Summary

*Santosh Yadav was born to wealthy landowners in Joniya was village of Rohtak district in Haryana. She was the youngest child, a sister to five elder brothers. Due to the traditions, she was forced to study in the village school. Since childhood, she was opposed to the customs, preferred wearing shorts in opposition to the traditional dresses like salwar kameez. At the age of sixteen, like other girls in the village, she was forced to get married but she resisted and insisted upon getting educated before getting married. She took admission in a school in Delhi but her parents refused to support her. She accepted it and decided to work part - time to fund her schooling fee. Finally, her parents agreed to support her. Her father accepted her desire to get higher education. After high school, Santosh joined the Maharani college at Jaipur and lived at the Kasturba hostel. There she saw the villagers climb the Aravalli hills and was curious to know what was at the other side of the hills. She joined a group of mountaineers there and hence, undertook her first climbing expedition.*

*Within four years, in 1992, she climbed Mount Everest. Her qualities of determination, physical and mental strength impressed her seniors. Her fellow climbers appreciated her concern for others and willingness to work in a team. She saved the life of a fellow climber named Mohan Singh by sharing her oxygen cylinder with him. She joined an Indo - Nepalese woman expedition and climbed Everest twice, thus becoming the first woman in the world to climb the peak twice.*

*Santosh cannot describe the immense feeling of happiness and pride when she was on top of the world. As she hoisted the Indian flag, she felt proud to be an Indian. Being an environmentalist, she brought down five hundred kilograms of garbage from the himalayas.*

**Question and answers**

**Answer these questions in one or two sentences each. (The paragraph numbers within brackets provide clues to the answers.)**

Q1. Why was the ‘holy man’ who gave Santosh’s mother his blessings surprised?

A. The holy man who blessed Santosh’s mother was surprised because Santosh’s grandmother said that they did not want a son. As she already had five sons, they only wanted to be blessed with a gifted child. The holy man was surprised because every mother wanted to give birth to a son, contrary to Santosh’s mother.

Q2. Give an example to show that even as a young girl Santosh was not ready to accept anything unreasonable.

A. Santosh was not always content with her place in a traditional way of life. She began living life on her own terms from the start. Where other girls wore traditional Indian dresses, Santosh preferred shorts.

Q3. Why was Santosh sent to the local school?

A. Although her parents were wealthy and could send her to a good school in the city of Delhi, they sent her to the village school because they followed the traditions.

Q4. When did she leave home for Delhi, and why?

A. At the age of sixteen, Santosh left for Delhi and got admission in a school there. She wanted to get good education before getting married. Although her parents did not support her initially, they heeded to her determination and accepted her decision.

Q5. Why did Santosh’s parents agree to pay for her schooling in Delhi? What mental qualities of Santosh are brought into light by this incident?

A. Initially, Santosh’s parents refused to support her financially. She accepted this and decided to work part - time to pay her school fee. Then, her parents softened and consented to support her. This shows she was determined and did what she thought was right and that others had to change their path accordingly.

**Answer each of these questions in a short paragraph (about 30 words).**

Q1. How did Santosh begin to climb mountains?

A. When Santosh joined the Maharani college at Jaipur, she resided at the Kasturba hostel. It was located near the Aravalli hills. Everyday she saw the villagers climb the hills and disappear behind them. She grew inquisitive and finally, one day, joined a group of mountaineers to unfold the mystery. This way she started climbing mountains.

Q2. What incidents during the Everest expedition show Santosh’s concern for her team-mates?

A. Santosh tried to save a fellow climber but was unsuccessful at it. Later, she was successful in saving the life of a fellow climber named Mohan Singh by sharing her oxygen cylinder with him.

Q3. What shows her concern for the environment?

A. She brought down five hundred kilograms of garbage from the Himalayas. This shows her concern for the environment.

Q4. How does she describe her feelings at the summit of the Everest?

A. Santosh was full of happiness and pride when she was literally on top of the world. As she unfurled the Indian flag, she felt proud of being an Indian. It was a spiritual moment for her.

Q5. Santosh Yadav got into the record books both times she scaled Mt Everest. What were the reasons for this?

A. The first time when Santosh climbed the Everest, she became the youngest woman to scale the Everest. When she climbed it the second time, she became the first woman in the world to have climbed the Everest twice.

**Complete the following statements.**   
1. From her room in Kasturba Hostel, Santosh used to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   
2. When she finished college, Santosh had to write a letter of apology to her father because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   
3. During the Everest expedition, her seniors in the team admired her \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   
while \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ endeared her to fellow climbers.

