

# 7

## The Interview

### Fastrack« Revision

#### Main Points

##### Part-I

##### ► Interview

- A form or part of Journalism

##### ► Positive opinions about interviews

- A source of truth
- An art

##### ► Negative opinions about interviews

- Unwarranted intrusion into private lives
- Diminishing in nature

##### ► Opinions of different celebrities about interviews

- V.S. Naipaul — wounding in nature
- Lewis Carroll — a just horror of the interviewer
- Rudyard Kipling — immoral
- H.G. Wells — Ordeal
- Saul Bellow — “Thumb prints on wind Pipe”

##### ► Photography as per some primitive culture

- Taking away the soul of the persons being photographed

##### ► Status of interviewer

- Powerful and influential

##### Part-II

##### ► Interview of Umberto Eco by Mukund Padmanabhan

##### ► Umberto Eco

- Professor at a university in Italy
- Known for ideas on semiotics, literary interpretation medieval aesthetics, literary fiction, academic texts, essays, children’s books, newspaper articles, etc.
- Interstices—empty spaces between pieces of work

##### ► The name of the rose

- A serious novel
- Detective with metaphysics, theology and medieval history
- Sold between 10-15 million copies
- Secret of success of the novel according to Mukund is its medieval historical background
- Umberto thinks the success of the book is a mystery

#### Summary at a Glance

- “The Interview” is an excerpt from Christopher Silvester’s introduction to the “Penguin Book of Interviews”. Which is an anthology from 1859 to the present Day? The chapter is a commentary on the utility of interview as a medium of communication. The chapter has been divided into two parts. The first part deals with viewpoints of various people about interviews. The second part reproduces an actual interview of Umberto Eco conducted by Mukund Padmanabhan from ‘The Hindu’.

##### ► Part-I

Interview—a genre of journalism has a history of over 130 years and every literate person is familiar with it. Till date thousands of celebrities have been interviewed. Different opinions float of different individuals regarding interviews. Many view it as an art which brings out the real picture helping one to get a perfect insight of the personality of the interviewee. Many celebrities detest it and see themselves as its victims, because it peeps





into their private lives. V.S. Naipaul is of the view that interview has an injuring effect and during its course one loses a part of oneself. Lewis Carroll the author of 'Alice in wonderland' avoided interviews for "the horror of the interviewer" and never consented to be interviewed. His refused of interviews kept his fans away. Rudyard Kipling also viewed interview—as something derogatory and always refused to grant it, though he himself once interviewed Mark Twain. He neither saw the interviewer in good esteem nor considered it to be respectable for the interviewee. His wife quoted him condemning it as 'immoral', 'an offence' 'a crime' and something vile and cowardly.

Saul Bellow viewed interview as an ordeal. He felt Suffocated by interviews and saw them as thumb prints on his windpipe'. In spite of all these negative nations about interviews an interview remains a very good medium of communication. Denis Brian has written. "Almost everything of moment reaches us through one man asking questions of another. Because of this, the interviewer holds a position of unprecedented power and influence".

► **Part-II**

The second part is an excerpt from a face-to-face interview of professor Umberto Eco who apart from being an authority on semiotics is a renowned scholar from the University of Bologna, Italy. An author of wide ranging literature comprising fiction, academic texts, essays, children's books and newspaper articles. He rocked the world with his novel 'The Name of the Rose' which sold more than 10 million copies. While being interviewed by Mukund Padmanabhan, Umberto Eco shares the secret of his voluminous works produced by him. On being asked by Mukund to say something about David Lodge's remark that how one man could do all the things that Umberto Eco did, he simply ignored the compliment. This reflects his utmost modesty. He humbly said that it was a fallacious

impression about him. In fact he has always been doing the same thing by pursuing the same philosophical ideas in different styles that he has written. Then he elaborates how he utilises even the shortest free spaces in between two pieces of work to produce his scholarly works. He names these free spaces as 'Interstices'. Working between these interstices makes him work wonders. Then Mukund talks about Eco's playful style of writing academic works which often follows dull style. On being asked whether this informal narrative style came to him spontaneously or was the outcome of his conscious efforts. Eco says that he learnt this secret at the age of 22 when he submitted his first Doctoral dissertation and his professor was so impressed with the interesting research story that he got his research work published as a book. Ever since, she clinched to this style which later made him a novelist at the age of 50.

Novel writing started quite accidentally. Having nothing to do one day he thought of trying his hand at novel writing and rocked the world with "The Name of the Rose"—Which in spite of dealing with metaphysics, theology and medieval history, attracted millions of readers.

