



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH (2020-21)

QUESTION BANK – REACH FOR THE TOP- Part I & II

Class: IX

Sub: ENGLISH

I. Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow

(I)

“From the very beginning I was quite determined that if I chose a correct and a rational path, the others around me had to change, not me.”

1. Who speaks these words?

Santosh Yadav, the great mountaineer from Haryana, speaks these words.

2. What was the speaker’s approach to making choices?

Santosh Yadav’s approach was to choose the correct and rational path.

3. How was the speaker able to change those around her?

Santosh Yadav was able to change those around her by making them yield to her firm decision which deviated from the traditional path but was based on logic and rationale.

4. What light do these words throw on the speaker?

These words show that right from her childhood, Santosh wished to change the system for the sake of the right cause rather than to submit to it.

(II)

When her parents refused to pay for her education, she politely informed them of her plans to earn money by working part-time to pay her school fees.

1. Who does ‘she’ refer to?

She refers to Santosh Yadav, the famous mountain climber.

2. Why did her parents refuse to pay for her education?

Her parents refused to pay for her education because Santosh did not follow the family tradition of getting married early and got herself enrolled in a school in Delhi against their wishes. They thought that their refusal to pay for her education would bring their daughter back home.

3. How did she react to her parents’ decision?

Santosh refused to give up her studies and told her parents that she would manage to pay her school expenses by working part-time.

4. Why did she inform her parents ‘politely’?

She talked to her parents politely but firmly because she loved them and did not intend to insult them. At the same time, she also knew that the path chosen by her was not irrational or incorrect.

(III)

If her climbing skills, physical fitness, and mental strength impressed her seniors, her concern for others and desire to work together with them found her a special place in the hearts of fellow climbers.

1. Whose qualities are being described here?

The qualities of Santosh Yadav, the great Indian mountaineer are being described here.

2. Why were her seniors impressed with her?

Her seniors were impressed with her because of her climbing skills, physical fitness, and mental strength.

3. What endeared her to her fellow climbers?

Her team-spirit and her concern for her fellow climbers endeared her to them.

4. Give an example of her concern for others.

Santosh Yadav tried her best to save the lives of two fellow climbers. She succeeded in saving the life of one, Mohan Singh, by sharing her oxygen with him.

II. Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words-

1. What kind of society was Santosh born in?

Ans. Santosh was born in Joniya , a small village in the Rewari District in Haryana. The society in this region was rigidly patriarchal and gender-biased. The birth of a girl was generally unwelcome and people strictly adhered to conservative traditions.

2. What do you know about Santosh's family?

Ans. Santosh was the sixth child in a conservative but affluent family of landlords. Her family lived in the backward district of Rewari in Haryana. Though financially well-off, they were orthodox and conservative in matters related to the education and upbringing of girls.

3. Why did Santosh write a letter of apology to her father?

Ans. Santosh had got herself enrolled in the Uttarkashi Nehru Institute of Mountaineering without seeking her father's permission. She had thought of talking to her family about this during her holidays. However, there was hardly any time between the end of the semester and her reporting date at the institute. Due to her inability to go home, she wrote a letter of apology to her father.

4. How did Santosh begin to climb mountains?

Ans. Santosh Yadav began to climb mountains when she met some mountaineers in the Aravalli Hills, who not only let her join them but also motivated her for mountain climbing. She had gone to the Aravalli's after she had seen villagers from her room (at the Kasturba Hostel in Maharani College, Jaipur) cross the hills and disappear beyond.

5. Why did Santosh write a letter of apology to her father?

Ans. Santosh had got herself enrolled in the Uttarkashi Nehru Institute of Mountaineering without seeking her father's permission. She had thought of talking to her family about this during her holidays. However, there was hardly any time between the end of the semester and her reporting date at the institute. Due to her inability to go home, she wrote a letter of apology to her father.

6. Why is Santosh Yadav's name recorded twice for climbing Mount Everest?

Ans. Santosh Yadav earned the credit for being the youngest woman in the world to climb the Mount Everest. She was all of twenty years when she scaled the peak for the first time in 1992. She earned another credit when she climbed Mount Everest for the second time soon after. Now her name was recorded again for being the only woman in the world to have climbed the mighty Everest twice.

III. MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS-

1. Santosh has scales Mt Everest _____.

(A) once

(B) twice

(C) thrice

(D) four times

Ans. (B) twice

2. What does 'Santosh' mean?

(A) contentment

(B) discontentment

(C) greed

(D) Bravery

Ans. (A) contentment

3. For what did Santosh train herself in Uttarkashi?

(A) mountaineering

(B) acting

(C) swimming

(D) skating

Ans. (A) mountaineering

4. Santosh was fully equipped with:

(A) an iron will

(B) physical endurance

(C) mental toughness

(D) all of the above

Ans. (D) all of the above

5. What shows her concern for the environment?

(A) collecting 500 kilograms of garbage from the Himalayas

(B) climbing mountain

(C) helping other climbers

(D) all of the above

Ans. (A) collecting 500 kilograms of garbage from the Himalayas

Q1. Write a brief note on Santosh's journey from her local village school to the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering at Uttarkashi.

