

Question 1:

Answer these questions in a few words or a couple of sentences each.

1. How old was Evelyn when she went to the Royal Academy of Music?
2. When was her deafness first noticed? When was it confirmed?

Answer:

- 1.** Evelyn was seventeen years old when she went to the Royal Academy of Music in London.
- 2.** Her deafness was first noticed by her mother when Evelyn was eight years old. She was once waiting to play the piano. When her name was called, she did not move. That was when her mother realized that Evelyn had not heard anything. Her deafness was confirmed when she was eleven. Her marks had deteriorated and her headmistress had urged her parents to take her to a specialist. It was then discovered that gradual nerve damage had severely impaired her hearing.

Question 2:

Answer each of these questions in a short paragraph (30 - 40 words).

1. Who helped her to continue with music? What did he do and say?
2. Name the various places and causes for which Evelyn performs.

Answer:

- 1.** Percussionist Ron Forbes was the first person to notice Evelyn's potential. He began by tuning two large drums to different notes. He asked Evelyn not to listen through her ears but to try and sense the sound in some other manner. Suddenly Evelyn realized that she could feel the higher drum from the waist up and the lower drum from the waist down. Forbes repeated the exercise and Evelyn realized that she could sense certain notes in different parts of her body.
- 2.** Evelyn always delighted her audience. She had toured the United Kingdom with a youth orchestra. She had a very hectic international schedule. Apart from the regular concerts, she gave free concerts in prisons and hospitals. She gave high priority to classes for young musicians because of which she was a shining inspiration for deaf children.

Question 3:

Answer the question in two or three paragraphs (100 - 150 words).

1. How does Evelyn hear music?

Answer:

Evelyn heard music by sensing the notes in different parts of her body. When Ron Forbes tuned two drums and asked her to sense the sound without using her ears, she realized that she could feel the higher drum from the waist up and the lower drum from the waist down.

When she played the xylophone, she could sense the sound passing up the stick into her fingertips. By leaning against the drums, she could feel the resonances flowing into her body. On a wooden platform, she removed her shoes so that the vibrations could pass through her bare feet. She herself said that music poured in through every part of her body. It tingled in the skin, her cheekbones and even in her hair.

Question 1:

Tick the right answer.

1. The (shehnai, *pungi*) was a 'reeded noisemaker.'
2. (Bismillah Khan, A barber, Ali Bux) transformed the *pungi* into a shehnai.
3. Bismillah Khan's paternal ancestors were (barbers, professional musicians).
4. Bismillah Khan learnt to play the shehnai from (Ali Bux, Paigambar Bux, Ustad Faiyaz Khan).
5. Bismillah Khan's first trip abroad was to (Afghanistan, U.S.A., Canada).

Answer:

1. The *pungi* was a 'reeded noisemaker.'
2. A barber transformed the *pungi* into a *shehnai*.
3. Bismillah Khan's paternal ancestors were professional musicians.
4. Bismillah Khan learnt to play the *shehnai* from Ali Bux.
5. Bismillah Khan's first trip abroad was to Afghanistan.

Question 2:

Find the words in the text which show Ustad Bismillah Khan's feelings about the items listed below. Then mark a tick (✓) in the correct column. Discuss your answers in class.

Bismillah Khan's feelings about		Positive	Negative	Neutral
1.	teaching children music			
2.	the film world			
3.	migrating to the U.S.A.			
4.	playing at temples			
5.	getting the Bharat Ratna			
6.	the banks of the Ganga			

7.	leaving Benaras and Dumraon			
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Answer:

Bismillah Khan's feelings about		Positive	Negative	Neutral
1.	teaching children music	√		
2.	the film world		√	
3.	migrating to the U.S.A.		√	
4.	playing at temples	√		
5.	getting the Bharat Ratna	√		
6.	the banks of the Ganga	√		
7.	leaving Benaras and Dumraon		√	

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Bismillah Khan's feelings about		Words in the text
1.	teaching children music	With the coveted award resting on his chest and his eyes glinting with rare happiness he said, "All I would like to say is: Teach your children music, this is Hindustan's richest tradition; even the West is now coming to learn our music."
2.	the film world	"I just can't come to terms with the artificiality and glamour of the film world," he says with emphasis.
3.	migrating to	A student of his once wanted him to head a shehnai school in

	the U.S.A.	the U.S.A., and the student promised to recreate the atmosphere of Benaras by replicating the temples there. But Khansaab asked him if he would be able to transport River Ganga as well. Later he is remembered to have said, "That is why whenever I am in a foreign country, I keep yearning to see Hindustan."
4.	playing at temples	Ustad Bismillah Khan's life is a perfect example of the rich, cultural heritage of India, one that effortlessly accepts that a devout Muslim like him can very naturally play the shehnai every morning at the Kashi Vishwanath temple.
5.	getting the Bharat Ratna	With the coveted award resting on his chest and his eyes glinting with rare happiness he said, "All I would like to say is: Teach your children music, this is Hindustan's richest tradition; even the West is now coming to learn our music."
6.	the banks of the Ganga	The flowing waters of the Ganga inspired him to improvise and invent ragas that were earlier considered to be beyond the range of the shehnai.
7.	leaving Benaras and Dumraon	Later he is remembered to have said, "That is why whenever I am in a foreign country, I keep yearning to see Hindustan. While in Mumbai, I think of only Benaras and the holy Ganga. And while in Benaras, I miss the unique <i>mattha</i> of Dumraon."

