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B.A. Sem IV Paper V [ENG]

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Analysis of the Purloined Letter

Edgar Allan Poe's 'The Purloined Letter' centres on an ingenious plot involving the theft of an incriminating letter, which remains hidden in plain sight. The story highlights Dupin's intellectual prowess in solving a mystery that confounds the Parisian police. Unlike conventional detective stories, the focus here isn't on physical evidence or brute force but on psychology and insight.

The prime factor to find the letter stems from their rigid methods. They search the minister's apartment thoroughly, employing logic and precision, recognising that the minister, knowing how the police thinks, cleverly hides the letter in the most ~~obvious~~ obvious place - an unattractive and warm card rack in plain sight, disguised as an important piece of paper.

Dupin's success comes from his ability to think like the minister. He understands that solving the mystery requires

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psychological insight rather than traditional ~~insight~~ logic. Dupin even replaces the letter with a fake, ensuring the minister downfall when he does not realise until its too late. Poe's story showcases the triumph of intellect over routine ~~investigative~~ investigative methods & demonstrates the power of understanding how human behaviour in solving complex problem.

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