



MORE QUESTIONS SOLVED

A. Short Answer Type Questions

Question 1. Why was Mr Braun speechless for a few moments?

Answer: Mr Braun asked Albert in which year the Prussians defeated the French at Waterloo. Albert told him that he didn't know. Mr Braun said that he had told them so many times. Albert told him that he saw no point in learning dates. These could be seen in books. This made him speechless.

Question 2. Who asks for the Einstein theory of education? How?

Answer: Mr Braun, the History teacher asks for Einstein theory of education. He does so highly sarcastically and in a mocking tone.

Question 3. What is Einstein's view about education? How far do you agree with it?

Answer: For Einstein ideas are important and facts do not matter. He considers learning the dates of battles or the details about victorious armies meaningless. He is more interested in the causes that led the soldiers to kill each other.

Question 4. How did the history teacher react to Albert's replies?

Will a modern student agree with the teacher? Why /Why not?

Answer: The history teacher felt amazed as well as annoyed at Albert's stubbornness. It was because Albert challenged all the established norms of attaining knowledge. Modern students do not agree with the history teacher's view. Education is not a mere acquisition of certain facts and their verbatim reproduction.

Question 5. Why did Albert see no point in learning dates and facts?

Answer: Dates and facts are parts of knowledge which are content based. Albert thought that there was no point in learning dates and facts because firstly, these could be, ascertained from the books any time by just looking them up. Secondly, for him, learning facts was not education.

Question 6. Do you think Albert is being impolite while answering the history teacher's questions ? Give your reasons.

Answer: No, Albert is not at all impolite. He addresses his teacher respectfully. Secondly, he answers the questions honestly. He does not think that his free and frank opinion will annoy the teacher and will be construed as impoliteness.

Question 7. What was the history teacher's opinion of Albert?

Answer: The history teacher had a very low opinion of Albert. He called Albert an ungrateful boy who ought to be ashamed of himself. He suggested that Albert should ask his father to take him away from school.

Question 8. What punishment did the history teacher give to Albert for not answering his questions?

Answer: This history teacher's eyes got cold and cruel. He said he didn't want a lecture from him. He punished Albert by making him stay in for an extra period that day. He told him that he was a disgrace. Moreover, he didn't know why he continued to come.

Question 9. Why did Albert feel miserable when he left school that day?

Answer: Albert was punished for his 'insolence' that day. He had to stay in for an extra period after the school that day. Albert felt miserable because he hated the school and would have to return there the next day as well.

Question 10. 'Going back to his lodgings did not cheer him up.' Why?

Answer: He lived in an atmosphere of slum violence. His landlady beat her children regularly. Every Saturday her husband came drunk and beat her. The wailing and howling of kids got on his nerves. He couldn't stand the incessant loud noise.

Question 11. What did Albert conclude after six months alone in Munich? What reasons did he advance?

Answer: After six months alone in Munich, Albert concluded that he must get away from there. He thought it absurd to go on like that. He realised that he had been wasting his father's money and everyone's time. So he considered it better for all to stop just then.

Question 12. Why does the biographer refer to Albert's interest in music as a 'comfort'?

Answer: Albert's lodgings as well as school made him feel miserable. He hated the school. Going to the lodging didn't cheer him up as he hated the atmosphere of slum violence. He soothed his tired nerves by playing on his violin. So music was a source of comfort for him.

Question 13. Who is Elsa? What does she think is enough to pass the examination?

Answer: Elsa is Albert's cousin. She normally lives in Berlin where her father has a business. She thinks that one can pass the examination simply by learning things by heart and repeating them in the exams. A student doesn't have to understand what he is taught.

Question 14. What sudden idea does Albert hit upon to get away from school?

Answer: Albert thought that if he had a nervous breakdown and a doctor certified that it was bad for him to go to school, he would be able to get away from the school. This would be better than leaving the school and then being forced back to it by his father.

Question 15. Who is Yuri? What part does he play in Albert's plan?

Answer: Yuri is a senior student, perhaps of medical school. He knows a lot of medical students. It is he who introduces Albert to Dr Ernest Weil and helps further Albert's plan by getting him medical certificate he desires so earnestly.

Question 16. "Ugh!" Exclaimed Albert, "these are the students". Comment.

Answer: Yuri lived among poor students. Albert thought them 'civilised human beings'. Yuri told him that one of the students killed another in a duel and felt proud of it. At this Albert was filled with disgust because he hated violence.

