

Department of English Language and Literature (Intermediate)

Forman Christian College (A Chartered University)

BOOK II

MODERN PROSE AND HEROES

Question Answers

Prepared by:

Mr. Abrar Ajmal

Mr. Nauman Ahmad

Mr. Muhammad Mohsin Manzoor

Mr. Adeel Khalid

Lesson# 1

“The Dying Sun”

Q. 1: How is it that star seldom finds another star near it?

Ans: A star seldom finds another star near it because there is a distance of millions of miles between the two stars. Moreover, space is immensely vast and each star is bound to travel in its own orbit.

Q. 2: What happened when, according to Sir James Jeans, a wandering star, wandering through space came near the sun?

Ans: When a wandering star came near the sun, it raised tides on the surface of the sun. These tides formed a high mountain on the surface of the sun that we can hardly imagine.

Q. 3: What happened when the wandering star came nearer and nearer?

Ans: When the wandering star came nearer and nearer the sun, the mountain on the surface of the sun rose higher and higher and was, finally, torn into pieces.

Q. 4: What are planets and how did they come into existence?

Ans: The planets are the broken parts of the sun. They came into existence due to tidal pull caused by some star on the surface of the sun.

Q. 5: Why is there no life on the stars?

Ans: There is no life on the stars because the stars are balls of fire and they have intense heat. Therefore, the stars are too hot for life to exist on them.

Q. 6: Write a note on the beginning of life on earth?

Ans: When the earth gradually became cooler and cooler. Life started in very simple organisms which had the ability to reproduce themselves before dying. In the end, it produced the most complicated organisms like the man who has feelings and ambitions.

Q. 7: Why is the universe so frightening?

Ans: The universe is so frightening because of immense stretches of time, extreme loneliness, and absence of life on other planets.

Q. 8: What should be the conditions necessary, for the kind of life we know to exist on other heavenly bodies? Do such conditions generally exist?

Ans: Life can exist only in some suitable physical condition like moderate temperature, air, and water. Such conditions do not exist on other heavenly bodies except the earth. Therefore, there is no life on other heavenly bodies.

Q. 9: How do the stars travel in the universe?

Ans: The stars travel in the universe either in groups or mostly they travel alone. They travel at a vast distance from one another

Q.10: What are the temperature belts?

Ans The temperature belts are zones that surround each hot star at a certain distance. The temperature there is neither too hot nor too cold. Life can exist on such temperature belts.

Lesson# 2

“Using the Scientific Method”

Q. 1: How has the scientific method helped us in our fight against disease?

Ans: The scientific method has helped us in knowing the causes of diseases and their prevention. It has also enabled us to make life-saving drugs.

Q. 2: Write a note on the better sanitary conditions available in our cities today and compare them with what they were like a hundred years ago?

Ans: Today, our city streets are paved and well drained. They are cleaned regularly. Garbage and sewage are disposed of properly. A hundred years ago, the streets were unpaved and poorly drained. Household garbage and other refuse were thrown in the streets. So, today sanitary conditions are far better than a hundred years ago.

Q. 3: What are sanitary conditions like our villages today and how would you improve them?

Ans: Today, our villages are poorly drained, outdoor toilets are common and streets are unpaved. We could improve them by making the people aware of better sanitation and its positive effect on their health.

Q. 4: How has scientific method helped us in the production and preservation of foods?

Ans: Through scientific method, we get more production of food. Modern methods of selecting, grading and processing have helped us a lot in the preservation of food.

Q. 5: We are less fearful than our ancestors. What were our ancestors afraid of?

Ans: We are less fearful than our ancestors because we have left believing superstitions. Our ancestors were afraid of black cats, broken mirrors and the number 13.

Q. 6: How has the scientific method enabled us to get over the old fears?

Ans: Scientific method has made us reasonable. Now, we know there is a sound reason behind every happening. In this way, the scientific method has enabled us to get over the old fears.

Q. 7: What part did astrology play in the lives of men and women in the past? Give examples?

Ans: In the past, astrology played an important part in the lives of men and women. People used to consult astrologists before marriages and other important matters of life.

Q. 8: Describe some of the superstitions still current in our country. How do they affect the lives of those who believe in them?

Ans: Still some people believe in wearing charms and other superstitions like them. They affect the lives of those according to belief.

Q. 9: What were the survival chances two hundred years ago?

Ans: Two hundred years ago, seven out of eight babies died before reaching their first birthday.

Q. 10: What do we mean by the word attitude?

Ans: By attitude, we mean the way we feel and think towards an idea or an event.

Q.11: What is meant by superstitions?

Ans: Feelings which involve fears are called superstitions. Black cats, broken mirrors and number 13 are some common superstitions.

Q.12: How did thrifty housewives preserve food in the past?

Ans: Thrifty housewives preserved their home-grown vegetables and fruits by canning, pickling, or drying them for use during the cold weather. Meats were preserved by salting and drying or by freezing.

Q.13: How scientific method has improved our ways of life?

Ans: Scientific method has improved our ways of life by solving health problems, by increasing production and preservation of food and by bringing positive changes in our attitude.

Q.14: What is the purpose of this lesson?

Ans: This lesson helps us to understand how the use of scientific method has improved living conditions and changed our attitude.

Lesson# 3

“Why Boys Fail in College”

Q. 1: According to the author there are some boys who fail because they do not try. Who are they? Can we help them?

Ans: They are those boys who do not have any aim in life. They do not try to pass and fail. They join college just for fun. They should be guided towards the aim of their life as a student.

Q. 2: How do mistaken ambitions on the part of boys and their parents lead to the failure of the boys?

Ans: Mistaken ambitions of the parents lead to the failure because the students do not take any interest in the subject chosen by their parents. They stop hard work in their studies. As a result, they fail.

Q. 3: There are some boys who have done well at school but fail to make their mark at college. Who are they? Do you have such boys in college in your country?

Ans: These are boys who are bright and intelligent but not hard working. They become overconfident and fail in college. Such boys could be found in the colleges of every country. Ours is no exception.

Q. 4: How does financial pressure lead to the failure of students described in the lesson? Do you have similar cases in your country?

