it because her relationship with Sergius is the only one really beautiful and noble thing in her life.

Q. 2. What two lies does Raina tell for Bluntschli's sake ?

Ans. Raina tells the two lies for Bluntschli's sake because she wanted to save his life. First, she tells a lie when the Russian officer comes to search her room. Second time, she tells a lie while giving an explanation of the chocolate cream soldier to her father.

Q. 3. Why does Louka think that she is braver than Sergius ?

Ans. Louka says even if she were the Empress of Russia she could marry the man she loves. But Sergius has no courage to marry the woman he loves because she is below his status and he has no courage to show and face the consequences.

Q. 4. Why does Sergius challenge Bluntschli to a duel ?

Ans. When Sergius comes to know and realizes that Bluntschli is his rival in love, he cannot tolerate it. So when he meets him, he accuses him of deceiving him and so he challenges him to a duel.

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**LESSON NO. 1.5**

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**G.B. SHAW : *ARMS AND THE MAN*****1.5.0 Objectives**

- To introduce the students to all the characters of the play.
- It will provide detailed notes of character-sketches of the play.

**1.5.1 CAPTAIN BLUNTSCHLI**

Captain Bluntschli is the most important character in the play '*Arms and the Man*'. It is with him that the story begins and even at the end he walks out victorious from the house of Major Petkoff.

Captain Bluntschli is a cool-headed man. When he climbs up the pipe into Raina's room, he tackles the frightened girl without use of force. His good manners impress her. He is quite frank in telling her that he does not want to be killed. When Raina remarks that some soldiers are afraid to die he tells her that all soldiers are afraid to die. It is their duty to live as long as they can. Later when Sergius challenges him to fight a duel he accepts the challenge cool-headedly. He even does not ask him why he is being challenged. Afterwards Sergius calls off the challenge. Even then he does not ask him the reason for doing so. When Sergius decides to marry Louka, he quietly offers to marry Raina. Even then he does not show any emotion. And then he suddenly tells them that he is going to attend to some problems connected with the property which his father has left him.

Captain Bluntschli is a professional soldier. He has a long experience of army life. He tells Raina that professional soldiers do not have any funny ideas about war. They are realists, they only fight when they must. Then they pay more attention to providing themselves with food rather than ammunition. When he shows signs of fear at her sudden movements, he tells her that he has been under fire for three days and that has affected his nerves. He describes the charge by Sergius and his comrades in a realistic manner. He cannot forget how ridiculous Sergius appeared as he went rushing straight at the army. Even though he is in a difficult situation and in the house of an enemy, he finds it difficult to suppress his laughter, when he imagines the leader of the attack behaving like Don Quixote. Again when Raina is offended at his remarks about Sergius and tells him to clear out, he pulls himself together and gets ready to go. His words on this occasion are memorable, "You see, sleep or no sleep, hunger or no hunger, tired or not tired, you can always do a thing when you know it must be done."

There is something about Captain Bluntschli that captivates every heart. He is a sort of actor and he plays his part well. First he charms Raina by his plain speaking. Catherine is also disarmed by his behaviour. Then Major Petkoff and Sergius are impressed with his

quick mind. He resolves the difficult problem of army movements. This problem had baffled their minds for long. They are all praise for him.

In spite of the good impression created by him on Raina, she had probably never thought that she would marry Captain Bluntschli. She had always thought of Sergius,

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as a hero. But her dreams about him began to be shattered. She saw him making love to Louka and ultimately proposing to her. Now Raina was in a difficult situation but the captain rose to the occasion. He at once offered to marry Raina. This shows that he has a sharp mind and knows when to act his part. His decision to marry Raina removed everybody's anxiety about her. This shows that he is not only a professional soldier, not a machine and a man without a heart but a living person and an animate soul.

Bluntschli is a balanced person. He remains unperturbed in all situations. With a quiet confidence he wins the trust of Raina. When he meets Sergius, his old enemy in the battlefield and his new rival in love, he faces him with complete self-assurance. In making up the quarrel between Raina and Sergius or between Sergius and himself, he is a master of himself. The reason for this is that he is unattached to everything. He tells Sergius that he is a professional soldier. He fights when he has to and is very glad to get out of it when he does not have to. As compared with him Sergius is an amateur. He thinks that fighting is an amusement.

Captain Bluntschli has a romantic disposition. Sergius calls him a mere machine, a traveller in uniform. Raina says he has a shop-keeping mind. But he does not mind when Raina calls him a chocolate cream soldier. It is his romantic nature that brings him to Major Petkoff's house again and compels him to marry Raina and congratulate Sergius when he proposes to Louka whom he describes as a remarkable looking young woman. Although Catherine and Louka make adverse comments about him yet inwardly they are impressed by the strength of his personality and his practical-mindedness.

Whereas Major Petkoff, Sergius, Raina, Catherine, Nicola and Louka live in their world of dreams, Bluntschli is a realist. He never mistakes the unreal for the real, the shadow for the substance. He values things as they are. He acts as the occasion demands. He lives in the present and does not look before and after. He takes the news of his father's death coolly. He solves the problem of the return of the three regiments easily. Soon after proposing to Raina, he leaves their house to attend to his business. This shows his practical mindedness.

He himself paints a contrast with Raina. He says that she is rich, young, beautiful with her imagination, full of fairy princes and noble natures and cavalry charges. But he himself is a commonplace Swiss soldier who hardly knows what decent life is, after fifteen years of barracks and battles, a vagabond, a man who has spoiled all his chances in life through an incurably romantic disposition.

Bluntschli is a truthful person. He plainly tells Raina about Sergius' behaviour in the battle field, how he made a fool of himself in the eyes of all. Thus he believes in calling a spade a spade. He wants to tear the mask of hypocrisy and insincerity. By doing so he opens the eyes of all to truth and justice. Only towards the end of the play, Sergius grows wiser under his influence. As a mature person he knows what turn things are going to take. He is a shrewd judge of men and matters. He is the first person, who understands Raina correctly and makes her admit the truth that she has been befooling

her parents by her noble attitude and thrilling voice. But when he judges her properly, he does not despise her. Instead he declares that he is her infatuated admirer. However, Raina poses that she loves Sergius with all her heart. When she is in a difficult situation, he comes to her rescue. Thus he protects her honour and saves her from shame and humiliation by offering to marry her. Sergius's words at the end of the play correctly sum up Bluntschli's character : "What a man ! Is he a man !"

### **1.5.2 RAINA**

Raina is a young, romantic girl of considerable physical charm and wit. She has an independent spirit and insight into human character.

Her romantic nature is shown from the fact that she stands in the open on a cold night watching the beauty of the stars. When her mother tells her not to risk her health, she tells her that the stars are so beautiful that she cannot help looking at them. Later also she is shown looking at the distant mountains. She has read Byron and Pushkin. From them she has got romantic ideas. About love and war also, her ideas are romantic and so she lives in a world of romance. She thinks that war is glorious and those who fight are heroes. When her mother gives her the news about Sergius's part in the charge, she is beside herself with joy. She embraces her mother. Later she raises the portrait of Sergius above her head in a worshipful mood. However, when she learns about Sergius's behaviour in the fight and Bluntschli's preference for chocolate creams, her ideas about chivalry receive a shock.

Raina is an intelligent girl. Her assessment of Sergius's character is correct. When he was about to leave for the battlefield and she was helping him dress up, she had doubts about his capacity to fight. She had an uneasy fear that he might cut a sorry figure there. When Bluntschli told her that in the fight Sergius behaved like Don Quixote, her doubts were confirmed.

Her giving shelter and help to Bluntschli shows that she is full of pity. When she finds the stranger in her room in a deplorable condition, she hides him behind a curtain. In this way he is saved from the grip of enemies. When she comes to know that he is hungry, she gives him chocolate creams. The soldier also calls her action angelic. From this it is clear that she is full of the milk of human kindness.

Her encounter with the enemy soldier at night shows that she is a self-confident girl. She does not lose her presence of mind. When he does not let her put on her cloak, she tells him that he is not behaving like a gentleman. Her courage helps her to put off the Russian officer who comes to look for the runaway soldier. The manner in which she takes out her portrait from her father's pocket shows that she can face a difficult situation calmly.

She is an innocent girl. She proudly tells Bluntschli that her family is the richest and best known in their country. Secondly, her father holds the rank of a major which is the highest command for any Bulgarian in their army. Thirdly, theirs is the only house that has two rows of windows and a flight of stairs. Fourthly, they have a library. Again that they go every year to Bucharest for the opera season. She had spent a whole

month in Vienna. Fifthly that they are people of good standing and they wash their hands nearly every day.

Even though Bluntschli tells her how foolishly Sergius behaved in the war, she continues to care of Sergius. She still looks at him with admiration and calls him her hero and her king. She tells him he has never been absent from her thoughts. In fact she feels sorry that she only sat at home doing nothing while he was out in the world, on the field of battle. She tells that thinking of him she could never do a base deed nor think of a bad thought.

Raina is a great observer. She and Sergius were to go out. She goes to get her hat. Louka appears on the scene and Sergius cannot resist her charms. So he starts making love to her. Raina notices this when she is on her way to the room. When she comes back she finds that Louka is still with Sergius. She at once tells him that he has been flirting with her.

