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Thinking about the Text

Question 1. Here are some headings for paragraphs in the text. Write the number(s) of the paragraph(s) for each title against the heading. The first one is done for you.

- (i) Einstein's equation – 9
- (ii) Einstein meets his future wife
- (iii) The making of a violinist
- (iv) Mileva and Einstein's mother
- (v) A letter that launched the arms race
- (vi) A desk drawer full of ideas
- (vii) Marriage and divorce

Answer:

- (i) Einstein's equation – 9
- (ii) Einstein meets his future wife – 7
- (iii) The making of a violinist – 3

- (iv) Mileva and Einstein's mother – 10
- (v) A letter that launched the arms race – 15
- (vi) A desk drawer full of ideas – 8
- (vii) Marriage and divorce – 11

Question 2. Who had these opinions about Einstein?

- (i) He was boring.
- (ii) He was stupid and would never succeed in life.
- (iii) He was a freak.

Answer:

- (i) He was boring – Einstein's playmates
- (ii) He was stupid and would never succeed in life – Einstein's headmaster
- (iii) He was a freak – Einstein's mother

Question 3. Explain what the reasons for the following are.

- (i) Einstein leaving the school in Munich for good.
- (ii) Einstein wanted to study in Switzerland rather than in Munich.
- (iii) Einstein sees in Mileva an ally.
- (iv) What do these tell you about Einstein?

Answer:

- (i) Because he disliked the rigidity of the school and frequently got into disputes with his teachers, Einstein permanently left the Munich school.
- (ii) Because Switzerland was a far more liberal place than Munich, Einstein preferred to study there rather than there.
- (iii) Mileva was seen by Einstein as an ally since, like him, she opposed the "Philistines," or the individuals in his family and at the university with whom he frequently disagreed.
- (iv) The information above indicates that Einstein was an extremely liberal and pro-freedom individual. He was an individual with unique perspectives on life.

Question 4. What did Einstein call his desk drawer at the patent office? Why?

Answer: At the patent office, Einstein named his desk drawer the "bureau of theoretical physics." He gave it that name since he was covertly creating his own physics-related concepts and innovations.

Question 5. Why did Einstein write a letter to Franklin Roosevelt?

Answer: To alert America concerning Germany's capability to develop and employ an atomic bomb, which, if detonated in a port, would destroy not only the port itself but also a portion of the surrounding area, Einstein addressed a letter to Franklin Roosevelt.

Question 6. How did Einstein react to the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

Answer: The scale of the damage caused by the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki left him shocked. In a letter to the UN that was published in public, he suggested creating a global government.

Question 7. Why does the world remember Einstein as a "world citizen"?

Answer: Because of his work for global peace and democracy as well as his call for an end to the arms race, Einstein is remembered by the world as a "world citizen."

Thinking about Language

I. Here are some sentences from the story. Choose the word from the brackets which can be substituted for the italicised words in the sentences.

1. A few years later, the marriage *faltered*. (failed, broke, became weak).
2. Einstein was constantly *at odds* with people at the university. (on bad terms, in disagreement, unhappy)
3. The newspapers *proclaimed* his work as "a scientific revolution." (declared, praised, showed)
4. Einstein got ever more involved in politics, *agitating* for an end to the arms build-up. (campaigning, fighting, supporting)
5. At the age of 15, Einstein felt so stifled that he left the school *for good*. (permanently, for his benefit, for a short time)
6. Five years later, the discovery of nuclear fission in Berlin had American physicists *in an uproar*. (in a state of commotion, full of criticism, in a desperate state)
7. Science wasn't the only thing that *appealed* to the dashing young man with the walrus moustache. (interested, challenged, worried)

Answer:

1. A few years later, the marriage became weak. (failed, broke, became weak).

2. Einstein was constantly in disagreement with people at the university. (on bad terms, in disagreement, unhappy)
3. The newspapers declared his work as “a scientific revolution.” (declared, praised, showed)
4. Einstein got ever more involved in politics, campaigning for an end to the arms build-up. (campaigning, fighting, supporting)
5. At the age of 15, Einstein felt so stifled that he left the school permanently. (permanently, for his benefit, for a short time)
6. Five years later, the discovery of nuclear fission in Berlin had American physicists in a state of commotion. (in a state of commotion, full of criticism, in a desperate state)
7. Science wasn’t the only thing that interested to the dashing young man with the walrus moustache. (interested, challenged, worried)

II. Study the following sentences.

- Einstein became a gifted amateur violinist, maintaining this skill throughout his life.
- Letters survive in which they put their affection into words, mixing science with tenderness.

The parts in italics in the above sentences begin with –ing verbs, and are called participial phrases. Participial phrases say something more about the person or thing talked about or the idea expressed by the sentence as a whole. For example:

– Einstein became a gifted amateur violinist. He maintained this skill throughout his life.

Complete the sentences below by filling in the blanks with suitable participial clauses. The information that has to be used in the phrases is provided as a sentence in brackets.

1. _____, the firefighters finally put out the fire. (They worked round the clock.)
2. She watched the sunset above the mountain, _____ (She noticed the colours blending softly into one another.)
3. The excited horse pawed the ground rapidly, _____ (While it neighed continually.)
4. _____, I found myself in Bangalore, instead of Benaras. (I had taken the wrong train.)
5. _____, I was desperate to get to the bathroom. (I had not bathed for two days)
6. The stone steps, _____ needed to be replaced. (They were worn down).
7. The actor received hundreds of letters from his fans, _____ (They asked him to send them his photograph.)

Answer:

1. Working round the clock, the firefighters finally put out the fire. (They worked round the clock.)
2. She watched the sunset above the mountain, noticing the colours blending softly into one another. (She noticed the colours blending softly into one another.)
3. The excited horse pawed the ground rapidly, neighing continually. (While it neighed continually.)
4. Having taken the wrong train, I found myself in Bangalore, instead of Benaras. (I had taken the wrong train.)
5. Having not bathed for two days, I was desperate to get to the bathroom. (I had not bathed for two days)
6. The stone steps, being worn down, needed to be replaced. (They were worn down).
7. The actor received hundreds of letters from his fans, asking him to send them his photograph. (They asked him to send them his photograph.)