

WILLIAM CONGREVE
**THE WAY OF THE
WORLD**

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Q. 1. Justify the title the "Comedy of Manners" as applied to <i>The Way of the World</i> .		
Or		
To what extent, would you think, does <i>The Way of the World</i> present a kaleidoscopic view of contemporary social morality?		
Or		
Estimate <i>The Way of the World</i> as a comedy of contemporary manners.		
Or		
Congreve's <i>The Way of the World</i> is a civilized comedy of manners which does not deal with natural folly, but with affectations of fashionable society.	---	280
Q. 2. "The <i>Way of the World</i> lacks coherence; the parts are more important than the whole." Comment		

Or

"The plot of *The Way of the World* is intricate, and perhaps a little lacking in coherence and strength." Discuss and illustrate your answer from the text.

Or

"The plot of *The Way of the World* is over-ingenious." Discuss this view.

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- Q. 3 Examine Congreve's method of characterization, giving suitable illustrations from *The Way of the World*.

Or

Would you say that Congreve's characters in *The Way of the World* are living persons and not puppets?

Or

"In *The Way of the World* we see Congreve at his best in characterization." Substantiate.

Or

Write an essay on the portrayal of characters in *The Way of the World*.

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- Q. 4. "In *The Way of the World* the central theme is undoubtedly the relations of men and women in marriage." Elaborate.

Or

"Congreve, in *The Way of the World*, deals with the relationship of the sexes in his own society: he satirises false relationships and by implication presents the ideal marriage." Discuss.

Or

"*The Way of the World* may seem to mock at love and marriage but is in reality built on a serious social purpose." Discuss.

Or

How far do you agree with the view that *The Way of the World* is a serious play?

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- Q. 5. "The proviso scene between Mirabell and Millamant in Act IV serves the dual purpose of providing comic fun and of defining the basis of a harmonious married life." Discuss.

Or

Bring out the interest and dramatic importance of the proviso scene between Mirabell and Millamant.

Or

Discuss the view that the bargaining scene between Mirabell and Millamant is Congreve's contribution to the philosophy of love. ... 297

- Q. 6. "The criticism that defenders of Restoration comedy need to answer is not that the comedies are immoral, but that they are trivial, gross, and dull." Discuss with reference to *The Way of the World*.

Or

"*The Way of the World* has very little of action and less of movement, but it is fascinating all the same." Substantiate. ... 301

- Q. 7. Critically examine the view that the plot of *The Way of the World* is no plot but only a series of often impossible incidents designed simply to afford the author an opportunity for displaying his brilliant wit. ... 304

- Q. 8. "The element of comedy in *The Way of the World*, which most intrigued Congreve, which prompted him to lavish on it his greatest care, is that of the duel of the sexes." Discuss.

Or

"Sex in Congreve is a battle of wits. It is not a battlefield of the emotions." Discuss with reference to *The Way of the World*. ... 308

- Q. 9. To what extent was Congreve indebted to earlier dramas in his writing of *The Way of the World*? ... 312

- Q. 10. Write a critical note on Restoration comedy, illustrating some of your points from *The Way of the World*. ... 315

- Q. 11. Discuss the functions and roles of the following characters in *The Way of the World*: Witwoud, Petulant, and Sir Willfull. ... 319

- Q. 12. Write a critical note on the character and function of each of the following women in *The Way of the World*: Lady Wishfort, Mrs. Marwood, and Mrs. Fainall. ... 323

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