Ans: Poor students have to do some job to meet their educational expenses. This dual exertion affects both their health and studies and so they fail. Yes, we do have such cases in our country.

Q. 5: To what extent does the question of health lead to failure at college? How far can the college authorities with their medical officers help students in such cases?

Ans: Both physical and mental health is a very important factor for students. If a student is suffering from some disease, he cannot concentrate on his studies. As a result, he fails.

Q. 6: What place would you accord to sportsmen in college?

Ans: The main purpose of college is to impart education. Sportsmen should be given respectable position in the college. But they should not be allowed to neglect their studies at any cost.

Q. 7: There are some students who join the college for the fun of it. Should they be allowed to stay?

Ans: Students who join the college for fun, they should not be allowed to stay because they can spoil other students as well.

Q. 8: Who are lazy bluffers? What should be done about them?

Ans: Lazy bluffers are students who join college without any purpose. They should be left to the cold merciless world.

Q. 9: What should be the role of college dean?

Ans: The college dean should be like a doctor. He should diagnose the cause of failure among the students. In this way, he can save the boys from failure through foolishness, sickness, and sin.

Q.10: Why is the proper cooperation needed between the teaching staff and the college doctor?

Ans: It is necessary so that the boys are clinically examined regularly to maintain their physical and mental health.

Q.11: What are common diseases among college students?

Ans: The common disease among college students are tuberculosis, bad tonsils, sleeping sickness, poor digestion and nervous forms of mental difficulties.

Q.12: What is the heartrending spectacle?

Ans: To see boys undergoing transfusion of blood to get money for food and books is a heartrending spectacle.

Q.13: Can we help the student suffering from nervous habits?

Ans: No, we cannot help the students suffering from nervous habits. Nervous habits are not easy to uproot, they cannot be eradicated by anyone but the boy.

Lesson # 4

“End of Term”

Q.1: What was the Daiches’s attitude towards the week-end as a school boy? Why did he long for it?

Ans: He waited for the weekend to enjoy and take a rest. He felt like a prisoner who had just been released from the prison. He wanted to get away from the daily grind of school, with its abundant homework, its fierce competition and the sense of never being able to relax.

Q.2: What was his general view of school life?

Ans: Daiches was not an irritated and disheartened boy of his school but he certainly did not like the overburdened routine of school life. School appeared to be something like a prison to him, he did not use to get enough time to sleep, contest with the class fellows and endless home assignments made him tired and exhausted.

Q.3 He liked holidays for their freedom-freedom from what?

Ans: Freedom from the daily grind of school, with its abundant homework, its fierce competition and the sense of never being able to relax.

Q.4 Why did Daiches not like his maid-servant?

Ans The writer used to sleep in an upper room with his brother Lionel and sister Sylvia. He would hear the footsteps of their maid early in the morning and then her call to get ready for school. This call to him appeared like a call to hell.

Q.5 What were David Daiches’s feelings on a Friday morning, afternoon and at Night?

Ans The writer felt happy on a Friday morning as the next two days were holidays. Friday morning used to be rose-coloured for him, he felt very free like a prisoner coming out of jail on a Friday afternoon. Friday night was the best time of the week for him.

Q.6 How did David Daiches feel on Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday night as a school boy?

Ans The Friday night was the best for the writer as two full holidays were to come after it. The Saturday night was slightly pleasant because Sunday was still left as a holiday. The Sunday night used to be full of the threat of Monday morning.

Q.7 What were the periods of respite in school enjoyed by the writer?

Ans A half-holiday to let students attend a football match which some unpredictable circumstances had caused to be cancelled the preceding Saturday, or the sudden dismissal of school an hour or two before the usual time because of some unexpected crisis or celebration.

Q:8 Describe Christmas and the Easter holidays the writer enjoyed during his school life.

Ans In the earlier school days of the writer, Christmas and the Easter holidays lasted three weeks each. However, later they were reduced to fortnight and then to ten days. It was a period of real joy and fun for the writer.

Q:9 How did he spend his summer holidays?

Ans The summer vacation gave him immense pleasure. On getting it, he walked home happily across grassy fields. He desired to play games and enjoy his time fully during the long vacation.

Q:10 Wishes don't come true in this life, writes Daiches. What are the things he longed for but could not have?

Ans Daiches wanted to have a tricycle and ice-cream in childhood, but he did not have the money.

Q:11 What did he do with his pocket money?

Ans Daiches got a few pence weekly as his pocket money. He put his pocket money in a moneybox and, thus saved it. He did not have to spend in his early childhood.

Lesson # 5

“On Destroying Books”

Q:1 What sorts of books were presented by the British public to soldiers?

Ans Books presented by British public, mostly consisted of magazines, twenty years old, guides to the Lake District, and back number of Whitaker’s Almanac.

Q:2 Was it interest of soldiers that promoted their action, or was it the wish to get rid of useless books?

Ans People wanted to get rid of their extra books and it was a fine chance to gift their useless books.

Q:3 Who are reluctant to throw away book like material? or What does J.C. Squire mean by the phrase “Non-bookish people?”

Ans Non-Bookish people do not like to read but they don’t throw away anything that looks like a book. They keep useless books on their shelves foolishly.

Q:4 Why should bad books be destroyed?

Ans Bad books utilize our space and it is difficult to find the book we need when the shelves are full. Useless books should be sold, gifted or destroyed.

Q:5 What sort of the books did the author accumulate in his flat?

Ans The books of inferior and minor verse gradually accumulated in his flat.

Q:6 Why is it difficult to destroy books?

Ans It is difficult to destroy books because author does not have kitchen range, and he cannot toast them on the gas-cooker or consume them leaf by leaf in his small study fire.

Q:7 Why could not the author burn the unwanted books?

Ans The author had hundreds of books and it was an impossible task to burn them leaf by leaf in his small study fire. He also did not have kitchen range or gas-cooker to execute his plans.

Q:8 How he decided to get rid of them?

Ans J.C Squire decided to get rid of his useless books by throwing them into the river.

Q:9 How did the writer bring his books down and what was the weather like?

