 Year 12 English Standard

Pygmalion character beliefs, attitudes, ideas and assumptions

In groups, you are to locate the quote, identify the speaker, and describe the tone of the character.

Questions for Group 1

1. “He’s no right to take away my character.” (Act I)
   * Speaker:
   * Tone:
2. “A woman who utters such depressing and disgusting sounds has no right to be anywhere – no right to live.” (Act I)
   * Speaker:
   * Tone:
3. “A birdcage hangs in the window, but its tenant died long ago: it remains as a memorial only.” (Act I)
   * Speaker:
   * Tone:
4. “Remember that you are a human being with a soul and the divine gift of articulate speech: don’t sit there crooning like a bilious pigeon.” (Act I)
   * Speaker:
   * Tone:
5. “Shall we ask the baggage to sit down or shall we throw her out of the window?” (Act II)
   * Speaker:
   * Tone:

Questions for Group 2

1. “I shall make a duchess out of this draggletailed guttersnipe.” (Act II)
   * Speaker:
   * Tone:
2. “Don’t you want to be clean and sweet and decent, like a lady? You know you can’t be a nice girl inside if you’re a dirty slut outside.” (Act II)
   * Speaker:
   * Tone:
3. “You see, we’re all savages, more or less. We’re supposed to be civilized and cultured – to know all about poetry and philosophy and art and science, and so on; but how many of us even know the meanings of these names? What do you know of poetry?” (Act III)
   * Speaker:
   * Tone:
4. “Eliza who is exquisitely dressed, produced an impression of such remarkable distinction and beauty as she enters, they all rise to greet her.” (Act III)
   * Speaker:
   * Tone:

Questions for Group 3

1. “You certainly are a pretty pair of babies, playing with your live doll.” (Act III, p.63)
   * Speaker:
   * Tone:
2. “Eliza’s beauty becomes murderous.” (Act IV)
   * Speaker:
   * Tone:
3. “You don't care. I know you don't care. You wouldn't care if I was dead. I'm nothing to you – not so much as them slippers." (Act IV)
   * Speaker:
   * Tone:
4. “Now you are free and can do what you like.” (Act IV)
   * Speaker:
   * Tone:
5. “All I want to know is whether anything belongs to me? My own clothes were burnt.” (Act IV)
   * Speaker:
   * Tone:

Questions for Group 4

1. “The ring is the one you bought me… I don’t want it now…” (Act IV)
   * Speaker:
   * Tone:
2. “You calling me Miss Doolittle that day… That was the beginning of self-respect for me.” (Act V)
   * Speaker:
   * Tone:
3. "The difference between a lady and a flower girl is not how she behaves, but how she's treated." (Act V)
   * Speaker:
   * Tone:
4. “I am a child in your country. I have forgotten my own language and can speak nothing but yours.” (Act V)
   * Speaker:
   * Tone:
5. “But [standing up and facing him] I won’t be passed over.” (Act V)
   * Speaker:
   * Tone:

Questions for Group 5

1. “Why did you take my independence from me? Why did I give it up? I’m a slave now, for all my fine clothes.” (Act V)
   * Speaker:
   * Tone:
2. “I only want to be natural… I’m not dirt under your feet.” (Act V)
   * Speaker:
   * Tone:
3. “You can’t take away the knowledge you gave me.” (Act V)
   * Speaker:
   * Tone:
4. “Now you’re a tower of strength; a consort battleship.” (Act V)
   * Speaker:
   * Tone: