

# COMPREHENSION ANSWERS

## FROM THE PASSAGE

1. (i) They are very subservient and apologetic for something that was not their fault, [1] saying “Pardon” and “Excuse me” to the Marquis even though it was his coach that had just run over a child. [1]  
(ii) He is untroubled by it, as he looks “calmly” out to see what happened. [1] He sees it merely as an inconvenience to himself/does not think it is worth getting upset about, as seen from his description of the father’s grief as an “abominable noise.” [1]
2. (i) He sees them as vermin/less than human. [1]  
(ii) He cares more about whether the dead child has endangered his animals than about the grief caused by his death.[1] This shows how cold/callous he is towards the suffering of the poor. [1]  
(iii) He thinks money is enough to compensate for the loss of a child, and thus feels that the child’s death is negligible. [1] Since throwing a coin is a disdainful/contemptuous gesture, it also shows that the Marquis has little respect for the poor. [1]
3. (i) The other people have some level of respect for him, as seen from how they made way for him. [1] The fact that the grieving father was “sobbing and crying” on his shoulder shows that Defarge is trusted by the community/the other people are comfortable with him. [1]  
(ii) It is to reward him for soothing the man enough for the Marquis to move on and forget about the accident. [1]
4. Perhaps the family’s conditions were so poor that if the child had just been injured, he would have experienced much more suffering due to lack of medical treatment. [1] [Accept any reasonable answer]
5. (i) “Without deigning to look at the assemblage a second time” [1]  
(ii) “some common thing” [1]
6. (i) - a rejection of the Marquis’ idea that money can compensate for anything.  
- that the thrower values their dignity more than money.  
[1 mark for any reasonable answer]  
(ii) He cares more about making sure his social inferiors respect his higher status than about the lives of the poor, [1] as he did not bother stopping for the child but ordered the horses to stop when he felt someone was rude to him. [1]
7. “howling over it like a wild animal” (Paragraph 2) – The very natural grief of the dead child’s father is compared to the cries of an animal, thus dehumanising the father’s emotions.  
“The voice of the submissive man who had spoken, was flat and tame in its extreme submission.” (Paragraph 8) – Suggests that the people are like wild animals that need to be taught to submit to human beings.  
“wretched father was grovelling on his face” (Paragraph 21) – The father is portrayed as lacking control, overcome by emotion, unable to speak, whereas the Marquis is in control and speaks calmly.  
[Any 2 phrases for 2 marks]