Ans The writer arranged a sack, filled it with his useless books, put them on his shoulder and carried them down. It was nearly midnight. The weather was quite cold and the stars were shining.

Q:10 Describe the author's midnight venture to throw the books in the river and the suspicions which his action were likely to arouse.

Ans He put his books in a sack at midnight and went out in the cold. He felt afraid of a policeman who could catch him. He also feared that someone was following him. But he threw his books into the river.

Q:11 Why did the writer feel afraid of the policeman and how did his fear get reduced?

Ans The writer felt that the policeman would think that he had stolen goods in the sack. Later he felt happy that the policeman had excused him. So he went on moving forward towards the river.

Q:12 What difficulty brought J.C. Squire within the shadow of the rope?

Ans He wanted to destroy the old books so he put his books in a sack at midnight and went out in the cold. He felt afraid of a policeman who could catch him. He imagined that someone was following him. The writer was also frightened that someone could think that he was throwing an unwanted baby into the river. This situation brought J.C. Squire within the shadow of rope.

Q:13 How did he muster up courage at last to fling them into the river?

Ans The writer felt that he was a cowardly person not to throw the books down. He was ashamed of himself, as he thought he only made a show of his boldness to others. With the courage of despair he threw the sack down into the water.

Q:14 Did he come to have a feeling for those books once he had got rid of them?

Ans He felt very sorry for the books he had thrown into the river. He took pity on them. He thought how mud would cover them. He remembered the titles of his books.

Lesson # 6

“The Man Who Was a Hospital”

Q:1 How did Jerome K. Jerome come to suspect that his liver was out of order?

Ans He suspected that his liver was out of order after reading a patent liver-pill circular, in which were detailed the various symptoms by which a man could tell when his liver was not functioning properly.

Q:2 Why did the writer, Jerome K. Jerome, go to the British Museum and what did he do there?

Ans The writer went to the British Museum to read about the treatment of the hay fever. He thought he was suffering from it. He got a book and read about other diseases as well. He began thinking that he had most of them.

Q:3 What were the diseases he thought he was suffering from on reading a book on the treatment of disease?

Ans He discovered that he was suffering from typhoid fever, St. Vitus’s dance, bright disease, cholera, diphtheria, gout, zymosis

Q:4 What did Jerome discover about typhoid?

Ans He discovered that he had typhoid fever, must have had it for months without knowing it.

Q:5 What was the disease he discovered he didn’t have?

Ans He was not suffering from housemaid’s knee

Q:6 Was he pleased to find he didn’t have it?

Ans He was quite annoyed to learn it.

Q:7 What was his first reaction?

Ans Initially he felt hurt about not having the disease of housemaid’s knee but later on he overcame those feelings when he realized that he had every other known malady in the pharmacology.

Q:8 Why should he be an acquisition to the medical class?

Ans He believed that students would have no need to “walk the hospitals”, if they had him. He was a hospital in himself. All they need to do would be to walk around him, and, after that, take their diploma.

Q:9 Why did the writer examine (or feel) his pulse, heartbeat and tongue after reading the book?

Ans The writer felt that he was suffering from so many diseases but he wanted to live longer. He tried to check his pulse, heartbeat and tongue to ensure that his organs were working properly.

Q:10 Describe his visit to the medical man.

Ans Writer went to his medical man and told him how he had found that he had all diseases except housemaid's knee. The doctor looked down into his mouth and checked his pulse. Then he hit him in the chest and butted him with the side of his head. After that he sat down, wrote out a prescription and gave it to writer.

Q:11 He thought he was doing the doctor good turn by going to him. Why?

Ans The writer thought that the doctor would get a lot of knowledge, practice and money by getting him as a patient.

Q:12 What was the prescription given to him by the doctor?

Ans The prescription was "1 lb. beefsteak, every 6 hours. Ten-mile walk every morning, bed at 11 sharp every night. And don't stuff your head with things you don't understand."

Q:13 Describe his visit to the chemist.

Ans He handed over the prescription to chemist after reading which he was surprised. He said he was a chemist and did not have any store or hotel so he could not provide him food and comfort.

Q:14 What is the significance of the doctor's advice: don't stuff your head with things you don't understand? Or What is the theme or message of the story?

Ans We should not try to become an authority on those matters about which we have no solid knowledge. Diagnosis of diseases and their cure is the job of the medical men. An ordinary man cannot diagnose a disease by just reading medical books and should better leave it to the doctors to handle.

Q:15 How did the prescription of the doctor affect the writer and why was it helpful?

Ans The writer ate the healthful food suggested by the doctor, took exercise and did not worry about his health. Then he never had any problem regarding his health.

Lesson # 7

“My Financial Career”

Q:1 Why did Leacock go to the bank?

Ans: The writer went to the bank because his salary had been raised to fifty dollars a month and he felt that the bank was only place for it. So, he went to the bank to deposit fifty-six dollars.

Q:2 What light do the following expressions throw on Leacock’s state of mind when he entered the bank: “looked timidly round”, “shambled in?”/ Why did the writer get confused in the bank?

Ans It was Leacock’s first experience of bank so he was highly afraid and confused. He walked in slowly as he did not know how he might be treated.

Q:3 Why did the manager come to think that Leacock had an awful secret to reveal?

Ans Leacock entered the bank in a strange manner. Then he said that he wanted to see the manager “alone.” The manager began feeling that Leacock was an agent on a secret mission and had some secret to tell.

Q:4 Describe Stephen Leacock’s meeting with the bank manager.

Ans The manager asked if he was from secret-service. He said he wanted to open an account. The manager asked if it was a large account. Leacock replied that he wanted to deposit fifty six dollars.

Q:5 What kind of man the manager was?

Ans The manager was a serious and calm person. He treated Leacock in a professional way. He asked questions from him about his purpose and the amount.

Q:6 What was the attitude of the manager towards Leacock on learning that he only wished to deposit 56 dollars in the bank?

Ans The manager’s behavior towards Leacock changed when he came to know that Leacock had only 56 dollars to deposit. He was no more welcoming instead he became impolite and rude.

Q:7 Why did Leacock want to draw out some money?

Ans Leacock wanted to draw some money for his present use. First he wanted to draw out six dollars, but he wrote fifty-six dollars in fear and confusion.