Catherine is worried about Raina's secret. She tells her that if Sergius found out the secret, it would be all over between them. To this Raina replies rather impertinently. She tells her mother she has been petting Sergius. That has spoiled him. She wishes her mother should marry him as he is a good match for her. She would just suit him, she would mother him. Herself she felt like saying something dreadful to him, to shock him. So, he did not care whether he found out about the chocolate cream soldier or not. From this it is clear that Raina's love for Sergius has undergone a change or perhaps earlier also that love was not very deep and she was only pretending to be in love with him. When she tells Bluntschli that her relation to Sergius is the one really beautiful and noble part of her life, she is perhaps not speaking the truth. Bluntschli tells her frankly that when she strikes a noble attitude and speaks in a thrilling voice, he does not find it possible to believe a single word of it. This pricks the bubble of her pride. It is Bluntschli who is able to show her what she really is. When she is sure about Sergius's intentions about marrying Louka, she gives him a bit of her mind. When he is cornered, he calls her a tiger cat. She is indeed ferocious. Earlier when Bluntschli speaks ill of Sergius, she tells him to clear out. She tells Sergius ironically that he is allowing her beauty, intellect and modesty to be wasted on a middle-aged servant. She challenges him to be chivalrous and marry Louka. Herself she is not in despair at this development but accepts her fate calmly.

Thus, Raina is a brilliant creation of Shaw. She is the heroine of the play. There is no doubt that she is superior to all other characters in *Arms and the Man* in physical charm, intellect, in power of judgement, a well directed emotion and in well-mannered behaviour.

### **1.5.3 SERGIUS SARANOFF**

Major Sergius Saranoff is a handsome young man with a high spirit and romantic imagination. He is a Byronic hero and the right type of person with whom Raina should fall in love. At first, he appears an ideal hero. It is only by and by that we come to know about his shortcomings.



In the beginning of the play, Catherine tells Raina about Sergius' achievement in the war. Raina's joy knows no bounds. She adores him, lifts his portrait above her head, like a priestess worshipping her god. Gradually she comes to know that he is not a perfect man of her dreams. Bluntschli is the first to give her information about Sergius. He tells her how by a stroke of good luck, he won the first battle of Slivnitza. In this battle he acted most foolishly charging the army batteries. His promotion was held up because of this blunder.

Sergius is a man of great personal charm. This is why Raina and Catherine adore him. Like Raina, he also has a romantic imagination. He cannot resist the charms of Louka. The moment Raina goes into the house to dress up, Sergius starts flirting with Louka. It is clear that he is not serious about this love till Louka tightens her hold on him. Unable to control his emotions, he squeezes Louka's arms and hurts her. When he comes to know about Bluntschli's stay in Raina's bedroom, he becomes jealous. He is convinced that she really loves the other man. So he transfers his affection to Louka. But he challenges Bluntschli to a duel. He wants to prove that gallantry is not dead and that he will teach Bluntschli a lesson for making love to his betrothed behind his back. But soon the reality dawns on him. So he withdraws that challenge. The reason he gives is strange. He says he can fight a real man but Bluntschli is not a man; he is a machine: he has no magnetism. Actually he is impressed by the fact that Bluntschli is cool headed: he never loses his temper.

We may call Sergius an egoist, he feels the urge for relief. He tells Louka that bearing hardships the soldier needs relief. When he is speaking thus to Louka he is feeling guilty about his higher love for Raina. He analyzes his own character and says that he is not one man but many characters—the hero, the lover, and an ordinary man seeking relief in his love for Louka, a blackguard and so on. He has always tried to appear noble in the eyes of Raina but he cannot resist the temptation of holding Louka tightly in his arms. He thinks that he is doing this for a mere change but this recreation gives us a peep into his character: it shows that he has no control over his emotions. This also shows that his glorification of higher love is after all a hollow claim.

Like Raina, Sergius also suffers disillusionment. He resigns his job in the army. He says that there is nothing heroic about war. In it the soldiers do not show real bravery. They hit the enemy when he is weak. When he is strong they keep out of harm's way. When he learns from Louka about Raina's love for Bluntschli, he is shocked and calls life a farce and love a mockery. He thinks that he is a coward, liar, fool. He thinks that only two courses are open before him: either he should kill himself or he should live and laugh at himself. It is clear that he is embittered against human love.

Sergius is a man of shallow understanding. For him, it is difficult to find out a way how to send the regiments away. So he has to take help from Bluntschli. Sergius only signs the papers. He is vain. This is clear when he says, "This hand is more accustomed to the sword than to pen." Louka exploits his vanity when she tells him that if she were the Queen of Russia and he a common man, she would marry him. He also

is led to express similar sentiment. He says, "If I were the Czar himself, I would set you on the throne by my side." Other instances of his vanity are the remarks, "I never apologise", "I am never sorry", "Nothing binds me". Even Nicola thinks that Sergius is a fool. He tells Louka that Sergius gave him a twenty leva out of pure swagger, he adds that a fool and his money were soon parted. Bluntschli calls him a Don Quixote flourishing like a drum major. He adds that out of all the fools let loose on a field of battle, Sergius must be the very maddest.

