

The Gambler Stage 6

Answer Key

A) TRUE OR FALSE

1. Alexis Ivanovitch was a Russian teacher. T F
2. The General and his family lived in Paris in a hotel. T F
3. Polina Alexandrovna was the General's wife. T F
4. The General was in love with Mademoiselle Blanche and wanted to marry her in near future. T F
5. Mademoiselle Blanche was a French lady who wanted nothing but money in her life. T F
6. Alexis Ivanovitch was ready to do everything for Polina Alexandrovna in order to prove his love for her. T F
7. The General and his companions were very glad to see the Grandmother when she suddenly had arrived in Roulettenberg. T F
8. The Grandmother won a hundred thousand francs at roulette and went back to Russia happily. T F
9. Polina Alexandrovna was very open and frank with Alexis Ivanovitch, and treated him as her equal. T F
10. Alexis Ivanovitch won a good deal of money at roulette thanks to an unbelievable luck. T F

B) CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER

1. In what town does the novel begin?
A) Paris
 C) Roulettenberg
B) Moscow
D) Homburg
2. Who is Alexis Ivanovitch?
A) A Russian tradesman.
C) A Russian count.
 B) A Russian teacher.
D) A Russian soldier.
3. What was the relationship between the General and Polina Alexandrovna?
 A) He was her step-father.
C) He was her uncle.
B) He was her husband.
D) He was her father.
4. Why did Polina Alexandrovna ask Alexis Ivanovitch to play roulette on her behalf?
A) Because she did not know how to play roulette.
B) Because she was ashamed to go to the Casino.
C) Because she did not want to play in public.
 D) Because she had to pay off her debt as soon as possible.

5. Why were the General and his companions not pleased with the Grandmother's arrival?
- A) Because she was a rude ill-mannered woman.
 - B) Because they expected the telegram to announce her death.**
 - C) Because she wanted to borrow money to play roulette.
 - D) Because they felt ashamed to be at her presence.
6. With what result did the Grandmother finish her play at roulette?
- A) She won the whole money at the Casino.
 - B) She lost twelve thousand gulden.
 - C) She won a hundred thousand francs.
 - D) She was ruined completely.**
7. Why did Mademoiselle Blanche change her attitude to the General?
- A) Because he has lost all his money.**
 - B) Because she could not get on well with his old mother.
 - C) Because she decided to marry the Prince.
 - D) Because she learned about his addiction to roulette.
8. How much money did Alexis Ivanovitch win at the Casino?
- A) 12 thousand gulden
 - B) 8 thousand francs
 - C) 100 thousand francs**
 - D) 700 gulden
9. Why did Polina Alexandrovna refuse to accept Alexis Ivanovitch's winning?
- A) Because she hated him.
 - B) Because she was too proud to accept anything from anyone.**
 - C) Because she thought that he had stolen that money.
 - D) Because she was very rich and was not in need of money.
10. What happened to Alexis Ivanovitch at the end of the novel?
- A) He went back to Russia.
 - B) He married Polina Alexandrovna and went to Paris.
 - C) He lost all his money and became a beggar.**
 - D) He resolved to stay with the General and his children.

C) ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. Who is Alexis Ivanovitch? Describe his personal traits.
- He was a Russian Teacher. He was an intelligent and sensible man, but he was greedy and this bad trade of his character ruined his life.**
2. Whom did Alexis Ivanovitch discover at the dinner table after his arrival from a short holiday? Did he know those people?
- He discovered the General's friends. He knew Mr Astley, the Englishman.**

3. Who is Mr Astley? What was Alexis Ivanovitch's impression of Mr Astley?
He was a rich reasonable and sensible English noble man. He was also a devoted friend who helped Alexis Ivanovitch. He found him very shy.
4. On whose behalf did Alexis Ivanovitch play roulette for the first time? Describe his play and winning.
He played on behalf of Polina Alexandrovna. First he watched the game and the gamers then he staked half of Polina's money on even and lost. He put the rest of his money on red and won. By great change he won 1600 gulden and left the casino.
5. Who is Polina Alexandrovna? How did she look like?
Polina was the General's step-daughter. She was young, clever and attractive. She was also proud and selfish.
6. Describe Alexis Ivanovitch's love for Polina Alexandrovna. Was it a sincere love, or just a mere obsession?
He loved her very much. He could do anything for her and it was a sincere love.
7. Who is Mademoiselle Blanche? What kind of plan did she have concerning the General?
She is a beautiful young and thin French woman with black hair and eyes. She is interested in the General's prospective inheritance.
8. What do you know about the General? Describe his character and family.
He came from a rich, noble Russian family. He was in great debts and waiting for his aunt's death.
9. Who is the Marquise de Griers? What kind of business relationship did he have with the General?
He is a rich Frenchman. He lent a great deal of money to the General. He expects that the General receive his inheritance so that he can be repaid.
10. What kind of order did Polina Alexandrovna give to Alexis Ivanovitch? What were the consequences of her order?
She ordered him to go to the Baroness Burmergelm, take off his hat to her, and insult her in French.
11. Who is the Grandmother? Describe her personal traits.
The grandmother is the General's aunt. (But some people say that she is the General's mother)
She is strong and rich, self-satisfied and straight-backed. She shouted loudly and commandingly, scolding everybody... She takes an instant liking to roulette, with disastrous consequences.
12. Why were the General and his companions so surprised to see the Grandmother in Roulettenberg?
Because they expected a telegram of her death instead of her.
13. How did the Grandmother play roulette for the first time? Was her play successful?
She played impatiently, simply at random. Her first play was successful, but her second and third play was a great failure.
14. How did the Grandmother gamble away all her money and property?
Alexis Ivanovitch refused to go to the casino with her. She went there with her servants. The Poles directed her game. Unfortunately this time she wasn't lucky she lost the money she had won and also 90000 rubles, what's more every paper security she had brought with her had been changed in cash and lost at gambling.

15. How did the Grandmother's failure at roulette effect the General and his friends?

The General got mad. Mademoiselle Blanche ignored the General and his family. De Griens left the hotel. He lost almost the whole of his money in debts given to the General and had to sell the rest of his possessions.

16. Why did Alexis Ivanovitch decide to go to the Casino when Polina Alexandrovna was present in his room? How much did he win at roulette that night?

He wanted to make a big surprise for Polina. May be he wanted to be her equal. He won 100 000 francs.

17. Why did Polina Alexandrovna refuse to accept Alexis Ivanovitch's money?

Because she was too proud to accept anything from anyone.

18. With whom did Alexis Ivanovitch depart for Paris? How did he spend all his money?

He departed for Paris Mademoiselle Blanche. He spent all his money for Blanche's endless needs.

19. How did Alexis Ivanovitch ruin himself? How did he live at that time?

He ruined himself by becoming addicted to gambling. He lived in poverty.

20. What did Mr Astley tell Alexis Ivanovitch when they met in the Park? How did his speech effect Alexis Ivanovitch?

He told him his friends. He said that he came to Homburg at Polina's request and told him that she loved him once. He gave him ten francs and advised him to return to his country. He decided to start a new life, perhaps, to go to Switzerland and find Polina.