Q:8 What other blunders did Leacock commit after leaving the manager's office?

Ans Leacock walked into the bank safe. The manager asked him to come out and walk the other way. He deposited his 56 dollars, soon wanted to draw 6 dollars but drew 56 dollars.

Q:9 What did the writer do when he realized his blunder of writing the wrong amount on the cheque?

Ans The writer tried to justify his action of withdrawing all his money by pretending that he was doing it as the result of some insult of him by a bank worker. He behaved like a person quickly getting into anger at that insult to draw his whole amount.

Q:10 What was the reaction of the bank employees when Stephen Leacock left the bank?

Ans When the author came out of the bank, he heard a roar of laughter, which was reaching up to the ceiling of the bank. He had become a laughing stock for the people who were thoroughly amused by his blunders.

Q:11 After this misadventure in the bank where did Leacock keep his money?

Ans He kept his money in cash in his trousers pocket and his savings in silver dollars in a sock.

Q:12 Give as many examples as you can to show that Leacock was feeling completely lost in the bank all the time he was there.

Ans The writer walked in unsure of what he had to do. He told the manager that he wanted to see him alone. He walked into the safe. He deposited 56 dollars, but soon drew out all.

Lesson # 08

“China’s Way to Progress”

Q.1: Why has the world changes its attitude towards China?

Ans: The world has changed its attitude towards China due to the amount of progress China has made agriculturally, industrially, and socially.

Q.2: Discuss Chinese agricultural system.

Ans: The Chinese agricultural system has its basis in communes. These communes are further divided into production brigades and teams. Agricultural mechanization is being introduced but with a lot of caution so that it may not upset the balance between traditional and modern farming.

Q.3: How does China rely on its own resources?

Ans: China relies on its own resources by using locally manufactured machinery and products. Native products and machines are cheaper and take less time to prepare when needed.

Q.4: Describe a day in the life of a Chinese student.

Ans: Je Wen-Siu gets up at 6 in the morning, does a few domestic chores, has breakfast, and goes to the school at 8. She finishes at 11 am and comes back home. She takes her lunch and goes back to the school at 1:30 pm. After 4 pm, she takes rest, reads newspaper, and enjoys listening to the radio.

Q.5: Write a note on Chinese women.

Ans: Chinese women are hard working. They lack femininity. They do not use beauty products. They enjoy many social security benefits: they enjoy 8-hour working day, free hospitalization and medical care, nursery and infant school, and 56 paid leaves before childbirth, that too without charge.

Q.6: What are the social security benefits provided to the Chinese workers?

Ans: Chinese workers enjoy a number of social security benefits. They get the medical treatment for free while their family members pay fifty percent of the cost. A sick worker receives his total pay cheque for the first six months after which he receives sixty percent of it.

Q.7: “It is the people and not the things that are decisive.” Discuss.

Ans: Mao says that to mean that people, when taken as a whole, are stronger than material things and they become a power. In other words, unity of people is more important for a country’s progress.

Q.8: “The heart of the matter is to root out selfishness.” Discuss.

Ans: Selfishness needs to be uprooted for the welfare of people at large and to make people consider it their happiness to serve their fellow beings.

Q.9: What will happen in China if war breaks out?

Ans: If war breaks out in China, every province in China can survive on its own; and those invading the country would be literally drowned in the sea of people.

Q.10: What are the three fevers that are not found in Chinese people?

Ans: The three fevers of alcohol, money, and sex and not found in the Chinese people.

Lesson # 09

“Hunger and Population Explosion”

Q.1: What does hunger mean on a large scale as viewed by the author?

Ans: It means that one never gets enough to eat. It also means a situation where one is wondering where the next meal is coming from or even if there will be a next meal.

Q.2: Describe some great famines of the past.

- Ans:** 1) A famine hit Egypt for a period of seven years during the time of Joseph.
2) One famine in every five years hit Europe from the birth of Christ to about 1800.
3) The Russian famine in 1921-22 killed several million people.
4) One million people starved to death in Bombay in 1942 because of the failure of the rice crop.

Q.3: How do famines occur?

Ans: Famines may occur due to many reasons. It may be that there are just too many people for food available. Failure of crops may be another reason for the famine. In that case, people starve to death.

Q.4: What is the main reason for population increase today?

Ans: The main reason for population increase is the difference between birth rate and death rate. It means that the number of people who are born in a year is greater than the number of people who die the same year. There is a cure for almost all diseases, that is why the death rate is low and population is increasing.

Q.5: What is meant by birth rate and death rate, and how do they affect the population of a country?

Ans: Birth rate means the number of births per 1000 population whereas the death rate means the number of deaths per 1000 population. The difference between birth and death rate causes the population increase.

Q.6: What have public health measures to do with increase in population?

Ans: Public health measures have contribute significantly in the reduction of the death rate. It has been possible due to modern medicine and epidemic control.

Q.7: Account for the high birth rate in underdeveloped countries.

Ans: People in underdeveloped countries are usually illiterate. No one counsels them on birth control. Moreover, they think that by giving birth to more children they are increasing the number of earning hands that is why there is a high birth rate in underdeveloped countries.

Q.8: Why is birth rate no so high in the more advanced countries?

Ans: People in those countries are educated and socially advanced. They are educated about birth control and economic dangers of high population rate. That is why the birth rate is not so high in the more advanced countries.

Q.9: Give a brief account of the poor economic conditions prevailing in underdeveloped countries.

Ans: An underdeveloped country is marked by poverty in all respects. Beggars in cities and villages barely survive. It has a lack of its own factories. The supply of power is insufficient. It does not have good roads and railways. The number of roads and railways are not adequate. Hospitals, schools, and college are scarce. Most people cannot read or write.

Q.10: According to the lesson, how many children does a woman have on average in the USA?

Ans: A woman in the USA has only three children on average.

Q.11: In the author's opinion, what is the most difficult thing to achieve?

Ans: In the author's opinion, the most difficult thing to achieve is a desire among individuals to limit the size of the family.

Q.12: What happens if the rich keep getting richer and the poor keep getting poorer?