Sergius is an honourable man. When Louka speaks ill of Raina, Sergius tells her to take care. Later he tells her that she should not have betrayed her mistress. He also says that a gentleman has no right to hurt a woman under any circumstances. He begs her pardon and offers to compensate for the hurt he caused her. He could have easily gone out of his affair with Louka but he felt that he was honour-bound to marry her when he had raised hopes in her.

In the end, we may say that Sergius is a mixture of romanticism, idealism, vanity, folly, conceit and gentlemanliness. He himself knows that he has many strands of different personalities in him - a hero, a buffoon, a humbug, a coward and a black guard.

#### **1.5.4 LOUKA**

Louka is a charming young girl in the service of the Petkoff family. Even though she does menial jobs, she is conscious of her worth, her beauty and her ambition. That is why she maintains self-respect. Even though, Nicola wants to marry her, she has never promised to marry him.

She is defiant. Catherine and Raina find it difficult to manage her. She sometimes makes fun of them. Nicola tells her to be careful but she says the mistress and her daughter dare not take any action against her as she knows some family secrets. When Nicola wants to give her some money which he got from Sergius and Bluntschli, he refuses to accept it. She says she does not want to be bought. She tells him that he was born to be a servant. She behaves insolently towards Bluntschli. She flings his letters and telegrams before him. She tells Sergius that she does not care now that she has found that he is also made of the same clay of which she is made. She discloses the secret of her mistress to Sergius. This leads to strained relations between Sergius and Raina. He becomes jealous and begins to think that Raina betrayed his trust in her. Louka does this to win over Sergius. Sergius finds her eavesdropping and produces her rudely before all but she does not mind it. She says her love was at stake and she was listening secretly to all that was passing inside the room. In the beginning of the play, she informs Catherine and Raina that all the windows are to be closed as there may be shooting in the streets. Without waiting for orders she pulls down the shutters. After the search when she leaves Raina's room she laughs insolently. Raina does not like it. So she slams the door at her.

She is a fashionable girl. There was a time when she used to wear false hair and redden her lips and cheeks. Under Nicola's advice she stopped doing it. He taught her

to trim nails and keep her hands clean and be dainty about herself, like a Russian lady. Now, though she is poor, she is ambitious, and wishes to marry a rich man of high position. She tells Nicola that he should never hope to marry her. Had Nicola married her, he would not have been happy with her. From the very beginning she treats him with contempt. He complains of her behaviour. He says that she thought it genteel to treat a servant the way he treated a stable boy.

She is clever, she uses all her charms and skill in conversation to entrap Sergius and in this she succeeds. Once Sergius lets her know his weakness for her beauty, she employs every method to get near him and encourages him to declare his love for her.

She has no education, no high family background. Still she succeeds in linking her fortune with a rich man of high position with the help of her brains and resourcefulness.

Louka is a shrewd girl. When she notices the pistol in Raina's room she at once finds out the truth about the run-away soldier. She at once concludes that he is in the room. So she looks towards the curtain because she is sure he could hide only there. Again she judges Sergius correctly, she can net him. When he is making love to her she tells him to move to a place where no one could see them. She tells him that Miss Raina may be spying on her. And that was very true. She judges Sergius and Raina correctly. She thinks that their love is superficial and that only a man like Bluntschli could succeed in winning Raina's affection, So she tells Sergius confidently that if Bluntschli ever comes again, Miss Raina would marry him whether he likes it or not.

Louka is indeed tactful and wise. She plays her part well. It is not a small achievement that she succeeds in winning Sergius' love even though she is an illiterate village girl. Raina who is more beautiful and refined fails to retain Sergius. Raina would have most probably married Sergius if he had not decided to marry Louka. To win Sergius' love, Louka tells lies about Bluntschli's relations with Raina because she wanted to win Sergius' love, by hook or by crook.

Thus, we can say that Louka is a self-confident, tactful girl. She possesses commonsense. These qualities help her to play her part well in the game of love.

#### **1.5.5 CATHERINE**

Catherine Petkoff is an energetic woman of a rich family. She has enough charm about her. She is sturdy and domineering and is fond of luxury. Her commanding personality makes her successful as a housewife.

Catherine is a fashionable lady. She has polished tastes. She is always dressed in her tea gown. She is particular about her personal cleanliness. Her husband says that she suffers from cold because she washes her face and neck everyday. When Bluntschli comes, she at once throws her apron into the bushes. Then she uses the tray as a mirror and finds that her head cover also does not look nice. So she throws it away. She is proud of her modernity. She tells her husband about the electric bell installed by her in his absence because it is not correct to shout for the servants; only backward and uncivilised people do that. She judges people from their wealth. Sergius is dear to her because he is rich. When he decided to marry Louka, she is worried. But when she

learns that Bluntschli is richer than Sergius, she is happy over this development.

