

different way.

Q. 3 Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. (20)

In the late 1700s, American trader Timothy Dexter earned a reputation as both a fool and a genius. With little formal education but plenty of confidence, he constantly made bizarre business decisions that somehow turned into fortune. His rivals, tired of his success, decided to humiliate him by suggesting he ship coal to Newcastle, England, a city famous for its endless supply of coal. They expected him to lose everything.

But luck had other plans. When his ship reached England, a miners' strike had stopped local production, creating a sudden shortage. Dexter sold his entire cargo for a massive profit, leaving his rivals speechless. What was meant to be a joke became one of his greatest victories.

This wasn't his only stroke of luck. He once sent bed warmers to the Caribbean, and islanders bought them as molasses ladles. Another time, he shipped cats to the West Indies, where they were used to control rats, earning him another profit. Timothy Dexter's life became a living reminder that sometimes, being underestimated is the best advantage a man can have.

Questions:

1. Why did Timothy Dexter's rivals advise him to ship coal to Newcastle, and what was the intended outcome of this suggestion?
2. What unexpected event in England transformed Dexter's apparently foolish coal venture into a profitable success?
3. What does the author imply about the relationship between luck and intelligence in Timothy Dexter's success?
4. How does Dexter's repeated success in turning mockery into profit challenge conventional ideas about business wisdom and education?
5. What can be inferred about human perception of "foolishness" and "genius" from the way Dexter's rivals reacted to his achievements?

- 1- The Timothy Dexter's rivals advised him to ship coal to Newcastle to humiliate him. The city was famous for its endless supply of coal. The intended outcome was that Dexter will lose everything by such unprofitable trade.
- 2- The sudden shortage of coal transformed Dexter's apparently foolish coal venture into a profitable success. The local production of coal stopped by miners' strike. Therefore, Dexter's cargo made massive profit.
- 3- The author implieds critical relationship between luck and intelligence. Sometimes, luck is necessary to prove one as intelligent. However, in Dexter's case, because of his luck, his foolish decisions became his success. So, luck can transform a foolish decision as intelligent one.
- 4- Dexter had little formal education and made strange business decisions. But his plenty of confidence and fortune turned mockery into profit. His repeated success challenged conventional idea that

that business requires wisdom and formal education.

5- Human perceives bold and risky decisions as 'foolishness' whereas, 'genius' people make cautious decisions. But Dexter's story reveals that sometimes being underestimated is advantageous. His rivals consider him foolish but he turned out to be genius.