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NCERT Solutions Class 9 English Chapter 2

Thinking about the Text

I. Answer these questions in a few words or a couple of sentences each.

Question 1. How old was Evelyn when she went to the Royal Academy of Music?

Answer: When Evelyn enrolled in the Royal Academy of Music, she was sixteen years old.

Question 2. When was her deafness first noticed? When was it confirmed?

Answer: When she was just eight years old, her deafness was initially discovered. By the time she turned eleven, it was verified.

II. Answer each of these questions in a short paragraph (30–40 words).

Question 1. Who helped her to continue with music? What did he do and say?

Answer: She received assistance from percussionist Ron Forbes to carry on with her music. Instead of listening with her ears, he advised Evelyn to try to perceive it with her other senses.

Question 2. Name the various places and causes for which Evelyn performs.

Answer: In addition to her regular concerts, Evelyn gives performances in hospitals and jails. She teaches young musicians as well.

III. Answer the question in two or three paragraphs (100–150 words).

Question 1. How does Evelyn hear music?

Answer: Evelyn's body has multiple ways of receiving music. Ron Forbes asked her to try using her other senses to detect the music instead of her ears. He began by setting two large drums to different tones.

Evelyn became aware that her waist was where she could feel the lower drum and her waist was where she could feel the higher drum. After Forbes continued the same practice, Evelyn became aware that she could feel distinct notes in different parts of her body.

She claims that she can feel the melody traveling up the stick and into her fingertips when she plays the xylophone. She felt the resonances seeping into her body as she leaned against the drums. She takes off her shoes when she performs on a wooden platform, allowing the vibrations to go up her legs and through her bare feet.

III. Answer these questions in 30–40 words.

Question 1. Why did Aurangzeb ban the playing of the pungi?

Answer: Pungi playing became illegal by Aurangzeb due to the instrument's harsh, shrill sound.

Question 2. How is a shehnai different from a pungi?

Answer: The hollow stem of a shehnai is wider and longer than that of a pungi. Shehnai's body is riddled with holes.

Question 3. Where was the shehnai played traditionally? How did Bismillah Khan change this?

Answer: Shehnai was traditionally one of nine instruments in the naubat, or traditional ensemble, that was played at royal courts. It was performed at weddings and in temples.

It was introduced to the classical theatre by Bismillah Khan.

Question 4. When and how did Bismillah Khan get his big break?

Answer: In 1938, Bismillah Khan's career took off when All India Radio was established in Lucknow. He started to play the shehnai frequently on the radio.

Question 5. Where did Bismillah Khan play the shehnai on 15 August 1947? Why was the event historic?

Answer: On August 15, 1947, Bismillah Khan performed the shehnai from the Red Fort. He was the first Indian to wave his Shehnai at the flag. Since it was India's day of freedom, the event was momentous. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was among those in attendance when Bismillah Khan performed Raag Kafi.

Question 6. Why did Bismillah Khan refuse to start a shehnai school in the U.S.A.?

Answer: Because he was unwilling to leave his native country, Bismillah Khan declined to open a shehnai school in the United States. He had an unshakable connection to the Ganga River, his hometowns of Dumraon and Benaras.

Question 7. Find at least two instances in the text that tell you that Bismillah Khan loves India and Benaras.

Answer:

Below are two passages from the text that demonstrate Bismillah Khan's affection for Benaras and India:

He claims that he is always hankering to see Hindustan when he is abroad.
He adds that the only places in Mumbai that come to mind for him are Benaras and the sacred Ganga.

Thinking about Language

I. Look at these sentences.

- Evelyn was determined to live a normal life.
- Evelyn managed to conceal her growing deafness from friends and teachers.

The italicised parts answer the questions: "What was Evelyn determined to do?" and "What did Evelyn manage to do?" They begin with a to-verb (to live, to conceal).

Complete the following sentences.

Beginning with a to-verb, try to answer the questions in brackets.

1. The school sports team hopes (What does it hope to do?)
2. We all want (What do we all want to do?)
3. They advised the hearing-impaired child's mother (What did they advise her to do?)
4. The authorities permitted us to (What did the authorities permit us to do?)
5. A musician decided to (What did the musician decide to do?)

Answer:

1. The school sports team hopes to win the competition.
2. We all want to succeed in our lives.
3. They advised the hearing-impaired child's mother to take care of the child.
4. The authorities permitted us to dance in the stadium.
5. A musician decided to play the music in front of an audience.

II. From the text on Bismillah Khan, find the words and phrases that match these definitions and write them down. The number of the paragraph where you will find the words/phrases has been given for you in brackets.

1. the home of royal people (1) _____

2. the state of being alone (5) _____
3. a part which is necessary (2) _____
4. to do something not done before (5) _____
5. without much effort (13) _____
6. quickly and in large quantities (9) _____ and _____

Answer:

1. the home of royal people (1) **royal residence**
2. the state of being alone (5) **solitude**
3. an absolutely necessary part (2) **indispensable**
4. to do something not done before (5) **invent**
5. without much effort (13) **effortlessly**
6. quickly and in large quantities (9) **thick** and **fast**

III. Tick the right answer.

1. When something is revived, it (remains dead/lives again).
2. When a government bans something, it wants it (stopped/started).
3. When something is considered auspicious, (welcome it/avoid it).
4. When we take to something, we find it (boring/interesting).
5. When you appreciate something, you (find it good and useful/find it of no use).
6. When you replicate something, you do it (for the first time/for the second time).
7. When we come to terms with something, it is (still upsetting/no longer upsetting).

Answer:

1. When something is revived, it lives again.
2. When a government bans something, it wants it stopped.
3. When something is considered auspicious, welcome it.
4. When we take to something, we find it interesting.
5. When you appreciate something, you find it good and useful.

6. When you replicate something, you do it for the second time.
7. When we come to terms with something, it is no longer upsetting.