A.  
1. From her room in Kasturba Hostel, Santosh used to watch the villagers climb the Aravalli hills.   
2. When she finished college, Santosh had to write a letter of apology to her father because she had enrolled for a mountaineering course at the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi.   
3. During the Everest expedition, her seniors in the team admired her determination   
While her concern for others endeared her to fellow climbers.

**Pick out words from the text that mean the same as the following words or expressions. (Look in the paragraphs indicated.)**   
1. took to be true without proof (1): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   
2. based on reason; sensible; reasonable (2): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   
3. the usual way of doing things (3): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   
4. a strong desire arising from within (5): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   
5. the power to endure, without falling ill (7): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

A.   
1. assumed   
2. rational   
3. custom   
4. urge   
5. resistance

### Short Answer Type

Question 1.  
What made Santosh Yadav achieve fame and greatness?  
Answer:  
Santosh Yadav is the only woman in the world who has scaled Mt Everest twice. Santosh Yadav scaled Mt Everest when she was barely twenty years of age, becoming the youngest woman in the world to achieve the feat. Within twelve months, Santosh scaled the Everest a second time as a member of an Indo-Nepalese Women’s Expedition. She thus set a record as the only woman to have scaled the Everest twice.

Question 2.  
Why was the ‘holy man’, who gave Santosh’s mother his blessings, surprised?  
Answer:  
The holy man expected that like all other families in the villages, the family would also wish for the birth of a son. However, when he was told by Santosh’s grandmother that they wanted to have a daughter, he was surprised.

Question 3.  
What kind of society was Santosh born in?  
Answer:  
Santosh was born in Joniyawas, a small village in the Rewari District in Haryana. The society in this region was very conservative and orthodox. People were rigidly patriarchal and gender-biased. The birth of a girl was generally unwelcome and people strictly adhered to conservative traditions.

Question 4.  
The grandmother wished her daughter-in-law give birth to a daughter. What light does this throw on her character?  
Answer:  
Despite being the member of a conservative family, the grandmother wished to be blessed with a granddaughter. This was because there were already five boys in the family. Hence, the family now wished for a daughter. This also shows her as a woman of progressive views.

Question 5.  
What do you know about Santosh’s family?  
Answer:  
Santosh was born into an affluent family of landlords in a village, Joniyawas, in the Rewari district of Haryana. She was the sixth child in a conservative family, the only sister to five brothers. Though financially well-off, her family was orthodox and conservative in matters related to the education and upbringing of girls.

Question 6.  
Why was Santosh sent to the local school?  
Answer:  
Santosh’s parents were affluent and could afford to send Santosh to a school in Delhi. But they sent her to the local village school because they strictly followed tradition and it was customary in their society to send girls to the local school only.

Question 7.  
How was Santosh different from the other girls of her village?  
Answer:  
Unlike other girls of her village, Santosh was not content with the traditional way of life. She used to wear shorts and went on to study further at Delhi. She did not get married at sixteen as most of the girls of her village did.

Question 8.  
Why was Santosh Yadav not content with a traditional way of life? What path did she choose and why?  
Answer:  
Right from childhood, Santosh was not content with a traditional way of life and felt that if she chose a correct and a rational path, the others around her had to change, not she. She wanted to chart her own course in life, rather than following the age-old customs and traditions. She wore shorts instead of traditional attire, went to study in Delhi when girls in her village got married. When her parents refused to pay for her education, she got them to agree by informing them of her plans to earn money by working part time to pay. her school fees. She chose the path of excellence through education, rational thinking and hard work and achieved unparalleled success as a woman mountaineer.

Question 9.  
When did Santosh leave home for Delhi, and why?  
Answer:  
Santosh left home for Delhi when she turned sixteen because her parents had begun to pressurize her to get married in keeping with the traditional practice in their community. She decided that it was the right moment to rebel and she quietly got herself enrolled in a school in Delhi to continue her studies.

Question 10.  
Why did Santosh’s parents agree to pay for her schooling in Delhi? What mental qualities of Santosh are brought to light by this incident?  
Answer:  
At the age of sixteen, Santosh got herself enrolled in a school in Delhi. When her parents refused to pay for her schooling in Delhi, she politely informed them that she planned to work part time in order to pay her fees. Her parents realized that their daughter was independent, had a strong will-power and firm self-belief. She could take her decisions and also stand by them. They saw her strong sense of conviction and her passion for education. So, they agreed to pay for her schooling in Delhi.

