



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH (2026-27)
CLASS – XI
QB – DISCOVERING TUT: THE SAGA CONTINUES

THEME

The lesson explores the life and mysterious death of **King Tutankhamun**, the last ruler of a powerful dynasty. It also highlights ancient Egyptian beliefs in the afterlife, which led to the burial of pharaohs with daily provisions for reincarnation. The chapter delves into the scientific investigation of Tut's mummy, the challenges faced during the process, and the enduring mystery surrounding his demise.

CHARACTERS

King Tutankhamun (King Tut)

- The last heir of a powerful Egyptian dynasty that had ruled for centuries.
- Died at a young age under mysterious circumstances.
- His mummy was the first to be scanned using advanced technology.

Howard Carter

- A British archaeologist who discovered King Tut's tomb in 1922.
- His excavation process caused damage to Tut's preserved body.

Zahi Hawass

- The Secretary General of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities.
- Led the scanning of King Tut's mummy for forensic reconstruction.

Amenhotep III

- King Tut's father or grandfather.
- One of Egypt's most powerful rulers, who reigned for nearly four decades.

Amenhotep IV (Akhenaten)

- Changed his name to Akhenaten and promoted the worship of Aten, the sun god.
- Outraged Egyptians by attacking Amun, a major deity, destroying his images, and closing his temples.

SUMMARY

On **January 5, 2005, at 6 PM**, King Tut's mummy was carefully transferred into a **CT scanner** to uncover medical mysteries surrounding his early death. Although his tomb had been discovered in **1922 by Howard Carter**, the exact cause of his death remained unknown. Carter's discovery included **a golden tomb filled with exquisite artifacts**, such as **board games, bronze razors, food and wine containers, and linen garments**, meant for use in the afterlife. As Carter examined Tut's three nested coffins, he discovered a **shroud adorned with garlands of olives, lotus petals, and cornflowers**, indicating that Tut's burial likely took place in **March or April**.

A major challenge arose when Carter attempted to **separate the mummy from its solidified resins**. Even exposing the body to the **scorching Egyptian sun (149°F/65°C)** failed to loosen the resins. To free the body, Carter had to **chisel it out, causing severe damage to the remains**. Later studies revealed that **King Tut's ribs and breastbone were missing**, raising further questions about his death.

Archaeologists and scientists believed that modern technology could **provide accurate insights** into Tut's life and death. As the CT scan began, an unexpected **power failure** led many to fear the **legendary mummy's curse**. Fortunately, the team was able to restart the machine and complete the scan without losing any data.

When the **computer-generated images** of Tut's body appeared, the scientists were fascinated. A **detailed reconstruction of his head** emerged from the scattered pixels, bringing them closer to solving the mystery of his death. Zahi Hawass, leading the investigation, was relieved that everything had gone smoothly.

As the team left the excavation site, they observed the **Orion constellation shining brightly** over the young king's tomb. The star, associated with Osiris, the god of the afterlife, seemed to offer a **poetic farewell to King Tut**, ensuring endurance of his legacy.

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN 30-40 WORDS.

1. Who was King Tut? Why was a CT scan done on him?

Ans. King Tut was a boy King of Egypt who was the last heir of its powerful family. This family ruled it for centuries. His tomb was discovered in 1922 by Howard Carter. A CT scan was done on his mummy to get new clues about his life and death.

2. How had King Tut been lavished the royals when he was buried?

Ans. King Tut had been lavished with glittering goods. These were precious collars, necklaces, bracelets, rings, amulets, a ceremonial apron, sandals, sheaths, etc. All these things including the coffin were made of pure gold. It was believed that he would take them with him in his journey beyond after death.

3. What effect did Tut's demise have on the dynasty?

Ans. King Tutankhamun was the last pharaoh of his dynasty that ruled Egypt for decade. The dynasty rattled down after the demise of king Tut.

4. What problem did Carter face when he reached the mummy of King Tut? How did he find a way out?

Ans. King Tut's mummy was stuck to the bottom of the coffin because the resins had melted and hardened Carter decided to chisel the hardened resin from beneath the mummy.

