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Valluvar college of Science and Management
Indian writing in English
SHORT ANSWERS

1.In the poem, The Harp of India', what is referred to as the Harp?
In the poem the poet refers to the Indian literary and poetic tradition as the Harp.
2.What is the condition of the Indian Harp now?
The Indian Harp is hanging lonely on a dried branch, that is, the poets' imaginative power has dried up. So, they cannot write any good poetry.
3. Write a note on the music produced by the Harp.
Once the music produced by the Harp was sweet and harmonious. The Indian poets in the past wrote good poetry
by their creative energy and imaginative power.
4. Why has the Harp now become silent?
The Harp has become silent because of the British supremacy. The fatal chains of slavish life under the British
dominance, has made the Indian poets silent. They are unable to write poetry.
5. Why no one hears the Harp?
No one hears the Harp now because the present generation neglects the best poetry of the past. No one is ready either
to produce or hear excellent music.
6. What did the poetess dream?
The poetess dreamt that her love had set him free. He had been saved from the overconquering power of Fate and was made to be surrounded by the joys of immortality.
7. What did the poetess do?
When he was frightened and suffering alone at the time of his death, the poetess had paid the ransom amount by her lover and had saved him from the hands of Death, before whom all mortals bend down in fear.
8. What did she realize when she awoke?
When she awoke, she realized that her love was useless. It could not remove even a single pain to which he was
destined and make him live a bit longer.
9. Why was her love helpless?
Her love was helpless and useless because it could not remove him from the burden of mortality which was inherited by all human beings and her love could not save him from the laws
of Death.
10. What does the poet express in the poem, 'Poet, Lover, Bird watcher '?
In the poem, 'Poet, Lover, Bird watcher', the poet expresses through a clever association of ideas that good poetry is a process of long waiting like loving and bird watching.
11. When can a poet write a fine piece of poetry?
A poet can write a fine piece of poetry when inspiration dawns on him and right words come to him spontaneously. The best poets wait patiently for words.
12. What is the common thing between the poet, the lover and the bird watcher?
The commonn thing between the poet, the lover and the bird watcher is to watch the movement and wait patiently.
13. What do the poet, the lover and the bird watcher wait for?
The poet waits for inspiration to write a good poetry, the lover waits patiently for his beloved to turn to him and the bird
watcher waits for the bird to be caught in the net.
14. How are the poet, the lover and the bird watcher rewarded?
The poet is rewarded by getting inspiration to write good poetry, the lover is rewarded when his beloved surrenders
to him both her body and soul and the bird watcher is rewarded when the bird is suddenly caught in the net.
15. What does the poet do in the poem, 'Of Mothers Among Other Things'?
In the poem, the poet recollects his memories about his beautiful and delicate mother when she was young. He earnestly remembers his affectionate mother and desires her company.
16. Why was the poet attracted by his mother's ear - rings?
The poet's mother wore three diamonds in her ear - rings. The diamonds were bright and shining. The poet was attracted by the bright rays of light that splashed out like needles from the
diamonds.
17. Why was his mother's saree hanging loose?
The poet's mother had become thin and lean. So the sarees did not cluig but hung loose round her emaciated body like the broken feather hanging from the wing of a wounded bird.
18. Describe the beauty of the poet's mother:
The poet's mother was tender and vivacious in the full bloom of her youth. She was beautiful and delicate like the silk, white petals of a flower.
19.What was the efffect of the misfortunes on the poet's mother?
Due to the rain of misfortunes, the poet's mother lost her radiant beauty and cheerfulness. Her body became thin and
emaciated and her hands were wrinkled. She lost her happiness and was melancholic
20. Why is the poet feel with pain?
The poet feels indescribable anguish in the very depth of his heart when he saw
of rice from the kitchen floor with her his mother's helplessness to pick even a grain of rice from the kitchen floor with her  four sensible fingers.
21. What were the books read by Gandhì on vegetarianism?
Howard Williams, "The Ethics of Diet", Dr. Anna Kings ford's 'The Perfect Way in Diet and Dr. Allinson's writings on health
and hygiene were read by Gandhi.
22. Write a note on' The Ethics of Diet'.
Howard Williams' The Ethics of Diet was a biographical history of the literature of humane dietetics from the earliest
period to the present day. It tried to make out that all philosophers and prophets from Pythagoras and Jesus down to those of the present age were vegetarians.
23. Write a note on Dr. Allinson's writings.
Dr. Allinson's writings on health and hygiene were helpful to Gandhi. Dr. Allinson advocated a curative system based on regulation of the dietary of patients. Himself a vegetarian, he
prescribed for his patients also a strictly vegetarian diet.
24. What did Gandhi decide to do to put his friend at ease?
To put his friend at ease, Gandhi decided not to be clumsy any more but try to become polished and make up for his
vegetarianism by developing other activities which fitted one for the polite society.
25. Write a note on the recluse in the fable
The recluse in the fable kept a cat to drive away the rats and then had a cow to feed the cat with milk and then a man to look after the cow and so on.
26. Write a note on Gandhi's violin teacher.
Gandhi's violin teacher was friendly to him. When he told her how he had discovered that he was pursing a false ideal, she encouraged him in his determination to make a complete change.