Like her daughter, Catherine is a patriotic lady. She is beside herself with joy when her country wins a victory. She is full of pride for the achievement of Sergius who has proved to be a hero, as expected by them. When Major Petkoff returns home, she tells him they should not have made peace with the enemy. Instead they should have annexed Serbia and made Prince Alexander Emperor of the Balkans. She adds that if she had been in a position of authority, she would have done that.

Obviously she loves her husband. She is much pleased when he tells her that he decided to come at the earliest after making peace because he could not bear separation from her any longer. She is worried lest her husband should know the story about the Swiss officer's stay in their house. So when Bluntschli unexpectedly makes his appearance, she tells him to go away at once. But she is not always afraid of her husband. When he tells her not to wash herself daily, she tells him that he is a barbarian. When Major Petkoff goes to give instructions to the army messengers, she goes with him. She thinks she can speak to them more strongly whereas her husband would splutter at them. Bluntschli makes note of this. Again the servants are afraid only of Catherine. Nicola tells Louka that if she defied her mistress, she would be thrown out.

Like a good mother, Catherine is keenly interested in the future of her daughter. She scolds Raina for not persuading Sergius to marry her at the earliest. To promote her daughter's chances to marry him, she has to cover up the visit of the Swiss Officer. She is worried about Raina's safety when she hears the report of shooting in the street.

In spite of her airs, Catherine is no judge of human nature. People make a fool of her. Sergius, Raina, Louka and even Nicola behave in one way in her presence and in a different way behind her back. She is unable to see how Louka is getting round Sergius in her own house.

Thus we can say that Catherine is an efficient housewife, a good mother and a lady of polished taste and manners.

Now : With the help of the following hints, develop the character of Nicola.

A middle aged man of cool temperament : has clear and keen intelligence, knows his place, not overreaches himself as Louka does.

Faithful, knows the family secrets but does not want to blackmail the family ; very respectful, tells Louka also to be respectful, to save Catherine from embarrassment he acts like a fool, takes upon himself the blame for bringing Bluntschli's bag to his mistress.

Judges human nature very well, keeps Sergius happy, receives from him a tip, similarly a tip from Bluntschli. About Sergius he says, "a fool and his money are soon parted." About Bluntschli he says, that he is not a fool.

Cares more for money than any other thing Louka says he has a low shopkeeping mind; wants to set up a shop, saving money for that purpose : backs up his mistress's lies to extract favour from her: would prefer to see Louka richly married so that she could patronise his shop; knows that an ambitious, defiant Louka would not

make a good wife.

Resourceful and quick-witted : Petkoff scolds him for bringing Bluntschli's bag to Catherine; realises the delicacy of the situation, takes the blame on himself: again accused of breaking Raina's chocolate cream soldier, does not contradict it. Petkoff asks him pointedly if he had spoiled any of Miss Raina's pastry : his answer is that Miss Raina is incapable of saying any thing that is not true.

Wise and farsighted ; sees the possibility of Louka's marriage with Sergius, tells her if she were just a little less of a fool she might become Sergius's wife and his (Nicola's) grandest customer instead of only being his wife and costing him money. Thus he encourages her to net Sergius.

A diplomat, lacks ambition (has the soul of a servant) but has enough of wisdom and tact.

With the help of the following hints, develop the character of Major Petkoff.

A cheerful, excitable, rather unpolished man, particular about his importance in society, given the army rank because of that: the Serbian attack fills him with patriotism, otherwise he is a stay at home and soon after the war ends hurries back home.

Does not like refinement, his wife tells him she has installed a bell—he says why not shout for servants ; cracks a joke with Louka, "Well, the Serbs have not run away with you, have they ?" Does not like his wife's habit of daily toilet, proud that his grandfather, never had a bath in life, still he lived to be ninety-eight; himself takes bath once a week ; when the story of the runaway officer is narrated Raina takes offence and moves to leave, he rebukes her saying that a soldier's daughter should stand strong conversation : proud of his being a soldier as well as being a rich man : told fellow officers about his library ; tells his wife not to spread clothes out to dry.

Lacks self confidence : takes his wife along with him when he goes to the help of Sergius who is to issue instructions to the messengers; does not want to see Sergius when he comes after the war, tells his wife to keep him busy : he wants to avoid him because Sergius always talks about his promotion being withheld ; tolerates Sergius because he is rich and engaged to Raina.

Easily befooled by Catherine about the coat and by Raina about the photograph; fails to find a way out to move the regiments : flies into temper when he learns that Nicola has spoiled Raina's chocolate cream soldier, says he will teach Nicola a lesson by dismissing him next Saturday, calls him an infernal blackguard; soon pacified; and Catherine, says "Oh, well, never mind." Thus, a comic character.

### **IMPORTANT QUESTIONS**

#### **I. The Title of the play**

For the title of the play, G.B. Shaw is obliged to Dryden who translated the Roman poet Virgil's *Aeneid*. This book tells us about the achievements of a great Greek hero who took part in the war of Troy. Later he conquered Italy. In the very first line of this translation we come across the words "Arms and the Man". But the sense is different.

When Virgil writes about 'arms and the man', he glorifies war, when Shaw refers to "Arms and the Man", he runs down war and the soldiers.

The play, no doubt begins with a mention of the victory by the Bulgarians whose hero, Sergius proved to be. But as the story moves, both the victory and the hero are run down. At first Catherine and Raina are flushed with the news of the victory. They embrace and kiss each other. Raina speaks of Sergius as her hero and considers herself lucky that she is associated with him. Gradually the reality dawns on her.

When Bluntschli was in Raina's room, she referred to Sergius's victory. He told her how Sergius behaved during the charge. He looked like a Don Quixote. His horse was pulling at it hard. Thus he was trying to save himself because as Bluntschli tells her no soldier wants to die. A soldier has to fight when he must but he keeps out of the fray when he can help it. Thus soldiering is the coward's art of attacking when the enemy is weak. When he finds the enemy strong he avoids confrontation. One should never fight the enemy on equal terms. Later Petkoff also says that soldiering was a trade like any other trade. Sergius resigns from the army because he does not like the army life. Bluntschli does the same because he has to attend to family responsibilities after the death of his father. So both bid good-bye to war. Thus in this way the war no longer has any charm for these warriors.

In this play the word "Arms" stands for war while "Man" stands for those affected by war. Most of the characters react differently to war. In the beginning Catherine and Raina are excited about it. When Sergius returns after war, Raina pays him compliments for his glorious role. She feels sorry, she has been sitting at home doing nothing. From Bluntschli, she learns that Sergius made a fool of himself in the war and that nine soldiers out of ten are born fools. All this helps to create disillusionment.

Shaw points out that war is not so glorious as people paint it. No one welcomes it. We lionise soldiers for their courage but they are compelled by circumstances to fight. They would avoid fighting if they could help it. Whenever a soldier finds an opportunity to save himself, he does so by running away when the enemy is following him. War is a horrible experience. Soldiers are burnt alive. A hero like Sergius has no control over his emotions. He betrays the higher love. As soon as his beloved Raina turns her back, he starts flirting with the maid-servant. She proves to him, that he is made of the same clay of which she is made. Thus it is not the arms or the heroic deeds that are supreme but man's instincts. Among these instincts one is the instinct of love and other of self-preservation. Bluntschli reveals that professional soldiers care more for food than for cartridges. They care more for life than for military glory. Instead of being heroic, man is a creature of flesh and blood and prey to the weaknesses which are found in all of us. Those who have passed through a gruelling experience of fighting and running for life become nervous and are very soon frightened. Only danger can rouse them to action and then also they act in the interest of self-preservation.

What is man's attitude to war is the theme of the play. Shaw wants to expose the belief that war is glorious and soldiers are super-human heroes. He debunks these false

romantic ideas. It is not the arms that are superior or glorious; it is man's instincts and impulses that have an upper hand and are motivating forces behind most of our actions.

It is in this context that the title of the play is to be understood.

II. Write a note on G.B. Shaw's views on love and war.

OR

What are the themes of the play '*Arms and the Man*' ?

G B. Shaw's plays are plays of ideas. He makes them mouthpieces for his thoughts. In the play '*Arms and the Man*' he wants to expose the false ideas about love and war. These two are the themes of this play. The playwright has interwoven both these themes. His view-point is rational and intellectual. In expressing the view-point forcefully, he exposes the sentimentality from which most people suffer.

At first we come across Raina and Catherine. They think high of war and soldiers. Raina has read Byron and Pushkin. So she thinks of Sergius as an ideal person, calls him her hero and her lord. On the night when the fugitive soldier comes, she stands in the balcony of her bedroom dreaming of her betrothed. Her mother informs her of Sergius' achievement. Raina's joy knows no bounds. She feels sorry for having doubted Sergius' capacity for heroism. But these romantic thoughts are shattered when she learns about the reality. Sergius acted on his own. He would have been no more if the pistol had not missed fire. Again the attack was to start, they were pulling hard at the horses to restrain them but they ran away with them. This means that they were afraid of attacking. Most soldiers are afraid of dying. Bluntschli himself wants to use Raina's cloak to save his life. Then the Russian officer notices the pistol but is not able to connect it with the run-away soldier. He proves Bluntschli's statement that nine soldiers out of ten are born fools. Bluntschli tells that experienced soldiers fill their pockets with food rather than with cartridges. He shows a fondness for chocolate creams. He says most soldiers avoid fighting. They only act when their life is in danger. Sergius also reveals the truth about war. He says soldiers are cowards. They attack the enemy when they find him at a disadvantage. When he is strong, they hesitate to face him. War brutalises human beings. One of Bluntschli's friends was burnt alive because he had been shot in the hip and others could not help him get out from where he was. Surely, all this takes away much of the glory of war. It is an activity which may be necessary but which cannot by any stretch of imagination, be praised or glorified.