Question 11.  
In what ways did Santosh show her dissatisfaction with the traditional life in the family?  
Answer:  
Santosh Yadav always opposed traditional ways. She wore shorts rather than wearing traditional dresses. She refused to give up her studies and get married at the age of sixteen. Though her parents put great pressure on her, she left her home and came to Delhi for high school, informing her parents she would earn her own money by working part-time if they refused to pay her fees.

Question 12.  
How did Santosh develop a liking for mountain climbing?  
Answer:  
From the window of her room in the Kasturba Hostel, Jaipur, Santosh used to watch the villagers going up the hills and then suddenly vanishing after a while. It inspired her to explore the hills. One day when she decided to check it out herself, she met a group of mountaineers. The mountaineers allowed her to join them and encouraged her to take up climbing. Thus, she developed liking for climbing.

Question 13.  
Why did Santosh decide to take up mountaineering?  
Answer:  
Santosh Yadav began to climb mountains when she met some mountaineers in the Aravalli Hills, who not only let her join them but also motivated her to take up mountaineering.

Question 14.  
What did Santosh do after being motivated by the mountaineers to take to climbing?  
Answer:  
Santosh saved money and enrolled herself in a course at Uttarkashi’s Nehru Institute of Mountaineering and after completion of her semester in the college, headed straight for the Institute to be able to reach for her training in time.

Question 15.  
Why did Santosh write a letter of apology to her father?  
Answer:  
Santosh had got herself enrolled in the Uttarkashi Nehru Institute of Mountaineering without seeking her father’s permission. She had thought of talking to her family about this during her holidays. But because her college term was extended by a few days, there was hardly any time between the end of the semester and her reporting date at the Institute. Due to her inability to go home, she wrote a letter of apology to her father.

Question 16.  
What is the secret of Santosh’s success as a mountaineer?  
Answer:  
Santosh had a strong will power, great physical endurance and an amazing mental toughness. The single- minded determination and dedication helped her overcome all hurdles to emerge as a winner. She possessed a remarkable resistance to cold and high altitude. Her climbing skills and hard working nature made it easy for her.

Question 17.  
When did Santosh get an opportunity to scale Mt. Everest?  
Answer:  
Santosh got an opportunity to scale Mt. Everest in 1992, just four years after she had met the mountaineers climbing the Aravalli Hills. She was hardly twenty years of age at that time when she became the youngest woman in the world to scale the highest peak.

Question 18.  
How did Santosh’s seniors and fellow climbers appreciate her?  
Answer:  
Santosh’s her climbing skills, physical fitness, and mental strength impressed her seniors, while her concern for others and desire to work together with them found her a special place in the hearts of fellow climbers.

Question 19.  
What incidents during the Everest expedition show Santosh’s concern for her team-mates?  
Answer:  
During the 1992 Everest expedition, one of her team-mates lay dying at the South Col. Santosh made all efforts to look after him. Unfortunately, the climber could not be saved. However, she did succeed in saving the life of another fellow-climber, Mohan Singh. Santosh shared her oxygen with him and saved his life. These incidents show her concern for her team mates.

Question 20.  
When did Santosh scale the Mt. Everest for a second time?  
Answer:  
Santosh was invited by an Indo-Nepalese Women’s expedition to scale Mt. Everest within a year of her first expedition in 1992. Santosh joined them to climb the Everest for the second time. Thus, she scaled the Everest twice setting a record as the only woman to have scaled the Everest two times.

Question 21.  
Why is Santosh Yadav’s name recorded twice for climbing Mount Everest?  
Answer:  
When she scaled the Mount Everest for the first time in 1992, Santosh Yadav, at the age of twenty, earned the credit for being the youngest woman in the world to climb the peak. She then scaled the Everest a second time just a year later, thus setting a record as the only woman to have scaled the Everest twice.

Question 22.  
How did the government of India honour Santosh Yadav?  
Answer:  
Santosh Yadav, by the age of twenty-two had climbed Mt Everest, the highest mountain peak in the world twice, the only woman in the world to have done so. In recognition of her achievements, the Indian government bestowed upon her one of the nation’s top honours, the Padmashri.

Question 23.  
What shows Santosh’s concern for the environment?  
Answer:  
As a fervent environmentalist, Santosh showed her concern for the environment by collecting and bringing down as much as 500kg of refuse that littered the mountains.

Question 24.  
How did Santosh feel when she found herself on the ‘top of the world’ at the summit of the Everest?  
Answer:  
While standing on the “top of the world,” Santosh Yadav was overwhelmed with emotions of patriotism and bliss. She felt proud as an Indian when she unfurled the tricolour on Mount Everest. She was so happy that she experienced a kind of spiritual bliss. She found it hard to articulate her feelings and termed them as “indescribable”.

Question 25.  
How did Santosh Yadav get into the record books?  
Answer:  
Santosh Yadav got into the record books for the first time when she scaled Mt. Everest at the age of twenty. She became the youngest woman in the world to climb Mt. Everest. She scaled the Everest for the second time next year, thus becoming the only woman in the world to do so.

Question 26.  
How did Santosh Yadav set records both the times when scaled Mount Everest?  
Answer:  
Santosh Yadav set records both the times when scaled Mount Everest. When she scaled the peak for the first time she was the youngest woman to scale the Everest and when she climbed it the second time she was the only woman to scale it twice.

Question 27.  
Describe Santosh’s fight against the system?  
Answer:  
Santosh came from a family that was conservative and orthodox. The society was patriarchal and the birth of a daughter, though not considered a curse, was not generally welcome. Girls were educated at the local school, and married off at the age of sixteen. Right from the beginning Santosh had to fight the system to assert for her right to equality and education. She never lost her spirit and determination. She defied all the customs and traditions which limit the girls within the spheres of family, marriage and children. She ventured into a man’s domain to become a role model for others.

### Reach for the Top Extra Questions and Answers Long Answer Type

Question 1.  
Briefly write what you learn about Santosh Yadav’s parents.  
Answer:  
Santosh Yadav’s parents were affluent but conservative people. Her father was a wealthy landlord from Joniyawas village of Rewari District in Haryana. Though they lived according to the prevailing customs in the village, their love for their daughter made them often give in to her wishes. They yielded to their daughter’s demands because they loved her dearly, and knew that she was sensible enough to have chosen a correct and a rational path. Thus, Santosh got full support from her parents, which in the long run helped her reach to the top.

Question 2.  
Write a brief note on Santosh’s journey from her local village school to the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering at Uttarkashi.  
Answer:  
Born in an affluent but traditional and conservative landowners’ family in a small village of Rewari district in Haryana, Santosh was a rebel from early childhood. The local village school, but when her parents insisted she get married at the age of sixteen, she refused as she wanted to get a proper education first.

She got admission in Delhi school, despite her parents’ reluctance to send her there and informed them politely that she would earn by working part time. Santosh persuaded her parents to send her to Jaipur for higher studies after finishing high school. She got admission in Maharani College, Jaipur. She got a room in Kasturba Hostel which faced the Aravalli hills. She used to see the villagers going up the hill and disappearing.

This aroused her curiosity about the mountains. One day, when Santosh went near the hills, she met some climbers. They encouraged her to take to climbing. This whetted her interest in climbing and she saved money and took admission in Nehru Institute of Mountaineering at Uttarkashi.

Question 3.  
“If I chose a correct and a rational path, the others around me had to change, not me”, said Santosh Yadav. How does her life justify her words?  
Answer:  
Born to conservative parents, Santosh did not want to let the norms of the patriarchal, gender-biased and rigidly conventional society dictate her life. Though her name means contentment, Santosh was not always content with her place in a traditional way of life and wanted to live life on her own terms. In fact, she believed that if she chose a correct and a rational path, others would have to change and align themselves to her choices, not her.

She wore shorts instead of traditional dresses as a child. Santosh resisted the pressure to get married at the young age of sixteen, declaring that she would not marry at all if denied proper education. Defying tradition, she got enrolled in a school in Delhi.

When her parents refused to pay for her schooling, she informed them that she would work part-time to manage her school fees. Seeing their daughter’s determination, her parents had to give in. Taking up mountaineering as her career was also an independent decision. However, she tried her best not to hurt her parents and wrote a letter of apology to her father for not having sought his permission before joining the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering in Uttarkashi. Thus, despite all odds, Santosh chose for herself a path which was absolutely unthinkable and unheard of for girls in an orthodox society.

