

Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom

The inauguration day

Tenth May dawned. It was bright and clear. Many world leaders had been coming to the author to pay respects to him. It was before the inauguration. The inauguration was to be the largest gathering of world leaders there.

The place of inauguration

The inauguration ceremonies took place in a big open building in Pretoria. Here the South Africa's first democratic non-racial govt, was to be installed.

The swearing-in ceremony

On that day the author was in the company of his daughter Zenani. Mr. De Klerk was first sworn in as second deputy President. Then Thabo Mbeki was sworn in as first deputy President. It was the author's turn then. He was sworn in as the President. He pledged to obey and uphold the constitution. He also pledged to devote himself to the well-being of the people.

The author addresses

The author spoke of the newborn liberty. He thanked all the international guests. He said that they had come there to be with his countrymen. It was the common victory for justice, peace and human dignity. He pledged to liberate his people from poverty, suffering and discrimination.

Display by jets and helicopters

After a few moments colourful South African jets and helicopters flew over the Union Buildings there. It was for military's loyalty to democracy for a new govt. Then the highest military generals having medals on their chests saluted the author. He thought that they would have arrested him many years before.

Singing of the national anthem

The day was symbolised for the author by the playing of two national anthems. The whites sang 'Nkosi Sikelel' and the blacks sang 'Die Stem'. These formed the old anthems of the republic.

The author's thoughts

On that day of the inauguration, the author thought of history. In the first decade the South African people had patched up their differences with other black-skinned people. They had built a system of superiority also. It was the basis of the harshest societies. This system had now stood overturned. Now it was the system that recognised the rights and freedoms of all people.

The author's regret

This auspicious day came after the sacrifices of thousands of the people. The author thought of himself the sum of all those people. He was pained that he couldn't thank them.

Freedom fighters remembered

The policy of apartheid created a lasting wound in his country and his people. This policy had produced great freedom fighters. They were like Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulus, Chief Luthulis, Yusuf

Dadoos etc. They were men of uncommon courage, wisdom and generosity. The country was rich in minerals. But its greatest wealth was its people.

The definition of courage

From these people the author learned the meaning of courage. They risked their lives. They underwent great torture. He learned that courage was not the absence of fear but the victory over it.

Man's natural goodness

The author says that no one is born hating another person due to colour or religion. They could be taught to love. Love comes naturally to the human heart. In prison they were pushed to the wall. But he saw humanity in the hearts of the guards. It was man's essential goodness. It can't be put out.

Man's duties

In life every man has twin duties—to his family, to his community and country. The author found it difficult to fulfil these two duties. It was because a coloured man in South Africa was punished if he lived like a human being. Such a man was forced to live apart from his own people. So he was not allowed to do his duties to his family.

Freedom defined

The author was born free. He was not born with a hunger to be free. He was free as long as he obeyed his father and obeyed the customs of his tribe. But soon he realized that his freedom was an illusion. He began to hunger for freedom when it was taken from him. As a student he wanted freedom to read and go. As „ a young man in Johannesburg he wanted freedom to be as per his potential. He also wanted the freedom of livelihood of his own and of family.

Desire for freedom made him bold

But soon he saw that he was also not free like his brothers and sisters. Then he joined the African National Congress. His hunger for freedom became great for the freedom of his people. The desire for the freedom of his people to live with dignity gave him power. It made him bold. It made him live like a monk. The chains on his people became chains for him too.

Oppressor and the oppressed without humanity

The author knew that the oppressor must be liberated like the oppressed. A man who takes away another's freedom becomes the hated. No one is free if he is taking someone else's freedom. Both the oppressor and the oppressed are robbed of humanity.

NCERT Solutions

Oral Comprehension Check

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Question 1.

Where did the ceremonies take place ? Can you name any public buildings in India that are made of sandstones?

Answer:

The ceremonies took place in the campus of the Union Building of Pretoria, which were attended by dignitaries and leaders of many nations. In India; Rashtrapati Bhavan and Red Fort are buildings made of red sandstone.

Question 2.

Can you say how 10th May is an 'autumn day' in South Africa?

Answer:

As South Africa is in the Southern Hemisphere, may falls in the autumn season. Thus 10th May is an 'autumn day'.

Question 3.

At the beginning of his speech, Mandela mentions "an extraordinary human disaster". What does he mean by this? What is the "glorious human achievement" he speaks of at the end?

Answer:

By 'an extraordinary human disaster' Mandela means to state the practice of apartheid in South Africa. During this there was a racial segregation based on colour and the blacks suffered a lot. They were not allowed to demand freedom or any right. Mandela himself did spend many years on infamous 'Robben Island' as a prisoner where he was beaten mercilessly. He considered it as great glorious human achievement that a black person became the President of a country where the blacks were not even considered human beings and were treated badly.

Question 4.

What does Mandela thank the international leaders for ?

Answer:

Mandela felt very privileged to welcome the international leaders at the swearing – in ceremony because not too long ago, the South Africans were considered outlaws. He thus thanks all of them for having come to witness the historical ceremony. This was a gesture of international recognition to a newly born free democratic nation and it could be considered as a common victory for justice, peace and human dignity.

Question 5.

What ideals does Nelson Mandela set for the future of South Africa?

Answer:

Nelson Mandela set the ideals of liberating people from bondage of poverty, deprivation and suffering. He also set the ideal for a society where there would be no discrimination based on gender or racial origins.

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Question 1.

What did the military generals do ? How did their attitude change and why?