Though people know Umberto Eco the novelist, he identifies himself as an academician. He goes about attending academic conferences rather than attending the meetings of pen-clubs and writers. Umberto has only five novels to his credit and over 40 non-fictional works.

On being asked whether the huge success of "The Name of the Rose" came to him as an unexpected surprise, he answers, it did not puzzle him but it was far beyond the expectations of the journalists and the publishers as they had never imagined that so many people could be drawn to such a serious reading like "The Name of the Rose". The pre-medieval period that book deals with could also have been instrumental in giving it a huge success. Umberto Eco feels its success as a great mystery.



## Practice Exercise



### Extract Based Questions

**Directions:** Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:

1. Others, usually celebrities who see themselves as its victims, might despise the interview as an unwarranted intrusion into their lives, or feel that it somehow diminishes them, just as in some primitive cultures it is believed that if one takes a photographic portrait of somebody then one is stealing that person's soul. V.S. Naipaul 'feels that some people are wounded by interviews and lose a part of themselves,' Lewis Carroll, the creator of Alice in Wonderland, was said to have had 'a just horror of the interviewer' and he never consented to be interviewed. (CBSE 2023)

(a) Choose the appropriate option with reference to the given extract:

Most of the celebrities dislike being interviewed because:

- (i) it is sheer nonsense.
- (ii) nobody reveals his/her inner self.
- (iii) it is sheer waste of time.
- (iv) It is an unwarranted intrusion into their lives.

(b) Complete the analogy with a word from the extract:

light : darkness :: ..... : refused

(c) In primitive cultures being photographed implied:

- (i) announcing victory.
- (ii) soul has been stolen.
- (iii) saving a memory for posterity.
- (iv) becoming popular.

(d) From the given extract, we know that ..... never agreed to be interviewed.

- (i) Lewis Carroll
- (ii) V.S. Naipaul
- (iii) T.S. Eliot
- (iv) Charlie Sheen





- (e) In the given extract, the word 'diminish' most nearly means:
- (i) deepens (ii) disappoints  
(iii) lessens (iv) languishes
- (f) In the given extract, the writer indicates that most people ..... interviews.
- (i) celebrated (ii) read  
(iii) gave (iv) despired

### Answers

- (a) (iv) it is an unwarranted intrusion into their lives.  
(b) consented  
(c) (ii) soul has been stolen.  
(d) (i) Lewis Carroll  
(e) (iii) lessens  
(f) (iv) despired
2. So it is hardly surprising that opinions of the interview—of its functions, methods and merits vary considerably. Some might make quite extravagant claims for it as being, in its highest form a source of truth, and in its practice, an art.
- (a) What is hardly surprising?  
(b) What does 'its' in the first sentence stand for?  
(i) Interview's  
(ii) Journalism's  
(iii) A literate person's  
(iv) None of the above
- (c) What is the extravagant claim that some might make?  
(i) Interview is a common place of journalism  
(ii) Interview in its highest form—a source of truth  
(iii) Several thousand celebrities have been interviewed  
(iv) Everybody who is literate will have read an interview
- (d) A word similar in meaning to 'extravagant' is .....
- (e) Who is the author?  
(f) Give an antonym of 'vary'.

### Answers

- (a) It is hardly surprising that opinions of the interview—its functions, methods and merits vary.  
(b) (i) Interview's  
(c) (ii) Interview in its highest form—a source of truth  
(d) absurd or excessive  
(e) Christopher Silvester is the author.  
(f) An antonym of 'vary' is agree or conform.

3. His wife, Caroline, writes in her diary for 14 October 1892 that their day was wrecked by two reporters from Boston. She reports her husband as saying to the reporters.

"Why do I refuse to be interviewed? Because it is immoral! It is a crime, just as much of a crime as an offence against my person, as an assault, and just as much merits punishment. It is cowardly and vile. No respectable man would ask it, much less give it."

- (a) Whose wife if being referred to in the first line of the given extract?  
(b) What attitude towards an interviewer is shown by Caroline's remark in her diary?  
(i) Praiseworthy (ii) Condemnatory  
(iii) Neutral (iv) None of these
- (c) Whom does 'I' refer to in the lines above?  
(i) V.S. Naipaul  
(ii) Lewis Carroll  
(iii) Rudyard Kipling  
(iv) H.G. Wells
- (d) A word similar in meaning to 'immoral' is .....
- (e) Give an antonym of 'assault'.  
(f) What does 'it' stand for in the last line?