27.Who was the sole distributor for newspapers in Rameswaram?
Samsuddin, Kalam's first cousin was the sole distributor for newspapers in Rameswaram.
28. Which was the most sought after newspaper?
Dinamani was the most sought after newspaper.
29. Was Rameswaram affected by the war?
No, Rameswaram being isolated was unaffected by the war.
30. What did Kalam inherit from his mother?
Kalam inherited faith in goodness and deep kindness from his mother.
Write a note on Kalam's father.
Kalam's father Jainulabdeen had neither much formal education nor much wealth but he possessed great innate wisdom and true generosity of spirit.
31. Where did Kalam's family lived?
Kalam's family lived in their ancestral house built in the middle of the 19th century. It was a fairly large pucca house
made of limestone and brick in the Mosque street in Rameswaram.
32. What does Kalam say about his childhood?
Kalam says that his childhood was very secure both materially and emotionally.
33. Who was the close friend fo Kalam's father?
Pakshi Lakshmana Sastry, the high priest of Rameswaram temple was the close friend of Kalam's father.
34. What did Jallaluddin talk about to Kalam?
Jallaluddin always spoke to Kalam about educated people, scientific discoveries, contemporary literature and of the achievements of medical science.
35. Who made Kalam aware of a 'brave new worid?
It was Jallaluddin who made Kalam aware of a brave new world beyond their narrow confines.
36. How did STR Manickam help Kalam?
STR Manickam, a former revolutionary owned a personal library. He encouraged Kalam to read all he could and Kalam
often visited his house to borrow books.
37. What did Kalam do before Samsuddin delivered the news papers?
As Kalam could not read the printed matter, he satisfied himself by glancing at the pictures in the news papers
before Samsuddin delivered them to his customers.
38.Where do the flames meet?
The flames meet in a runied temple, the idol of which is unidentifiably broken.
39. How can the Man save his life?
The Man can save his life by keeping awake the whole night.
40. Why is Rani called so?
Rani is called so because she is the queen of long tresses.
41. To whom is Rani married?
Rani is married to Appanna, a rich young man whose parents are dead.
42. Where does Appanna spend his time?
Appanna deserts his wife and spends days and nights with a concubine.
43. How does Rani meet her parents?
Rani misses her parents so much that she sees them in hallucination. They come to her in her day - dreams and
console her.
44. Who is Kurudavva?
Kurudavva is a close friend of Appanna's mother.
45. On whot condition did the story tell to the Man?
The story tells the story to the Man on condition that he will not keep it imprisoned in his mind but will pass it on to others.
46. On what condition did the Man listen to the story
The man listens to the story on condition that he will not fall asleep during the tale because if he falls asleep, he will die.
47. What does Appanna do, when he goes out?
When Appanna goes out, he locks the house from outside with Rani inside the house.
48. What does Kurudavva give Rani?
Kurudavva gives Rani two pieces of a root.
49. What does Kurudavva ask Rani to do?
Kurudavva asks Rani to grind the small pieces of the root into a paste and mix it in the food of Appanne.
50. What is the magical quality of the root?
The root has the magical quality of igniting love in the heart of the man who eats it.
51. What happens to Appanna when he drinks the milk mixed with the root's paste?
When Appanna drinks the milk in which the paste of the root is mixed, he feels giddy and falls down unconscious.
52. What does the Naga advise Rani to do?
The Naga advises Rani take the snake ordeal in the panchayat and to speak the truth.
53. At the beginning of the story where does Munoo live?
At the beginning of the story Munoo lives in a village situated on the Kangra hills, with his aunt Gujri and uncle Daya Ram.
54. Why is Munoo sent out of home?
His uncle and aunt thought that Munoo is quite grown up and so must start earning his own living. So he is sent out.
55. How did Munoo's father die?
Munoo's father died of shock and grief because his lands were seized by his landlord because he could not pay the
interest for the money he had borrowed from him.
56. What is 'Cat - Killer's' lane?
"Cat - Killer's' lane is a locality in Daulatpur where Prabh Dayal's pickle factory is situated and he lives with his wife in an adjoining house.
57. What do you know about the Todar Mals?
Sir Todar Mal was formerly a public prosecutor. He lives in the cat killer's lane with his wife Lady Todar Mal and son Ramnath. He is a sycophant of the English.
58. What does tthe novel, 'Coolie' portray?
The novel, 'Coolie' portrays the clear distinction between the rich and the poor.
59. Who is Sauda?
Sauda is the leader of workers at Sir George White Cotton Mills in Bombay. He is a communist. He is good at public
speaking and could speak fluently.
60. Write a note on Munoo's life at Sharm Nagar. At Sham Nagar, in the house of Babu Nathoo Ram, Munoo
leads a miserable life. Bibiji makes his life a hell. He is over worked and is not given enough food.
61. What makes Munoo work as a coolie in the grain market?
After Prabh Dayal's pickle factory is ruined and auctioned, Munoo has to work in the grain market as a coolie to save himself from starvation.
62. How does Munoo come to Simla?
Munoo is taken to Simla by Mrs.Mainwaring whose car knocks
him down when he is standing in the middle of the road in Bombay