



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: IX

**Question Bank (2023-24)
THE SOUND OF MUSIC**

Subject: English

Long Answer Questions

1. Evelyn Glennie's deafness was more than compensated by other parts of her body so far as music was concerned. Discuss.

Ans-Evelyn Glennie had a deep passion for music but unfortunately, she lost her hearing completely at the age of eleven years. She wanted to lead a normal life and play the xylophone, but her teachers discouraged her considering her deafness to be an obstruction. However, Ron Forbes, a great percussionist, trained her to listen to the musical sounds and vibrations not through ears, but through other parts of her body. He created two drums with different sounds to make her hear the higher beats from the upper part of her body and the lower beats from the parts lower than her waist. The experiment was so effective that Evelyn opened her mind and body to the fine sounds of music.

Evelyn now believes that music penetrates her through every part – through her skin, cheekbones and even her hair. When she plays the xylophone, she feels that the sounds move from the stick into the tips of her fingers. When the drums are played, she can feel the resonant sounds pouring into her body. She takes off her footwear on a wooden stage and the vibrations of the instruments pass from her bare feet into her legs. Thus, Evelyn has sensitized the different parts of her body to the different sounds of music.

2. If you work hard and know where you are going, you'll get there," remarks Evelyn Glennie. What does it reveal about her character?

Or

Which traits of Evelyn's personality enabled her to overcome the challenge of deafness?

Or

What values of life strengthened Evelyn against the handicap of her deafness? What does her career teach to handicapped people?

Ans-Evelyn's firm determination, her industrious nature, and her clarity of aim are well revealed in her statement. These values of her character have enabled her to overcome her handicap of deafness very bravely. Although she developed hearing impairment at the young age of eight only, she has never let it become a stumbling block on her way to success.

Firmly determined to lead the life of a normal person, Evelyn never gave up her passion for music. The encouragement and training provided by Ron Forbes paved the way for her advancement and she stuck to the path with unwavering confidence. It was this confidence and faith in her that made her dare to audition for the Royal Academy of Music, London where she received the topmost awards.

Evelyn is a workaholic. This helped her to toil hard, in fact much harder than the classical musicians to bring percussion to the front stage in the orchestra. She believes that no goal is unachievable for those who work hard and are focused on the goal. With her earnest efforts, she

moved from orchestra to solo performances and eventually became an internationally renowned percussionist owing to her command over many instruments. She had the courage and confidence to trample down her disability and move on without looking back. Her firm decisions, her sincere efforts, her passionate labour, and her untiring devotion to music are a source of inspiration for people with challenges.

3. Write a note on the origin of the Shehnai.

Ans-It is said that in the past a musical instrument called Pungi used to be played in palaces before the Kings and Nawabs. But Aurangzeb did not like the shrill and unpleasant sound of the Pungi. So, he banned the playing of this musical instrument in the royal residence. There was a barber who belonged to a family of musicians. He had access to the royal palace. He tried hard to improve the instrument's tonal quality: He chose a pipe with a natural hollow stem that was longer and broader than the original Pungi. He carved seven holes on the body of the instrument. When he played on it, an impressive sonorous tonal sound was produced. The barber played it before the king and his courtiers. Everybody was impressed. The instrument was called Shehnai because it was born in the Shah's chamber and was invented by a 'nai' (barber).

4. How does the author of "The Sound of Music" portray Bismillah Khan as a great patriot?

Or

Bismillah Khan, on receiving the Bharat Ratna, remarked, "Teach your children music, this is Hindustan's richest tradition; even the West is now coming to learn our music."

What does it reveal about his sentiments towards India?

Ans-Bismillah Khan, in "The Sound of Music", emerged as a person imbued with intense and strong patriotic emotions. He had a profound and passionate love for his birthplace, Dumraon in Bihar, and for Banaras where he took training to play the shehnai. He feels a deep bond with the Ganga because the flowing waters of the holy river made him improvise and spontaneously play new raagas – the ones that were earlier regarded to be beyond the range of the shehnai. Such was Bismillah Khan's love for his country and the Ganga that he refused to settle down in America to head a school for the shehnai. His strong attachment to the sacred river made him miss Banaras when he was in Mumbai or elsewhere. Equally strong was his bond with his birthplace Dumraon.

