

DATE _____
PAGE _____

Nelson Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom

Q/A

Q1) What ideals does he set out for the future of South Africa?

Ans) 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.

Q2) What do the military generals do? How has their attitude changed, and why?

Ans) The military generals saluted Nelson Mandela and promised their support to the newly formed democratic government of

6 DATE _____
PAGE _____

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 changed.

Q3) How does Mandela describe the systems in his country

- (i) In the first decade, and
(ii) In the final decade, of the twentieth century?

Ans) (i) In the first decade of the twentieth century, white supremacy created a

6

DATE

PAGE

system of racial domination and made life a living hell for the dark-skinned people.

Mandela referred it as one of the "harshest, inhumane Societies" of the world.

(i) In the final decade of the twentieth Century, the system of apartheid has been changed into one that recognises all humans as equal regardless of their colour, race or gender.

Q4) What does Mandela mean when he says he is "simply the sum of all those African Patriots" who had gone before him?

Ans) Mandela wanted to thank the generations before him who had fought for justice.

He gathered his courage from these brave heroes and it is because of that, he fought fearlessly for what is right.

Thus, he referred to himself as "simply the sum of all those African patriots" that had gone before him.

Q5) How did Mandela's 'hunger for freedom' change his life?

Ans Once Mandela realized his hunger for freedom, his life changed forever. It transformed him from a family-man to a man of his people and a frightened young man into a bold one. He built his entire life around

fighting for the basic fundamental rights for his community. He was more selfless and virtuous than ever.

Q6) How did Mandela's understanding of freedom change with age and experience?

Ans) As a young boy, and a student, Mandela's idea of freedom was able to stay out at night, read whatever he desired and go wherever he chose. On growing up as a man, he realised that these were "transitory freedoms" he was looking for because their "basic and honourable freedoms" were had been taken away. There was no liberty to have a peaceful

marriage, family and life. Dark-skinned people were deprived of their fundamental human rights. For them, freedom was an "illusion".

Q7) Describe the views of Mandela for the black people who fought and sacrificed their lives for the country's political independence?

Ans) Mandela always said that the political freedom was the result of sacrifices of thousands of the black people who regretted that he could not thank them. He cursed the policy of apartheid that wounded the people of his country, which would take ~~the~~ centuries to heal. He also said that the oppression and brutality of the white people produced

great freedomfighters like Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulu, Luthuli, Dadoo, Fischer, Sobukwe and many more. They were men of courage, wisdom and large heartedness. They really suffered a lot for the political freedom of the country.

Q8) What does Mandela mean to say that the oppressor and the oppressed alike are robbed of their humanity?

Ans) Mandela is right in saying that the oppressor and the oppressed alike are robbed of their humanity. Both are actually the victim of hatred. Everyone is obliged to discharge their duties whether personal or social but without freedom a man cannot do so. The person who snatches this freedom of a man is really an oppressor and a prisoner of hatred. He has lack of humanity. But this is the same with a person who is oppressed by others.

Q9) Describe the value of freedom for the human beings and how it is important for

the growth of civilisation and humanism as described in lesson?

Ans) Everybody whether human or other creatures wants to live free as freedom is natural to all living beings. The value of freedom is better known to that human being who has not tasted it till he gets freedom more than anyone else. For instance the value of freedom is known better to Mandela who remained behind the bars most of his life. Think about a ~~can~~ bird or animal who is caged as they have the habit of living with full freedom but in the cage, they are not free and their conditions are very pitiable. Similarly, life becomes a hell if we are deprived of freedom. There is no growth of civilisation as it grows only when one has freedom. Similarly, humanism grows in the atmosphere of freedom.

Q10) Would you agree that the "depths of oppression create" heights of character? How does Mandela illustrate this? Can you add your own examples to this argument?

Ans) Yes, I agree that "depths of oppression" create "heights of character". Mandela illustrated this idea by the example of all those who had emerged as great freedom fighters after years of oppression and brutality. Though unintended, effect of all this was men with extraordinary courage and strength. One of the greatest examples is of ^{our} own country, where our people were exploited under British rule for about 200 years. As a result of oppression of such magnitude, India got freedom fighters like Bhagat Singh and Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru.