

Model Questions from “My Last Duchess”.

1. Who is the speaker of the poem and to whom does he speak? (2)
2. Who is believed to be the historical counterpart of the speaker of the poem “My Last Duchess”? (2)
3. Comment on the significance of the portrait of the Duchess. (5)
4. Who was Fra Pandolf? (2)
5. Comment on the significance of the statue of Neptune taming a sea horse. (5)
6. What is the immediate context of the poem? (2)
7. Recount the reasons behind the Duke’s displeasure with his wife. (5)
8. How did the Duke deal with his wife’s lack of discretion? (2/5)
9. What is the significance/purpose of the Duke’s speech to the emissary? (5)
10. Who is Claus of Innsbruck?
11. Give two examples of the Duke’s manipulative nature. (2/5)
12. What does the poem reveal about the position of women in the society of that age? (5/10)
13. What does the Duke say about his speaking skill? Do you agree? (5)
14. What is a dramatic monologue? Do you consider Browning’s poem to be a successful example of the poetic form? Discuss. (10)
15. How does the Duke’s speech reveal his character? Discuss. (10)