The second theme of the play is love. Love at first grips the hearts of Raina and Sergius. They think they are made for each other. Raina helps her lover to dress up when he is going to the front. She keeps his photograph in her room. When she learns about his triumph she raises the photograph above her head in a worshipful mood. When Sergius comes she wants to pay full attention to him. But when she goes to her room, she finds Sergius flirting with Louka. Even then she ignores it. Louka tells Sergius that Raina is spying on him. He does not believe it but finds that it is true : she doubts his love for her. He could not believe that Raina could love Bluntschli but Louka tells him that the Swiss officer stayed in her room and if he ever came back Raina would marry

him and not Sergius. Thus, both Raina and Sergius are disillusioned about love. Higher loves is a hoax. Love requires satisfaction. As Sergius does not get this satisfaction from Raina, he turns to Louka. Raina thinks she has been deceived in love by Sergius. So she turns to Bluntschli.

So both these themes have been treated realistically by Shaw. Shaw is not against war as such. As a realist he knows that wars have been there in the world and wars will be there in future also. What he dislikes is the glorification of war. Similarly he wants that love should be treated realistically. Merely thinking of love as something above and unconnected with sex is befooling oneself. It cannot be divorced from physical gratification. We should therefore be realistic about love and war.

III. Is it correct to describe "*Arms and the Man*" as an anti-romantic comedy ?

G.B. Shaw has himself described *Arms and the Man* as an anti-romantic comedy. To understand what is anti-romantic, we have first to see what is romantic. By the word 'romantic' is meant ideal, emotional and sentimental. The romantic view is often considered an unrealistic view. This view begins in silly and selfish expectations of the impossible and ends in disappointment and grievance, as G.B. Shaw himself says. Now comedies of this type were being written in Shaw's time. Tennyson and Browning were encouraging the revival of romantic drama. Shaw did not see eye to eye with this view of life. He was a realist. So he debunked the idea of romanticism. He saw that the romantic drama lacked ideas. He believed in a practical approach and in things as they are and not as they should be according to our wishful thinking. So Shaw laid stress on a view of life based on commonsense.

In this play Shaw draws our attention towards conventional beliefs. People suffer from false idealism. They have high ideas of culture, love and heroism. How silly of Catherine to take pride in her family and wealth, to think of an electric bell as a sign of civilisation. Raina too is proud of her aristocratic family, her beautiful house with two rows of windows and a staircase. Major Petkoff tells fellow officers about his library. Raina makes much of Sergius, the hero of the battle of Slivnitsa. She thinks of him as a superman and herself unworthy of him, but soon Sergius begins to reveal his real self. At first Bluntschli tells her how he behaved in the battlefield, how he strained at his horse which ran away with him. This means that he was afraid of leading the attack but his horse forced him to charge. Then Bluntschli, another army officer shows himself in a very dim light. He is frightened easily. He takes protection behind Raina's cloak and tells her how the soldiers care more for food than for arms and ammunition. He says nine soldiers out of ten are born fools. This is proved by the Russian officer. He comes to search for the runaway soldier. A pistol is lying before him in that room. He fails to know its meaning. Again Sergius resigns from the army because he hates war. Soldiers are not heroic in real sense of the word. They attack the enemy when they are in a comfortable and advantageous position but avoid the enemy which they think he is stronger. Bluntschli tells Raina how the soldiers burnt alive his friend whom he had given an account of his stay in her room. Major Petkoff and Sergius are nincompoops.



They are at a loss to know how they should move the regiments in peace time. Major Petkoff makes a fool of himself, by taking his wife with him when Bluntschli tells him to go and help Sergius who has earlier gone to issue instructions to the soldiers.

Next we come to the second belief about romantic love. Raina was full of rosy dreams of her union with Sergius. She thought of him as a king, a demi-god and nearly worshipped him though at heart she doubted his heroism. He also called her his queen. But imagine the depth of his love. The day he comes back to see Raina after the termination of war he starts flirting with Louka. His love is really lust. He thinks that Raina only loves him imaginatively, romantically but he cannot wait for physical gratification from her. So he selects Louka. Raina also mistrusts him and spies on him. At first Sergius challenges Bluntschli to a duel. Later he calls off the challenge. Thus both Sergius and Raina come out to be anti-romantic figures in our estimation.

The playwright's intention in writing this anti-romantic comedy was to make the readers think for themselves and to view love and war in a proper perspective. He wanted to give a true picture of life by demolishing sham and false ideas. Surely in doing so he sometimes transgresses the bound of credibility but that often happens. For example it is too much to say that the hungry soldier running for his life and taking shelter in Raina's room will ask for the chocolate cream. Similarly it is again exaggeration that an officer comes to search the room of Raina and fails to notice the pistol and if he sees it he fails to connect it with the runaway soldier. As compared with him Louka who is a village girl at once reaches the depth of the matter.