5. How was king Tut's mummy scanned by the portable CT scanner?

Ans. King Tut's mummy was scanned on 5 January 2005. It was a historic archaeological event. The mummy was brought out of the burial chamber at 6 p.m. for about three hours and a CT scan was carried out.

6. Why has Amenhotep IV reign been described as one of the strangest periods in 'the history of ancient Egypt'?

Ans. Amenhotep IV promoted the worship of Aten, the sun disk, and attacked Amun, a major god, smashing his images and closing his temples. He also shifted the religious capital from the old city of Thebes to the new city of Akhenaten, known as Amarna.

7. "King Tut's body had been subjected to repeated scrutiny". Why?

Ans. King Tut's body and burial chamber were found intact. The archaeologists hoped to discover many truths about King Tut and Egypt of his time. Therefore, they investigated them repeatedly.

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN 100-120 WORDS.

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. He further shocked the country by attacking Amun, a major God, breaking his images and closing his temples. Thus, the King started one of the strangest periods in the history of ancient Egypt. After Akhenaten's death a mysterious ruler named Smenkhare appeared briefly and departed without leaving any sign. Then a very young Tutankhaten took the throne. He is widely known today as King Tut. The boy King soon changed his name to Tutankhamun '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 available. The modern world has speculated about what happened to him. How did he die and how old was he at the time of his death are two unanswered questions.

2. How has Tut's mummy fascinated the scientists and commoners alike over the previous decades?

Ans. King Tutankhamun was the last Pharaoh left of his line. His funeral marked the end of a dynasty. He was laid to rest laden with gold as the royals in Tut's time were extremely wealthy and thought they could take their riches with them. His tomb was discovered by Howard Carter, an English archaeologist in 1922, more than 3000 years after his death. The rich royal collection of jewellery and golden artifacts fascinated Carter. Visitors thronged the boy King's tomb. The breastbone and front ribs of Tut were missing. On 5th January, 2005 a CT scan was done to obtain precise data for an accurate forensic reconstruction of King Tut. It was hoped that it

would offer new clues about his life and death. Thus, Tut's mummy has been the centre of fascination throughout the previous decades.

3. Do you think Carter was justified in removing the hardened ritual resin deposits on Tut's mummy? Why/ Why not?

Ans. Carter was investigating the tomb of King Tut in 1922. Amazingly, the tomb's contents were intact in spite of having been ransacked in antiquity. Carter found king Tut's Mummy in three nested coffins, it was the most important finding. To Carter's dismay he found he could not study the mummy as it was stuck to the bottom of the coffin due to hardening of the funerary raisins. Carter tried 'legitimate force' but could not dislodge the mummy from its coffin. So, he had to cut the mummy in several parts, remove its head and sever almost all the joints. Carter's action was highly condemnable as he nearly destroyed the mummy. His defense was that if not be so, robbers and vandals would have done the same. Historians, however, have not forgiven Carter for this disfigurement.

4. In 1922 Tut's tomb was discovered. Much of the treasure buried in the tomb had already been plundered. The materialistic attitude of a man does not allow even the dead to sleep in peace. Will there be any end to this attitude? Discuss. (Value Based Question)

Ans. For a handful of gold, man can go to any extent. Tut's mummy was buried deep in the desert with a lot of gold and other things believing that the dead Pharaoh would need those things in the afterlife. It was a matter of faith. When Tut's tomb was discovered, much of treasure had already been looted. The thieves did it being driven by the mad force of materialism. Materialistic attitude attaches no importance to beliefs, religious sentiments and social rites and rituals. But when Carter finally succeeded in discovering Tut's tomb, he found the richest royal collection-all made of solid gold-in the tomb. Even the coffin was made of gold. In order to remove Tut from his coffin, Carter had to cut the body from its joints. Hence, man doesn't allow even the dead to sleep in peace.

5. Discuss the suitability of the title, ' Discovering Tut: The Saga Continues'.

Ans. The title is appropriate for it describes the attempts to discover the truth about King Tut. The tomb had been raided in the remote past, but had remained largely intact till it was discovered in 1922 by Howard Carter.

King Tut had died young. The reason of his death remains a mystery even today. The possibility of murder has not been ruled out. Therefore, continuous efforts go on to unravel the mystery. In 1922, Carter had cut the mummy into pieces to remove it from its coffins. He had carefully examined the funerary treasures buried with King Tut.

Sophisticated tools of archaeology including medical technology have been used since the 20th century to unravel King Tut's mystery. In 1968, the mummy was X-rayed. In 2005, the mummy was brought out from its deep burial chamber for CT scan. The focus now is not on the treasures but on Tut's life and his mysterious death.

In the coming years, the attempt to discover the whole truth about Tut will continue.

ASSERTION AND REASONING BASED QUESTIONS.

Q1: Assertion: The scanning of Tut's mummy couldn't definitively determine the cause of his death.

Reason: The breastbone and front ribs of Tut were missing in the X-rays and C.T. scan.

- (a) Both Assertion and Reason are true, and Reason is the correct explanation of Assertion.
- (b) Both Assertion and Reason are true, but Reason is not the correct explanation of Assertion.
- (c) Assertion is true, but Reason is false.
- (d) Assertion is false, but Reason is true.

Ans: (a)

The assertion is true as the cause of Tut's death remained uncertain despite scanning. The reason is also true and explains that missing body parts contributed to this uncertainty.

Q2: Assertion: The burial Items of Tut were meant to ensure his resurrection.

Reason: Tut had everyday Items like collars, necklaces, and sandals buried with him.

- (a) Both Assertion and Reason are true, and Reason is the correct explanation of Assertion.
- (b) Both Assertion and Reason are true, but Reason is not the correct explanation of Assertion.
- (c) Assertion is true, but Reason is false.
- (d) Assertion is false, but Reason is true.

Ans: (b)

While it's true that Tut had everyday items buried with him, the assertion about ensuring his resurrection is a simplification of ancient Egyptian beliefs about the afterlife. These items were meant to ensure his well-being in the afterlife rather than resurrection.

Q3: Assertion: King Tut's death has remained a mystery for centuries.

Reason: Technology has provided a direction to think and proceed in solving the mystery.

- (a) Both Assertion and Reason are true, and Reason is the correct explanation of Assertion.
- (b) Both Assertion and Reason are true, but Reason is not the correct explanation of Assertion.
- (c) Assertion is true, but Reason is false.
- (d) Assertion is false, but Reason is true.

Ans: (a)

The assertion is true, and the reason correctly explains that modern technology has directed efforts to uncover the mystery of Tut's death.

EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS.

A. The boy king soon changed his name to Tutankhamun, 'living image of Amun,' and oversaw a restoration of the old ways. He reigned for about nine years — and then died unexpectedly. Regardless of his fame and the speculations about his fate, Tut is one mummy among many in Egypt. How many? No one knows. The Egyptian Mummy Project, which began an inventory in late 2003, has recorded almost 600 so far and is still counting.

Q1. Why has the phrase 'boy king' been used for Tut?

- A. He awarded every boy of his kingdom
- B. He was very young when he became king
- C. Boys of his kingdom liked him
- D. All of the above

Ans- B. He was very young when he became king

Q2. For how many years Tut ruled?

- A. Less than nine years
- B. More than nine years
- C. Nine years
- D. About nine years

Ans- D. About nine years

Q3. How many mummies are there in Egypt?

- A. About 600
- B. More than 1000
- C. No one knows exact number
- D. Numbers are confidential

Ans- C. No one knows exact number

Q4. When was the Egyptian Mummy Project started?

- A. 1992
- B. 2003
- C. 1999
- D. 2002

Ans- B. 2003

Q5. Which of the following was not done by Tut?

