

Summary

Albert Einstein was born on 14th March in 1879, in the German city of Ulm. Till the age of two and half years, he could not speak and when he started speaking, he spoke every word twice. His playmates considered him to be boring and his mother thought that he was crazy because of the abnormally large size of his head. At school, his head master regarded him as stupid and good for nothing. But he proved them all wrong. At the age of 6, at the insistence of his mother, he learned to play the violin. He became a gifted violinist. At the age of 15, his family shifted to Munich. He did not feel comfortable with the strict discipline at the school and left it. On completing his schooling, he joined the University at Zurich because the atmosphere there was more liberal and accepted new ideas and concepts. He showed more interest in Physics and Mathematics. He met a fellow student, Mileva Maric at the University. She was equally intelligent and clever. Later on, they married and had 2 sons but unfortunately their marriage did not survive and were divorced in 1919.

After completing his education, Albert worked as a technical expert in the patent office at Bern. Here, he worked secretly on his idea on relativity. In 1915, he published his paper on special theory of relativity, followed by the world-famous equation $E = mc^2$. In 1915, he published his paper on General Theory of Relativity, which gave an absolutely new definition to concept of gravity. This theory made him a famous figure. In 1919, during the solar eclipse, his theory came out to be accurate and revolutionized physics. In 1933, he emigrated to USA as Nazis had come to power in Germany. He did not want his finding and research to be used for destruction. In 1938, when Germany discovered the principle of Nuclear Fission, he was the first person to write to the American President about the dangers of the atomic bombs. In 1945, when America dropped the Atomic Bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima, he was deeply hurt and wrote to the United Nations for the formation of a world government to prevent recurrence of such destruction.

He spent his later days in politics advocating world peace and democracy. He died at the age of 76 in the year 1955.

Question and answers

Here are some headings for paragraphs in the text. Write the number(s) of the paragraph(s) for each title against the heading.

(i) Einstein's equation

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- (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 []

A.

- (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]

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.

A.

- (i) playmates
- (ii) headmaster
- (iii) mother

3. Explain what the reasons for the following are.

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

A.

- (i) strict regimentation at school.
- (ii) Liberal atmosphere
- (iii) Like him, Mileva also disapproved the 'philistines' – those who disliked art, literature or music.
- (iv) He loved freedom. He was a liberal and cultured person

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

A. He called his desk drawer at the patent office 'the bureau of theoretical physics' because he stored his secret papers on ideas on physics there.

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

A. Einstein feared that the Germans under the rule of the Nazis had developed the atomic bomb and could misuse it. He wrote to the president of USA to warn him of this development.

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

A. Einstein was deeply shaken by the disaster caused in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He wrote a public missive to the United Nations demanding the formation of a world government to stop the development of nuclear weapons.

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

A. Einstein was a 'world citizen' because of his efforts for world peace and non – violence.

8. Here are some facts from Einstein's life. Arrange them in chronological order.

[] Einstein publishes his special theory of relativity.

[] He is awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics.

[] Einstein writes a letter to U.S. President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and warns against Germany's building of an atomic bomb.

[] Einstein attends a high school in Munich.

[] Einstein's family moves to Milan.

[] Einstein is born in the German city of Ulm.

[] Einstein joins a university in Zurich, where he meets Mileva.

[] Einstein dies.

[] He provides a new interpretation of gravity.

[] Tired of the school's regimentation, Einstein withdraws from school.

[] He works in a patent office as a technical expert.

[] When Hitler comes to power, Einstein leaves Germany for the United States.

A.

[7] Einstein publishes his special theory of relativity.

[9] He is awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics.

[11] Einstein writes a letter to U.S. President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and warns against Germany's building of an atomic bomb.

[2] Einstein attends a high school in Munich.

- [3] Einstein's family moves to Milan.
- [1] Einstein is born in the German city of Ulm.
- [5] Einstein joins a university in Zurich, where he meets Mileva.
- [12] Einstein dies.
- [8] He provides a new interpretation of gravity.
- [4] Tired of the school's regimentation, Einstein withdraws from school.
- [6] He works in a patent office as a technical expert.
- [10] When Hitler comes to power, Einstein leaves Germany for the United States.

Grammar exercises

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 buildup. (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)

A.

1. Became weak
2. in disagreement
3. declared
4. campaigning
5. permanently
6. in a state of commotion
7. interested

II. 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.)

A.

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