



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

First Flight	Topic: - Nelson Mandela- Long Walk to Freedom	Date:26th April.
---------------------	--	------------------------------------

Reference to the context and SAQ's

Answer the following questions with reference to the context:

I. "I was not unmindful of the fact that not so many years before they would not have saluted but arrested me."

i. Who is the speaker, who is meant by 'they'?

The speaker is Nelson Mandela. 'They' refer to the Army Generals and high ups in Police etc.

ii. Why would they salute the speaker? Why does he say that not many years ago 'they' would have arrested' him.

The speaker is the newly-elected President of South Africa. Because the speaker was involved in an act of rebellion against the white rulers of his country.

iii. What is the occasion?

It is the inauguration of the newly-elected democratic government of South Africa.

II. "—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."

i. Who are the men being talked about in this extract? How did these people display 'heights of character' in this chapter?

They are legendary freedom fighters of African origin who made 'unimaginable sacrifices' during the 'harshes, most inhumane' rule of their white oppressors. They never gave up their struggle for freedom. Mandela calls himself as 'simply the sum of all those patriots who had gone before' him.

ii. What is meant by the phrase depths of oppression, what was the policy that gave rise to it?

Oppression can be described as a state where people are treated in a cruel and unfair way by not giving them the same freedom, rights etc. as other people. Extreme conditions can be termed as depths of oppression.

iii. What is meant by 'their like may never be known'?

It means that it is highly unlikely that such people will ever be born on the face of this earth.

III. "Freedom is indivisible; the chains on anyone of my people were the chains on all of them, the chains on all of my people were the chains on me."

- i. Name the lesson? Who is the author?
'Nelson Mandela- Long Walk to Freedom'. Nelson Mandela.
- ii. Who are the people being talked about here?
The people are the black people of South Africa.
- iii. What was the contribution of the speaker toward achieving freedom for his people?
Mandela, and his African National Congress spent a lifetime fighting against apartheid. He spent 27 years in prison, finally getting elected as the first black President of a democratic South Africa in 1994.

IV. "We have, at last achieved our political emancipation. We pledge ourselves to liberate all our people from the continuing bondage..."

- i. Who is the speaker? What is the occasion of his speech?
Nelson Mandela. He gave this speech at a historic occasion of the inauguration of the democratically elected government of the South Africa.
- ii. What is meant by political emancipation?
Freedom from legal, political or social restrictions.
- iii. The speaker says 'at last'. How long did he have to wait personally to finally achieve what he had set out to achieve?
Nelson Mandela had to wait for long as he spent 27 years in prison before finally being set free.

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

Answer: Before Nelson Mandela became the president, South Africa was in the grips of apartheid and was declared an outlaw by other nations. When Mandela became the president, he abolished apartheid and thus diplomatic relations were rebuilt with many countries. Politicians and dignitaries from more than 140 countries around the world had gathered there to pay respects to South Africa's first democratic, non-racial government. The inauguration of a new non-racial government was a historic moment in South Africa as well as world history. The presence of large number of international leaders was a gesture of solidarity from international community to the idea of the end of apartheid.

It signified the triumph of justice, peace and human dignity.

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

He wanted to acknowledge the 'unimaginable sacrifices of thousands of African freedom fighters who had undergone untold suffering and shown exemplary courage to bring

about the liberation of their country from white supremacy. Many of these patriots did not live to see the outcome of their sacrifices.

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

Yes, I agree that the depths of oppression create heights of character. It is well-known that freedom comes at a price. And for any country or people to be free from foreign rule, great sacrifices have to be made. It is always the men and women of character who value their freedom above everything else. People of Africa had been oppressed for three centuries by their white rulers and this resulted in the emergence of great patriots who strove for the freedom of their country. Nelson Mandela illustrates this by giving examples of great heroes of South Africa who sacrificed their lives in the freedom struggle. He thought that the decades of oppression and brutality had an unintended effect of creating many African patriots with unimaginable heights of character.

Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Chandrasekhar Azad are the examples of such patriots on the Indian scene.

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

With age Mandela realized that he had a lot of responsibilities of his people, his community and his country. As a child, Mandela did not have a hunger for freedom because he thought that he was born free. He believed that as long as he obeyed his father and abided by the customs of his tribe, he was free in every possible manner and not troubled by the laws of man or God. As a boy Nelson Mandela had enjoyed total freedom only to discover that this freedom was an illusion. As a young man, he experienced the pressures of living under apartheid. He felt that his freedom had already been taken away. He had certain needs as a teenager and certain needs as a young man. It was impossible for a coloured person to discharge his obligations to his people, community or his country. He slowly understood that it was not just his freedom that was being curtailed but the freedom of all black brothers and sisters. His life was now governed by a desire to obtain for his people a life of freedom, of dignity and self-respect.

5. How did Mandela’s ‘hunger for freedom’ change his life?

The desire for the freedom of his people to live their lives with dignity and self-respect transformed the life of Nelson Mandela. He gave up the life of a law-abiding attorney to join the outlawed African National Congress. The hunger for his own freedom became the greater hunger for the freedom of his people. He felt that he could not come to enjoy poor and limited freedoms allowed to him when he knew that his people were not free. Nelson Mandela realized in his youth that it was not just his freedom that was being curtailed but the freedom of all blacks. The hunger for his own freedom became the hunger for the freedom of his people. This desire of a non-racial society transformed him into a self-sacrificing and virtuous man. Thus, he joined the African National Congress and this changed him from a frightened young man into a bold man. It led to the transformation of a law-abiding attorney to a criminal, a family loving husband into a man without a home and a life loving man into a monk.

6. Where did the ceremonies take place?

The ceremonies took place in the amphitheater which was formed by Union Buildings in Pretoria.

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

Since South Africa lies in the Southern Hemisphere, we can say that May falls in the autumn season.

8. Why were two national anthems sung?

The two national anthems, one of the Blacks and other of the Whites were sung symbolizing equality and respect for the entire community irrespective of their colour.

9. 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?

By "an extraordinary human disaster", Mandela is referring to the apartheid system that was prevalent in South Africa under the previous leadership. People of colour were treated unfairly and no human being deserves that. He stood against the unjust practices and finally won the democratic elections to become the first black President of South Africa. He refers to this win as "glorious human achievement".

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

As the newly elected President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela wanted to liberate the country of all the unjust practices. He set out ideals for a country which was free of poverty, discrimination and injustice.

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

The military generals saluted Nelson Mandela and promised their support to the newly formed democratic government of South Africa. Their attitude has changed because earlier they were under the rule of the white supremacy. During that rule, they would have arrested Mandela as he was considered to be a criminal. Now, with the abolition of Apartheid and the formation of a democratic government, their attitude has also changed.

12. What does courage mean to Mandela?

To Mandela, "courage" does not mean the absence of fear, but the victory over it. A man who is courageous is the one who has overcome his fear to fight all the odds.

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

He believes love comes more naturally to humans as opposed to hate. No one is born with hatred in his heart for another.

14. 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?

As a boy, being free meant to Nelson to run in the fields, free to swim in the clear streams, free to roast mealies under the stars and ride the broad backs of slow-moving bulls. As a student, he wanted certain transitory freedoms only for himself, such as being able to stay out at night, read what he pleased and go where he chose. He then talks about certain basic and honourable freedoms such as achieving his potential, of earning his living and of marrying and having a family. He builds the contrast between these two freedoms by stating that the transitory freedoms he wanted were limited to him where as the honourable freedoms had to do more with his and his people's position in the society.