



QUESTION BANK ON SOUND OF MUSIC (BEEHIVE)

Class: IX (2020-21)

Subject: ENGLISH

**Long Answer Questions**

- 1. Evelyn Glennie's deafness was more than compensated by other parts of her body so far as music was concerned. Discuss.**

Evelyn Glennie had a deep passion for music but unfortunately, she lost her hearing completely at the age of eleven years. She wanted to lead a normal life and play the xylophone, but her teachers discouraged her considering her deafness to be an obstruction. However, Ron Forbes, a great percussionist, trained her to listen to the musical sounds and vibrations not through ears, but through other parts of her body. He created two drums with different sounds to make her hear the higher beats from the upper part of her body and the lower beats from the parts lower than her waist. The experiment was so effective that Evelyn opened her mind and body to the fine sounds of music.

Evelyn now believes that music penetrates her through every part – through her skin, cheekbones and even her hair. When she plays the xylophone, she feels that the sounds move from the stick into the tips of her fingers. When the drums are played, she can feel the resonant sounds pouring into her body. She takes off her footwear on a wooden stage and the vibrations of the instruments pass from her bare feet into her legs. Thus, Evelyn has sensitized the different parts of her body to the different sounds of music.

- 2. If you work hard and know where you are going, you'll get there," remarks Evelyn Glennie. What does it reveal about her character?**

**Or**

**Which traits of Evelyn's personality enabled her to overcome the challenge of deafness?**

**Or**

**What values of life strengthened Evelyn against the handicap of her deafness? What does her career teach to the handicapped people?**

Evelyn's firm determination, her industrious nature and her clarity of aim are well revealed in her statement. These values of her character have enabled her to overcome her handicap of deafness very bravely. Although she developed hearing impairment at a young age of eight only, she has never let it become a stumbling block in her way to success.

Firmly determined to lead the life of a normal person, Evelyn never gave up her passion for music. The encouragement and training provided by Ron Forbes paved the way for her advancement and she stuck to the path with unswaggering confidence. It was this confidence and faith in her that made her dares to audition for the Royal Academy of Music, London where she received the topmost awards.

Evelyn is a workaholic. This helped her to toil hard, in fact much harder than the classical musicians to bring percussion to the front stage in the orchestra. She believes that no goal is unachievable for those who work hard and are focused on the goal. With her earnest efforts, she moved from orchestra to solo performances and eventually became an internationally renowned

percussionist owing to her command over many instruments. She had the courage and confidence to trample down her disability and move on without looking back. Her firm decisions, her sincere efforts, her passionate labour, and her untiring devotion to music are a source of inspiration for the people with challenges.

### **3. Write a note on the origin of the Shehnai.**

It is said that in the past a musical instrument called Pungi used to be played in palaces before the Kings and Nawabs. But Aurangzeb did not like the shrill and unpleasant sound of the Pungi. So he banned the playing of this musical instrument in the royal residence. There was a barber who belonged to a family of musicians. He had access to the royal palace. He tried hard to improve the tonal quality of the instrument: He chose a pipe with a natural hollow stem that was longer and broader than the original Pungi. He carved seven holes on the body of the instrument. When he played on it, an impressive sonorous tonal sound was produced. The barber played it before the king and his courtiers. Everybody was impressed. The instrument was called Shehnai because it was born in the Shah's chamber and was invented by a 'nai' (barber).

### **4. How does the author of "The Sound of Music" portray Bismillah Khan as a great patriot?**

**Or**

**Bismillah Khan, on receiving the Bharat Ratna, remarked, "Teach your children music, this is Hindustan's richest tradition; even the West is now coming to learn our music." What does it reveal about his sentiments towards India?**

**Ans.** Bismillah Khan, in "The Sound of Music", emerged as a person imbued with intense and strong patriotic emotions. He had a profound and passionate love for his birthplace, Dumraon in Bihar and for Benaras where he took training to play the shehnai. He feels a deep bond with the Ganga because the flowing waters of the holy river made him improvise and spontaneously play new raagas – the ones which were earlier regarded to be beyond the range of the shehnai. Such was Bismillah Khan's love for his country and the Ganga that he refused to settle down in America to head a school for the shehnai. His strong attachment with the sacred river made him miss Benaras when he was in Mumbai or elsewhere. Equally strong was his bonding with his birthplace Dumraon.