Ans: If the rich keep getting richer and the poor keep getting poorer, it encourages the poor to wage war on the rich.

Lesson # 10

“The Jewel of the World”

Q.1: Give an account of the early career of Abd-al-Rahman I, his dramatic escape and his adventures in Africa.

Ans: After the defeat of the Umayyad family in 750, once when he was in Bedouin camp, the Abbasid soldiers came to kill him and his brother. He saved himself by diving into the river and swam away. He narrowly escaped assassination in North Africa at the hands of the governor of the province. His maternal uncles, who were Berbers from the district of North Africa, offered him refuge.

Q.2: How did Abd-al-Rahman deal with the governor appointed by the Abbasid caliph to contest his rule?

Ans: Abd-al-Rehman killed the caliph, preserved his head in salt and camphor, wrapped in black flag and the letter of appointment and sent it to the Abbasid caliph.

Q.3: What did the Abbasid caliph say on receiving the head of his governor?

Ans: On receiving the head of his governor, he said, “Thanks be to Allah for having placed the sea between us and such a foe”.

Q.4: What did Abd-al-Rehman do to make himself strong and to beautify his capital?

Ans: To make himself strong, Abd-al-Rahman developed a highly trained and well-disciplined army of 40,000 or more Berbers. To beautify his capital, he introduced a system of pure water through an aqueduct and built a wall round it. He built a palace for himself and a garden. He founded the great mosque of Cordova.

Q.5: Give an account of the all-round progress made by the Arabs under Abd-al-Rahman III.

Ans: During his reign, weaving, leather making, silk, glassware, brass work and the art of other metals flourished in Spain. Cordova became one of the most cultured city. It had seventy libraries, numerous bookshops, mosques, palaces.

Q.6: What did Al-Hakam do to promote learning and scholarship in his kingdom?

Ans: Al-Hakam was a scholar himself and he patronized learning. He was generous to scholars and established twenty-seven free schools.

Q.7: What plants did the Arabs introduce to the West?

Ans: Arabs introduced plants and fruits e.g. apricots, peaches, pomegranates, oranges, sugarcane, cotton and saffron.

Q.8: Briefly describe Al-Zahra, the royal palace.

Ans: Al-Zahra stood northwest of the town of Cordova. It has four hundred rooms and apartments that housed thousands of slaves and guards. For its construction, marble was brought from Numidia and Carthage. Ten thousand workmen with fifteen hundred beasts of burden worked on it for a score of years.

Q.9: How did Abd-al-Rahman keep treason and brigandage in check?

Ans: Abd-al-Rahman kept a standing army of a hundred thousand men with whose help he kept treason and brigandage in check.

Q.10: Who overthrew the Umayyad dynasty in Damascus? When?

Ans: The Abbasid family overthrew the Umayyad dynasty in Damascus in the year 750.

Lesson # 11

“First Year at Harrow”

Q.1: The writer says that the examiners ask the questions which students cannot answer and not those which they can answer. Is the complaint just?

Ans: The complaint is unjust. The examiners set the exam according to their own wishes and not to students' liking. Only those students complain who do not give sufficient time to their studies and while away their precious time.

Q.2: Why did Churchill not do well in examinations?

Ans: Churchill did not do well in examination because he was interested in history, essay writing, and poetry, while the examiners were partial to Latin and mathematics.

Q.3: How did he do his Latin paper?

Ans: He did his Latin paper badly. He just wrote his name, question '1' and after much reflection put a bracket around it thus (I). Then, unknowingly, he put a blot and many smudges on the paper.

Q.4: Churchill was taught English at Harrow and not Latin and Greek. Was it a gain or a loss?

Ans: It was a gain. All the brilliant students who has learnt Latin and Greek had to come down again to common English to earn their livelihood that is why Churchill was at no disadvantage.

Q.5: What good did his three years stay at Harrow do him?

Ans: Churchill learnt the basic English sentence thoroughly. It proved useful to him because students had to come down to English to earn their living.

Q.6: Write an appreciation or criticism of Churchill's views in regard to the study of Latin, Greek, and English and their value in earning a living.

Ans: Churchill's views about English and its importance are valuable because English is an international language and almost everyone has to learn it to be successful. It turned out a boon for Churchill because it helped him to succeed in his practical life.

Q. 7: Who was Mr. Somervell and how did he teach English?

Ans: Mr. Somevell was the teacher who taught Churchill English at Harrow. He had a unique style of teaching writing English. He took a fairly long sentence and broke it up into its components by means of black, red, blue, and green inks.

Q.8: Who was Mr. Welldon?

Ans: Mr. Welldon was the Headmaster of Harrow at the time of Churchill's stay there.

Q.9: Why is Churchill biased in favor of boys learning English?

Ans: Churchill is biased in favor of boys learning English because learning English turned out to be advantageous to him as it helped him become successful in his practical life.

Q.10: How did Churchill learn the ordinary British sentence thoroughly?

Ans: Churchill learnt the ordinary British sentence thoroughly by remaining in the third form for three years. He got it into his bones.

Lesson # 12

“Hitch Hiking Across the Sahara”

Question 1: How did he manage to get a seat in the weapon carrier?

Answer: He requested the French in charge of the weapon carrier to allow him to travel with them. He produced a permit from Ministry of war that he could go to French troops for his article.

Question 2: What was the most noticeable feature of the desert city named Ghardaia?

Answer: Ghardaia was a typical desert city. Flies were in plenty there. Its flies were even more numerous and stickier than anywhere else. Almost everything there was covered with flies.

Question 3: Give an account of the little town, named El Golea, and compare it with In Salah.

Answer: El Golea was a true oasis with plenty of water. In El Golea, Christopher took bath in a little pool. The pool was shaded by palm-trees. He also enjoyed lying on the cool grass beside the pool. On the other hand, In Salah was fighting a battle for its survival. The sand was encroaching.

Question 4: How much distance did Christopher cover to reach his destination?

Answer: He crossed 3200 kilometers of desert and reached his destination Timbuktu.

Question 5: What did the driver of the truck tell Christopher about three Englishmen who had attempted to cross the desert?