### Answers

- (a) Rudyard Kipling's wife is being referred to in the first line of the given extract.  
(b) (ii) Condemnatory  
(c) (iii) Rudyard Kipling  
(d) unethical or indecent  
(e) An antonym of 'assault' is retreat or praise.  
(f) 'It' stands for the interview in the last line.
4. And then I have a secret. Did you know what will happen if you eliminate the empty spaces from the Universe, eliminate the empty spaces in all the atoms? The Universe will become as big as my fist. Similarly, we have a lot of empty spaces in our lives. I call them interstices .....
- (a) Who has a secret?  
(i) The writer himself  
(ii) Mukund Padmanabhan  
(iii) Caroline  
(iv) Umberto Eco
- (b) Whom is the speaker speaking to?  
(c) What secret does the speaker share with the interviewer?  
(i) Secret of his successful life  
(ii) Secret of the popularity of his novel  
(iii) Secret of utilising empty spaces  
(iv) None of the above
- (d) Find a word from the extract which means 'remove'.  
(e) 'As big as my fist'—the figure of speech is .....
- (f) What are interstices?



## Answers

- (a) (iv) Umberto Eco
- (b) The speaker is speaking to the journalist Mukund Padmanabhan.
- (c) (iii) Secret of utilising empty spaces
- (d) Eliminate.
- (e) simile
- (f) Interstices are empty spaces between pieces of work.



### Short Answer Type Questions

**Q 1. What are some of the positive views about the interviews?** (CBSE 2020)

**Ans.** Despite several negative opinions of various celebrities, the interview is a genre that become a common place of journalism. It is an art that brings out truth and vivid description of the person being interviewed. It is an extremely useful medium of communication.

**Q 2. Why do most celebrities despise being interviewed?**

Or

**Why do celebrities find fault with an interview?**

(CBSE 2020)

**Ans.** Most of the celebrities avoid being interviewed because they firmly believe that interviews leave a disparaging effect on their personalities. They consider them as unnecessary intrusion into their personal lives. Writers like V.S. Naipaul feel being wounded by interviews. Rudyard Kipling condemn them as immoral, while Saul Bellow feels a sense of suffocation during the course of interview.

**Q 3. What is the belief in some primitive cultures about being photographed?**

**Ans.** Some primitive cultures have great apprehension against being photographed. They don't prepare themselves readily for getting themselves photographed as they hold a fallacious belief that it could steal one's soul.

**Q 4. What do you understand by the expression "thumbprints on his windpipe"?**

**Ans.** Saul Bellow compares the experience of being interviewed to 'thumbprints on the windpipe'. This expression reveals the feeling of suffocation that one goes through during the course of his interview. The interviewee feels as if his throat is being strangulated by the interviewer.

**Q 5. What in present day world, is our chief source of information about great personalities?**

**Ans.** Ever since the invention of interviews, interviews have been the chief source of information about celebrities and great personalities. What biographers and autobiographers reveal in long voluminous books, interview conveys in for lesser time and with greater clarity.

**Q 6. Do you think Umberto Eco likes being interviewed? Give reasons for your opinion.**

**Ans.** No, celebrity or public figure would not answer the questions of the interviewer in a spirited manner in which Eco answered the questions posed by his interviewer Mukund Padmanabhan. Eco's honest way to answer all questions so humbly, truth fully, sincerely and in great details shows that he likes being interviewed. He doesn't mind sharing his secrets and experiences with the world. At no point he seems to be in a hurry to end the interview.

**Q 7. How does Eco find time to write so much?**

**Ans.** Umberto Eco believes in catching hold of the time. He takes care of the minutes and his hours take care of themselves. Most people ignore the gap of time between two pieces of work which he names 'interstices'. Eco utilises this gap of time. So he finds time to write so much.

**Q 8. How is Umberto Eco's style of writing non-fictional scholarly work different from the regular academic style?**

**Ans.** Regular academic style of writing is totally dull, drab, boring and depersonalised. Eco's style is absolutely informal, playful with a touch of narrative style. He narrates the story of research with all trials and errors. His research work has the quality of creative writing, which makes an informative as well as an interesting reading.

**Q 9. Did Umberto Eco like to be identified as a novelist?**

Or

**Did Umberto Eco consider himself a novelist first or an academic scholar?**

**Ans.** Basically Umberto Eco was a professor in the University of Bologna in Italy and had already acquired a formidable reputation as a scholar for his ideas on semiotics. In 1980, he acquired the equivalent of intellectual stardom with the publication of 'The Name of the Rose'—a novel. But Eco considered himself an academic scholar first. He remarks about himself also "I consider myself a university professor who writes novels on Sunday."