Question 17. Yuri calls Albert 'the world's worst liar'—do you think this is an insult or a compliment to Albert? Why?

Answer: It is a compliment. Albert is honest and truthful. He can't tell a deliberate lie. He can't deceive anyone. He is so simple hearted that if he tries to tell a lie, his face betrays him at once.

Question 18. Why was Albert quite nervous when he met the doctor? What does this nervousness indicate about his nature?

Answer: Albert had been wondering all day what to tell the doctor. In fact, he had worried so much that when the time came to see the doctor he was quite nervous. His nervousness shows that he had a very sensitive nature. Even a minor worry would ruffle him up.

Question 19. How did Albert hope to convince the doctor?

Answer: Albert declared humorously that he was going to have a real nervous breakdown. It would make it easier for the doctor to certify his illness. The next time Yuri saw Albert he found that the latter had lost his high spirits. Albert confirmed that he would really have a nervous breakdown which would satisfy any doctor.

Question 20. Who was Ernest Weil? How did he help Albert?

Answer: Ernest Weil was a doctor. He had qualified as a doctor only the previous week. He was a good friend of Yuri. Albert told Yuri of his plan to leave school. Yuri told him to go to Dr Ernest Weil to get a medical certificate for the purpose.

Question 21. What advice did Yuri give to Albert before meeting Dr Ernest Weil?

Answer: Yuri told Albert not to deceive Dr Ernest Weil. He should tell everything clearly. He should be frank with him. He shouldn't pretend that he had got what he hadn't.

Question 22. What opinion do you form of Dr Ernest Weil?

Answer: Young Ernest Weil had just qualified to be a doctor, but he was intelligent. He could not be deceived easily. He was frank, honest and sympathetic. He wins the confidence of his patient with his warm smile. His sharp analytical mind helps him in quick diagnosis and suggesting cure.

Question 23. What did Albert tell Dr Ernest Weil if he certified that he had a nervous breakdown?

Answer: Albert told him that he would go to Milan in Italy. His parents lived there. Dr. Weil asked him what he would do there. Albert told him that he would try to get admission into an Italian College or Institute.

Question 24. How, according to Yuri, could the medical certificate help Albert?

Answer: Yuri thought that the medical certificate would help Albert to enjoy six month's leave from the school. He would not actually be leaving the school and if the worst befell, he could return and continue studies for the diploma.

Question 25. How did Albert hope to get admission to an Italian college without a diploma from the German school?

Answer: Albert hoped to get a testimonial from his mathematics teacher about his work. He had learnt all the maths that is taught at school and a bit more. He hoped that this certificate would help him to get admission to an Italian college without a diploma from the German school.

Question 26. What did Mr Koch think of Albert?

Answer: Mr Koch had a high opinion of Albert. He thought that he couldn't teach Albert any more and probably soon he would be able to teach his teacher. Mr Koch certified that Albert was ready immediately to enter a college or institute for the study of higher mathematics.

Question 27. What did Yuri suggest to Albert before seeking an interview with the Principal? How far did Yuri's efforts and suggestion prove useful during Albert's meeting with the Principal?

Answer: Yuri suggested that Albert should get a written reference from the mathematics teacher before seeing the head teacher. His mathematics teacher gave him a glowing reference. However, it failed to serve the purpose for which Albert wanted to use it.

Question 28. What reference did Mr Koch give to Albert regarding his wish to join a college in Italy?

Answer: Mr Koch wrote that Albert was ready to enter a college for the study of higher mathematics. He also said that he couldn't

teach him any more and probably he (Albert) would soon be able to teach him.

Question 29. What did the head teacher tell Albert when he met him?

Answer: The head teacher told him that his work was terrible. He was not prepared to have him in the school any longer. He wanted him to leave the school then.

Question 30. What did the head teacher tell Albert when the latter asked him what 'crime' he had committed?

Answer: The head teacher told Albert that his presence in the class made it impossible for the teacher to teach. It was also impossible for the other pupils to learn. He refused to learn and rebelled constantly. No serious work could be done while he was there.

Question 31. "Albert felt the medical certificate almost burning a hole in his pocket." What does the author mean?

Answer: Einstein was eager to show the medical certificate to the head teacher and notice how he reacted. However, the certificate had now become unnecessary, because the head teacher had decided to expel Albert.

Question 32. How did Albert leave his school where he had spent five years?

Answer: Albert left his school without any regrets. He, in fact, left it arrogantly. It was because of the bad treatment meted out to him by the head teacher. He didn't turn his head to have even a last look at this school.

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