



## MORE QUESTIONS SOLVED

### A. Short Answer Type Questions

Question 1. What sort of king ruled over the state ? What did he proclaim?

Answer: The king was fair and gentle. He seemed to be interested in the welfare of the masses. So he proclaimed that an arch should be constructed which should extend across the major thoroughfare. He hoped that it would improve people's mind on looking at it.

Question 2. Why did the king ride down the thoroughfare and what was the result?

Answer: The king rode down the thoroughfare to edify spectators there. Since the arch was built too low, he lost his crown under it. A frown appeared on his mild face and he called it a disgrace.

Question 3. Who was held responsible for the disgrace? How did he /they react to it? What do you learn about the king?

Answer: The chief of builders was held responsible for the disgrace and ordered to be hanged. The chief called it the workmen's fault. The king ordered to have all the workmen hanged. The workmen looked surprised but they blamed the wrong size of bricks for it. This shows the king's fickle mindedness.

Question 4. What argument did the architect advance in self-defence? How did the king take it?

Answer: The architect reminded the king that he had made certain amendments to the original plans of the architect. He suggested that it was the fault of the king himself. On hearing it, the king became so angry that he nearly lost his ability to act sensibly or calmly.

Question 5. Why did the king need some counsel and from whom? Do you think the man was really the wisest one? Give a reason for your answer.

Answer: The king got confused by the architect's clever self-defense. So, he needed the advice of the wisest man in the country. The man selected was so old that he could neither walk nor see. He was not really the wisest one as wisdom does not necessarily come with age. His advice proves his worthlessness.

Question 6. Comment upon the criteria of selection of the wisest man and the quality of counsel he offered.

Answer: The criteria was that wisdom comes with grey hair. The old man they selected could not walk or see. He spoke in a trembling voice. The advice he offered was absurd. A lifeless object cannot be deprived of life by hanging it.

Question 7. What does the comment of the councillor about the arch reveal about himself and the king?

Answer: It shows the councillor's sycophancy and the King's capriciousness. The councillor, an expert in the art of flattery, checked the king from an absurd action, through an argument that appeared logical. The thoughtless king mused over it.

Question 8. Why did the king succumb to public demand?

Answer: The king noticed that the crowd of spectators had become restless and people were muttering aloud. He judged their mood. He trembled to think of the consequences if they were deprived of the fun of watching someone being hanged. So, in order to save his skin, he ordered that someone be hanged immediately.

Question 9. What was the result of the King's thoughtless order?

Answer: The king ordered that someone be hanged immediately. So the noose was set up somewhat high. Each man was measured one by one. Only one man was found tall enough to fit the noose. He was the king. He was hanged by the royal order. Thus the king paid with his life for his thoughtless order.

Question 10. Why did the Ministers feel relieved? Do you think their elation was justified?

Answer: The Ministers felt relieved that the public's eagerness to watch a hanging had been satisfied. They expressed their pleasure by saying that they found someone for hanging. They believed that if they had failed to do so, the unruly town might have turned against the king. Their elation is misplaced. The king had to lose his life to keep the public in good humour.

Question 11. What opinion do you form of the King's Ministers on the basis of their actions after the King's death?

Answer: The Ministers believed in tradition and ceremonies. They shouted in one breath, 'Long live the king! The king is dead'. They were practical-minded men. They knew that the throne could not be left unoccupied. The crown being a symbol of power, someone must be crowned as king.

Question 12. What 'custom' of the citizens is referred to in the tale ? How did the Ministers decide to observe it?

Answer: It is their custom to choose the new ruler of their state. Whoever passed the City Gate first of all the next day, would choose the ruler of the state. This method of random choice excluded dynastic rule as well as conspiracies. The Ministers decided to observe it with proper formality.

Question 13. How was the new ruler of the state selected?

Answer: The Ministers sent out messengers to declare that the next man to pass the City Gate would choose the ruler of their state. An idiot happened to pass the gate. When asked to decide who was to be the king, he replied, "A melon." This was his standard answer to all questions. The Ministers declared that a melon would be their new ruler.

Question 14. What does the selection process of the new ruler of the state reveal about the ministers and the people?

OR

How did the people and ministers react to the selection of 'a melon' as the new ruler?

Answer: The selection process seems quite ridiculous. It also shows how ignorant masses stick to traditions and clever ministers go on fooling them. They are more worried about their own peace, freedom and business affairs than the ruler. This shows how selfish, self-centred and ego-centric they are.

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