



## INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

<b>Class: VIII</b>	<b>Department: ENGLISH</b>	<b>Date of Submission: May 2020</b>
<b>Revision Worksheet</b>	<b>Topic: Passage Comprehension</b>	<b>Note: NOTEBOOK</b>

**Read the excerpt from T S Eliot's Nobel Prize acceptance speech at the City Hall in Stockholm, 10 December 1948 and answer the questions given below:**

When I began to think of what I should say to you this evening, I wished only to express very simply my appreciation of the high honour which the Swedish Academy has thought fit to confer upon me. But to do this adequately proved no simple task. My business is with words, yet the words were beyond my command. Merely to indicate that I was aware of having received the highest international honour that can be bestowed upon a man of letters, would be only to say what everyone knows already. To profess my own unworthiness would be to cast doubt up on the wisdom of the Academy; to praise the Academy might suggest that I, as a literary critic, approved the recognition given to myself as a poet. May I therefore ask that it be taken for granted, that I experienced, on learning of this award to myself, all the normal emotions of exaltation and vanity that any human being might be expected to feel at such a moment, with enjoyment of the flattery, and exasperation at the inconvenience of being turned overnight into a public figure?

The Nobel Award seems to me the election of an individual, chosen from time to time from one nation or another, and selected by something like an act of grace, to fill a peculiar role and to become a peculiar symbol.

A ceremony takes place, by which a man is suddenly endowed with some function which he did not fill before. So the question is not whether he was worthy to be so singled out, but whether he can perform the function which you have assigned to him: the function of serving as a representative, so far as any man can be, of things of far greater importance than the value of what he himself has written.

A. Tick the most appropriate options.

1. What was T S Eliot's reaction to the award?
  - a. He criticised the Swedish Academy for having conferred the award on him.
  - b. He really flattered the Swedish Academy and praised its wisdom.
  - c. He was not happy with the award and he did not say anything.
  - d. He expressed his appreciation of the high honour conferred on him.
2. What does the phrase 'man of letters' mean?
  - a. a flatterer.
  - b. a famous writer.
  - c. a person with a charming personality.
  - d. an educated and intellectual person.
3. Elliot did not consider it fit to praise the Swedish Academy which gave him the Nobel Prize because he
  - a. knew that it would give him the award.
  - b. wasn't sure if he could do justice to the task at hand.
  - c. was an impolite and arrogant person.
  - d. thought it meant he realized that he was a great poet.
4. Elliot was of the opinion that the Nobel Prize is an election because the candidates
  - a. are chosen by the people through vote.
  - b. file their nominations with the Academy and a draw is held thereafter.

- c. put up their claim with the Academy.
- d. are chosen from time to time and from one nation or the other.

5. According to Elliot, what happens in the ceremony?

In the ceremony, the awardee is suddenly

- a. Given a certain responsibility that he did not have earlier.
- b. endowed with a title that he did not hold before.
- c. aware of an ability to become a 'man of letters'.
- d. entrusted with a job with he did not do earlier.