



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH (2025-26)
CLASS – X
QUESTION BANK-OZYMANDIAS

Answer the following questions briefly.

- (a) "The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed." Whose hand and heart has the poet referred to in this line?

The hand is that of the sculptor who made the statue and captured the king's feelings very well. The heart is that of the king who fed on the passion of his subjects.

- (b) "My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:" Why does Ozymandias refer to himself as King of Kings? What quality of the king is revealed through this statement?

Ozymandias refers to himself as "King of Kings" to emphasise his power and superiority over other rulers. This statement reveals the king's qualities of arrogance, boastfulness and conceit. Ozymandias considers himself the most powerful king and no one is more powerful than him. He is proud of his achievements, strength, and power.

- (c) Bring out the irony in the poem.

The irony in the poem lies in the statement which is engraved on the pedestal, "Look upon my works, ye Mighty, and despair!" At the same place now, there is nothing around except for vast stretches of sand and desert. Through these words, the king was trying to show his grandeur in the form of his statue but now it stands broken in a place where time had destroyed everything.

- (d) 'Nothing beside remains'. What does the narrator mean when he says these words?

When alive, Ozymandias hoped that his mighty works would be admired by the world. However, now, there is nothing left to see except his shattered statue. The poet means that Ozymandias' existence has passed into oblivion and no trace of his glory can be seen anywhere.

- (e) What impression do you form of Ozymandias as a king?

Ozymandias appears to be a very arrogant king when he calls himself the king of kings. Through the lines on the pedestal, he wanted to show that he was the greatest king who ever lived. This statement shows how conceited, powerful, arrogant and blind with power he was.

- (f) What message is conveyed through this poem?

This poem conveys the important message that time is all powerful. No king or his power can defeat time. Nothing lives forever and all achievements are lost due to passage of time. So, having pride in your achievements and showcasing them are meaningless.

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. I met a traveller from an antique land

Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone

Stand in the desert. Near them, on the sand.

Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown.

(a) Who does 'I' represent?

Ans. 'I' represents the poet.

(b) Where was the traveller coming from?

Ans. The traveller was coming from an ancient land.

(c) What effect does the fact the author met a traveller from an antique land create?

Ans. The fact that the author met a traveller from an antique land creates an atmosphere of mystery and thrill.

(d). What had happened to the statue?

Ans. The statue got damaged with the passage of time. It lay in ruins.

2. *Near them, on the sand,*

Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,

And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,

(a) What lay near the trunkless legs of stone?

Ans. Near the trunkless legs of stone lay the partially buried broken face of the statue.

(b) Describe the expression on the face of the visage.

Ans. On the face of the visage, the traveller could see the expression of a frown, wrinkled lip and a sneer of cold command.

(c) What does 'sneer of cold command' mean?

Ans. The phrase 'sneer of cold command' refers to the facial expression of scorn or contempt in which the upper lip may be raised.

(d) What do you mean by 'shattered'?

Ans. The word 'shattered' means 'to be broken into pieces'.

3. *And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,*

Tell that its sculptor well those passions read

Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,

The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed.

(a) Describe the setting of the poem.

Ans. The poem is majorly set in a desert amidst the ruins of the statue. It is a mysterious and thrilling setting as we know more about the dilapidated statue.

(b) Identify the poetic devices used in the first line.

Ans. Imagery and alliteration are the poetic devices used in the first line.

(c) What image of the sculptor can be formed after reading the above lines?

Ans. The colossal statue of Ozymandias gives a clear indication that the sculptor was a master artist. He had very beautifully carved every detail of the king's face. Even when the statue was lying in ruins, one could easily make out the arrogant expression on it.

(d) Explain the phrase 'The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed'.

Ans. The given lines indicate that the hands of the sculptor mocked Ozymandias by etching the expressions of sneering, frowning and wrinkled lips. His face displayed the heart of king Ozymandias, which was the source of the feelings displayed on the statue's head.

Or

(a) What do 'lifeless things' mean?

