

Unique Literary Series

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

Arms and the Man

(A Critical Evaluation)



Dr. S. Sen

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" <i>Arms and the Man</i> has always been one of the most popular plays of Bernard Shaw". Prove this statement with examples. What made the play so popular?	
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Write a critical appreciation of the play <i>Arms and the Man</i> . Why is it still popular as it was at the time of its first production?	
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Or

- Discuss in detail Shaw's views on love and marriage and his notions about war. Discuss with special reference to *Arms and the Man*.
- Q.5 "Arms and the Man was written with a purpose of satirising the romantic notions of love and war". Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons to justify your comments.

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Or

Discuss the element of satire in *Arms and the Man*.

Or

In *Arms and the Man* Shaw has exposed the fallacy of the romantic conceptions of war, love, marriage and class-consciousness. Elaborate with reference from the text.

Or

Write a note on the iconoclasm of George Bernard Shaw particularly referring to his 'Arms and the Man'.

Or

Do you agree after reading *Arms and the Man* that Shaw is the Satirist and the Reformer?

- Q.6 "Bluntschli is the mouth piece of Shaw. It is through him that Shaw gives voice to his unconventional ideas in *Arms and the Man*". Discuss and justify the statement.

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Or

"In the midst of romantically disposed Petkoffs Bluntschli is a rational human being". Describe the character of Bluntschli in the light of this remark.

Or

Describe in your own words the fugitive soldier in *Arms and the Man*.

- Q.7 'Raina is a girl with romantic inclinations'. How does Shaw impress this upon the reader in *Arms and the Man*?

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Or

Attempt a character sketch of Raina Petkoff clearly pointing out and illustrating the salient traits of her character.

Or

"Raina is a girl who presents a contradiction between what she says and what she feels" Prove this statement with suitable examples from *Arms and the Man*.

- Q.8 "Major Sergius Saranoff is a Bulgarian Byron." Justify this statement giving suitable examples from the text.

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Or

"Sergius Saranoff is a romantic fool, an imaginative barbarian and a cheat." Do you agree with this statement? Justify your answer.

Or

Write in your own words a character sketch of Sergius Saranoff.

- Q.9 "Louka is a clever, ambitious, insolent and intriguing maid-servant of Petkoffs". Is this a correct estimate of Louka? Give reasons to justify your answer. 324

Or

How far is it true that Louka is the feminine counterpart of Bluntschli in the play?

Or

Discuss the character of Louka. Do you think she has the qualities to become a heroine of the play? Give reasons to justify your views.

- Q.10 "We shut the book *Arms and the Man* with the feeling that Major Petkoff is a slightly stupid, whimsical, vain member of the Bulgarian nobility whose main consideration is what others think of him." Elaborate this statement and justify it. 327

Or

Give the salient features of the character of Major Petkoff. What is the significance of his character in Shaw's *Arms and the Man*?

- Q.11 "Catherine Petkoff is an insignificant character in the play". Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons to justify your views. 330

Or

Write a character sketch of Catherine Petkoff.

Or

What opinion do you form of the mother of the heroine of the play after reading *Arms and the Man* ?

- Q.12 Sketch the character of Nicola, clearly point out Shaw's conception of a servant as exemplified in him. 332

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Write down the character of Nicola in your words.

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Describe in your own words the fugitive soldier episode.

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Comment on the escape of fugitive soldier in *Arms and the Man*.

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Or

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- Q.15 Point out the improbabilities in *Arms and the Man*. 339
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 Both Bluntschli and Sergius Saranoff opt for Raina’s hand but Saranoff fails. What do you think is the reason of his failure? Why did Bluntschli prove to be a better man when Sergius and Raina both were equally romantic? Discuss.
- Q.18 Write a note on the relative importance of dialogue, character and action in *Arms and the Man*. 348
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 Discuss the characterisation in *Arms and the Man*.
- Q.19 Write a short note on the construction of *Arms and the Man*. 351
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- Q.20 “Shaw is a giant master of human psychology”. Discuss this statement with reference to *Arms and the Man*. 353
Or
 Write a note on Shaw’s insight into human psychology and his idealism in *Arms and the Man*.
- Q.21 Write a short note on Shaw’s stage directions in *Arms and the Man*. 355
Or
 Express your views on Shaw’s use of stage in his *Arms and the Man*. How far you think he is successful?
- 25. Select Literary Criticism 359**
Select Bibliography