

CH-4: A TRULY BEAUTIFUL

MIND

Thinking about the Text

1. Here are some headings for paragraphs in the text. Write the number(s) of the paragraph(s) for each title against the heading. The first one is done for you.

- (i) Einstein's equation
- (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

Answer

- (i) 9
- (ii) 7
- (iii) 3
- (iv) 10
- (v) 15
- (vi) 8
- (vii) 11

Page No: 51

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.

Answer

- (i) Einstein's playmates thought that he was boring.
- (ii) Einstein's headmaster thought that he was stupid and would never succeed at anything in life.

(iii) Einstein's mother thought that he was a freak.

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?

Answer

(i) Einstein left the school in Munich for good because he hated the school's regimentation.

(ii) Einstein wanted to study in Switzerland rather than in Munich because it was a more liberal city.

(iii) Einstein found in Mileva an ally because she, like him, disapproved of the "philistines" or the people who did not like art, literature or music.

(iv) These told about Einstein that he loved freedom. He was liberal and cultured person.

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

Answer

Einstein called his desk drawer at the patent office the "bureau of theoretical physics". This was because the drawer was where he used to store his secretly developed ideas.

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

Answer

Einstein wrote a letter to Franklin Roosevelt to warn about bomb effect and also wanted to encourage them to make a bomb to utilize its destruction potential.

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

Answer

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

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

Answer

Einstein is remembered as a “world citizen” as much as a genius scientist because of his efforts towards world peace and democracy, and for his crusade against the use of arms.

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.

Answer

- [1] Einstein is born in the German city of Ulm.
- [2] Einstein attends a high school in Munich.
- [3] Einstein’s family moves to Milan.
- [4] Tired of the school’s regimentation, Einstein withdraws from school.
- [5] Einstein joins a university in Zurich, where he meets Mileva.
- [6] He works in a patent office as a technical expert.
- [7] Einstein publishes his special theory of relativity.
- [8] He provides a new interpretation of gravity.
- [9] He is awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics.
- [10] When Hitler comes to power, Einstein leaves Germany for the United States.
- [11] Einstein writes a letter to U.S. President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and warns against Germany’s building of an atomic bomb.
- [12] Einstein dies.

Thinking about Language

I.

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)

Answer

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

Page No: 52

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.)

Answer

1. Working round the clock, the fire fighters 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.