

# *Sketch the character of Elizabeth*

*BA PART 2 PAPER 4 ENG HONS 2019-20*

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Elizabeth is the most influential female character of the novel *The Mayor of Casterbridge*. Women characters have been assigned significance roles in the novels of Thomas Hardy. They are competent enough to overcome the challenges whenever they are pitted against it. They maintain a perfect balance of mind during adverse conditions and do not lose mental equipoise which helps them tide over the impediments and come out victorious giving a fitting reply to their adversaries. They extend a helping hand to their male counterparts in the hour of crisis which gives credibility to their firm determination. They are unyielding and do not make any compromise with the adverse circumstances. They prefer to meet the challenges face-to-face instead of succumbing themselves to their opponents. They are diligent, hard-working and remain committed to their words.

In the character of Elizabeth there is a perfect blend of the qualities like uncompromising will and the commitment not to submit against the oddities of life. After the death of his mother her father was broken completely. He was disturbed within. All his hopes and aspirations were shattered into pieces. He had dreamt of a pleasant life in the company of his wife and his daughter. He wanted to bring

back all worldly comforts to the doorsteps of his wife to cover the loss which he had previously made. Elizabeth gave the healing touch to the aching wounds of her father . She used to pacify his grievances by her consoling words. But when she realized sudden change in his behaviour towards her she abruptly decided not to stay there any longer since her father was not as much affectionate to her as he used to be in the past. Once a rift in their relationship was surfaced she decided that she was morally bound to sever ties with him since she had lost his confidence. In the case of his growing affection for Donald Farfrae she did not budge an inch from her stand that Farfrae was the most suitable person she was looking for as her life- partner. She remained committed to her stand and even did not take notice of the advice of her father not to have any relationship with him. These incidents clearly indicate that she was very firm in decision- making and did not allow anybody to prevail on her. These specific features of her personality have given an added charm and grandeur to her personality which elevated her to the status of the most favoured character of the novel after Henchard.