Bismillah Khan had a great regard for Hindustani music which, for him, is the richest cultural heritage of India. He wanted the tradition of Indian music to be carried on from generation to generation. That is why he advised the people of India to teach music to their children and felt proud that this music fascinated even the people of the west.

6. What does Ustad Bismillah Khan's life exemplify?

Ans-Ustad Bismillah Khan's life exemplifies artistic excellence and rare humanity. His life proves that there is no shortcut to success. One has to work hard to achieve expertise in any field and reach the pinnacle of success. It was Ustad Bismillah Khan who took shehnai to every common man and brought it on the classical stage. He was conferred upon with a galaxy of most prestigious awards for his globally-acclaimed prowess in playing the flute. He was the first Indian to be invited to perform at the prestigious Lincoln Centre Hall in the United States of America. But he was humble and humane till his last breath. Ustad Bismillah Khan's life is a perfect example of the rich, cultural heritage of India. A devout Muslim like him could very naturally play the shehnai every morning at the Kashi Vishwanath temple. For him, religion and

country are two different entities. He was a devout Muslim who was Indian by spirit.

Short Answer Questions

1. Why does Evelyn say that men with bushy beards give her trouble?

Ans-Evelyn says that men with bushy beards give her trouble because she has to watch their whole face, especially their eyes, in order to grasp what they say. Just watching their lips did not help as the lips remained partially hidden in the beards.

2. How is Evelyn an inspiration for handicapped people?

Ans-Evelyn's achievements gained through determination and hard work, set an example before other handicapped people. They gain confidence from her example and believe that they too can achieve their goals in life by overcoming their handicaps with firm determination.

3. "Everything suddenly looked black". Why does Evelyn say so?

Ans-When Evelyn was advised to use hearing aids and join the school for the deaf, she felt that her future was bleak and dark. She was depressed, as all hope for great achievements seemed to have vanished. She had now become a disabled child who could not have easy access to normal life.

4. How did Ron Forbes give training in music to Evelyn?

Ans-He took two large drums for tuning. Evelyn at once realized higher drums from the waist up and lower drums from the waist down. He motivated her to feel music in different parts of her body.

5. How was Evelyn able to get admission to the Royal Academy of Music?

Ans-Ron Forbes spotted Evelyn's potential in music. She never looked back from that point. By the time she was sixteen, she had decided to make music her life. She auditioned for the Royal Academy of Music and scored the highest marks in the history of the academy.

6. Why had Evelyn's headmistress advised her parents to take her to a specialist?

Evelyn managed to hide her growing deafness from students and teachers for some time. However, by the time she was eleven years old, her performance in school deteriorated and her marks decreased. It was then that the headmistress advised her parents to consult a specialist.

7. While leaving for the Royal Academy of Music, why was Evelyn excited despite her nervousness?

For Evelyn, going to the Royal Academy of Music, London was a dream come true. She was going to join a three-year course in an institute she had cherished to join. It excited her to think that despite her impaired hearing she had made her way to such a prestigious institute.

8. How did Evelyn open her mind and body to musical sounds and vibrations?

As the guide I by Ron Forbes, Evelyn learnt to listen through different parts of the body other than her ears. Her mind and body were sensitized to notice and differentiate various sounds and vibrations of music. She compensated for the loss of hearing with this awakened and sharpened sense in other parts of her body.

9. How did young Bismillah develop his interest in Shehnai?

Ans. Bismillah was fascinated watching his uncle practice the Shehnai when he was only three. He was deeply fascinated by the music of Shehnai. Soon Bismillah started accompanying his uncle Ali Bux, to the Vishnu Temple of Benares where Bux was employed to play Shehnai.

Bismillah picked up the finer nuances of Shehnai and practiced for hours on the banks of the river Ganga. The themes of his music were deeply affected by the sounds of flowing water of the Ganga. At the age of 14, Bismillah accompanied his uncle to Allahabad music conference where Ustad Fayaz Khan patted his shoulder which inspired and encouraged him to work harder.

10. Give a brief character sketch of Ustad Bismillah Khan.

Ans. Ustad Bismillah Khan was a Shehnai master of national and international fame. He was a great musician. Ali Bux, his Maternal Uncle perfected him in music. Shehnai was brought to the classical stage by Ustad Bismillah Khan. He practiced for hours and worked very hard to attain perfection. It was his melodious music that made him the first Indian to greet the independent India. Ustad Bismillah Khan created many new ragas. He was given many awards and he even received the ‘‘Bharat Ratna’’. He was a true patriot, who declined many offers to settle abroad. He was a true artist but a simple man. He had great regard for Hindustani Classical Music.

11. Why did Bismillah Khan refuse to start a Shehnai school in the U.S.A.?

Ans. Bismillah Khan was exceedingly fond of Banaras and Dumraon. According to him they were the most wonderful towns of the world for him. The students promised to recreate the atmosphere of Banaras, but he asked if they would be able to transport River Ganga as well. Whenever he was in a foreign country, he yearned for Hindustan. In Mumbai also, he thought of only Benares and the holy Ganga. Thus, he refused to start a Shehnai School in the U.S.A.

12. How is a ‘shehnai’ different from a pungi?

Ans: Though a reeded instrument like a pungi, a shehnai differs from it in width and sound. It is made with a longer and broader stem than a pungi and produces soft, melodious sounds instead of the loud, jarring sound of a pungi.

13. How was Bismillah Khan’s music appreciated and recognised on the international level?

Ans: Bismillah Khan’s music was so much appreciated on the international level that he became the first Indian to be invited to perform in the prestigious Lincoln Central Hall, USA. He participated in the World Exposition in Montreal, the Cannes Art Festival and the Osaka Trade Fair. In Teheran, an auditorium was named after him.

Reference to Context: Read the passages given below and answer the questions that follow.

PASSAGE 1

‘‘I’ve just got to work... Often harder than classical musicians. But the rewards are enormous.’’ Apart from the regular concerts, Evelyn also gives free concerts in prisons and hospitals. She also gives high priority to classes for young musicians. Ann Richlin of the Beethoven Fund for Deaf Children says, ‘‘She is a shining inspiration for deaf children. They see that there is nowhere that they cannot go.’’

Questions:

- Evelyn works harder than classical musicians. What does it imply?
- For whom does Evelyn perform for free?
- ‘‘... there is nowhere that they cannot go.’’ Who are they here?
- What quality of Evelyn’s character is shown by her actions?

Answers:

- Classical music needs a lot of practice. However, Evelyn works even harder than the others.
- Evelyn gives free concerts in prisons and hospitals.
- They are deaf children
- Evelyn is committed to music. She is also compassionate and generous towards those in need.

PASSAGE 2

It was her first day at the prestigious Royal Academy of Music in London and daunting enough for any teenager fresh from a Scottish farm. But this aspiring musician faced a bigger challenge than most.

Questions:

- Who is referred to as the ‘aspiring musician’?
- How old was this ‘aspiring musician’ when she went to the Royal Academy of Music?
- What was likely to ‘daunt any teenager’?
- Why did she face “a bigger challenge than most”

Answers:

- Evelyn Glennie is referred to as the aspiring musician.
- She was seventeen years old when she went to the Royal Academy of Music in London.
- The first day in a great and renowned institute like The Royal Academy of Music, London was likely to daunt any teenager.
- She faced a ‘bigger challenge’ than most as she was profoundly deaf and was yet joining a music academy.

PASSAGE 3

In our two-hour discussion, she never missed a word. “Men with bushy beards give me trouble,” she laughed. “It is not just watching the lips, it’s the whole face, especially the eyes.”

Questions:

- Who is ‘she’? Why is it strange that she never missed a word?
- How does she hear the words?
- Why do men with bushy beards give her trouble?
- Which are the languages that she speaks?

Answers:

- She refers to Evelyn Glennie. She is profoundly deaf yet she heard each word.
- She hears the words by reading lips and by studying the whole face and eyes of the speaker.
- She is unable to read their lips and their face.
- Apart from English she has managed to learn French and master basic Japanese.