Santosh born in an affluent but traditional and conservative landowners' family in a small village of Rewari district in Haryana, Santosh was a rebel from early childhood. In line with the prevailing custom in the family, she had to attend the local village school. At sixteen, most of the girls in her village got married but it was the last thing on her mind. Therefore, her parents insisted that she should get married at the age of sixteen, but she refused as she wanted to get a proper education first. She got admission in Delhi school, despite her parents' reluctance to send her there and informed them politely that she would earn by working part time. Santosh persuaded her parents to send her to Jaipur for higher studies after finishing high school. She got admission in Maharani College, Jaipur. She got a room in Kasturba Hostel which faced the Aravalli hills. She used to see the villagers going up the hill and disappearing.

This aroused her curiosity about the mountains. One day, when Santosh went near the hills, she met some climbers. They encouraged her to take to climbing. This whetted her interest in climbing and she saved money and took admission in Nehru Institute of Mountaineering at Uttarkashi.

II Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow

(I)

Few would grudge her the riches she is now reaping.

(a) Who does 'she' refer to?

She refers to Maria Sharapova, the world renowned tennis player.

(b) How is she 'reaping' the 'riches'?

As she is a famous player internationally and has been declared the number one in women's tennis, she is naturally earning a lot from her game.

(c) Why would few grudge her riches?

Everybody is aware of the fact that Maria has reached the top by making a lot of sacrifices and working extremely hard. Hence, the riches that she is earning from her game are well deserved and everybody agrees on this.

(d) Why has the word 'reaping' been used for riches?

The word 'reaping' has been used metaphorically. Just as reaping the harvest is the reward for the hard work of the farmer, similarly earning money is the reward for Maria Sharapova's earnest efforts and sacrifice.

(II)

Instead of letting that depress me, I became more quietly determined and mentally tough.

(a) Who does 'I' stand for?

'I' stands for Maria Sharapova, the world renowned tennis player.

(b) What was 'that' which could not depress her?

It was the undue domination and humiliating behaviour of her senior trainees in Florida that could not depress her.

(c) What was the impact of 'that' on her?

'That' made her more determined and mentally strong.

(d) What does the extract reveal about the speaker's character?

The extract reveals that the speaker had the ability to encounter difficult situations boldly and to turn them to her advantage.

(III)

"I'm Russian. It's true that the U.S. is a big part of my life. But I have Russian citizenship. My blood is totally Russian. I will play the Olympics for Russia if they want me."

1. Who says these words? Why?

Maria Sharapova, the world-class tennis player, says these words. She says so because she takes immense pride in her nationality.

2. What does she say about the U.S.?

Maria acknowledges the contribution of the U.S. where she took training in tennis and became the world number one tennis player.

3. Why does the speaker say, 'My blood is totally Russian'?

Maria claims this because she was born to Russian parents in Russia. She did spend a large part of her life in the U.S., but she proudly declares her Russian identity.

4. Given a chance, what will Maria like to do for Russia?

Being a Russian from the core of her heart, Maria would like to represent Russia in the Olympics and make them proud, if given an opportunity.

I. Answer the following questions in about 100-150 words-

1. Write in short Maria Sharapova's Journey to the top.

Ans. Maria Sharapova was born in Siberia, Russia. At the age of nine years she left Russia for Florida in the U.S.A. she went there with her father Yuri. She had to spend two hard years in the tennis training camp. She did hard efforts in the training camp. It was a heart wrenching two-years separation from her mother. Maria Sharapova learnt an important lesson is a life that tennis excellence would only come at a price. Maria Sharapova was just for nearly ten years old. The seniors in the training camp treated her badly. They looked her up. They asked Maria to tidy up the room and clean it, Maria Sharapova bagged the ladies single crown at Wimbledon in 2004. She attained the world number one position on Monday, 22nd August 2005. Today she is a tennis sensation.

2 Draw a Comparison between Santosh Yadav and Maria Sharapova.

Ans. Today both Santosh Yadav and Maria Sharapova enjoy the status of a celebrity. To attain this position, they both had to work very hard in their life. Both of these girls were of strong and true determination. They had a clear vision of their life. They wanted to become something in life. They wanted to raise themselves up from the common people around them. They sacrificed all comforts and pleasure of life to achieve their aim. Both of them were able to realise their aims. They reached the world. Santosh Yadav became the only woman of the world to scale Mt Everest twice. Maria Sharapova got the first position in the world in women's tennis. They proved that nothing is impossible before true determination and iron will.

3. What problems did Maria face as a child while she was being trained for tennis in the U.S.? What sustained her?

Or

How did adversity stand Maria in good stead in the long run?

Ans: Maria's childhood was full of struggle and loneliness. She had to leave for the U.S. at the young age of nine years. Her mother could not accompany her to the U.S. due to some visa restrictions. She missed her mother terribly during the two years of their heart-wrenching separation. Though her father had accompanied her to the U.S., he too could not frequently visit her as he had to spend a lot of time to earn money to be paid for Maria's tennis training. Apart from it, the other co-trainees used to bully, humiliate and insult her. They were inconsiderate to Maria who was much younger to them. To bully her, they would return to the room late at night, wake her up and make her tidy up the room. All these problems made her life during her training in U.S. miserable and desolate.

However, she was able to sail through these adverse times by never letting herself go into depression or think to quit. Instead, she strengthened her will-power and kept her passion for tennis alive. Eventually, her determined and consistent efforts paid when she became the number one tennis player in the world. She moulded adversity in her favour with her strength, toughness, and tolerance.

Q1. What problems did Maria face as a child while she trained at the tennis academy in Florida? What sustained her?

As a young child, Maria had to make many sacrifices and endure loneliness in her struggle to reach the top. She came to the U.S. at the young age of nine years without her mother, who could not accompany Maria and her father due to some visa restrictions. During the first two years of their heart-wrenching separation she missed her mother terribly.

Though her father had accompanied her to the USA, he too could not frequently visit her as he had to spend a lot of time to earn money to pay for Maria's tennis training. Apart from it, the

other trainees at the tennis academy in Florida bullied, tormented, and humiliated her. They were inconsiderate to Maria who was much younger and woke her up late at night and made her tidy up and clean the room.

Yet, Maria never let these problems get the better of her. Her eyes firmly fixed on achieving her goal of becoming the number one player in women's tennis, Maria endured the hardships without thinking of quitting. In fact, the problems she faced strengthened her will-power and made her even more determined to succeed.

II. Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words-

1. What is something disarming about Maria Sharapova?

Ans. Maria Sharapova is a girl with a smiling face and glamorous attire. But she is a determined girl who worked excessively hard to win the world number one position in women tennis.

2. Why did Sharapova leave Siberia for the U.S.A.?

Ans. At the age of nine years, Maria Sharapova left Siberia for Florida in the U.S.A. She went there to attend a training camp for women tennis. She undertook hard training for two years. Her father Yuri also went with her.

3. What is at odds with Maria's ready smile and glamorous attire?

Ans:-The maturity, balanced mind and inner strength of Maria do not appear to be in accordance with her glamorous dress and spontaneous smile. There seems to be some mismatch between her attractive outer appearance and her balanced inner-self.

4. Explain: "all this happened in almost no time".

Ans:-The phrase means that Maria's rise to the top in the world of tennis was very rapid and it took her a very short span of four years as a professional player to be number one in her chosen sport.

5. How was Maria different from other children?

Ans:-Maria was calmer and more composed, confident and tolerant than the other children of her age. She also had an inner strength that enabled her to endure the sacrifice that few children could think of facing. Unlike most children, she did not buckle under hardships and adverse circumstances.

6. Why would Maria's fans not be jealous of her riches?

Ans:- Maria's fans are aware of the immense hard work that has gone into making her a star sportswoman. The unparalleled sacrifices are investments that she made when other children of her age were having a comfortable life. She is reaping the dividends of her earnest efforts and the money that is pouring in is well earned and well deserved. Therefore, nobody feels jealous of her riches.

7. Why does Maria call tennis business and a sport?

Ans:-Tennis is a competitive sport like any other sport and requires stamina, nerve, training, planning and strategizing. It is all about winning or losing. It is also a business because it is played professionally for money. Its tournaments involve millions of pounds of money expenditures in sponsorship and prize money. Tennis generates a lot of business for media, drinks, clothes and sports companies.

8. What important lesson did Maria learn during the first two years of her stay in the U.S., away from her mother?

Ans:- Maria learnt that excellence comes at a price. Since she wished to reach the zenith in the field of tennis, she knew that she would have to make sacrifices and struggle hard. She endured the heart-wrenching separation from her mother for two years to attain excellence in tennis. Moreover, she also learnt how to put up patiently with adverse circumstances.

III. MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS-

1. How did the senior tennis players in the United States training center treat her?

- (A) badly (B) sympathetically
(C) lovingly (D) encouragingly
Ans. (A) badly

2. Depressing treatment in the U.S made Maria:

- (A) weak (B) nervous
(C) timid (D) tough
Ans. (D) tough

3. Maria is associated with

- (A) Serbia (B) Siberia
(C) Moscow (D) Paris
Ans. (B) Siberia

4. Maria Sharapova expresses her desire to play for:

- (A) America (B) India
(C) England (D) Russia
Ans. (D) Russia

5. What was the most important thing for Maria?

- (A) to earn money (B) to do a good business
(C) to become number one in the world (D) all of the above
Ans. (C) to become number one in the world

6. Where was Maria sent to learn tennis?

- (A) the United States (B) England
(C) India (D) Germany
Ans. (A) the United States

7. Who went to the United States with Maria?

- (A) her mother (B) her father
(C) her grandmother (D) her teacher
Ans. (B) her father