Answer:

The highest military generals of South African defence force saluted Mandela and pledged their loyalty which was of great significance as during apartheid era they would have arrested him. The change in their attitude was because of struggle and sacrifices put in by many heroes of South Africa. This struggle not only ensured the freedom of a nation struggling with apartheid, bur brought a change in mindsets of many. He believed that love can also be taught and human being is naturally inclined towards love rather than hate.

Question 2.

Why were two national anthems sung?

Answer:

On the auspicious occasion of the inauguration two national anthems: one by the Whites and the other by the Blacks symbolising the equality of the Blacks and the Whites were sung.

Question 3.

How does Mandela describe the systems of government in his country

(i) in the first decade, and

(ii) in the final decade, of the twentieth century?

Answer:

(i) In the first decade of the century, the whites erected a system of racial domination against the blacks, thus creating the basis of one of the harshest and most inhumane societies the world had ever known.

(ii) In the final decade of the 20th century, the . previous system had been overturned and replaced by one which recognised rights and freedom of all people regardless of color of their skin.

Question 4.

What does courage mean to Mandela?

Answer:

For Mandela courage does not mean the absence of fear but a victory over fear. According to him brave men need not be fearless but should be able to conquer fear.

Question 5.

Which does Mandela think is natural, to love or to hate?

Answer:

For Mandela, love comes more naturally to the human heart than hate.

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Question 1.

What “twin obligations” does Mandela mention?

Answer:

Mandela mentions that every man has twin obligations. The first is to his family, parents, wife and children; the second obligation is to his people, his community and his country.

Question 2.

What did being free mean to Mandela as a boy, and as a student ? How does he contrast these “transitory freedoms” with “the basic and honourable freedoms”?

Answer:

Like any other kid, for Mandela freedom meant to make merry and enjoy the blissful life. Once one becomes an adult, antics of childhood looks like transitory because most of the childish activities are wasteful from an adult’s perspective. Once you are adult, you have to earn a livelihood to bring the bacon home. Its only then when you get an honourable existence in the family and in the society.

Question 3.

Does Mandela think the oppressor is free? Why/why not?

Answer:

Mandela does not think that the oppressor is free because according to him an oppressor is a victim of hatred who is behind the bars of prejudice and narrow-mindedness. He realises that both the oppressor and the oppressed are robbed of their humanity and peace.

Thinking about the Text (Page 24)

Question 1.

Why did such a large number of international leaders attend the inauguration ? What did it signify the triumph of?

Answer:

To be the part of the inauguration, international leaders showed a gesture of solidarity from international community to the idea of end of apartheid. It was the significance of the victory of good over evil and triumph of a tolerant society without any discrimination.

Question 2.

What does Mandela mean when he says he is “simply the sum of all those African patriots”, who had gone before him ?

Answer:

By saying that he is simply the sum of all those African patriots, Mandela wants to pay his tribute to all the people who have sacrificed their lives for the sake of freedom. He says that he is grateful to those who had gone before him because those heroes of past had paved the path of co-operation and unity for him. Therefore, he could try to come to power to bring equality for his people with their support.

Question 3.

Would you agree that the “depths of oppression” create “heights of character”? How does Mandela illustrate this? Can you add your own examples to this argument ?

Answer:

I agree with the statement that depths of oppression create heights of character. Nelson Mandela illustrates this by giving examples of great heroes of South Africa like Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulu and others who were inspired to sacrifice their lives in the long freedom struggle.

India is full of such examples, during our freedom struggle there was a galaxy of leaders of great characters and the oppression of British rule created and encouraged people of noble characters like Mahatma Gandhi, Lala Lajpat Rai, JL Nehru, Chandra Shekhar Ajud, Sardar Bhagat Singh and many more. If we compare them with the quality of political leaders India is having today, then Nelson Mandela seems to be absolutely right;

Question 4.

How did Mandela’s understanding of freedom change with age and experience?

Answer:

With age and experience, Mandela understood the real meaning of freedom. As a young boy, he thought that he was born free and believed that as long as he obeyed his father and abided by the customs of his tribe, he was free in every possible manner. As he grew older, freedom to raise a family and freedom to earn livelihood started dominating his thoughts. Gradually he realised that he was selfish during his boyhood. He slowly understood that it was not just his freedom that was being

curtailed, but the freedom of all blacks. It was the freedom from fear and prejudice. Age and experience widened his perspective of freedom.

Question 5.

How did Mandela's 'hunger for freedom' change his life?

Answer:

Mandela realised in his youth that it was not just his freedom that was being curtailed, but the freedom of all blacks. This changed the fearful man to a fearless rebel.

He sacrificed the comforts of a settled family life to fight for a greater cause. He joined the African National Congress and this changed him from a frightened young man into a bold one who fought against racial prejudice.

Extra Questions

Very Short Answer Type

Question 1.

What was the occasion?

Answer:

It was the occasion of installation of South Africa's first democratic government.

Question 2.

Where did the ceremony take place?

Answer:

The ceremony took place in the Union Buildings of Pretoria.

Question 3.

Why had world leaders come there?

Answer:

The world leader had come there to pay their respect to the newly formed Government.

Question 4.

Who was Zenani?

Answer:

Zenani was the daughter of Nelson Mandela.

Question 5.

Who was sworn in as the first Deputy President of South Africa?

Answer:

Thabo Mbeki was sworn in as the first Deputy President of South Africa.

Question 6.

What was specific about that system?

Answer:

The system was formed on the basis of one of the harshest, 'most inhumane societies the world has ever known.

Question 7.

When was that system eradicated?

Answer:

The system was overturned in the last decade of the twentieth century.

Question 8.

How was the new system different?

Answer:

The new system was different because that system recognised the rights and freedom of all people.

Question 9.

What did Mandela want as a student?

Ans.

Mandela wanted freedom for himself as a student.

Question 10.

What did Mandela realise?

Answer:

Mandela realised that there was no freedom in South Africa for anyone who looked like him.

Question 11.

What was Mandela not unmindful of?

Answer:

Mandela was not unmindful of 'Apartheid'.

Question 12.

Why was the Mandela pained?

Answer:

Mandela was pained as the people who laid their lives for this day could not be present to see.

Question 13.

What did he think about freedom?

Answer:

He thought that freedom is indivisible.

Question 14.

Why did he join African National Congress?

Answer:

He joined African National Congress to achieve freedom for all his people.

Question 15.

What are two enemies of a person?

Answer:

Prejudice and narrow-mindedness are the two enemies of a person.

Question 16.

What does courage mean to Mandela?

Answer:

Courage means to Mandela the triumph over fear.

Question 17.

What was the national anthem for the blacks?

Answer:

The National anthem for the blacks were 'Die stem'.

Question 18.

Who accompanied Mandela?

Answer:

Mandela's daughter Zenani accompanied him.

Question 19.

What must the people learn?

Answer:

The people must learn to hate. If they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love.

Question 20.

Who was sworn in as second deputy President?

Answer:

Mr de Klerk was sworn in as second deputy President in South Africa.

Question 21.

What is 'Apartheid'?

Answer:

'Apartheid' is a political system that separates people on the basis of their race.

Question 22.

Who wrote the autobiography, "Long Walk to Freedom".

Answer:

Nelson Mandela wrote his autobiography "Long Walk to Freedom".

Question 23.

What is the full name of Mr Mandela?

Answer:

The full name of Mr Mandela is Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

Question 24.

Why did the leaders gather in .South Africa on 10May, 1994?

Answer:

The leaders gathered in South Africa to pay their respects to Nelson Mandela.

Question 25.

What roared in perfect formation over the Union Buildings?

Answer:

South African jets, helicopters, and troop carriers roared in perfect formation over Union Buildings.

Question 26.

What could the highest generals have done to the author earlier?

Answer:

The highest generals could have arrested the author earlier.

Question 27.

What were the colours emitted by a chevron of Impala jets?

Answer:

The colours emitted by a chevron of Impala jets were black, red, green, blue and gold.

Question 28.

What did the smoke trail of Impala jets symbolise?

Answer:

The smoke trail of Impala jets symbolised South African flag.

Question 29.

How old was the author at the time of the 'Inauguration'?

Answer:

The author was in his eighties at the time of the inauguration.

Question 30.

How many years did Nelson Mandela spend in prison.

Answer:

Nelson Mandela Spent twenty seven years in prison.

Short Answer Type

Question 1.

Where did the oath-taking ceremony take place?

Answer:

The oath-taking ceremony took place in Union Buildings of Pretoria.

Question 2.

What ideals did Mandela set out for the future of South Africa in his speech?

Answer:

Mandela set out ideals for the future of South Africa because he had deep feelings for his country and countrymen. He pledged to liberate all the people from poverty, deprivation and discrimination.

Question 3.

How, according to Mandela, had apartheid policy affected South Africa?

Answer:

Apartheid policy had affected South Africa deeply. It had created a deep and lasting wound in the country and its people. It will take a long time to heal this wound.

Question 4.

What did Mandela think about the oppressor and the oppressed?

Answer:

Mandela thought about the oppressor and the oppressed that both are robbed equally. A man who takes away another man's freedom is a prisoner of hatred. In the same way, if his freedom is taken away, they both are without freedom. So both of them must be liberated.

Question 5.

What according to Mandela, is 'true-freedom'?

Answer:

According to Mandela, true freedom means freedom not to be obstructed in leading a lawful life.

Question 6.

How did 'hunger for freedom' change Mandela's life?

Answer:

In the beginning of his life, Mandela was not aware about freedom. Later, Mandela found that his freedom had been taken away from him. As a student, he wanted freedom only for himself but slowly his own freedom became the greater hunger for the freedom of his people. This changed him completely.

Question 7.

What are the 'twin obligations' referred to by Nelson Mandela?

Answer:

According to Nelson Mandela, every man has two obligations in life. The first obligation is to his family, to his parents, wife and children. Secondly, he has an obligation to his country, people, and community.

Question 8.

Could a man, according to Mandela, fulfil these twin obligations in a country like South Africa?

Answer:

No, these twin obligations could not be fulfilled by a man, in a country like South Africa, according to Mandela. It was because a man of dark colour who attempted just to live as a human being was punished and isolated in the country.

Question 9.

What is the meaning of courage to Mandela?

Answer:

According to Mandela, courage was not the absence of fear, but triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear. Mandela learned the true meaning of courage from his comrades in the struggle.

Question 10.

What was unique in the inauguration ceremony?

Answer:

The inauguration ceremony took place in the amphitheatre formed by the Union Buildings in Pretoria. For decades, this had been the seat of white supremacy. Now it was the oath taking ceremony day for South Africa's first democratic, non-racial government. It was really a unique occasion.

Question 11.

Describe the inauguration ceremony in simple words?

Answer:

It was the day of 10th May, 1994. The first democratic, non-racial government was to be installed. Dignitaries from different countries participated in the ceremony. South African men, women and children of all races were present there.

Question 12.

What promises did Mandela make to his people in the oath-taking speech?

Answer:

In the oath-taking speech, Mandela promised that the country shall not again experience the oppression of one by another.

Question 13.

What did Mandela say about the future of the country in his speech?

Answer:

In his speech, Nelson Mandela said, "I see a bright future of the country. Now no one will experience the oppression by another. It will make much progress. All people shall be free to do what they like."

Question 14.

How did South African jets, helicopters and troops demonstrate?

Answer:

It was a very special day for all. South African jets, helicopters and troop carriers roared in perfect formation. They flew over the Union Buildings. It was a show of military's loyalty to the country and its democracy.

Question 15.

What did the generals and police officers do on that day?

Answer:

The generals and police officers were also there. They were in their uniform. They had ribbons and medals on their chests. They saluted Mandela with great respect. Mandela was the first black President of South Africa. Although, many years ago, they might have arrested him.

Question 16.

What were the two anthems sung on the day of oath-taking ceremony?

Answer:

On the day of oath-taking ceremony, the two anthems were sung. 'Nkosi Sikelel-i-Afrika' was for the whites and 'Die stem' was for the blacks. 'Die stem' was the old anthem of the country.

Question 17.

Whose names were particularly taken by Mandela in the inauguration ceremony?

Answer:

In the inauguration ceremony, Mandela announced the names of Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulus, Chief Luthuli, Yusuf Dadoo, Bram Fisher and Robert Sobukwes. These men were of extraordinary courage and wisdom.

Question 18.

Describe Mandela's life journey from a prisoner to the first black President of south Africa.

Answer:

Nelson Mandela did a life-long struggle against the racial discrimination in South Africa. He had to pass many years of his life as a prisoner in the jail. At last the first democratic elections were held in South Africa. His party won 252 seats out of 400 and he became the first black President of South Africa.

Question 19.

What is the greatest wealth of a nation in Mandela's opinion?

Answer:

In Mandela's opinion, the greatest wealth of a nation is not minerals and gems but its good and honest people.

Question 20.

What difficulties did Mandela face in his life?

Answer:

Mandela had to face many difficulties in his life. He had to leave his house to fulfil his duty to his people. In the prison, he was treated very badly.

Question 21.

Who took oath first in the ceremony?

Answer:

In the ceremony, Mr de Klerk was first sworn in as second Deputy President.

Question 22.

Where did the ceremonies take place? Can you name any public buildings in India that are made of sandstone?

Answer:

The ceremonies took place in the Union Buildings amphitheatre in Pretoria. Hawa Mahal in Jaipur and Fatehpur Sikri are the buildings in India made of sandstone.

Question 23.

Can you say how 10 May is an 'autumn day' in South Africa?

Answer:

Tenth May, being an autumn day, in South Africa has a symbolic meaning. In the season of autumn, all the old leaves fall from the tree and give birth to new ones. In the same way, old racial government had given way to the new anti-racial democratic government in South Africa. It was the beginning of a new era.

Question 24.

At the beginning of his speech, Mandela mentions “an extraordinary human disaster”. What does he mean by this? What is the “glorious human achievement” he speaks of at the end?

Answer:

At the beginning of his speech, Mandela mentions “an extraordinary human disaster”. It was the policy of apartheid in South Africa. People were the victim of racial discrimination. Now they had achieved freedom. They will never be oppressed. It was the end of the most inhuman system of the government. He calls it a glorious human achievement.

Question 25.

What does Mandela thank the international leaders for?

Answer:

Mandela thanks the international leaders for their support for the people of South Africa.

Question 26.

What ideals does he set out for the future of South Africa?

Answer:

Nelson Mandela sets out many ideals for the future of South Africa. He says that all the people will be free from poverty, deprivation and discrimination. They will never experience oppression by others.

Question 27.

What do the military generals do? How has their attitude changed, and why?

Answer:

They obey their masters. They acted under the orders of the whites so far. Today they had shown their loyalty to the democracy. Earlier they arrested Mandela. Today they showed their loyalty to him by saluting him. There was a change in system. The newly elected non-racial democratic government had changed their (military generals) attitude. Now they were not the servants of the whites. They were now in the service of their own people.

Question 28.

Why were two national anthems sung?

Answer:

It was an occasion of installing the first democratic non-racial government which was formed by both the whites and the blacks. Both had their different anthems. In order to give equal honour and recognition both the national anthems were sung.

Question 29.

How does Mandela describe the systems of government in his country

(i) in the first decade, and

(ii) in the final decade, of the twentieth century?

Answer:

In the first decade of the 20th century, the whites erected a system of racial discrimination against the blacks. They set up the most inhumane system of apartheid where the blacks were denied the fundamental right of freedom. In the last decade of the twentieth century, the system was overturned. The policy of apartheid was uprooted from the land and a new non-racial democratic government was installed to ensure equal rights and freedom to all the people of South Africa.

Question 30.

What does courage mean to Mandela?

Answer:

Courage means to Mandela the triumph over fear. A brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.

Question 31.

Which does he think is natural, to love or to hate?

Answer:

Nelson Mandela thinks that to love is natural, because it comes naturally in our hearts.

Question 32.

What "twin obligations" does Mandela mention?

Answer:

According to Mandela every person has twin obligations. The first obligation is towards his family, parents, wife and children. The second obligation is to work for his people, community and the nation.

Question 33.

What did being free mean to Mandela as a boy, and as a student? How does he contrast these "transitory freedoms" with "the basic and honourable freedoms"?

Answer:

Freedom had different meanings for Mandela at different stages. As a boy, freedom for him meant to run freely in the fields and to swim in the stream. As a student he wanted freedom to stay out at nights, to read what he liked, later he realised that this freedom was an illusion. He found that all the black brothers and sisters were in chains. There was no freedom for a respectful life. Their freedom was curtailed at every stage. He wanted the basic and honourable freedom of achieving his potential of earning his keep, of marrying and having a family. He believed that freedom is indivisible. Everyone has to be free.

Question 34.

Does Mandela think the oppressor is free? Why/why not?

Answer:

According to Mandela both the oppressor and the oppressed must be liberated. Both of them are robbed of their freedom and humanity.

Long Answer Type

Question 1.

Discuss the scene of the inauguration ceremony? Who took oath in the ceremony? Why is the inauguration called a historic occasion for South Africa?

Answer:

It was the bright and clear day of 10th May, 1994. The inauguration ceremony took place in the Union Buildings amphitheatre in Pretoria. The most famous world leaders and representatives gathered there. The generals and police officers were also there. They had medals and ribbons on their chests. South African jets, helicopters and troop carriers roared in perfect formation over the Union Buildings. First of all Mr. de Klerk, then Thabo Mbeki and then Nelson Mandela took the oath.

The inauguration can be called a historic occasion for South Africa as on this day the first democratic government was installed. It was an end of more than three centuries of the white rule. Nelson Mandela became the first Black President of South Africa.

Question 2.

What were Mandela's opinions about the first and last decades of the twentieth century?

Why does he say on the day of the inauguration that he was overwhelmed with a sense of history? .

Answer:

On the day of the inauguration, the speaker's mind went back to history. He remembered the first decade, when the whites ruled over South Africa and they made a discrimination against the blacks. They built a system of racial discrimination against the blacks. Their behaviour was full of cruelty. They meted out inhuman treatment to the blacks. But now in the last decade of this century, this cruel system was overturned. Now a new system replaced it. It was the first democratic government of South Africa. Now there will be no discrimination on the basis of colour.

That is why, on the day of the inauguration, he was overwhelmed with a sense of history.

Question 3.

What does Mandela think about the patriots? Can they be repaid?

Answer:

Nelson Mandela thinks that the freedom and democratic government have all come only due to the great sacrifices of thousands of patriots. They were those men who did not care about their lives and died for their people and country. They can't be repaid. He thinks himself the sum of all those who had sacrificed their lives. Now he regrets that he was not able to thank them. According to Mandela, the policy of apartheid greatly wounded the people. It was hard to recover. It would take much time. These great patriots were Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulu, Luthuli, Dadoo, Fischer, Sobukwe, etc.

Question 4.

What ideas does Mandela have about courage, love and hate?

Answer:

According to Mandela, he learnt the meaning of courage from his comrades. They struggled very hard for the freedom of the country. They did not care for their lives. They sacrificed everything for their people and country. They did not break before the brutality of the oppressors. They showed their full strength. So Mandela learned courage from them. To him, courage means not the absence of fear but the victory over it. The brave man is one who conquers fear. No man is born hating another man due to colour or religion. Love comes more naturally to the human heart than hate. According to Mandela, both the oppressor and the oppressed are the prisoners of hatred. No one can become happy after taking away other's freedom.

Question 5.

What ideas did we get about freedom, the oppressor and the oppressed from this lesson? How did Nelson Mandela get hunger for freedom?

Answer:

According to Mandela, both the oppressor and the oppressed need freedom. Not only the oppressed is without freedom, but also the oppressor. He is the prisoner of hatred, only his level of thinking encourages him to snatch others freedom. It is all due to his narrow mindedness. It is an obvious idea that the oppressed has no freedom. Nelson Mandela had hunger for freedom, when he knew that his freedom had been snatched. His idea for freedom was an illusion. He saw that his brothers and sisters were without freedom. His hunger for freedom encouraged him to join the African National Congress.

Question 6.

What differences came in Mandela's opinion about the meaning of freedom, when he was a little boy and when he became young?

Answer:

There were many differences in Mandela's opinion about the meaning of freedom, when he was a little boy and when he became young. While he was a little boy, the meaning of freedom was to run in the fields and to swim in the streams. When he became young, he realised that his freedom was an illusion. Now he had realised that not only his freedom, but also others' freedom had been seized. So he felt a hunger for freedom now. He wanted that all the people of his country should live with self-respect. They must do what they liked.

Question 7.

What are two obligations that Mandela described in this lesson? What was the reason that he was not able to fulfil those obligations?

Answer:

In the lesson, Mandela described two obligations that everyone had to perform.

One obligation is for the family, children and wife and second obligation is for the country and community. But due to apartheid policy in South Africa, Mandela was not able to fulfil his obligation. Although men could fulfil these obligations according to their capacities and abilities. But in South Africa it was impossible for the blacks. When Mandela tried to fulfil them for his family, he was cut off from his family. He was forced to live the life of separation. When he tried to serve his country, he was put into prison. Thus, Mandela was not able to fulfil his obligations.

Question 8.

Nelson Mandela was the hero of South Africa's freedom movement. Comment.

Answer:

Nelson Mandela was a true hero of South Africa's freedom movement. His conscience encouraged him to demand a respectful and unique life for all. His soul cleared him about the twin obligations for everyone. He was always determined to fulfil them. He performed his obligations for his family as well as for his community. Although he was prevented from doing so, yet he did not stop and got discouraged.

He became homeless. In spite of all these difficulties he could not change his decision. He had a soul power to challenge the racial system of the white. He did not care the apartheid policy and announced that this policy had created a lasting wound in the country. He fought against it. At last he got success. He became the first black President of South Africa.

Question 9.

India is a country of unity in diversity. Can you explain any type of discrimination in India, on the basis of colour or creed?

Answer:

India is a very wide country. In spite of that India is a country of unity in diversity. There are different religions in it. We can find different dresses, lifestyle and food habits in India. Even then, they all have a pride to be an Indian.

India has a democratic form of government and there is no place for discrimination in this country. But there is some sort of discrimination on the basis of caste or creed. Here people are known by their caste and creed. They have no right to marry freely. Even today caste system has not gone out

completely from our mind. But it is good for all Indians that our Constitution has given equality to all. There is no place for discrimination in Indian Constitution

Question 10.

India is a country of unity in diversity—there are different languages, traditions, dresses, castes and cultures. Do you find any sort of discrimination in India?

Answer:

India is a very big country. It has different languages, traditions, dresses, castes and cultures. Even then India has unity in diversity. Its Constitution gives equality to every citizen. There is no place for colour prejudice in it. In India everyone has a right to get education to appear in competitions and to live at any place. There is no discrimination among Indians on the basis of caste, creed and colour. Indians can live in any state and they can marry in any caste. There is no colour discrimination in India.

Question 11.

Nelson Mandela described 'twin obligations' for a man. Do you agree with these obligations? Do you think that every person should fulfil these obligations in real life?

Answer:

In this lesson, Nelson Mandela described two obligations for a man. These two obligations are—one for the family and second is for the country. He said that one of the obligations is to work for his family. The other obligation is to his people, his community and his country.

We must agree with these obligations. In fact, we take care of families heartily and never think about country. If we don't care about our country, it will never prosper. So in my opinion, we must fulfil both these obligations in our real life.

Question 12.

"I was not born with a hunger to be free." What was the result of his hunger for freedom?

Answer:

When Nelson Mandela was a young boy, he didn't know anything about freedom. His hunger for freedom began when he saw his people being punished under the policy of apartheid. It was clear to him that his boyhood freedom was just an illusion. Then he had come to know that he and his countrymen had no freedom.

They could not say anything freely. Now Mandela's hunger for freedom had increased. Although, as a student, he wanted freedom only for himself but after growing up, he started to think maturely about the freedom. He saw that in South Africa everybody's freedom was curtailed. Thus the result of his hunger for freedom was the freedom of the country.

Question 13.

What does courage mean to Mandela? How did he learn the meaning of courage? What do you get about courage, love and hate from this chapter?

Answer:

In this chapter, Nelson Mandela says that he learnt the meaning of courage from the comrades. They were freedom fighters. They did not care about their lives. He had seen those people who had sacrificed their life for the country.

He learnt that courage was not the absence of fear, but triumph over it. In other words, the brave man is one who conquers fear. In Mandela's opinion, no man is born to hate another man on the basis of skin, colour or religion. Love comes more naturally to the human heart than from its opposite. Both the oppressor and the oppressed are the prisoners of hatred. They take away each other's freedom.

Question 14.

Why did such a large number of international leaders attend the inauguration? What did it signify the triumph of?

Answer:

A large number of international leaders attended the installation ceremony of first democratic non-racial government in South Africa. It was the end of apartheid in South Africa. It was a common victory for justice, for peace and for human dignity. The international community supported the cause of South Africa. It signified the triumph of humanity against oppression, fear and discrimination. Both the oppressor and the oppressed were liberated.

Question 15.

What does Mandela mean when he says he is "simply the sum of all those African patriots" who had gone before him?

Answer:

Mandela's hunger for freedom forced him to join African National Congress to eradicate the system of apartheid. Before him thousands of the patriots had sacrificed their lives.

Mandela does not take the entire credit. He calls himself simply the sum of all those African patriots who had laid the path towards the achievement of success. He continued the movement started by them. He was only a part of that movement.

Question 16.

Would you agree that the "depths of oppression" create "heights of character"? How does Mandela illustrate this? Can you add your own examples to this argument?

Answer:

Yes, it is true that the depths of oppression create heights of character. Nelson Mandela illustrated this argument by giving examples of some people of extraordinary courage and wisdom. This period of struggle to end apartheid produced people like Oliver Tambo, the Walter Sisulus, Bram Fischers and so on in the soil, of South Africa. Nelson Mandela himself was a product of the same conditions. The hunger for freedom changed his life. The history of India is full of such characters. Mangal Pandey, Bhagat Singh, Chandra Shekhar Azad, Mahatma Gandhi, Lala Lajpat Rai and so on were the people of extraordinary courage produced by the depth of oppression in India.

Question 4.

How did Mandela's understanding of freedom change with age and experience?

Answer:

Mandela's understanding of freedom changed with age and experience. When he was a boy, freedom for him was to run freely in the fields, free to swim in the stream and ride the broad backs of slow-moving bulls. Later on he realised that his boyhood freedom was an illusion. He discovered as a young man that his freedom had been taken away from him.

As a student he wanted freedom only for himself which were: freedom to stay out at night, freedom to read what he wanted and so on. As a young man he yearned for the basic and honourable freedom

of achieving his potential, of earning of marrying and having a family. With the advancement of age and experience, he felt that not only his freedom but also the freedom of everyone was curtailed. Now he wanted freedom for all his people.

Question 17.

How did Mandela's 'hunger for freedom' change his life?

Answer:

Nelson Mandela was not born with a hunger to be free. With time and experience he discovered that the boyhood freedom was only an illusion. He found that as a young man his freedom had already been taken away from him. His people and community were denied the fundamental right of living a dignified life.

This made him hungry for freedom. He joined the African National Congress. This desire for the freedom transformed him from a frightened young man into bold one, a law-abiding person to a criminal, a family-loving person to a man without a home. This desire forced a life-loving man to live the life of a monk.

Reference to Context

Read the following passages and answer the questions that follow:

Question 1.

TENTH May dawned bright and clear. For the past few days I had been pleasantly besieged by dignitaries and world leaders who were coming to pay their respects before the inauguration. The inauguration would be the largest gathering ever of international leaders on South African soil. The ceremonies took place in the lovely sandstone amphitheatre formed by the Union Buildings in Pretoria. For decades this had been the seat of white supremacy, and now it was the site of a rainbow gathering of different colours and nations for the installation of South Africa's first democratic, non-racial government.

- (i) Who is T in the passage?
- (ii) Where did the ceremony take place?
- (iii) Why did the dignitaries and leaders come there?
- (iv) Where was the occasion?

Answer:

- (i) Nelson Mandela is T in the passage.
- (ii) The ceremony took place in an amphitheatre formed by the Union Buildings in Pretoria.
- (iii) The dignitaries and world leaders came there to pay their respects to the first democratic non-racial government.
- (iv) The occasion was the inauguration ceremony of Nelson Mandela as South Africa's first Black President in the Union Building in Pretoria, South Africa.

Question 2.

On that lovely autumn day I was accompanied by my daughter Zenani. On the podium. Mr de Klerk was first sworn in as the second deputy president. Then Thabo Mbeki was sworn in as the first deputy president. When it was my turn, I pledged to obey and uphold the Constitution and to devote myself to the well-being of the Republic and its people. To the assembled guests and the watching world, I said: Today, all of us do, by our presence here... confer glory and hope to newborn liberty. Out of the experience of an extraordinary human disaster that lasted too long, must be born a society

of which all humanity will be proud.

- (i) Who is Zenani?
- (ii) Who was sworn in as the first deputy president?
- (iii) Who was sworn in as the second deputy president?
- (iv) What was the pledge taken by T?

Answer:

- (i) Zenani is the daughter of Nelson Mandela.
- (ii) Thabo Mbeki was sworn in as the first deputy president of South Africa.
- (iii) Mr de Klerk was sworn in as the second deputy president of South Africa.
- (iv) Nelson Mandela pledged to obey and uphold the Constitution. He pledged to serve the people of his country.

Question 3.

"We, who were outlaws not so long ago, have today been given the rare privilege to be the host to the nations of the world on our own soil. We thank all of our distinguished international guests for having come to take possession with the people of our country of what is, after all, a common victory for justice, for peace, for human dignity. We have, at last, achieved our political emancipation. We pledge ourselves to liberate all our people from the continuing bondage of poverty, deprivation, suffering, gender and other discrimination. Never, never, and never again shall it be that this beautiful land will again experience the oppression of one by another. The sun shall never set on so glorious a human achievement. Let freedom reign. God bless Africa!

- (i) Who does 'we' refer in the first line of the passage?
- (ii) What is the privilege that has been explained here?
- (iii) What did the people of South Africa achieve at last?
- (iv) The word 'bondage' means in the passage.

Answer:

- (i) 'We' refer to the people of South Africa in the first line of the passage.
- (ii) South Africa has been given the rare privilege to be the host to the nations of the world.
- (iii) The people of South Africa achieved their political emancipation.
- (iv) The word 'bondage' means slavery in the passage.

Question 4.

A few moments later we all lifted our eyes in awe as a spectacular array of South African jets, helicopters and troop carriers roared in perfect formation over the Union Buildings. It was not only a display of pinpoint precision and military force, but a demonstration of the military's loyalty to democracy, to a new government that had been freely and fairly elected. Only moments before, the highest generals of the South African defence force and police, their chests bedecked with ribbons and medals from days gone by, saluted me and pledged their loyalty. I was not unmindful of the fact that not so many years before they would not have saluted but arrested me. Finally a chevron of Impala jets left a smoke trail of the black, red, green, blue and gold of the new South African Flag.

- (i) What did they see over the Union Buildings?
- (ii) What was the occasion?
- (iii) What did this symbolise?
- (iv) What was Mandela not unmindful of?

Answer:

- (i) They saw a spectacular show by South African jets, helicopters, the troop carriers over the Union Buildings.
- (ii) It was the occasion of installation of the newly elected democratic government in South Africa.
- (iii) The show by the military forces symbolised their loyalty towards the newly-elected democratic

government in South Africa.

(iv) Nelson Mandela was not unmindful of the fact that the same army officers who had saluted him, would not have done so many years before. They would have rather arrested him.

Question 5.

The day was symbolised for me by the playing of our two national anthems, and the vision of whites singing 'Nkosi Sikelel – iAfrika' and blacks singing 'Die Stem', the old anthem of the Republic. Although that day neither group knew the lyrics of the anthem they once despised, they would soon know the words by heart. On the day of the inauguration, I was overwhelmed with a sense of history. In the first decade of the twentieth century, a few years after the bitter Anglo-Boer war and before my own birth, the white-skinned people of South Africa patched up their differences and erected a system of racial domination against the dark-skinned people of their own land.

- (i) How was the day symbolised?
- (ii) What was the national anthem for the blacks?
- (iii) What was specific about that system?
- (iv) – How was the new system different?