- A. He changed his name to Tutankhamun
- B. He restored old ways
- C. He ruled for far more than nine years
- D. All of the above

Ans- C. He ruled for far more than nine years

B. Carter really had little choice. If he hadn't cut the mummy free, thieves most certainly would have circumvented the guards and ripped it apart to remove the gold. In Tut's time the royals were fabulously wealthy, and they thought — or hoped — they could take their riches with them. For his journey to the great beyond, King Tut was lavished with glittering goods: precious collars, inlaid necklaces and bracelets, rings, amulets, a ceremonial apron, sandals, sheaths for his fingers and toes, and the now iconic inner coffin and mask — all of pure gold. To separate Tut from his adornments, Carter's men removed the mummy's head and severed nearly every major joint. Once they had finished, they reassembled the remains on a layer of sand in a wooden box with padding that concealed the damage, the bed where Tut now rests.

Q1. What made Carter cut the mummy free?

Ans. Carter cut the mummy free as he was afraid of the thieves.

Q2. Identify the literary device used in “glittering goods”

Ans. Alliteration

Q3. What belief did ancient Egyptians hold?

Ans. Ancient Egyptians believed that they could take their riches with them posthumously.

Q4. What do you understand by the word “circumvent”?

Ans. Here, circumvent means to find a way around an obstacle or problem.

C. After Akhenaten's death, a mysterious ruler named Smenkhkare appeared briefly and exited with hardly a trace. And then a very young Tutankhaten took the throne – King Tut as he's widely known today. The boy king soon changed his name to Tutankhamun, living image of Amun, and oversaw a restoration of the old ways. He reigned for about nine years - and then died unexpectedly.

Q1. The statement "appeared briefly and exited with hardly a trace" is the same as

- (a) had a small role
- (b) his stage performance was average
- (c) he ruled for a short time only
- (d) his reign was short and without any impact

Ans 1. (d) his reign was short and without any impact

Q2. The expression "oversaw a restoration of the old ways" means -----

Ans 2. he re-established the old practices and beliefs

Q3. What does the expression "took the throne" refer to?

Ans 3. He ascended the throne.

TEXTUAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

NOTICE THESE EXPRESSIONS IN THE TEXT. INFER THEIR MEANING FROM THE CONTEXT.

Forensic reconstruction- It refers to the process of creating a face on the skull and see how the owner of the skull looked like. Here, it refers to the construction of the bust of King Tut based on the data received from CT scan.

Scudded across- It refers to moving quickly. The phrase is used with reference to the movement of the ‘dark-bellied clouds.’

Casket grey- The words point out to the covering of the stars by the ‘dark-bellied clouds’, the way jewels are kept in a casket (a jewel box).

Resurrection- It refers to a new beginning for something which is old and long forgotten. Here, it refers to the new life after death.

Funerary treasures- The valuable things with which the king was buried were no less than treasures as most of the items were made of pure gold. They are, thus, referred to as ‘funerary treasures.’

Circumvented- The thieves would easily bypass the guards with artfulness and rip the mummy apart to remove the gold.

Computed tomography- Also known as CT scan, it provides X-ray image of a body in cross section. It is used for diagnostic purposes.

Eerie detail- Uncanny description of the resulting image of the head of Tut visible through the CT scan.

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

1 Give Reasons for the following.

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

Answer: Since the time King Tut's body was first discovered in 1922, it has been subjected to repeated scrutiny. This is due to the fact that King Tut died at a very young age. He died as a "boyish pharaoh" leaving behind numerous mysteries associated with his death. Various investigations, from discovering his remains to excavating his body and studying it under the CT scan, have been done just to find out the medical mysteries of his death.

(ii): Howard Carter's investigation was resented.

Answer: Howard Carter, a British archaeologist, was the first archaeologist to discover King Tut's tomb in the year 1922. His was a great discovery but during the investigation process, he damaged the mummy to a great extent. As the body was found cemented to its gold coffin, it was impossible to move it. Finally, to separate the mummy from its adornments, Carter decided to remove its head and break nearly every major joint. Due to this his investigation was resented.