PASSAGE 4

A student of his once wanted him to head a shehnai school in the U.S.A., and the student promised to recreate the atmosphere of Banaras by replicating the temples there.

Questions:

- What did Bismillah Khan’s student want him to do?
- What did the student promise to do?
- What was Bismillah Khan’s reply?
- What do you learn about him from this?

Answers:

- a) Bismillah Khan's student wanted him to shift to the USA and head a shehnai school there.
- b) He promised to recreate the atmosphere of Banaras in the USA by building similar temples as the ones in Banaras there.
- c) Bismillah Khan refused to accept the offer as he did not wish to leave the Ganga.
- d) It reveals that Bismillah Khan was a true patriot, who passionately loved the Ganga and never wanted to live away from it.

PASSAGE 5

His first trip abroad was to Afghanistan where King Zahir Shah was so taken in by the maestro that he gifted him priceless Persian carpets and other souvenirs. The King of Afghanistan is not the only one to be fascinated with Bismillah's music. Film director, Vijay Bhatt was so impressed after hearing Bismillah play at a festival that he named a film Gunj Uthi Shehnai after the instrument.

Questions:

- a) Another word for 'so taken in' can be
- b) What did King Zahir Shah present to Bismillah?
- c) Gunj Uthi Shehnai was a film directed by Vijay Bhatt. (True/False)
- d) The word in the above lines that denotes 'a performer of classical music' is

Answers:

- a) impressed or attracted.
- b) Persian carpets and other souvenirs.
- c) True
- d) maestro

PASSAGE 6

Despite this huge success in the celluloid world, Bismillah Khan's ventures in film music were limited to two: Vijay Bhatt's Gunj Uthi Shehnai and Vikram Srinivas's Kannada venture, Sanadhi Apanna. "I just can't come to terms with the artificiality and glamour of the film world," he says with emphasis.

Questions:

- a) What is meant by celluloid world? Why is it so-called?
- b) What did Bismillah Khan do in the celluloid world?
- c) Which two characteristics of the film world did he dislike?
- d) What do you learn about his character from this incident?

Answers:

- a) The term celluloid world refers to the film world because celluloid is a name for film used in shooting movies. Because of its use in making films, this term came to stand for movies in general.
- b) Bismillah Khan provided music for two films.
- c) He disliked the artificiality and glamour of the film world.
- d) It indicates that truthfulness and simplicity were two significant traits of Bismillah Khan's character.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Who banned the playing of pungi in the royal palace?
 - a) Babur
 - b) Akbar
 - c) Shah Jahan
 - d) Aurangzeb
2. Where did Khan Saab play his newly discovered music instrument for the first time?
 - a) In Shah's chambers
 - b) Before the public
 - c) In the open court
 - d) None of these
3. What name was given to the new instrument?
 - a) Pungi
 - b) Sarod
 - c) Shehnai
 - d) Flute
4. How did the sound of Shehnai begin to be considered?
 - a) Auspicious
 - b) Unpleasant
 - c) A sign of mourning
 - d) Ill-omened
5. What credit is given to Ustad Bismillah Khan regarding shehnai?
 - a) Inventing shehnai
 - b) Inventing pungi
 - c) Bringing shehnai to India
 - d) Bring shehnai onto the classical stage
6. What was wrong with Evelyn?
 - a) She was blind
 - b) She was deaf
 - c) She was lame
 - d) She was mentally weak
7. Evelyn learned music from
 - a) Royal Academy of Music in London
 - b) Royal Academy of Music in Paris
 - c) Royal Academy of Music in Delhi
 - d) Royal Academy of Music in New York
8. Why did the crowd jostle at the station?
 - a) To get free food
 - b) To listen to Evelyn's music
 - c) To get a position on the train
 - d) To see the train
9. How did Evelyn Glennie become deaf?
 - a) She was deaf by birth
 - b) In an accident
 - c) Attack of chicken-pox
 - d) Through a gradual process

10. What did Evelyn's parents conceal about her from her teachers and friends?
- a) Her deafness
 - b) Her mental retards
 - c) Her speaking problem
 - d) All of these