



**INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH (2023-24)**

QUESTION BANK

KATHMANDU

CLASS IX

I. Short Answer Type Questions (30 to 40 words)

1. Where did the writer stay in Kathmandu? Which two different places of worship did he visit and with whom?

Ans:- For his trip to Nepal, Vikram Seth stayed in a cheap room in the center of Kathmandu and visited the Pashupatinath temple, a Hindu religious site and the Baudhanath stupa, a Buddhist religious site. He went on this trip with his acquaintances, Mr. Shah's son and nephew.

Q2. What is written on the signboard outside the Pashupatinath temple? What does the proclamation signify?

Ans:- Outside the Pashupatinath temple, the signboard announces: "Entrance for the Hindus only". It signifies the rigid sanctity that this place of worship associates with and the dogmatic discrimination practiced saving this place from being treated like a tourist destination.

Q3. What does the author imply by 'febrile confusion' in the Pashupatinath temple?

Or

What made the atmosphere in and around the Pashupatinath temple full of 'febrile confusion'?

Ans:- The author makes this remark to show the hectic and feverish activities that cause utter chaos. Around the temple, there is a huge crowd of priests, hawkers, tourists, and even cows, monkeys and pigeons. Inside the temple, there are a large number of worshippers who elbow others aside to move closer to the priest. Together, they create utter confusion.

Q4. Why did the policeman stop the Westerners wearing saffron-coloured clothes from entering the Pashupatinath temple?

Ans: - A policeman stopped the Westerners from entering the Pashupatinath temple, who seemed to be wearing saffron clothing. The entry of non-Hindus is banned at this religious site and the police officer didn't believe they were Hindu, despite their dress.

Q5. What activities are observed by the writer on the banks of the Bagmati river?

Ans: - writer observes some polluting activities on the banks of river Bagmati. He notices some washerwomen washing clothes, some children taking a bath, and a dead body being cremated on the banks of this sacred river. Someone also throws a basketful of wilted flowers and leaves into the river.

Q6. What is the belief at Pashupatinath about the end of Kaliyug? (Textual)

Ans: - There is a small shrine on the banks of the holy Bagmati in the Pashupatinath temple. Half part of this shrine protrudes from a stone platform. It is believed that when the shrine will emerge completely from the platform, the goddess in the shrine will escape and that will mark the end of the Kaliyug.

Q7. What picture of the Baudhnath stupa does the author portray?

Ans:- The author provides a concise but vivid description of the Baudhnath Stupa. They praise its serenity and tranquility—there are hardly any tourists on the road, even those that are not Tibetan do not encroach on this shrine. The structure has a tall white dome to show the silence and stillness in which it resides.

Q8. Describing the streets around the Baudhnath stupa, why does the narrator say this is a haven of quietness in the busy streets around?

Ans: -The narrator observes a sense of stillness at the Buddhist shrine, the Baudhnath stupa. Its immense white dome is ringed by a road with small shops selling items like felt bags, Tibetan prints and silver jewellery. The quietness of the stupa stands out amidst the busy business activities that go around it. Thus, the narrator regards this place as a heaven of quietness in the busy streets around.

Q9. The writer says, “All this I wash down with Coca-Cola”. What does ‘all this’ refer to? (Textual)

‘Ans: - ‘All this’ refers to the eatables that the writer enjoys on the road surrounding the Baudhnath stupa. It includes a bar of marzipan and a roasted corn-cob that he enjoys along with the fizzy, carbonated drink, Coca-Cola. Besides, he also gets some comics with love-stories and a copy of the Reader’s Digest magazine to indulge himself mindlessly.

Q10. Which is the longer route from Kathmandu to Delhi? Which route does the author opt for and why?

Ans: -The longer route from Kathmandu to Delhi is to first reach Patna by bus and train. Then go past Banaras, sail on the Ganges and reach Allahabad. Then cross the Yamuna and finally reach Delhi via Agra. Vikram Seth has been away from home for quite some time. He is feeling very exhausted and homesick. Though his enthusiasm for travelling tempts him to take a longer route to reach back home, his exhaustion and homesickness impels him to buy an air-ticket directly for the homeward journey to Delhi.

II. Long Answer Type Questions. (120 to 150 Words)

Q.1. How does the author describe the flute seller? What does he say about the flute music? OR

Where does the author find the flute seller and what are his observations about him? What draws the author to the music of the flute?

Ans. The author finds a flute seller in a corner of the square near his hotel. There is a pole in his hand. There is an attachment at the top of the pole. Fifty or sixty flutes are stuck on it. These flutes protrude in all directions. The author compares these flutes to the quills of a porcupine. These flutes are made-of bamboo: From time to time, he stands the pole on the ground. Then he selects a flute and plays on it for a few minutes. The sound rises clearly above the noise of the traffic and the hawkers’ cries. He plays the flute slowly and thoughtfully. He does not shout out his wares. Occasionally someone buys a flute from him. But the flute seller’s attitude is carefree. The author likes his attitude. He imagines that this has been his pattern of life for years. He does not seem to run a very brisk business and it appears as if playing the flute is his chief activity and selling of flutes is incidental to it.

The mesmerizing music of the flute draws the author to it. He is left spell-bound by its hypnotic notations. The impact is so deep that he has to force himself to leave the square where the flute is being played. This music is etched in his memory and he carries it with him to his home in India. He has always been attracted by the flute music: He says that the flute is a very common musical instrument. It is found in almost all cultures. It is the common link which connects all mankind.

2. Compare and contrast the atmosphere in and around the Baudhnath shrine with that in the Pashupatinath Temple. (Textual)

Ans:-The Pashupatinath Temple, sacred to the Hindus, and the Baudhnath shrine of the Buddhists stand in contrast with regard to their ambience.

The noisy confusion of the Hindu Temple is opposite to the tranquility that reigns supreme in the Baudhnath shrine. In the Pashupatinath temple, utter chaos is created by a large number of unorganised worshippers who try to push each other to reach closer to the priest and the deity. At Baudhnath stupa, there aren't many people inside the structure.

The atmosphere at Pashupatinath Temple is made noisy by the heterogeneous crowd consisting of priests, hawkers, devotees and tourists. The animals like cows and dogs freely move around and the pigeons too contribute to the confusion. Even monkeys play about and fight in the premises of the temple. Confusion is also created by some Westerners who wish to enter the temple.

The Baudhnath stupa, on the contrary, gives a feeling of stillness and silence. Although there are small shops on the road around the temple, run by Tibetan immigrants, there is neither noise nor chaos. The author is so fascinated by the serenity in and around the temple that he calls it 'a heaven of stillness' standing quietly amidst the busy streets.

3. How does the author describe Kathmandu's busiest streets? (Textual)

Ans: -The author presents the busiest streets of Kathmandu as 'vivid, mercenary and religious. It is a place with beautiful, vivid, landscape, and a lot of religious activity goes on all the time. Besides the famous places like the Pashupatinath temple and the Baudhnath stupa, Kathmandu also has small shrines and deities-It is 'mercenary' as it is a tourist place and a lot of business – flourishes in the narrow streets. One can find fruit sellers, flute sellers, and hawkers selling postcard photographs. As in any other tourist place, there are shops selling various things like cosmetics from western countries, rolls of film, chocolates, antique things of Nepal, and copper pots and pans.

There is a bedlam of noises created by radios playing film songs, sounds of car-horns, bells of bicycles and vendors shouting to invite the customers. There are also the cows bellowing as they hear the sounds of motorcycles. Thus, the streets of Kathmandu are full of noise and din.

4. To hear any flute is to be drawn into the commonality of all mankind." Why does the author say this? (Textual)

Ans: -The author hears the music of a flute played by a flute seller in a square near his hotel in Kathmandu and is reminded of the various kinds of music produced by various types of flutes found in various cultures. However, the flute is universal because almost every culture has flutes, though each has a different tone and pitch.

The author further describes the variety of flutes named differently as the shakuhachi in Japan and the bansuri in India. They have different fingering methods and ranges of sound. The Indian bansuri has a deep sound, the South American flute emits clear, breathy sound and the Chinese flute gives out loud, high-pitched melodies.

Despite the variety of flutes and the variations in their music, the author emphasises that the music of all the flutes closely resembles the human voice. To produce music, every flute needs pauses and breaths in the same manner in which phrases and sentences are uttered in the human voice. These pauses and breaths are generated through fingering of the holes of a flute. This characteristic feature of the flutes gives the author a feeling of being "drawn into the commonality of mankind", which gives him a sense of universality and harmony.

5. What idea do you get about the author from the extract "Kathmandu"?

Ans: -The extract "Kathmandu" taken from Vikram Seth's travelogue, 'Heavenly Lake', brings forth certain traits of his personality. As a traveller, Seth displays a keen sense of observation, and as a person with a fine aesthetic sense, his ability to capture the vivid details comes to the fore.

The pictures of the temples of Kathmandu and its crowded streets become alive with his vivid descriptions. Though indirectly, he also appears to be a lover of serenity and tranquility when he terms the stupa as a 'haven of quietness'. He also shows his concern as an environmentalist who does not approve of the polluting activities carried on the banks of the Bagmati river. Vikram Seth's fondness for travelling is obvious by the fact that although tired, he still contemplates taking a longer route back home to Delhi.

His fondness for music is brought forth when we find him so enchanted by the music of the flute that he has to force himself to leave the square where the flute is being played by the seller.

His choice of reading reveals that when tired, he prefers to read light and popular stuff. Like a typical traveller, he indulges himself with the eatables he finds available in the bazaar of Kathmandu.

Thus, the author emerges as a man with a profound fondness for travelling, love for music, a keen sense of observation, reflective mind, and an ability to portray places and people minutely and realistically.

III. REFERENCE TO CONTEXT

Read the extracts and answer the questions that follow.

1. *'There are so many worshippers that some people trying to get the priest's attention are elbowed aside by others pushing their way to the front.'*

A. Which place of worship is the narrator describing here?

Ans-The narrator is describing Kathmandu's Pashupatinath temple, which is sacred to the Hindus.

B. Why are some people elbowed aside?

Ans-The temple is visited by many worshippers, therefore there is a lot of pushing and jostling while people try to move ahead and get the priest's attention. In this attempt, some people were elbowed aside.

C. Why do you think some people are pushing their way to the front?

Ans-Some people are pushing their way to the front to get a clear view of the deity and also to make their offerings through the priest.

D. What sort of atmosphere is being created by the crowd in the temple?

Ans-The undisciplined and unorganised crowd is creating chaos and confusion. Their unruly behaviour is robbing the temple of its sanctity.

2. *'By the main gate, a party of saffron-clad Westerners struggle for permission to enter.'*

A. Which place is the author talking about here?

Ans-The author is talking of the famous Hindu shrine – the Pashupatinath Temple in Kathmandu.

B. Who are the saffron-clad Westerners at the main gate?

Ans-The saffron-clad Westerners at the main gate are a group of tourists.

C. Why do they struggle for permission to enter?

Ans-They struggle for permission to enter because the temple allows entry only to Hindus.

D. What does this show about the cultural practices of this place?

Ans-It shows that the authorities who look after this shrine are very rigid about maintaining the sanctity of the temple as a place of worship. They do not want it to be treated like a tourist spot.

3. *'A corpse is being cremated on its banks: washerwomen are at their work and children bathe.'*

A. Which river is referred to in this extract?

Ans- The river Bagmati that flows through Kathmandu near Pashupatinath temple is referred to here.

B. What is the significance of this river?

Ans- The river Bagmati is significant as it is considered sacred by the Hindus. They worship it like a pious deity.

C. What is dropped into this river and from where?

Ans- A basket of withered away flowers, leaves and old offerings are thrown into the river from the balcony of the Pashupatinath temple.

D. What does 'dropping various things into the river' reflect about the people?

Ans- Throwing of refuse into the sacred Bagmati reflects that these people lack concern for the environment. Their faith and behaviour do not match, for they pollute the very river which they consider to be sacred.

4. *'It weaves its own associations. Yet hear any flute is, it seems to me, to be drawn into the commonality of all mankind, to be moved by music closest in its phrases and sentences to the human voice.'*

A. What does 'it' stand for?

Ans- 'It' stands for a flute.

B. How does 'it' weave its own associations?

Ans- The expression means that each kind of flute produces a different and unique type of music associated with some particular place or culture.

C. Why does it draw the author to the 'commonality of all mankind'?

Ans- The flute draws the author in the 'commonality of all mankind' because this instrument is found in all cultures and is played in a similar manner. Hence, it seems to connect the whole of mankind.

D. Why is its music closest to the human voice?

Ans- The music of the flute is closest to the human voice because pauses and breaths are needed to produce musical notes of the flute in the same manner in which phrases and sentences are uttered in a human voice.

IV. Multiple Choice Questions

Q1. The chapter is taken from the book

- (a) Lake Heaven
- (b) Heaven and Beyond
- (c) **Heaven Lake**
- (d) Heaven's Beauty

Q2. Who were the author's companions for visiting two temples in Kathmandu, the next morning?

- (a) **Mr Shah's son and nephew**
- (b) Mr Shah's niece
- (c) Mr Shah's daughter
- (d) Mr Shah's friend

Q3. The two temples that the author had planned to visit are most sacred to

- (a) Hindus
- (b) Muslims
- (c) Buddhists
- (d) **Both (a) and (c)**

Q4. The atmosphere at the Pashupatinath temple was

- (a) Calm and quiet
- (b) **Utterly chaotic**
- (c) Quite uncanny
- (d) Both (a) and (c)

Q5. On whose appearance did everyone bow and made way at the temple?

- (a) The Nepalese actress
- (b) Prime Minister of Nepal
- (c) The priest of the temple
- (d) **The princess of the Nepalese royal house**

Q6. Amidst the chaos at the temple entrance, a fight broke out between

- (a) The policeman and the saffron-clad westerners
- (b) **Two monkeys**
- (c) Two dogs
- (d) The monkey and the policeman

Q7. According to the author, the music of the flute displays the _____ of mankind

- (a) **Uniqueness**

- (b)Talent
- (c)Humanity
- (d)**Commonality**

Q8. The flute seller makes sale

- (a)Frequently
- (b)Once in two weeks
- (c)Once in a month
- (d)**Occasionally**

Q9. The sound of _____ makes it difficult for the author go away from the square

- (a)Traffic
- (b)**Flute**
- (c)Train
- (d)Songs playing in a radio

Q10. According to the author, the music of flute is

- (a)Shrill
- (b)Blunt
- (c)**Universal**
- (d)Depressing

Q11. What protrudes from the stone platform of the riverbank?

- (a)A rocky shield
- (b)A round pebble
- (c)**A small shrine**
- (d)None of the above

Q12. The dome of this stupa is ringed by a

- (a)Field
- (b)Garden
- (c)**Road**
- (d)Vast garage

Q13. Many of the shops around the stupa are mostly owned by

- (a)The Nepalese
- (b)The Burmese Immigrants
- (c)**The Tibetan Immigrants**
- (d)The Bhutanese

Q14. What is marzipan?

- (a)A spicy Nepalese food
- (b)A nonveg delicacy
- (c)**A kind of sweet**
- (d)A fruit

Q15. The author indulged himself _____ into the lively city of Kathmandu.

- (a)**Mindlessly**
- (b)Carefully
- (c)Greedily
- (d)Reluctantly