Ans. The expression 'lifeless things' refers to the scattered fragments of the broken statue of Ozymandias, especially the shattered face.

(b) What does the expression 'well those passions read' mean?

Ans. The expression means that the sculptor skillfully interpreted the king's feelings.

(c) How did the heart feed the passions?

Ans. The passions which were depicted on the statue's face were those of vanity and self-importance. These were the emotions born and produced in the king's heart.

(d) Explain- "The hand that mocked them and the heart that fed".

Ans. The given line means that the sculptor tried his level best to understand the emotions of the king and mocked him by skillfully carving it out

4. And on the pedestal these words appear:

"My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:

Look upon my works, ye Mighty, and despair!"

(a) What do the lines on the pedestal suggest about Ozymandias?

Ans. The lines on the pedestal suggest that Ozymandias was an arrogant king.

(b) Bring out the irony of the poem.

Ans. The irony of the poem is that time has claimed the great statue and the kingdom of Ozymandias.
Everything lies in ruins.

(c) Give the synonym of the word 'despair'.

Ans. The synonym of word 'despair' is 'anguish'.

(d) What does 'my works' stand for?

Ans. The phrase 'my works' stands for the many victories that Ozymandias achieved in his lifetime.

5. *Nothing beside remains. Round the decay*

Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare

The lone and level sands stretch far away.

(a) What does 'colossal wreck' refer to?

Ans. The phrase 'colossal wreck' refers to the huge statue of King Ozymandias which lies in ruins.

(b) What does the last line suggest?

Ans. The last line suggests that time is a leveller and destroyer. It broke the king's arrogance by destroying his status. Now, only sand remains all around.

(c) What does the expression 'Round the decay' mean?

Ans. The expression 'Round the decay' means the destruction caused with the passage of time due to natural causes.

(d) Why did nothing remain?

Ans. Nothing remained as time has destroyed everything in the region.

Short Answer Type Questions:

1. What did the traveller see in the desert?

Ans. The traveller from the ancient land saw a broken statue in the desert. There he saw two large legs of stone standing in the desert. Near them, he saw the face of the statue that lay half buried in the sand. The trunk and hands of the statue were missing.

2. What remained of the 'shattered' statue? What does it indicate?

Ans. Time had claimed the statue. Its trunk and hands were somewhere lost in the vast desert. Only the two legs and the fragmented face of the statue remained. It indicates that time is a destroyer. It can consume even the most colossal statues and the glories of great kings.

3. Describe Ozymandias' statue in your own words,

Ans. Ozymandias' statue must have been a colossal statue in his days of glory. Now, only its ruins remain. The trunk of the statue is lost in the sand. Only two vast legs and a shattered face remain. His arrogant expression is still visible on the lifeless face.

4. What does the dilapidated state of the statue suggest?

Ans. The broken statue of Ozymandias was surrounded by vast stretches of sand and the loneliness of the desert. These ruins prove that the king's work and civilisation has crumbled to dust. Nothing lasts forever and even the biggest statue can't stand the test of time.

5. What expressions of Ozymandias have been captured by the sculptor?

Or

Describe the passions that were stamped on the lifeless stone of the broken statue of Ozymandias.

Or

Describe the facial expressions of the broken statue of Ozymandias.

Or

What do the expressions on Ozymandias' face reveal about him?

Ans. The sculptor has carved Ozymandias' arrogance on the face of the statue. The statue had the expressions of a sneer and a frown. The grim, arrogant expression on his face reveals the excessive pride possessed by the king.

6. What is ironic about the inscription on the pedestal of Ozymandias' statue?

Or

The inscriptions on the pedestal of Ozymandias were ironical. Justify.

The inscription on the pedestal of Ozymandias' statue is ironic because the once great king is no more. Moreover, his empire, his rule and his people are all gone and have disappeared with the passage of time. Even his statue is wrecked and lost in the sands of a faraway desert.

7. How does the poet present the overpowering nature of posterity upon glory?

Posterity or the transition of time from one generation to another has an amazing influence over power and glory. Ozymandias was once a powerful king and was very certain that his glory will not fade. However, after many generations, his empire, his name, fame and even his statue were all forgotten with the passage of time.

8. What did Ozymandias expect from future generations? Was his hope fulfilled?

Ozymandias expected that the future generation would remember him till eternity. He was, in fact, very much confident that posterity would recall his achievements with amazement and admiration. His hopes have not been fulfilled as he has been forgotten and his statue lies broken and in complete neglect.

9. What quality of King Ozymandias does the poem reflect?

King Ozymandias appears to be an arrogant and a very conceited ruler. He seems to have no concern for his fellow beings. He is proud of his power, position and glory, and boasts of being the greatest of all kings. He looked down upon the other kings. His irrational approach to immortalise himself by getting a colossal statue carved of himself shows his arrogance.

10. How does the poem convey the briefness of human life?

The poem conveys the briefness of human life. Rich or poor, mighty or weak everyone has to leave this world. Time does not spare even the 'king of kings'. The statues carved in stone, marble, etc. remind the world about them but with the passage of time, these statues also get shattered and the world gradually forgets them.

11. 'The vanity of human glory power is transient', Elucidate with reference to the poem 'Ozymandias'.

In 'Ozymandias', the poem shows how human glory and power are short-lived. The statue of Ozymandias, once a symbol of his greatness, is now broken and buried in the desert. The inscription on the statue says, 'Look on my works, ye Mighty and despair!' but all that remains is ruin. This shows that no matter how powerful someone is, time eventually fades all achievements, leaving nothing behind. The poem highlights the temporary nature of fame and power.

Long Answer Type Questions:

Answer the following questions in 150 words:

1. People with might and power are not always respected. What should be the qualities in a person that will gain him respect amongst his people?

It is true to say that people with might and power are not always respected. One such example is king Ozymandias, an arrogant and highly conceited ruler. He believed that no one will ever be able to equal his achievements. He regarded his subjects as inferior to him. However, now his shattered statue, half buried in sand with the waste and ruins around, prove that time has levelled his fame and achievements. The ruins around the statue bear witness to the fact that nothing lasts forever. This is the true destiny of man. He is insignificant before the power of time. The poem illustrates the vanity of human greatness. It depicts that one must command respect and not demand it. As Ozymandias demanded respect, he never got it. The mason who made his statue and even the poet mock Ozymandias for his arrogance. To gain respect, one must never misuse power and might. Glorious deeds should be committed to get respect from future generations. Real power lies in winning the hearts and not in ruling the weak and needy.

2. The poem, 'Ozymandias' highlights the vanity of human glory and power. Elaborate.

The poem, 'Ozymandias' highlights the vanity of human glory and power. It conveys that no human emotions of haughtiness, sneer, pride and arrogance assure immortality and durability against the all-powerful effect of time.

Everything in the world degenerates with the passage of time and under the powerful influence of the elements of nature. Even the mightiest of the mighty becomes dust. No trace of them is left on the sands of time. Ozymandias, a powerful king of Egypt, was proud of his glory and achievements. He desired to

immortalise his name and constructed a statue of himself. But nothing could stand against time and the powerful elements of nature. The broken statue symbolises the destruction caused by time. The sand of the desert, boundless and bare, symbolises the power of the elements.

3. Overarching ambition can lead to great leaders and their downfall. Substantiate your position in favour or in opposition to this statement, with two points each.

It is true to say that overarching ambition can lead to great leaders and their downfall. Ambition drives a man towards a goal. A man with an ambition would work hard with sincerity, dedication and perseverance to reach the goal and sustain it. It was Ozymandias ambition that made him such a powerful king that he could boast of something.

However, over ambition often also leads to downfall. Ozymandias is an example of such overarching ambition. He felt that he as well as his fame would live through time such that he would be immortalised. But nothing of the sort happens. The statue he gets made is ruined and destroyed.

4. Time humbles even the greatest of the great. One should cultivate the quality of humility. Describe how time has reduced the mighty Ozymandias to nothing.

It is true to say that time humbles even the greatest of the great and that one should cultivate the quality of humility. The truth of the statement is evident in the poem 'Ozymandias' in which a traveller from an ancient land saw the statue of the king Ozymandias. The statue was broken and lying in the desert with its trunk missing and sand surrounding it. The shattered face of the statue was lying some distance away from the legs, which were on a pedestal. The statue in ruins bears witness to the fact that nothing lasts forever. This is the true destiny of man, however powerful or famous he may be when he is alive.

Thus, the passage of time had reduced the memory of a mighty king to only a broken statue. The king's power, pride and everything else had faded away with the passage of time. Time spares nobody and proves to be a great leveller. Man is insignificant before the power of time and everything is reduced to nothing with its passage.

5. 'None are so empty as those who are full of themselves. Compare and contrast the characters of Mrs. Packletide and Ozymandias in light of this statement.

It is true to say that 'None are so empty as those who are full of themselves.' We have two people in our curriculum that evidently prove this fact. The first one is Mrs. Packletide who wants to always be on the top of everything. She is so jealous of the fame her rival is receiving that she plans to do something (hunt a tiger) to outdo her. She even plans to throw a lunch to show off and give a tiger claw brooch to her rival. However, in the end, she suffers monetary loss as to maintain the fame she has to hide the reality of the hunt.

Much like Mrs. Packletide, there is Ozymandias.

Ozymandias is so sure of his power and fame that he gets a statue made to present it. He even goes on to say that he is the king of kings. However, in the end even his arrogance is broken as the statue, that he believed would display his power, was completely destroyed and ruined.

6. Imagine the traveller of the poem writes a diary entry, narrating his personal impressions about the trunkless statue and feelings about being in the antique land. You may begin like this...

The moment I saw the vast stretches of sand I couldn't contain my excitement. In the midst of this sandy desert, I saw...

Ans. The moment I saw the vast stretches of sand I couldn't contain my excitement. In the midst of this sandy desert, I saw two poles erected on a pedestal. I was shaken. Why construct two poles on a pedestal? To seek my answer, I decided to go near the poles. As I drew near, I realised that the poles were actually legs. It was a broken statue whose upper body was missing. Even the remaining part was on the verge of collapsing. I thought that if I look around I might find some other part of the statue.

And lo and Behold! I found the weird looking head. One look at it and you would know that the sculptor was skilled. The expression on the statue was precise. It showed pride, anger and coldness. After inspecting the face of the statue, I returned to the pedestal. There was an inscription there on it. It said that it was the statue of Ozymandias, the king of kings. He asked the looker to look at the fame and glory but I could see none. What an arrogant man must he be to think that he would survive the test of time. As I had been reading the inscription, I realised that I had to return to continue my journey.

The Traveller

(Design the content according to the format of a diary entry)

7. In the poems 'The Frog and the Nightingale' and 'Ozymandias', discuss how the characters' attitudes towards power and influence contribute to their respective outcomes.

In 'The Frog and the Nightingale', the frog's domineering and exploitative attitude towards power leads to the suppression and eventual demise of the nightingale. His desire for control and superiority blinds him to the nightingale's true talent and potential, resulting in her exploitation for his own gain. This attitude ultimately leads to the nightingale's tragic downfall.

Similarly, in 'Ozymandias', the monarch's attitude towards power is depicted through his arrogance and pride. These, coupled with belief in his own invincibility lead to the construction of a grand monument which boasts of his power and greatness. However, his arrogant attitude towards power ultimately contributes to his downfall, as the ruins of his statue stand as a testament to the fleeting nature of human achievements and the inevitability of decline. In both poems, the characters' attitudes towards power and influence play a significant role in shaping their respective outcomes, highlighting the destructive consequences of unchecked power.