In the end, we can say that despite a few exaggerations and some romantic touches, Shaw has succeeded in painting an anti-romantic picture of life and in exposing the thorough hollowness of our conventional beliefs about many things - love, war, culture and civilization.

#### IV. Who is the hero of '*Arms and the Man*' ?

At first sight, Sergius seems to be the hero of the play : Catherine and Raina admire him and feel overjoyed at his victory. Raina loves him with all her heart. Like a priestess, she raises his portrait above her head, calls him her hero, her king. But as the play proceeds we come to know that things are not what they seem. Sergius is an ordinary person with the weaknesses of an ordinary man and there is nothing heroic about him.

Bluntschli is the hero of the play. At first he looks ridiculous. For example he demands chocolate creams, takes shelter in a lady's room and uses her gown to force her to stay on in the room and not to tell anybody else about his presence in the room. Then overcome by fatigue, he falls asleep like a child in her bed. These are perhaps the only points against him. Otherwise he is a likable person. He makes Raina see Sergius in a correct light. As a spokes-man of Shaw, he tells us the real nature of war. He tells Raina how Sergius was afraid to plunge in the battle. He was pulling hard at the reins of his horse who ran away with him. Then the soldiers burnt alive one of his friends. The poor fellow had been hit in the hip and was unable to move.

Bluntschli is a moving figure and an intelligent person. Sergius and Major Petkoff are unable to find out the correct method of moving the troops. He issues instructions and helps them out of difficulty. This is surely creditable on his part and it raises him high in our estimation.

Again, we are impressed by his practical nature and worldly wisdom. He is balanced both in mind and heart. Look how he takes coolly the challenge of Sergius, how he promises to go away the next day so that Sergius and Raina can live happily, how he takes the death of his father with the attitude that what cannot be cured must be endured. Bluntschli settles his quarrel with Sergius with quiet confidence. He is tactful and succeeds in getting the consent of Raina's parents for marriage with her. Sergius is greatly impressed by his superior intellect and maturity of outlook. His remarks "Whata man ? Is he a man ?" show his admiration for Bluntschli and wonder at his achievement.

Bluntschli wins our admiration because he is a man of courage. He faces facts courageously. He is not bound by social codes and conventions but acts by instinct. His instinct guides him to run away from the battlefield. Again he uses Raina's cloak for protection by instinct. The same instinct helps him to know the real nature of Raina. Again he is hard working and has a capacity to work for long hours. He is shrewd enough to solve the problem which had been taxing the minds of Sergius and Major Petkoff. He does not feel tempted to make love to Raina when he was in her room. Even after he has settled his marriage with Raina, he leaves at once to attend to more important matters.

Thus, Bluntschli is a person whom Shaw created after his own heart. Through him Shaw exposes the falsity of human beliefs and conventional behaviour. Through him he gives us a picture of a man who is above ordinary human beings in intellect and maturity of mind. He is thus the real hero of the play. Sergius, who makes a fool of himself in almost everything, who is exposed and ridiculed, who falls in the estimation of Raina cannot be the hero of the play. The honour of being a superior person or the hero of 'Arms and the Man' falls on Bluntschli.

#### 1.5.6 Self-Check Exercise

1. How is Captain Bluntschli the most important character in the play, *Arms and the Man* ?
2. When was Raina's image of Sergius shattered ?
3. How did Captain Bluntschli protect Raina's honour and save her from shame and humiliation ?
4. What showed Raina's romantic nature ?
5. From where did Raina's get romantic ideas ?
6. What showed that Raina was full of pity ?
7. In what way was Raina superior to all other characters in the play *Arms and Man*?
8. Why did Sergius become jealous of Captain Bluntschli ?

9. What did Louka think about the love affair between Sergius and Raina ?
10. How did Catherine judge people ?

**1.5.7 Answers to Self-Check Exercise**

1. Captain Bluntschli is the most important character in the play 'Arms and the Man' because it is around him that the story revolves.
2. Raina's image of Sergius was shattered when she saw him flirting with Louka and finally proposing to her.
3. Captain Bluntschli protected Raina's honour and saved her from shame and humiliation by offering to marry her.
4. Raina's standing in the open, on a cold night watching the beauty of the stars, showed her romantic nature.
5. Raina got romantic ideas from her reading of Byron and Pushkin.
6. Raina's giving shelter to the runaway soldier and chocolate creams to satisfy his hunger showed that she was full of pity.
7. She is superior to all other characters in the play in physical charms, intellect, in power of judgement, in well directed emotion and in well mannered behaviour.
8. Sergius became jealous of Captain Bluntschli because he had learnt about Bluntschli's stay in Raina's bedroom.
9. She thought that their love was superficial and that only a man like Bluntschli could succeed in winning her.
10. She judged people from their wealth.

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