Answer: The driver of the truck told him a very horrible story of three Englishmen. They tried to cross a part of the desert in a car. They were short of water. They were extremely thirsty. But they could not find water. They were burning with thirst. One of them tried to drink oil of the car. At last, they died of extreme thirst and their bodies were found like dried leaves after three days.

Question 6: What do you know of Professor Claude Blanguernon?

Answer: He was a Frenchman. He was really a great and kind man. He had devoted his life to the service and welfare of Tuareg people. He educated them. He also taught them good manners. He wanted to improve their lives. He also wanted to make them a civilized and respectable nation. He was a very co-operative & caring fellow.

Question 7: Describe the events leading to the killing of a camel. What sort of water did they get from its stomach?

Answer: Christopher and his companions were short of water. They were very thirsty. Their condition was very bad and painful. There was no source of water. They needed water to keep themselves alive otherwise they could die very soon. At last, they slaughtered a camel. They took water from its stomach and drank it. This water was green & tasteless. It was like thin blood. But it kept them alive.

Question 8: Describe the journey through the Land of Thirst & Death.

Answer: The journey through the land of thirst and death was very dangerous. This part of the desert was notorious for sandstorms & dry water holes. Christopher and his companions faced many difficulties while passing through this area. Once they were hit by a dangerous sandstorm. But, fortunately, they remained safe. Once they were short of water. There was no water available nearby. They were half dead with thirst. At last, they found water with great difficulty and saved their lives.

Question 9: Describe the stay at In Abbangarit. How did Christopher manage to get water there?

Answer: His stay at In Abbangarit was very painful and fearful. He was friendless and helpless. He was short of water. His condition was very bad. He needed water to keep himself alive. He was thinking of death. At last, he found a well. But the water was very low. He hit upon a plan to bring water. He took a teapot and made a line from the wire of a recording device. He satisfied his thirst and came to life. After some time, Professor Claude Blanguernon came to rescue him.

Question 10: Give an idea of the size of the Sahara. How is it compared with England?

Answer: The size of the Sahara is very large. It is very vast and extensive. It is bigger than England which is a large country. We cannot find England if a giant puts it in the middle of this great desert. It is full of sand which is spreading far and wide.

Question 11: What had Christopher's foster-mother to do with his desire to see distant places?

Answer: When he was a small child, he used to be cheeky and naughty. His foster-mother used to threaten him to send him to Timbuktu to silence him. It is a distant place in the great desert.

But, instead of becoming afraid, he desired to see that place one day. It showed that he was enterprising since childhood.

Question 12: How did he manage to get a seat in the weapons carrier?

Answer: Christopher was travelling in a slow moving truck. It was very painful experience for him. Suddenly, a weapons carrier overtook them. He stopped the truck and requested the lieutenant to give him a lift. He told Christopher that strict military laws did not allow civilians to be taken along. Christopher showed him a permit of war ministry. This permit had expired but, fortunately, the lieutenant did not notice it and allowed him in his truck.

Question 13: What was the most noticeable feature of the desert city named Ghardaia?

Answer: The most noticeable feature of the desert city named Ghardaia was its numerous ant stickier flies. All the food items seemed to be covered with flies. These flies did not hesitate to follow food into the mouth of the eaters. Even the children were not easily recognizable. Their faces were constantly covered with flies. It showed that the condition of cleanliness was very bad and dirty here.

Question 14: How did they manage to drive the heavy truck in the trackless desert with its soft sand?

Answer: The driver of the truck drove it very skillfully. Sometimes, it was difficult to drive it on soft sand. They used to take out strips of iron from the truck and place them in front of it. Then it was easy to drive the truck. After crossing the soft sand, they collected these iron strips and loaded them back into the truck.

Lesson No. 13

“Sir Alexander Fleming”

Question 1: What are antiseptics?

Answer: Germs can be killed or destroyed or poisoned by using some chemicals known as antiseptics.

Question 2: What is the antiseptics method?

Answer: Anti-septic are the substances when are entered the body they kill the germs of diseases that are harmful for the body.

Question 3: What was the chief defect of the antiseptic method?

Answer: The chief defect of the anti-septic method was that it not only destroyed the germs but also the white blood cells of the body, which are very important in the human body.

Question 4: What part is played by the white cells in the blood of a human body?

Answer: The white blood cells of the body are to protect the body against disease.

Question 5: Describe how Fleming discovered penicillin?

Answer: In 1922, Fleming was suffering from catarrh. He examined his own nasal secretions. He found a natural antiseptic produced by the body itself.

Question 6: What was the aseptic method?

Answer: The method in which heat was used to destroy the germs of diseases was known as an aseptic method.

Question 7: In what respect is penicillin better than the chemical antiseptics?

Answer: Penicillin is better than other chemical antiseptics as it destroys only germs of disease and is harmless to the white cells of the blood.

Question 8: Was Fleming proud of his discovery?

Answer: Fleming was humble and not proud of his discovery. He said, “Nature makes penicillin, I just found it”.

Question 9: Why couldn't penicillin have been discovered in the research laboratories of America?

Answer: Penicillin could not have been discovered in laboratories of America as these were very neat, clean and covered from all sides and spore of penicillin could not reach inside them.

Question 10: In what respect is penicillin better than the chemical antiseptics? Or Write a note on penicillin as a wonder drug.

Answer: Penicillin is better than all other chemicals. It does not damage white cells of the body. Whereas other chemicals like carbolic acid damage white cells of the body. It is also called wonder drug. It saved millions of lives. Its discovery revolutionized the world of medicine.

Question 11: What do you know of the Oxford team? Or how did they make penicillin more effective?

Answer: The Oxford team included trained chemists and bacteriologists. It was headed by Professor Howard Florey and Doctor E. B. Chain. They concentrated and made penicillin more effective through a series of brilliant experiments. They adopted modern methods of manufacturing.

Question 12: Was Fleming proud of his discovery? Or Fleming's achievement paved the way for other discoveries in the medical field. What were they?

Answer: Fleming was a very humble fellow. He was not proud of his discovery. He said that penicillin was nature-made and he only discovered it. Fleming inspired other scientists to look for new medicines and cures of diseases. An important discovery was streptomycin.

