

Chapter - 9Nelson Mandela Long Walk to freedomOral Comprehension Check

Q ~~Very Good~~

Q-1 → Where did the ceremonies took place? ~~at sandstone~~ Can you name any public buildings in India that are made of sandstone?

Ans → The ceremonies took place in the sandstone amphitheatre formed by the Union Buildings in Pretoria. The Redfort and the India Gate are the buildings made of ~~sand~~ sandstone.

Q-2 → Can you say how May 10 is 'an autumn day' in South Africa?

Ans → 10th May is an autumn day in South Africa due to its location on earth. It is the beginning of the winter. On this day Nelson Mandela took oath as the first black president of South Africa.

Q-3 → 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?

Ans → He means that the black people of South Africa have been the victim of system of Apartheid. It was a man made disaster. He speaks the



the freedom of his people from oppression
‘glorious human achievement.’

Q-4) What does Mandela thank the international leaders for?

Ans) Mandela thanks the international leaders for having come at the occasion of South Africa's liberty and accepting it as an independent republic.

Q-5) What ideals does he set out for the future of South Africa?

Ans) He sets the ideal that his country will never experience the oppression of one by other.

Q-1) What do the military generals do? How has their attitude changed, and why?

Ans) The military generals saluted Mandela and pledged their loyalty. Previously they have arrested him. But their attitude has changed as Mr. Mandela has become the president of South Africa.

Q-2) Why were two national anthems sung?

Ans) The public of South Africa consists of white and black people. Each group sang its own anthem.

Q-3) How does Mandela describe the systems of government 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 20th century there was a system of racial domination against the black people. It was the most inhumane system.

(ii) In the last decade of the same century that system had been replaced by a system that recognised the rights and freedom of all people.

Q-4) What does courage mean to Mandela?

Ans → For Mandela courage was not the absence of fear but the triumph over it.

Q-5) Which does he think is natural, to love or to hate?

Ans → He thinks that no one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite. Even in the grimdest times in prison, when ~~his~~ comrades and he were pushed to their limits, he would see a glimmer of humanity in one of the guards, perhaps just for a second, but it was enough to reassure him and keep him going. Man's goodness is a flame that can be hidden but never extinguished.

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Q-1) What 'twin obligations' does Mandela mention?
 Ans) One obligation is to one's family, parent, wife and children. The second obligation is to his people, community and country.

Q-2) What did being free mean to Mandela as a boy, and as a student? How does he contrast these 'transitory freedom' with 'the basic and honourable freedoms'?

Ans) As a boy freedom for Mandela was not to run in the fields, to swim in the stream running through his village, to ride the bull. As a student freedom for Mandela was to stay out at night, to read what he pleased and go to where he chose. These were only transitory freedom. Later he realised that he wanted the basic freedom and honourable freedom of achieving his potential, earning his keep, marrying and having a family.

Q-3) Does Mandela think the oppressor is free? Why/ why not?

Ans) Mandela thinks that the oppressor is not free because he is the prisoner of hatred. He is locked up prejudice and narrow-mindedness.

Thinking About The Text

Q-1 → Why did such a large numbers of international leaders attend the inauguration? Why did it signify the triumph of?

Ans → The Independence of South Africa was important event in many ways. It has become a sovereign republic. All the countries of the world had accepted South Africa as an independent country. So leaders of more than 140 countries around the world attended the inauguration. It signifies a common victory for justice, peace and human dignity.

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

Ans → Many patriots before Mandela had sacrificed their lives for the cause of justice and freedom. They all had common cause. Finally freedom was achieved. Mandela became the first black president of South Africa. It was the result of the sacrifice of many people. So Mandela says that he was simply the sum of all those African patriots who had gone before him.

Q-3 → Would you agree that 'depth of oppression' creates 'heights of character'? How does Mandela illustrate this? Can you add your own example to this argument?

Ans → Yes we agree that 'depths of oppression' create 'heights of character'. Man becomes pure after suffering. Mandela illustrates this by giving examples of South African patriots who had become extraordinarily courageous, wise and generous as they had undergone the depths of oppression. We have the examples of Indian freedom fighters who a lot at the hands of British. They passed years in prisons in inhuman condition. But finally they emerged as pure and strong people.

Q-4) How did Mandela's understanding of freedom change with age and experience?

Ans → In his childhood Mandela thought freedom is to run in the fields, to swim in the stream, and ride the broad backs of slow moving bulls. The law of man or God did not matter to him. This conception of freedom changed with the age and experience. As a student he wanted ^{only the} freedom for himself. He wanted the freedom to pass the night out, read what he liked ^{and go} wherever he chose. It was only in his young age when he recognised the basic and honourable freedom of achieving his potential, of earning his keep, of marrying and having a family. Now he wanted the freedom not only for himself but also for his fellow men.

Q-5 → How did Mandela's '^{hunger for freedom} freedom for hunger' change his life?

Ans → Mandela's conception of freedom changed with the age and experience. His hunger for freedom of himself became the hunger for freedom of his fellow people. This hunger for freedom changed Mandela from a frightened young man into a bold one. He became a homeless from a family loving husband. He was forced to live a ^{life} like ^a monk. He had realised the true meaning of freedom.