**Q 10. What reason do you find for the huge success of the novel "The Name of the Rose"?**

**Ans.** It is not so easy to find a reason for the huge success of the novel "The Name of the Rose". As Eco himself calls its success a mystery. It is most likely that the detective story delving into metaphysics, theology and medieval history interested the readers of that particular time period. It wouldn't have been the same if written ten years earlier or ten years later.

**Q 11. Why do people's views on interviews differ from those of the celebrities?**

**Ans.** The viewpoint of the common public, interview is the most serviceable medium of communication because it lays bare the inner side of a celebrity's life very truthfully and honestly. It leaves a vivid impression





on one's mind. The interview satisfies the people's curiosity to know about the personal life style of a great personality. But it is an ordeal for the celebrity as it encroaches upon their privacy.

**Q 12. What grudge does Lewis Carroll have against interview?**

**Ans.** Having a horror of interviews and the interviewer Lewis Carroll hardly ever consented to be interviewed. He despised the very idea of being treated as a celebrity. He heaved a sigh of relief whenever he succeeded in avoiding the interviewer and the autograph seekers.

**Q 13. What was odd about Rudyard Kipling interviewing Mark Twain?**

**Ans.** Rudyard Kipling had a very condemnatory attitude towards Interviews and Interviewers. He considered it to be "immoral", "a crime", 'an assault' on the interviewee yet ironically, he himself had interviewed Mark Twain a few years back.

**Q 14. What are the drawbacks of an interview?**

**Ans.** First of all interview is an encroachment upon the private life of an individual. Most of the time it is an ordeal for the celebrity, as he/she has to answer such question he/she doesn't wish to answer. It is condemned for its diminishing effect. At times it is dreaded because it 'lionizes' the subject. Sometimes, it wounds and at other times it robs one of a part of oneself.

**Q 15. Why is interview a supremely serviceable medium of communication?**

**Ans.** Though the interview is condemned by majority of celebrities, it still is the supremely serviceable medium of communication, as it gives us a peep into the mind of the celebrity. It acquaints the common public with his thought pattern. The revelations made through this medium are spontaneous, so truthful and sincere.

**Q 16. What are Denis Brian's views about interviews and the interviewers?**

**Ans.** Denis Brian defines Interview as a medium that leaves behind the most vivid impression about the celebrity who is being interviewed. He holds the interviewer in high esteem as he seems him holding a position of great 'power and influence'.

**Q 17. Umberto Eco's staggeringly large and wide-ranging work puzzles everybody. What does the scholar have to say about it?**

**Ans.** Being a modest and humble man, Umberto Eco tells the journalist that it is a fallacious impression that he does many things. In fact, he has a few philosophical ideas and keeps on pursuing them in different works. However, he doesn't hesitate to share the secret of accomplishing so much of work by revealing that he utilises the time gaps between two pieces of work which he calls 'interstices'.

**Q 18. What does Umberto Eco mean by eliminating empty spaces from the universe and our lives?**

**Ans.** Umberto Eco intends to say that as by removing the empty spaces from the universe, the world will shrink and become compact. Similarly, in life too there are empty spaces in between two pieces of work which he calls 'interstices'. By utilising these empty moments, we can have much more time than we actually think we have.

**Q 19. Bring out Umberto Eco's humility and modesty as is seen in the chapter 'The Interview'.**

**Ans.** Though Umberto Eco accomplished a lot in the field of academics as well as in the creative field, he is quite down to earth. He attributes his phenomenal success and fame of his novel 'The Name of the Rose' to the people's capability to appreciate difficult reading experience on being asked how could he do so many things, he answers it is a fallacious impression.

**Q 20. What is meant by 'Interstices'? How does Umberto Eco utilise the 'Interstices'?**

**Ans.** Speaking literally 'Interstices' means 'crevices', 'cracks' or 'gaps'. Umberto Eco uses the term as gap or space between two pieces of work. He utilises these empty spaces to plan and sketch out whatever work he has to take up next. That is the secret of his doing so many things.

**Q 21. How did Umberto Eco get to adopt an informal approach and playful personal style in writing his scholarly work?**

**Ans.** While presenting his first Doctoral Dissertation in Italy, one of the professors appreciated his style very much. He was rather very much impressed by his style which was totally the opposite to the traditional one. Actually, Eco told the story of his research with his trials and errors. The Professor published his dissertation as a book. This encouraged the 22 years old Eco and he adopted that style in his writings.

**Q 22. Why did Roland Barthes, a dear friend of Umberto Eco, die a frustrated man? Why did Umberto never feel such frustration?**

**Ans.** One of Umberto's dear friends, Roland Barthes was an essayist. His scholarly essays did not give him the satisfaction he aspired for. He had a strong urge to do some creative writing. But unfortunately he died before tasting the success in fictional writing, but Umberto Eco never felt such frustration even before he had taken to writing fiction. His scholarly work also had narrative aspect.

**Q 23. What does Umberto Eco mean when he says, 'I started writing novels by accident'?**

**Ans.** Umberto Eco was basically a scholarly professor in Italy who acquired a terrific reputation for his ideas on semiotics (the study of signs) and produced wide-ranging scholarly works and till the age of 50 he did not have even a single novel to his credit. One day, having nothing to do, he started writing a novel. Thus, accidentally he took to writing novels.



**Q 24. How did Umberto Eco become spectacularly famous?**

**Ans.** Umberto Eco had earned a formidable reputation for himself at the university, in the field of semiotics (the study of signs). The scholarly works that he produced were staggeringly large and wide-ranging. However, his spectacularly famous novel 'The Name of the Rose' earned him a fame that he did not ever expect. It stormed the world and sold more than 10 million copies.

**Q 25. Why did the spectacular success of 'The Name of the Rose' puzzle the journalists and the publishers?**

**Ans.** 'The Name of the Rose' despite being a detective story at one level it delves deep into meta-physics, theology and medieval history. The publishers and the journalists did not believe much in the readers' capacity for appreciating such a complex reading experience. So they didn't expect much from the book. Hence were puzzled.

**Q 26. What sort of television programmes does Umberto Eco watch after dinner and why?**

**Ans.** Umberto Eco prefers to watch light television programmes which do not tax his mind. To relax his mind after a hard day's work, he watches "Miami Vice" or "Emergency Room". However, such programmes don't interest him the whole day when he is doing his scholarly work.

**Q 27. How does Umberto Eco's idea about people's taste for reading differ from that of the journalists?**

**Ans.** Usually the journalists held the opinion that people like trash and they avoid difficult reading experience. But Umberto Eco's views about readers tendency differed as he is of the conviction that, though one might be drawn towards trash off and on, one doesn't always look for easy reading experiences and books with serious themes also interest one.

**Q 28. Umberto Eco, with reference to "The Name of the Rose" says, "I think if I had written *The Name of the Rose* ten years earlier or ten years later, it wouldn't have been the same." What could he have meant?**

(CBSE SQP 2023-24)

**Ans.** When Umberto Eco says -- "I think if I had written *The Name of the Rose* ten years earlier or ten years later, it wouldn't have been the same." he could have meant that the success of the book was largely due to timing. If he had written the book earlier or later, it might not have been as relevant or timely and might not have got the same level of attention and interest, and so, it wouldn't have had the same impact.



## Long Answer Type Questions

**Q 1. Different celebrities condemn the interview in their respective manner. Do you think they are justified?**

**Ans.** Celebrities like V.S. Nalpaal, Lewis Carroll, H.G. Wells, Rudyard Kipling and Saul Bellow have expressed their strong contempt for Interviews. They even

go to the extent of calling them—a 'crime', 'an assault', 'thumbprint on one's windpipe' and so on. No doubt, they are justified up to a considerable extent, as the interviews rob the great personalities of their privacy. They in some way encroach upon the private region of their lives and at times they project them to be lesser than their stature and at other times 'lionize' them. Despite all these drawbacks, one can't justifiably condemn interviews out right. Interviews have their own place. After all these are the interviews only which give us an insight into the personalities of the celebrities. They bring to light the truth about them which works as an inspirational source for the masses. The fan-following of the celebrities gets a sense of pleasure and satisfaction when they have a glimpse of their role-models' Inner selves from close quarters. And the interviews leave behind an indelible Imprint on them. No doubt the interview is a 'Supremely serviceable medium of communication' and hence they don't deserve to be condemned altogether.

**Q 2. Give a pen portrait of Umberto Eco on the basis of the chapter "The Interview".**

**Ans.** Umberto Eco is a professor at the University of Bologna in Italy. He has an authority on semiotics (the study of signs). He has acquired a formidable popularity as a scholar for his literary Interpretation and medieval aesthetics. No less reputation has he earned in the field of fictional writing, which comprises literary fiction, academic texts, essays, children's books, newspaper articles, etc. The range and volume of his written output is mind boggling. Despite achieving such an intellectual Stardom, Eco remains quite a humble and modest scholar. Far from boasting and harping about his achievements, he brushes aside the compliments and makes himself look quite simple and ordinary person. He doesn't hesitate in sharing his personal experiences and talks about the utilisation of Interstices, as his secret of success. He is quite logical and subtle in his arguments. His wit and humour is quite evident in his conversation with Mukund Padmanabhan (his interviewer) all through. "I'm a professor who writes novels on Sundays' and again "I give impression of doing so many things" are good examples of his spirited style replete with his wit and humour.

**Q 3. How far does Mukund Padmanabhan impress you as an interviewer? Do you consider his interview with Umberto Eco a success?**

**Ans.** The manner in which Mukund Padmanabhan takes Eco's Interview, shows that Mukund is a very capable and a successful interviewer. He seems to be a balanced and prudent interviewer. Neither does he encroach upon his privacy and embarrass him with personal questions nor does he stand between the celebrity and the readers. Very wisely he poses brief,



well-worded and suggestive questions which draw out of the celebrity what his fans would like to know. The questions posed by him cover all the aspects of his literary works and personality which interest his readers. Every question of Mukund draws out an elaborate answer from Umberto Eco, which not only gives information about him but also inspires. Nowhere does the interview appear to be 'immoral' or an 'ordeal' for the interviewee. It is short, crisp and what is more, it sounds quite informal which makes the interviewee quite comfortable and he feels at home. So we can say that Mukund Padmanabhan is a successful interviewer.

**Q 4. Though Umberto Eco identified himself with academic community, his taste for narration was there right from the beginning and it sustained itself throughout. Elaborate.**

**Ans.** Though Umberto Eco became spectacularly famous after the publication of his novel 'The Name of the Rose', he always associated himself as an academician and a scholar. He never participated in meetings of pen clubs and writers. He identified himself with academic community and participated in academic conferences. Right from the beginning, his taste for narrative was evident in his scholarly writings also. His non-fictional work occupied him for the first fifty years of his life, when he submitted his first doctoral dissertation, his professor was impressed with his playful and personal

style which, he commented, was far from being dull, drab and depersonalised style. He then followed this style in all his upcoming writings. The narrative aspect of his dissertation was richly complimented and it was published as a book. Since then Eco always told details of the story of his research and his essays made an interesting reading. He wrote his first novel at the age of 50. "The Name of the Rose" stormed the world which puzzled the publishers and the journalists. It attracted mass audience.

**Q 5. What idea do you form about "The Name of the Rose" after reading the chapter "The Interview"?**

**Ans.** It was Umberto Eco's taste for the narrative that propelled this academic scholar to produce this fictional work "The Name of the Rose" at the age of 50. Based on a detective plot, it delves into meta-physics, theology and medieval history which obviously makes it a difficult reading experience. So when Eco took the book to the publisher, she did like it but she hardly ever expected it to find so much favour with the readers. Initially Eco was given an advance for 3000 copies only. But once the book was out, it stormed the literary world to the utter surprise of everyone. Although a heavy and burdensome reading experience, the novel attracted mass audience and Eco came to be known as a novelist rather than an academic scholar all over the world. He was not pleased much, Eco admits, still that only his fictional work could have given him such a large audience.



## Chapter Test

### Extract Based Question

**Q 1. Yes because I consider myself a university professor who writes novels on Sundays, it's not a joke.**

"I participate in academic conferences and not meetings of Pen Clubs and writers. I identify myself with the academic community."

- (a) Who is speaking to whom?
- (b) How does the speaker identify himself with the academic community?
- By attending meetings of pen clubs
  - By meeting writers
  - By participating in academic conferences
  - None of the above
- (c) Most people identify him as a:
- |                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| (i) professor    | (ii) poet     |
| (iii) journalist | (iv) novelist |

(d) A word similar in meaning to 'identify' is .....

(e) Who is the author?

(f) Who is 'I' in the extract?

### Short Answer Type Questions

**Q 2. What was distinctive about Eco's academic writing style?**

**Q 3. What was Rudyard Kipling's attitude towards interviews?**

**Q 4. What does the term 'interstices' mean?**

### Long Answer Type Questions

**Q 5. What do you think about Mukund as an interviewer?**

**Q 6. Do interviews deserve to be condemned altogether?**