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Topic — RESTORATION
COMEDY

Q. of Part II (Hons) Sub. English

Q. Dissuss the Themes of The Way of World?

Ans The main Themes of The play are indicated in the title itself.

The characters ~~re~~ introduced here are typical of that age. They have no feelings. They have only intellectual wits. Even a good man like Mirabell plots to humiliate Lady Wishfort by sending an imposter to make love to her.

The men introduced here have only two aims in life — love and money.

Money plays an important part in the play. Greed is Fainroll's obsession. He marries the widow of Mr. Langrish

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only because she was
the only daughter of
a widow. His first plot was
that Mr Millamont should marry
Mirabell against the wishes
of her aunt and so her
property should come to his
wife and so indirectly to
him. But this is ~~then~~ thwarted
by Mrs. Marwood who tells
Lady Wishfort that Mirabell
is only pretending to love
her.

With Fainall money is the
be-all and end-all of all
his existence. But others also
care for money. Millamont loves
Mirabell sincerely but she
knows that marriage without
money would be a sentimental
folly.

The play is concerned
with love in its various forms.
The most graceful aspect of
love is seen in the relation

of Mirabell and Millament.
This was the restoration ideal
of love — intense and yet
balanced and without
sentimentality.

Then we have the
illicit love of Fainall and
Mrs. Marwood. It is all
passion with no sincerity in
it. With Witwood plays court
to Millament and hopes to
win her some day. But he is
treated by Millament as a fool
whose company is good for her
health.

But the main theme
of the play is the great
intrigue of Mirabell to
gain the hand of Millament
in the marriage. He first
pretends to love the Lady
Wishfort in order to get
the chance to meet Millament.

a deeper plot. Lady Wishfort alone can relieve her of the trouble and he will do so after the Lady agrees to his union with Millamant.

Mirabell's plot ultimately fails. The impostor is arrested and Foible too is to be sent to prison.

But Mirabell has something more up his sleeve. He wins Lady Wishfort's favour by producing a deed by which Mrs. Fainall had placed the entire property which she inherited from her husband in trust with Mirabell.

Final victory goes to Mirabell not because he is the best person in the play but because he is the most successful intriguer.

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