Question 4.  
Santosh “decided to fight the system in her own quiet way when the right moment arrived”. Elaborate.  
Answer:  
Santosh was a very rational and progressive girl, who wished to shape her life herself. She says, “From the very beginning I was quite determined that if I chose a correct and a rational path, the others around me had to change, not me.” Though it was not easy for a girl who came from a rigid patriarchal and traditional environment, she decided to fight the system in her own quiet way when the right moment arrived. And the right moment came when she turned sixteen. At sixteen, most of the girls in her village used to get married.

Santosh, too, was under pressure from her parents to do the same. Instead of giving in, she opposed her parents’ decision to marry her off at the early age of sixteen and got herself enrolled in a school in Delhi. When her parents refused to pay for her education in the city, she told them politely that she would earn money for her fees by working part-time. She politely but firmly made it clear that she was determined to overcome all obstacles.

Finally, her parents had to surrender. Her decision to take up mountaineering as a career was also handled very boldly by her. She took admission in Uttarkashi’s Nehru Institute of Mountaineering without seeking the permission of her parents leaving them with no choice but to accept her decision. Thus, Santosh rebelled against the orthodox, conservative system in a quiet but firm way.

Question 5.  
Santosh had all the qualities of a good mountaineer. Comment.  
Answer:  
Mountaineering is a challenging career which demands great physical and mental strength. It requires boldness, fearlessness, sturdiness and faith in one’s abilities. Equipped with an iron will, physical endurance and an amazing mental toughness, Santosh Yadav was, in fact, made for mountaineering. Just within a span of four years of her training in mountain climbing, Santosh successfully scaled Mt. Everest” setting a record for being the youngest woman to climb Mt Everest.

She repeated this feat in less than a year’s time again and became the only woman in the world to have scaled the Everest twice. All this was made possible with her climbing skills, physical fitness and mental strength. Her resistance to cold and altitude proved to be added advantages. All these qualities, coupled with her team-spirit and her concern for her fellow climbers made her not only a good mountaineer but also a very popular one among her superiors and her fellow climbers.

Question 6.  
Santosh is not only a good mountaineer but also a genuinely good human being. Discuss.  
Answer:  
Santosh Yadav proved her mountaineering skills quite early in her career. She displayed an unflinching will and a fearless mind that fought a rigid, orthodox society to rise to the top. But the iron will and mental toughness did not overshadow her qualities of co-operation and concern for others. That Santosh is endowed with a caring heart is obvious from the fact that she took great care of a climber who lay dying at the South Col. Though, the climber could not be saved, Santosh’s concern for him was really commendable.

In another incident, she saved the life of a fellow climber, Mohan Singh, by sharing her own oxygen with him. This sense of sacrifice and team-spirit won for her the esteem of her team-mates. Moreover, Santosh’s heart overflowed with patriotism when she unfurled the national flag on the top of Mt. Everest. Her concern for the purity of the environment also proves that she is a good human being. Such is her love for nature that she brought down five hundred kilograms of rubbish from the Everest. Thus, Santosh is blessed with the human qualities of both head and heart.

### Reference to Context

Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.

Question 1.  
The only woman in the world who has scaled Mt Everest twice was born in a society where the birth of a son was regarded as a blessing, and a daughter, though not considered a curse, was not generally welcome. When her mother was expecting Santosh, a travelling ‘holy man ’, giving her his blessing, assumed that she wanted a son. But, to everyone’s surprise, the unborn child’s grandmother, who was standing close by, told him that they did not want a son.

(a) Name the only woman in the world who has climbed Mt Everest twice.  
Answer:  
The only woman to climb Mt Everest twice is Santosh Yadav.

(b) What blessing did the holy man give her mother when she was expecting Santosh?  
Answer:  
The holy man blessed her mother that she give birth to a son.

(c) Why was the holy man, who gave Santosh’s mother his blessings, surprised?  
Answer:  
The holy man was surprised when the grandmother requested blessing for a girl.

(d) What does this show about her grandmother?  
Answer:  
Santosh’s grandmother was a progressive person who did not believe in conservative views.

Question 2.  
The girl was given the name ‘Santosh ’, which means contentment. But Santosh was not always content with her place in a traditional way of life. She began living life on her own terms from the start.

(a) What was the girl named? How was she different from her name?  
Answer:  
The girl was named Santosh, which means contentment. She was not content with a traditional way of life.

(b) What kind of society was Santosh born in?  
Answer:  
Santosh was born in a society where the birth of a son was regarded as a blessing, and that of a daughter was not generally welcome.

(c) How did she began living her life from the beginning?  
Answer:  
Santosh lived her life on her own terms from the beginning.

