



QUESTION BANK – DISCOVERING TUT: THE SAGA CONTINUES

- by AR Williams

Class: XI

Sub: ENGLISH

I. Short Answer Type Questions:

1. Who was Howard Carter? What was his discovery?

Ans. Howard Carter was a British archaeologist. After years of searching he discovered King Tut's tomb in 1922 over 3300 years after his death. Tut died in his teens but his death was a mystery for all. He was the last heir of the powerful family of pharaohs that ruled Egypt for centuries. People believed that the king died under mysterious circumstances and his death might involve every possibility of murder.

2. List the deeds that led Ray Johnson to describe Akhenaten as 'wacky'.

Ans. Akhenaten means the servant of the Aten i.e. the sun disc. He moved the religious capital from the old city of the Thebes to the new city of Akhetaten, known now as Amarna. He smashed the images of Amun, a major God and closed his temples. These deeds led Ray Jonson to describe Akhenaten as 'wacky'.

3. What were the results of the CT scan?

Ans: The results of the C.T. scan were quite encouraging. 1700 digital X-ray images in cross-section were created. A gray head appeared on screen. Neck vertebrae were quite clear. The images of hand, ribcage and skull were equally bright. These revealed that nothing had gone seriously wrong with Tut's body

4. List the advances in technology that have improved forensic analysis.

Ans: The advances in technology have helped in improving forensic analysis. Many scientific tests can be carried out to determine the causes of crime. These include X-ray, ultrasound, C.T. scan, post mortem, autopsy and biopsy. All these help in diagnosis and provide exact information.

5. Explain the statement, "King Tut is one of the first mummies to be scanned— in death as in life"

Ans: King Tut's mummy was the first one to be X-rayed by an anatomy Professor in 1968. On 5 January 2005 CT scan created virtual reality and produced life-like images. King Tut is one of the first mummies to be scanned. Thus in death as well as in life Tut moved regally ahead of his countrymen.

6. What did the tourists in the burial chamber of King Tut do?

Ans. The tourists from around the world queued up as usual all afternoon into the narrowed rock-cut tomb. They lined up to pay their homage to King Tut. They looked keenly at the murals on the walls of the burial chamber. Some also peered at Tut's gilded face. Some visitors read from guidebook, whereas others stood silently thinking about the Pharaoh's curse which stated that death or misfortune would befall those who disturbed him.

II. Give reasons for the following:

(i) King Tut's body has been subjected to repeated scrutiny.

Ans: The mummy of King Tutankhamun has earned worldwide fame for the riches it was buried

with. There is also speculation about the manner of his death and his age at the time of death. Hence King Tut's body has been subjected to repeated scrutiny.

(ii) Howard Carter's investigation was resented.

Ans: Howard Carter's investigation was resented because he used unscientific methods and ways. He was focusing more on treasure and less on cultural and historical aspects of Tut's life and death.

(iii) Carter had to chisel away the solidified resins to raise the king's remains.

Ans: Carter found that the ritual resins had hardened. The result was that Tut's body had been cemented to the bottom of his solid gold coffin. Proper force could not move the resins. Even the scorching sun failed to loosen the resins. So he got the resins chiselled away to raise the king's remains.

(iv) Tut's body was buried along with gilded treasures.

Ans: The people of ancient Egypt believed in resurrection of the dead. Their kings were extremely rich. So Tut's body was buried with gilded treasures. Their eternal brilliance was meant to guarantee resurrection. Things of everyday use were also buried with the king.

(v) The boy king changed his name from Tutankhaten to Tutankhamun.

Ans: Tutankhamun means "living image of Amun". He was a major god in ancient Egypt. King Amenhotep IV who changed his name to Akhenaten smashed the images of Amun and got his temples closed. Tut oversaw a restoration of the old ways. He changed his name to express his belief in Amun.

III. Long Answer Type Questions:

1. "He was the last of his family line." What do you learn about Tut's dynasty from the extract 'Discovering Tut: The Saga Continues'?

Ans. Tut's grandfather, Amenhotep III was a powerful Pharaoh who ruled for almost four decades at the height of the dynasty's golden age. His son Amenhotep IV promoted the worship of the Aten, the sun disk. He changed his name to Akhenaten or 'servant of the Aten.' He moved his religious capital from the old city Thebes to the new city of Akhetaten. He further shocked the country by attacking Amun, a major God, breaking his images and closing his temples. Thus, the 'wacky' king started one of the strangest periods in the history of ancient Egypt. After Akhenaten's death a mysterious ruler named Smenkhkare appeared briefly and departed without leaving any sign. Then a very young Tutankhaten took over the throne. He is widely known today as King Tut. The boy king soon changed his name to Tutankhamun, meaning 'living image of Amun'. He supervised the restoration of the old ways. Tutankhamun ruled for about nine years and then died unexpectedly. The details of his passing away are not known. The modern world has speculated about what happened to him; how he died and how old he was at the time of his death are two unanswered questions which remain unanswered even today.

2. AR Williams says, "King Tut is in death as in life regally ahead of his countrymen." How far do you agree with the assertion and why?

Ans. Perhaps no other Pharaoh of Egypt has fascinated the public mind so greatly as the boy King Tutankhamun. Although King Tut died in his teens and ruled for about nine years only, he introduced certain changes during his brief rule. These were significant as they marked restoration of the old ways of the worship of Amun. The unanswered questions about the causes and mode of his death as well as his age at the time of his death kept public curiosity alive. After his death, his body has been a center of scientific examination. Howard Carter, the British archaeologist discovered Tut's tomb in 1922. In 1968, an anatomy Professor X-rayed the mummy. The Egyptian Mummy project began an inventory in late 2003. It has so far recorded 600 and is still counting. The next phase of CT scanning with a portable CT machine began on January 5, 2005. King Tut's mummy was the first one to undergo CT scan. Hence, the assertion is correct.