Question 13: Why could not penicillin have been discovered in the research laboratories of America?

Answer: Penicillin could not have been discovered in American laboratories because their labs were clean, dustless and air-conditioned. There was no chance of a mould spore to enter the lab through a window.

Question 14: What are antiseptics and what is the antiseptic method? Or What was the chief defect of antiseptic method?

Answer: Antiseptics are chemicals. These are used to destroy germs. Antiseptic method means killing of germs through the use of chemicals. The chief defect of this method was that it used to kill germs as well as white cells of the body.

Question 15: What part is played by the white cells in the blood of a human body?

Answer: White cells of the body are called natural defense of human body. They protect the body from the germs of diseases. They attack the germs when they enter human body. Fleming stressed the need to support these cells.

Question 16: Give an account of the early life of Fleming.

Answer: Fleming was born in 1881. He got his early education in the village school. He went to London to study at the Regent Street Polytechnic at the age of fourteen. He then joined St. Mary's Hospital to become a doctor.

Question 17: Describe how Fleming discovered penicillin.

Answer: Fleming was busy in experiments in his lab. He was growing colonies of germs. By chance, a mold spore dropped on the culture plate. The germs began to disappear. Fleming tested it for its anti-bacterial features and discovered penicillin.

Lesson # 14

“Louis Pasteur”

Question 1: What do you mean by ‘spontaneous generation’?

Answer: Spontaneous generation means that things change without the external influence.

Question 2: How did Pasteur prove that spontaneous generation was not a fact?

Answer: Pasteur proved that things change because of bacteria. Things do not change without external influence.

Question 3: What help did Pasteur render in curing the “silkworm” disease in his country?

Answer: Pasteur advised the rearers of silkworm to avoid over-crowding over-heating and unhealthy conditions because these things weakened them to get the disease.

Question 4: How did Pasteur discover the treatment of the cattle disease, Anthrax?

Answer: Pasteur cultivated the germs in such a way that they were weakened. When these germs were inoculated into the healthy animals, they produced a mild type of illness. This protects them from different diseases.

Question 5: Who did Pasteur discover the method of making vaccines?

Answer: Pasteur cultivated the germ in such a way that they were weakened. When these germs were inoculated into the healthy animals, they produced a mild type of illness. This protects them from different diseases.

Question 6: Describe the early life of Pasteur.

Answer: Pasteur was born in quite humble circumstances, at Dole in France in 1822. When he was two years old, the family moved from Dole to Arbois. Here Pasteur was sent to school at the Communal College. At first, Pasteur had no interest in books in but devoted his attention to fishing and making sketches of his companions. However, he soon developed the passion for work.

Question 7: Give some instances of Pasteur's patriotism.

Answer: Pasteur was perhaps even more of a patriot than of a scientist. In 1884, when Europe was politically upheaved, Pasteur enrolled himself in the National Guard. Seeing one day an altar labeled "autel de la patrie," he promptly placed on it all his worldly wealth - 150 Francs. In 1870, when France was on the verge of war with Germany, Pasteur tried to enroll himself in the National Guard but he was refused on the score of physical incapacity.

Question 8: How did Pasteur prove that spontaneous generation was not a fact?

Answer: In 1860, the French academy offered a prize for the solution of the problem whether or not spontaneous generation was a fact. Pasteur proved that if a substance be sufficiently heated to destroy all life and if the air in contact with the filtered, the substance does not alter.

Question 9: What help did Pasteur render in curing the silkworm disease in this country?

Answer: Pasteur suggested collecting the eggs, laid by each moth separately and only keeping those derived from healthy parents. He suggested the use of microscope for doing so. He also suggested over-crowding, uncleanliness, over-heating, and unhealthy conditions generally.

Question 10: How did Pasteur discover the treatment for the cattle disease, Anthrax?

Answer: He cultivated the Anthrax bacillus in such a way that it became only mildly poisonous. Later, when he introduced these weakened into an animal's blood, only slight symptoms of Anthrax appeared. The disease did not take the deadly form in that animal. This method proved an effective cure for Anthrax.

Question 11: How did Pasteur discover the method of making vaccines?

Answer: Once, on his return from a holiday, Pasteur found all his cultivations of the germs dead or dying. He proceeded to inoculate various birds with those dead or dying germs and found that the birds showed signs of illness but recovered. He, then, inoculated the same birds with a fresh lot of virulent germs of chicken-cholera, and he was amazed at the result that the birds still resisted the disease. Later on, this method was called vaccination.

Question 12: Give an account of Pasteur's treatment of Hydrophobia and how he cured the first patient suffering from it.

Answer: In 1885 a boy, Joseph Meister, was brought to Paris for treatment. He had been bitten by a mad dog two days before. Pasteur undertook the treatment of the boy. He continued inoculations for ten days and the boy was absolutely cured of Hydrophobia.

Question 13: How did Pasteur show the way to other scientists? Give an account of the discoveries.

Answer: The fame of Pasteur's success stirred up other scientists to try similar methods of cure for other disease. In the next ten years, they discovered the germs of consumption, diphtheria, typhoid, lock-jaw and cholera.

Lesson # 15

“Mustafa Kamal”

Question 1: What happened on the 23rd of April, 1920?

Answer: On 23rd April 1920, the revolutionary Turkish Grand Assembly met and elected Mustafa Kamal as the first president of Turkey.

Question 2: What was the attitude of the Turkish government towards the Allies after World War I?

Answer: After World War I, all the old liberals and the Padishah himself were quite eager to collaborate with the Allies. Their conception of the best interests of the nation was that of loyalty to the Armistice and co-operation with the Allies, the occupying conquerors.

Question 3: Why was Mustafa Kamal sent to Anatolia?

Answer: In Eastern Anatolia, a General of Turkish army Kiyazim Karabekar with some soldiers refused to collaborate with both the Allies and the government. The Turks started steadily growing bolder against Allies and the Padishah. This attitude of the Turks was alarming for the Allies and Istanbul itself, and so Mustafa Kamal was sent to deal with the situation on the spot.

Question 4: Write a note on Mustafa Kamal's activities in Anatolia.