(d) Give an instance of her unconventional behaviour from her childhood?  
Answer:  
While other girls wore traditional Indian dresses, Santosh preferred shorts.

Question 3.  
“From the very beginning I was quite determined that if I chose a correct and a rational path, the others around me had to change, not me. ”

(a) Who speaks these words?  
Answer:  
Santosh Yadav, the mountaineer from Haryana, speaks these words.

(b) What kind of choices did the speaker make?  
Answer:  
Santosh Yadav always chose the correct and rational path.

(c) How was the speaker able to change those around her?  
Answer:  
Santosh Yadav was able to change those around her by making them yield to her firm decision through logic and rational argument.

(d) What light do these words throw on the speaker?  
Answer:  
These words show that right from her childhood, Santosh did not wish to follow conventions and tradition blindly, but had a logical and rational approach.

Question 4.  
Santosh’s parents were affluent landowners who could afford to send their children to the best schools, even to the country’s capital, New Delhi, which was quite close by. But, in line with the prevailing custom in the family, Santosh had to make do with the local village school.

(a) What was Santosh’s family background?  
Answer:  
Santosh belonged to a wealthy landowning family of Haryana.

(b) Where did Santosh’s parents send their daughter to study? Why?  
Answer:  
Santosh’s parents sent their daughter to the local village school to study as it was customary to do so.

(c) What light does this throw on Santosh’s family?  
Answer:  
Santosh’s family members were conservative in their thought.

(d) At what age did Santosh begin to fight the prevailing customs?  
Answer:  
Santosh began to fight the system at the age of sixteen.

Question 5.  
So, she decided to fight the system in her own quiet way when the right moment arrived. And the right moment came when she turned sixteen.

(a) Who is ‘she’ in this extract and which system did she decide to fight?  
Answer:  
‘She’ in the extract refers to Santosh Yadav, the famous mountaineer. She decided to fight the system of conservative traditions which blocked the progress of a person, especially a girl.

(b) How and why did she decide to fight the system?  
Answer:  
Santosh Yadav decided to fight the system in her quiet but firm way because she did not want to insult those who supported the traditions nor did she want to give in to the system.

(c) What was ‘the right moment’?  
Answer:  
The right moment was when she turned sixteen and was under pressure from her parents to get married like other girls of her village.

(d) What did’ she’ do at this moment?  
Answer:  
Santosh Yadav did not wish to get married at such a young age, so she threatened her parents that she would never marry if she was denied proper education.

Question 6.  
A marriage as early as that was the last thing on her mind. She threatened her parents that she would never marry if she did not get a proper education. She left home and got herself enrolled in a school in Delhi.

(a) What is meant by “a marriage as early as that”?  
Answer:  
In Santosh’s village girls were married off at the age of sixteen.

(b) What did her parents want Santosh to do?  
Answer:  
Santosh’s parents wanted her to get married at the age of sixteen.

(c) What did Santosh do the escape parental pressure?  
Answer:  
Santosh Yadav left home and got herself enrolled in a school in Delhi.

(d) What light does this throw on Santosh’s character?  
Answer:  
Santosh was a person with a progressive way of thought and strong determination.

Question 7.  
When her parents refused to pay for her education, she politely informed them of her plans to earn money by working part time to pay her school fees.

(a) Where did Santosh go for her education?  
Answer:  
Santosh decided to go to Delhi for her education.

(b) Why did her parents refuse to pay for her education?  
Answer:  
Her parents refused to pay for her education because Santosh did not follow the family tradition of getting married early and got herself enrolled in a school in Delhi against their wishes.

(c) What does this tell you about her parents?  
Answer:  
They were conservative and traditional in their thought and tried to pressurise their daughter into following the same path.

(d) How did she react to her parents’ decision?  
Answer:  
Santosh refused to give up her studies and told her parents that she would manage to pay her school expenses by working part time.

Question 8.  
“I used to watch villagers from my room, going up the hill and suddenly vanishing after a while. One day I decided to check it out myself. I found nobody except a few mountaineers. I asked if I could join them. To my pleasant surprise, they answered in the affirmative and motivated me to take to climbing. ”

(a) From where did the speaker see people going up the hill?  
Answer:  
The speaker saw people going up the hill from her room in Kasturba Hostel, Jaipur.

(b) Where did she see the villagers going?  
Answer:  
She saw the villagers going up the hill.

(c) What did she decide to do one day?  
Answer:  
One day she decided check out climbing the hill for herself.