Answer:

- (i) The day was symbolised by the playing of their two national anthems—'Nkosi Sikelel – 'iAfrika' and 'Die Stem'.
- (ii) The national anthem for the blacks was 'Die Stem'.
- (iii) The system had formed the basis of one of the harshest, most inhumane, societies the world has ever known.
- (iv) The new system recognised the rights and freedom of all people regardless of the colour of their skin.

Question 6.

The structure they created formed the basis of one of the harshest, most inhumane, societies the world has ever known. Now, in the last decade of the twentieth century, and my own eighth decade as a man, that system had, been overturned forever and replaced by one that recognised the rights and freedoms of all peoples, regardless of the colour of their skin. That day had come about through the unimaginable sacrifices of thousands of my people, people whose suffering and courage can never be counted or repaid. I felt that day, as I have on so many other days, that I was simply the sum of all those African patriots who had gone before me. That long and noble line ended and now began again with me. I was pained that I was not able to thank them and that they were not able to see what their sacrifices had brought.

- (i) What type of structure had they created?
- (ii) What did they talk about the people?
- (iii) Why did 'he' remember the African patriots?
- (iv) Why was 'he' pained?

Answer:

- (i) They had created such structure that formed the basis of the most harsh and inhumane societies the world has ever known.
- (ii) They talked about the rights and freedoms of people in the last decade of the twentieth century-.
- (iii) Nelson Mandela remembered the African patriots for sacrificing their lives for this cause. He said that their contribution can never be repaid.
- (iv) He was pained as the people who laid their lives for this day could not be present to see what their sacrifices had achieved for the country and its people.

Question 7.

The policy of apartheid created a deep and lasting wound in my country and my people. All of us will spend many years, if not generations, recovering from that profound hurt. But the decades of oppression and brutality had another, unintended, effect, and that was that it produced the Oliver Tambos, the Walter Sisulus, the Chief Luthulis, the Yusuf Dadoos, the Bram Fischers, the Robert Sobukwes of our time—men of such extraordinary courage, wisdom and generosity that their like may never be known again. Perhaps it requires such depths of oppression to create such heights of character. My country is rich in the minerals and gems that lie beneath its soil, but I have always known that its greatest wealth is its people, finer and truer than the purest diamonds.

- (i) What did the policy of apartheid create?
- (ii) What is the greatest wealth of the narrator's country?
- (iii) What was the unintended effect of this policy?
- (iv) Name some of the men of extraordinary courage?

Answer:

- (i) The policy of apartheid created a deep and lasting wound in the country and its people.
- (ii) The greatest wealth of the narrator's country is its courageous people.
- (iii) The unintended effect of that policy was that it created many men of courage, wisdom and generosity.
- (iv) Oliver Tambos, Walter Sisulus and Chief Luthulis.

Question 8.

In life, every man has twin obligations—obligations to his family, to his parents, to his wife and children; and he has an obligation to his people, his community, his country. In a civil and humane society, each man is able to fulfil those obligations according to his own inclinations and abilities. But in a country like South-Africa, it was almost impossible for a man of my birth and colour to fulfil both of those obligations. In South Africa, a man of colour who attempted to live as a human being was punished and isolated. In South Africa, a man who tried to fulfil his duty to his people was inevitably ripped from his family and his home and was forced to live a life apart, a twilight existence of secrecy and rebellion. I did not in the beginning choose to place my people above my family, but in attempting to serve my people, I found that I was prevented from fulfilling my obligations as a son, a brother, a father and a husband.

- (i) What are the obligations that every man has in life?
- (ii) Why was it impossible for a coloured man to fulfil his obligations?
- (iii) How were the people who tried to fulfil the obligations, treated in South Africa?
- (iv) What is required to fulfil these obligations?

Answer:

- (i) Every man has two obligations, one is to his family and second to his community and country.
- (ii) In South Africa if a coloured man tried to fulfil his obligations, he was punished and isolated.
- (iii) Those who tried to fulfil these obligations were ripped from their families and were forced to live a life of isolation and rebellion.
- (iv) A civil and humane society is needed to fulfil these obligations.

Question 9.

I was not born with a hunger to be free. I was born free—free in every way that I could know. Free to run in the fields near my mother's hut, free to swim in the clear stream that ran through my village, free to roast mealies under the stars and ride the broad backs of slow-moving bulls. As long as I obeyed my father and abided by the customs of my tribe, I was not troubled by the laws of man or God. It was only when I began to learn that my boyhood freedom was an illusion, when I discovered as a young man that my freedom had already been taken from me, that I began to hunger for it. At

first, as a student, I wanted freedom only for myself, the transitory freedoms of being able to stay out at night, read what I pleased and go where I chose. Later, as a young man in Johannesburg, I yearned for the basic and honourable freedoms of achieving my potential, of earning my keep, of marrying and having a family—the freedom not to be obstructed in a lawful life.

(i) In what ways was Mandela free?

(ii) What kind of freedom did Mandela yearn for as a man?

(iii) What did he want as a student?

(iv) What did he learn?

Answer:

(i) Mandela was free to run in the fields, to swim in the stream, free to roast mealies and ride the broad backs of slow-moving bulls.

(ii) Mandela yearned for the basic and honourable freedom of achieving his potential of earning his life.

(iii) He wanted, as a student, freedom for himself, the freedom of being able to stay out at night, read what he wanted and go out where he chose.

(iv) He learnt that his boyhood freedom was an illusion.