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

Answer: Due to the hardened resins, the King's body was found cemented to the solid gold-bottom of the coffin such that "no amount of legitimate force could move them". The mummy had to be separated as the thieves would escape the eyes of guards and rip the mummy apart to steal away the gold. He even tried to loosen the resins by putting the mummy under the blazing sun. However, every effort went in vain. The only way left for him was to "chisel" it "beneath the limbs and trunk". Thus, Carter decided to remove the mummy's head and break the major joints to separate it from its coffin.

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

Answer: King Tut was buried in a coffin made of pure gold "lavished with glittering goods". The gilded treasures found included precious collars, inland necklaces and bracelets, rings, amulets, a ceremonial apron, sandals, sheaths for his fingers and toes. In those times, the royals believed in the idea of taking their wealth with them. Tut was adorned with all such riches for his journey after life. It also gives the idea of the Egyptian belief in resurrection.

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

Answer: ‘Tutankhamun’ means the ‘living image of Amun’. Amun was the major god in the ancient Egyptian society whose temples and images were destroyed by a preceding ruler named Akhenaten. He destroyed the ancient religious order of the Egyptians. Tut’s changing of his name represents his efforts in the restoration of the old ways that were once destroyed.

2 (i): List the deeds that led Ray Johnson to describe Akhenaten as “wacky”.

Answer: The deeds that led Ray Johnson to describe Akhenaten as “wacky” and comment that “it must have been a horrific time” are listed below.

- Amenhotep IV (later known by the name of Akhenaten) led to one of the aberrant periods in the history of ancient Egypt.
- He made many unpleasant changes in the social and political order of the country.
- He promoted the worship of the Aten, the sun disk, and changed his name to Akhenaten or ‘the servant of the Aten’.
- He moved the religious capital from the old city of Thebes to the new city of Akhetaten.
- He destroyed the images and temples of Amun, a major god.

2(ii): What were the results of the CT scan?

Answer: King Tut is one of the first mummies to undergo a CT scan. The CT scan came up with some new clues about the life and death of King Tut. It provided precise data for an accurate forensic reconstruction of King Tut. The CT scan displayed the mummy from head to toe creating 1,700 digital X-ray images in cross section. It showed a grey head, neck vertebrae, a hand, several images of rib cages and a transection of the skull.

2(iii): List the advances in technology that have improved forensic analysis.

Answer: Technology has been making a rapid development. The advancements in technology are responsible for improvements in the field of forensic sciences. From the use of X-rays, technology has advanced to the use of advanced Computed Tomography (commonly known as CT scan). In a CT scan, hundreds of X-rays are created in cross-section, like slices. They create a three-dimensional virtual body and with intricate structures. This change in forensic analysis has helped in discovering the mysteries behind Egyptian mummies.

2(iv): Explain the statement, “King Tut is one of the first mummies to be scanned — in death, as in life ...”

Answer: The above line indicates that King Tut’s body was the first to be scanned under a computer tomography machine. Just like King Tut might have led his kingdom when alive, he led the experience of being scanned among the mummies.

TALKING ABOUT THE TEXT

Question 1: Scientific intervention is necessary to unearth buried mysteries.

Answer: (Such questions are to be done by the students on their own. However, pointers have been provided for the students' help.)

For:

- Science helps determine the facts related to the past even in the absence of any living evidences.
- It leads to good amount of knowledge about the past events without which things would go in mere speculations.
- It helps determine information about ancient cultures, tradition, and people.
- The use of advanced scientific tools helps in extracting important facts related to past events.
- It helps in determining the time and place of the event.
- It gives us important information about the unsolved mysteries.

Against:

- There is no use of digging the past.
- Present is valuable and we must live in the present.
- Delving into the past is waste of time and energy.
- It is the job of the historians and not scientists.
- It is always better to invest one's resources on the development of living rather than investigating the dead.

Question 2: Advanced technology gives us conclusive evidence of past events.

Answer: (Such questions are to be done by the students on their own. However, pointers have been provided for the students' help.)

For:

- With advanced technology such as CT scan, it is possible to solve medical mysteries related to deaths.
- It is possible to create a 3-D view of the various body parts.
- It provides intricate details through forensics, radiology and anatomy.
- It helps find new clues related to life and death.
- It provides data for forensic reconstruction.
- Technology such as satellite imaging helps find buried sites.
- Date and time of an event can be confirmed through advanced technology.