(d) How did this prove a turning point in her life?  
Answer:  
This climb up the hill with some mountaineers motivated her to take to mountaineering.

Question 9.  
Then there was no looking back for this determined young girl. She saved money and enrolled in a course at Uttarkashi’s Nehru Institute of Mountaineering.

(a) What does the word ‘then’ imply?  
Answer:  
The word ‘then’ implies the point of time from when she took the decision to take up mountaineering.

(b) Why did she enrol herself at Uttarkashi’s Nehru Institute of Mountaineering?  
Answer:  
She enrolled herself at Uttarkashi’s Nehru Institute of Mountaineering to train for mountaineering.

(c) How did she pay for the course?  
Answer:  
She saved money and paid for the course.

(d) What light does this throw on Santosh’s character?  
Answer:  
This shows her strong determination and strength of purpose in her desire to pursue her goals.

Question 10.  
I had to write a letter of apology to my father without whose permission I had got myself enrolled at Uttarkashi.

(a) Why did Santosh have to write a letter of apology to her father?  
Answer:  
Santosh Yadav had to write a letter of apology to her father because she had got herself enrolled for a mountaineering course without seeking his permission. Moreover, she did not have time to visit her parents as her course started immediately after her semester exams.

(b) Where had she enrolled herself and why?  
Answer:  
She had enrolled herself at the Uttarkashi’s Nehru Institute of Mountaineering in order to get proper training to pursue her interest in mountain climbing.

(c) Why didn’t Santosh seek her father’s permission before getting enrolled in the Institute?  
Answer:  
Santosh knew that her father would not allow her to pursue a career in mountaineering, so she decided to let her parents know about it after joining the institute.

(d) What light does this extract reflect on the speaker’s character?  
Answer:  
The extract shows that Santosh was adamant and determined to live life according to her choices. She did not mean to insult her parents in any way but at the same time did not wish to let go of her dreams and ambition.

Question 11.  
Thereafter, Santosh went on an expedition every year. Her climbing skills matured rapidly. Also, she developed a remarkable resistance to cold and the altitude. Equipped with an iron will, physical endurance and an amazing mental toughness, she proved herself repeatedly.

(a) On what expedition did Santosh go every year?  
Answer:  
Santosh went on a mountaineering expedition every year.

(b) What skills did Santosh develop during her time at the Institute?  
Answer:  
At the Institute Santosh’s climbing skills matured rapidly. Also, she developed a remarkable resistance to cold and the altitude.

(c) What inherent skills did Santosh helped that helped her achieve success in mountaineering?  
Answer:  
Santosh possessed an iron will, an immense capacity for physical endurance and an amazing mental toughness that helped her achieve success in mountaineering.

(d) At what age did she climb Mt Everest for the first time?  
Answer:  
Santosh climbed Mt Everest in 1992, at barely twenty years of age, becoming the youngest woman in the world to do so.

Question 12.  
If her climbing skills, physical fitness, and mental strength impressed her seniors, her concern for others and desire to work together with them found her a special place in the hearts of fellow climbers.

(a) Why were her seniors impressed with Santosh?  
Answer:  
Santosh’s seniors were impressed with her because of her climbing skills, physical fitness, and mental strength.

(b) What endeared her to her fellow climbers?  
Answer:  
Her team-spirit and her concern for her fellow climbers endeared her to them.

(c) Give an example of Santosh’s concern for others.  
Answer:  
Santosh Yadav tried her best to save the lives of two fellow climbers. She succeeded in saving the life of one, Mohan Singh, by sharing her oxygen with him.

(d) What great honour was given to Santosh by the Indian government in recognition of her achievements?  
Answer:  
In recognition of her achievements the Indian government bestowed upon her one of the nation’s top honours, the Padmashri.

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| Q1- Why was the holy man who gave blessings to Santosh’s mother surprised?  A) because grandmother was seeking blessing for a daughter against the common trend of son B) because he saw her first time C) because he had never seen such a woman D) none |
| Q2- Which incident showed that Santosh was concerned about her team mates?  A) giving artificial respiration to them B) help during climbing C) giving sticks during climbing D) greeting during climbing |
| Q3- How was Santosh different from other girls?  A) she was prettier B) she was slim C) She didn’t like and do any traditional things rather always did things of her choice D) None |
| Q4- Why was Santosh sent to a local school?  A) they were rich B) because of the prevailing trend C) they were poor D) were not able to afford to send to a good school |
| Q5- When did Santosh leave home for Delhi?  A) at the age of 10 B) at the age of 14 C) at the age of 15 D) at the age of 16 |
| Q6- What did Santosh prefer to wear?  A) shorts B) suits C) sarees D) long kurta |
| Q7- Why did Santosh leave home for Delhi?  A) to roam about B) to meet a friend C) to get proper education and avoid marriage D) to tease her parents |
| Q8- What kind of girl was Santosh ?  A) a hard working girl with a strong mind B) a brat C) arrogant D) none |
| Q9- What made Santosh’s parents ready to pay her school fees at Delhi?  A) her plan to work part time to pay her school fee to get education B) her shouting C) her tears D) her obstinacy |
| Q10- How was Santosh attracted to mountain climbing?  A) her neighbours prompted her B) seeing her friends C) her classmates prompted her D) watching some people going up the Aravali hills from her hostel room |
| Q11- What proved that Santosh was an environmentalist?  A) collection of 500kg garbage and bringing it down from the Himalayas B) she planted trees C) she always used dustbin D) none |
| Q12- In what words did Santosh express her feeling at the summit of her Everest climb?  A) fabulous B) indescribable C) fantastic D) none |
| Q13- After finishing college why did Santosh write a letter of apology to her father?  A) because she ran away B) because she left her house C) because she enrolled herself for an institution of mountaineering without his permission D) none |
| Q14- Why did senior climbers praise Santosh?  A) for being helpful to teammates B) physical fitness and mental strength C) climbing skills D) all |
| Q15- What did Santosh watch from her hostel Kasturba room?  A) scenic beauty B) crowd C) villagers climbing up the Aravali hill and vanishing D) none |
| Q16- What happened when Santosh scaled up the mount Everest for the first time?  A) she won B) she hoisted the flag C) she became the youngest woman to achieve the feat. D) None |
| Q17- What happened when Santosh scaled up the mount Everest for the second time?  A) she became the only woman to scale it twice B) she became happy C) she won the game D) she shouted aloud |
| Q18- How did Santosh feel after reaching the top of the world?  A) it was a spiritual and proud moment B) tired C) exhausted D) fatigued |
| Q19- Why was Santosh recorded in the Record book both times after scaling Everest?  A) for being the youngest achiever B) for being a woman C) for being fastest D) for her physical fitness |
| Q20- What did Santosh fight against?  A) traditional irrational system B) her parents C) society D) people of village |
| Q21- In the society what do people seek as a blessing?  A) blessing for son B) blessing for daughter C) blessing for children D) none |
| Q22- When was little Maria packed off to U.S?  A) at the age of 9 B) at the age of 14 C) at the age of 15 D) at the age of 10 for training in tennis with her father |
| Q23- At what age did the girls get married in Santosh’s village?  A) at the age of 14 B) at the age of 15 C) at the age of 17 D) at the age of 16 |
| Q24- Whom did Santosh save with artificial respiration?  A) Rohan Singh B) Sohan Singh C) Mohan Singh D) All |
| Q25- What did Santosh write to her father after finishing her college?  A) a letter B) a telegram C) a message D) an apology letter |
| Q26- How much garbage did Santosh bring down from the Himalayas?  A) 200kg B) 300 kg C) 400 kg D) 500 kg |
| Q27- What was considered a blessing in the village at the time of Santosh’s birth?  A) having lot of wealth B) birth of a daughter C) birth of twins D) birth of a son |
| Q28- Why was Santosh under pressure?  A) she had to study B) her parents were asking her to get married C) she wanted to work D) none |
| Q29- Who refused to pay for Santosh’s fee?  A) her grandmother B) her family C) her parents D) none |
| Q30- What led Maria to the path of success and why couldn’t her mother accompany her?  A) Her trip to U.S for playing tennis.Her mother couldn’t accompany because of visa restrictions B) Her habits. Her mother was unwell and so she could not accompany her C) Her interest in music. Her mother did not want to go to USA D) Her Academics. Her mother was busy |

ANSWER

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | A | 11 | A | 21 | A |
| 2 | A | 12 | B | 22 | D |
| 3 | C | 13 | C | 23 | D |
| 4 | B | 14 | D | 24 | C |
| 5 | D | 15 | C | 25 | D |
| 6 | A | 16 | C | 26 | D |
| 7 | C | 17 | A | 27 | D |
| 8 | A | 18 | A | 28 | B |
| 9 | A | 19 | A | 29 | C |
| 10 | D | 20 | A | 30 | A |