

Answer the following questions.

a. Why does Wasserkopf demand a refund of his tuition fees from the school?

Wasserkopf demands a refund of his tuition fees from the school because he thinks he has gained nothing from the education and considers himself good for nothing.

b. Why does Wasserkopf consider himself good for nothing?

Wasserkopf considers himself good for nothing because he has no skills or talents and cannot find a job.

c. What did the teachers decide to do when Wasserkopf asked for a refund?

When Wasserkopf asked for a refund, the teachers decided to give him an oral examination to prove that he had learned something during his time at the school.

d. Why did Wasserkopf give ridiculous answers? Why did the teachers accept these answers?

Wasserkopf gave ridiculous answers to the questions asked during his examination because he wanted to prove that the education was worthless. The teachers accepted these answers to mock Wasserkopf and to show that he had learned something from his education.

e. How does the Mathematics Master describe Wasserkopf's character?

The Mathematics Master describes Wasserkopf's character as one of a typical student who is unwilling to learn and has no interest in his studies.

f. How did the teachers outwit Wasserkopf?

The teachers outwit Wasserkopf by making him believe that he has learned something during his education, and they use his ridiculous answers to mock him.

g. What is the final judgment on Wasserkopf's demand of refund?

The final judgment on Wasserkopf's demand for a refund is that he is not entitled to it, as he has learned something during his time at the school.

Reference to the context

a. Read the extract from the play given below and answer the questions that follow: “It’s possible I’ve changed. What the hell...! Your class records will show I’ve got a right to come here.”

i. Who is the speaker? Who is he speaking to?

Wasserkopf is the speaker. He’s speaking to the principal of his former school.

ii. Why is the speaker say these words? iii. Where is the speaker at this moment?

The speaker says these words because he is dissatisfied with his educational records from his previous school, which he obtained eighteen years ago.

b. Read the extract dialogue given below and answer the questions that follow:
332 English: Grade 11 “THE STAFF: (bowing, heartily) How do you do?
WASSERKOPF: Who the hell are you? Sit down, you loafers! (He grins, waiting to be thrown out) THE PRINCIPAL: How dare you –”

i. What is to be the response to ‘How do you do?’

‘I am fine’ is to be the response to ‘How do you do’.

ii. Is Wasserkopf’s response polite enough to the staff?

No, Wasserkopf’s response to the staff isn’t polite enough. He uses derogatory language against them.

iii. How does Wasserkopf rebuke the staff? iv. What does the principal mean by ‘How dare you -’?

Wasserkopf rebukes the staff, calling them “loafers” and asking, “Who the hell are you?”

c. Explain the following line of the play: “Because I didn’t get my money’s worth, that’s why!”

This line means that Wasserkopf did not receive the education that he paid for, and therefore he deserves a refund.

d. What is the theme of the play? e. Sketch the character of Wasserkopf.

The theme of the play is a satire on the education system, which is portrayed as useless and failing to prepare students for life.

Reference beyond the text

a. The play is a satire on the present day education system. Do you think that our education system does not prepare students for life? Discuss.

This is a subjective matter, and opinions may vary. However, it can be argued that the education system does not prepare students adequately for life, as it often focuses more on academic knowledge than practical skills.

b. Our education system focuses on memorisation rather than creative thinking. Do you think the knowledge imparted by education may not have practical relevance in one's day-to-day life? Who do you blame for this?

The education system can be blamed for imparting knowledge that may not have practical relevance in one's day-to-day life. However, individuals also have a responsibility to develop practical skills that complement their academic knowledge.

c. Most of the students want to learn just for examination rather than knowledge. Do you think that certificate will help them in their future career?

Certificates may help students in their future career, but practical skills and experience are also crucial for success. It is essential to focus on learning for knowledge and personal growth rather than just passing exams.

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