Against:

- No use of gathering facts about the past.
- It's important to focus on the present issues and events rather than investigating the past.
- Even with the help of CT scan, no conclusive evidences could be constructed about Tut.

Question 3: Traditions, rituals and funerary practices must be respected.

Answer:

(Such questions are to be done by the students on their own. However, pointers have been provided for the students' help.)

For:

- Traditions, rituals and funerary practices are born out of the sentiments and feelings of a community.
- They provide identity to a community.
- They maintain continuity of a culture.
- They help in transferring the values of ancestors to the new generation.
- They add to our knowledge the progress of human civilisation.

Against:

- Traditions, customs and funerary practices may encourage superstition.
- They may hamper the development of the society.
- They affect unity.
- They could lead to violence and friction between people belonging to different cultures.

Question 4: Knowledge about the past is useful to complete our knowledge of the world we live in.

Answer: (Such questions are to be done by the students on their own. However, pointers have been provided for the students' help.)

For:

- Past acts as a mirror to our mistakes and teaches us lessons.
- Present is the outcome of past.
- It helps us understand the progress of the events down the history.
- It builds foundation for our present and future.

Against:

- One must live in the present.
- Past is infinite and should be left as it is.
- Past should not affect our present life.
- Past should not be delved in and must be considered as a gone phase.

THINKING ABOUT LANGUAGE

Question 2: What do you think are the reasons for the extinction of languages?

Answer: Below are listed a few reasons for the extinction of languages.

- Migration of people to other lands
- Influence of the rulers
- Evolution of language due to cultural fusion
- Limitation of vocabulary

- Absence of written script along with prevalence of oral tradition
- Constant changes in the society
- Globalisation, as it has led to the use of only dominant languages

Question 3: Do you think it is important to preserve languages?

Answer: Yes, it is important to preserve languages as they are responsible for the development of culture of the community. It helps in preservation of one's heritage and traditions. Language preservation ensures contact with one's history and literature.

Question 4: In what ways do you think we could help prevent the extinction of languages and dialects?

Answer: Extinction of languages and dialects can be prevented in the following ways.

- Transferring the vocabulary and dialects of the language to the next generation
- Teaching the languages in colleges and universities and encouraging students to specialise in the same
- Teaching children to use mother-tongue
- Remaining connected to one's cultural roots
- Respecting one's language which will help in taking it forward to the coming generations

WORKING WITH WORDS

1(i): ghostly dust devils

Answer: ghostly dust devils- it points out to the devilish or frightful movement of the dusty winds. It reflects the anger of the winds for disturbing the king from his resting place.

1(ii): desert sky

Answer: desert sky- it refers to the dusty sky of the desert. The barren sky spread over the vast desert region portrays a sad and dry picture.

1(iii): stunning artefacts

Answer: stunning artefacts- items found in the tomb were extremely beautiful. Usage of both the words together explains the 'eternal brilliance' of the objects.

1(iv): funerary treasures

Answer: funerary treasures- reference is to the fact that king was buried with numerous things which were no less than treasures as most of the items were made of pure gold.

1(v): scientific detachment

Answer: scientific detachment- it refers to an indifference towards science.

1(vi): dark-bellied clouds

Answer: dark-bellied clouds- it refers to the dark clouds containing rain.

1(vii): casket grey

Answer: casket grey- the words point out to the stars being covered by the ‘dark-bellied clouds’, the way jewels are kept in a casket (a jewel box).

1(viii): eternal brilliance

Answer: eternal brilliance- eternal refers to something that is timeless. Thus, eternal brilliance refers to timeless lustre and shine of the jewels and valuables of the king.

1(ix): ritual resins

Answer: ritual resins- resins are used as a customary duty in the process of burying a body.

1(x): virtual body

Answer: virtual body- a body created through electronic images or CT scan. It resembles a real body and provides a very clear view.

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