Bismillah Khan had a great regard for the Hindustani music which, for him, is the richest cultural heritage of India. He wanted the tradition of the Indian music to be carried on from generation to generation. That is why he advised the people of India to teach music to their children and felt proud that this music fascinated even the people of the west.

### **Short Answer Questions**

#### **1. Why does Evelyn say that men with bushy beards give her trouble?**

Evelyn says that men with bushy beards give her trouble because she has to watch their whole face, especially their eyes, in order to grasp what they say. Just watching their lips did not help as the lips remained partially hidden in the beards.

#### **2. How is Evelyn an inspiration for the handicapped people?**

Evelyn's achievements, gained through determination and hard work, set an example before other handicapped people. They gain confidence from her example and believe that they too can achieve their goals in life by overcoming their handicaps with firm determination.

### 3. “Everything suddenly looked black”. Why does Evelyn say so?

When Evelyn was advised to use hearing aids and join the school for the deaf, she felt that her future was bleak and dark. She was depressed, as all hope for great achievements seemed to have vanished. She had now become a disabled child who could not have easy access to normal life.

### 4. How did Ron Forbes give training in music to Evelyn?

He took two large drums for tuning. Evelyn at once realized higher drums from the waist up and lower drums from the waist down. He motivated her to feel music in different parts of her body.

### 5. How was Evelyn able to get admission to the Royal Academy of Music?

Ron Forbes spotted Evelyn’s potential in music. She never looked back from that point. By the time she was sixteen, she had decided to make music her life. She auditioned for the Royal Academy of Music and scored the highest marks in the history of the academy.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

- Who banned the playing of pungi in the royal palace?  
i. Babur    ii. Akbar    iii. Shah Jahan    iv. **Aurangzeb**
- Where did Khan Saab play his newly discovered music instrument for the first time?  
i. **in Shah’s chambers**    ii. before the public  
iii. in the open court    iv. None of these
- What name was given to the new instrument?  
i. pungi    ii. sarod    iii. **shehnai**    iv. Flute
- How the sound of Shehnai began to be considered?  
i. **auspicious**    ii. unpleasant    iii. a sign of mourning    iv. ill-omened
- What credit is given to Ustad Bismillah Khan regarding shehnai?  
i. inventing shehnai    ii. inventing pungi  
iii. bringing shehnai to India    iv. **bring shehnai onto the classical stage**

6. What was wrong with Evelyn?

- she was blind
- she was deaf
- she was lame
- she was mentally weak

Ans. she was deaf

6. Evelyn learned music from

- Royal Academy of Music in London
- Royal Academy of Music in Paris
- Royal Academy of Music in Delhi
- Royal Academy of Music in Newyork

Ans. Royal Academy of Music in London

8. Why did the crowd jostle at the station?

- to get free food
- to listen to Evelyn’s music
- to get position for the train
- to see the train

Ans. to get position for the train

9. How old was Evelyn?

- i. fifteen years
  - ii. sixteen years
  - iii. seventeen years
  - iv. ten years
- Ans. seventeen years

10. How did Evelyn Glennie become deaf?

- i. she was deaf by birth
- ii. in an accident
- iii. attack of chicken-pox
- iv. through a gradual process

Ans. through a gradual process

11. At what age did she become fully deaf?

- i. 5 years
- ii. 8 years
- iii. 10 years
- iv. 17 years

Ans. 8 years

12. What did Evelyn's parents conceal about her from her teachers and friends?

- i. her deafness
- ii. her mental retards
- iii. her speaking problem
- iv. all of these

Ans. her deafness