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Question 3:

Answer these questions in 30 - 40 words.

1. Why did Aurangzeb ban the playing of the *pungi*?
2. How is a shehnai different from a *pungi*?
3. Where was the shehnai played traditionally? How did Bismillah Khan change this?

4. When and how did Bismillah Khan get his big break?
5. Where did Bismillah Khan play the shehnai on 15 August 1947? Why was the event historic?
6. Why did Bismillah Khan refuse to start a shehnai school in the U.S.A.?
7. Find at least two instances in the text which tell you that Bismillah Khan loves India and Benaras.

Answer:

1. Emperor Aurangzeb banned the playing of the *pungi* in the royal residence for it had a shrill and unpleasant sound. It became the generic name for reeded noisemakers.

2. *Shehnai* is a pipe with a natural hollow stem that is longer and broader than the *pungi*. It has seven holes on its body. When it is played, the closing and opening of some of the holes produces soft and melodious sounds.

3. Traditionally, the *shehnai* was part of the traditional ensemble of nine instruments found at royal courts. It was used only in temples and weddings. However, Ustad Bismillah Khan brought in the change by bringing it onto the classical stage.

4. Bismillah Khan had accompanied his uncle to the Allahabad Music Conference at the age of fourteen. At the end of his recital, Ustad Faiyaz Khan patted his back and told him to work hard and he shall make it big in life. He got his big break with the opening of the All India Radio in Lucknow in 1938. He soon became an often-heard *shehnai* player on radio.

5. On 15 August 1947, Bismillah Khan played the *shehnai* from the Red Fort. It was a historic day as India gained independence on that day. He became the first Indian to greet the nation with his *shehnai*. His audience included illustrious names such as Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi.

6. Bismillah Khan refused to start a *shehnai* school in the U.S.A. because he could not live outside India. His student, who had asked him to head the *shehnai* school, promised that he would recreate the atmosphere of Benaras by replicating the temples in the city. However, he wanted to know if his student could also transport

River Ganga, which his student obviously could not. He himself said that whenever he was in a foreign country, he kept yearning to see Hindustan.

7. Bismillah Khan immensely loved India, particularly Benaras and Dumraon. In his initial years, the temple of Balaji, Mangala Maiya, and the banks of River Ganga in Benaras became his favourite haunts where he could practice in peace and solitude. River Ganga's flowing waters inspired him to improvise and invent ragas that were once thought to be beyond the range of *shehnai*.

Bismillah Khan refused to start a *shehnai* school in the U.S.A. because he could not live outside India. His student, who had asked him to head the shehnai school, promised that he would recreate the atmosphere of Benaras by replicating the temples in the city. However, he wanted to know if his student could also transport River Ganga, which his student obviously could not.

Question 1:

Complete the following sentences. Beginning with a to-verb, try to answer the questions in brackets.

1. The school sports team hopes _____ (What does it hope to do?)
2. We all want _____ (What do we all want to do?)
3. They advised the hearing-impaired child's mother _____ (What did they advise her to do?)
4. The authorities permitted us to _____ (What did the authorities permit us to do?)
5. A musician decided to _____ (What did the musician decide to do?)

Answer:

1. The school sports team hopes to do better than the last time.
2. We all want to go on a vacation.
3. They advised the hearing-impaired child's mother to take her to a specialist.
4. The authorities permitted us to organize a charity event.
5. A musician decided to take India's music to the world.

Question 2:

From the text on Bismillah Khan, find the words and phrases that match these definitions and write them down. The number of the paragraph where you will find the words/ phrases has been given for you in brackets.

1. the home of royal people (1) _____
2. the state of being alone (5) _____
3. a part which is absolutely necessary (2) _____
4. to do something not done before (5) _____
5. without much effort (13) _____
6. quickly and in large quantities (9) _____ and _____

Answer:

1. The home of royal people (1) the royal residence
2. The state of being alone (5) solitude
3. A part which is absolutely necessary (2) indispensable

4. To do something not done before (5) invent
5. Without much effort (13) effortlessly
6. Quickly and in large quantities (9) thick and fast

Question 3:

Tick the right answer.

1. When something is *revived*, it (remains dead/lives again).
2. When a government *bans* something, it wants it (stopped/started).
3. When something is considered *auspicious*, (welcome it/avoid it).
4. When we *take to* something, we find it (boring/interesting).
5. When you *appreciate* something, you (find it good and useful/find it of no use).
6. When you *replicate* something, you do it (for the first time/for the second time).
7. When we come to *terms* with something, it is (still upsetting/no longer upsetting).

Answer:

1. When something is *revived*, it lives again.
2. When a government *bans* something, it wants it stopped.
3. When something is considered *auspicious*, welcome it.
4. When we *take to* something, we find it interesting.
5. When you *appreciate* something, you find it good and useful.
6. When you *replicate* something, you do it for the second time.
7. When we *come to terms with* something, it is no longer upsetting.