Answer: At a secret meeting of the patriots in Anatolia, Mustafa Kamal sketched out his plan of resistance. He set up a temporary government in Anatolia, and set out to tour the villages. He started preaching resistance and in every place appointed representatives to form centers of patriotic revolt.

Question 5: Why did Mehmet order Mustafa Kamal to return to Istanbul?

Answer: Sent as a Governor of Eastern province from Istanbul, Mustafa Kamal had joined the patriots. He also sketched a plan of resistance against the Allied forces. As soon as Mehmet heard of his activities against the government, he ordered Mustafa Kamal to return to the capital immediately.

Question 6: What was Mustafa Kamal's reply to Mehmet (when he was ordered to return to Istanbul)?

Answer: In response to Mehmet's order to report immediately to Istanbul, Mustafa Kamal sent the most momentous telegram in the history of the Ottoman Empire. He wrote: "I shall stay in Anatolia until the nation has won its independence."

Question 7: How did Mehmet try to regain Anatolia for himself?

Answer: Mehmet tried to regain Anatolia from the Nationalists by subtlety. When Mehmet IV realized he was losing ground in Anatolia, he unexpectedly proclaimed himself willing to summon a government pleasing to the Nationalists. The patriots were absolutely taken by this trick. They centered upon Mehmet and shifted their activities to Istanbul.

Question 8: Why did Mehmet's plan fail?

Answer: Although all the Nationalists shifted their activities to Istanbul, Mustafa Kamal still continued his mission. He organized large regular troops of the old Imperial army, peasants and even women in large armed formations. Seeing this reunion, the Allied forces evacuated the interior. In response, the Allies dissolved the National Assembly and arrested many of the patriots. The government in Istanbul ended and Mehmet's plan failed at last.

Question 9: What were the terms offered to Turkey by the Allies?

Answer: The terms offered by the Allies were that a small and helpless Ottoman Empire would be entirely under the supervision of the Allied powers and all the Arab provinces would become mandated territories. The whole of eastern Anatolia would be a large Greek district. Cecilia would go to the French. The Ottoman capital itself would be an international center under the control of Britain, French and Italy. Only the immediate hinterland of Istanbul would remain "Turkey in Europe."

Question 10: Give an account of the Greek attack and its defeat.

Answer: On the 21st August, 1921, the Greeks attacked. The fight continued almost man to man for fourteen days under the burning heat of the sun in Sakarya. By the 4th of September the Greeks were at the end of their strength. On the 12th, the Greeks began to retreat. At last, towards the end of the August, 1922, Mustafa Kamal announced victory.

Question 11: Give an account of the departure of Mehmet from Istanbul.

Answer: On 17th of November, 1922, a British motor ambulance arrived at the palace where Mehmet was staying. Some baggage was brought out and placed in the car and an elderly man followed. The last of Sultans was on his way to exile.

Question 12: Describe the reforms introduced by Mustafa Kamal with reference to (1) the position of women, (2) removal of illiteracy, (3) change in dresses, (4) adoption of the Roman script and (5) the industrial and economic development.

Answer: The abolition of the veil was the most striking reform of Mustafa Kamal. "Our nation has decided to be strong," he had said, "and our absolute need today is the higher education of women." Thus, he uplifted to position of women in the real sense.

Determined to break down this barrier, Mustafa Kamal set out on a series of tours round the country to demonstrate, chalk in hand, how the new script should be used. He tested people on the most unexpected occasions, naming a day not far ahead, by which everyone was to have learned the new script.

The national head-dress, called Fez, was abolished. Wearing of hats was made compulsory.

Old script was abolished and replaced by the Roman script. This simplified the Turkish script. Now, the Turkish language itself was simplified by substituting genuine Turkish words for those of Arabic and Persian.

New roads and railways were constructed. New factories were opened. He encouraged heavy industry. The banking system was organized. All of this was done without any borrowing.

Question 13: How did Mehmet try to regain Anatolia for himself?

Answer: Mehmet tried to use tricks to regain Anatolia. He tried to trap Mustafa Kamal and his followers. He invited patriots to join his new government in the capital.

Question 14: Why did his plan fail?

Answer: His plan failed because Mustafa Kamal knew his cleverness and did not join his government. He stayed in Anatolia and continued to struggle against the Allies. Therefore, his plan failed badly.

Question 15: What were the terms offered to Turkey by the Allies?

Answer: In May 1920, the Allies published their terms. These terms were very dangerous and insulting for Turkey. It was a plan to break Turkey to pieces. All Arab provinces were to be mandated territories. The whole of Eastern Anatolia was to be added to the state of Armenia, Cecilia was to go to France & the Ottoman capital was to be under the control of Britain, France and Italy.

Question 16: Give an account of the Greek attack & its defeat.

Answer: On August 21, 1921, the Greeks attacked the Turkish patriots. Both the nations fought bravely. This battle took place in the hilly area above the Sakarya River. It continued for fourteen days. At last, the Greeks were defeated and the Turks won the battle.

Question 17: Give an account of the departure of Mehmet from Istanbul.

Answer: The end of Mehmet was very shameful. The Turks hated him. He was now ruler of his palace only. He requested the British government to save him. At last, an ambulance came to take him and he left his country for good

Question 18: Describe the reforms introduced by Mustafa Kamal with reference to (1) The position of women (2) Removal of illiteracy (3) Change in dresses (4) Adoption of the Roman script (5) The industrial & economic development. Or Sum up in a few sentences the work of Mustafa Kamal as a great nation-builder.

Answer:

The position of women

Mustafa Kamal stressed the importance of women. He declared that women would be educated same as men. He ended veil for women. He gave them equal rights and importance.

Removal of illiteracy

Mustafa Kamal took special steps for the removal of illiteracy in the country. He introduced educational reforms on a large scale. He made education compulsory both for men and women.

Change in dresses

Mustafa Kamal brought changes in the national dress. He made wearing of hats compulsory. He ended head dress for women.

Adoption of the Roman script

Mustafa Kamal ordered the use of Roman script. He ended old Arabic script which was difficult. He wanted to modernize the education system of the country.

The industrial & economic development

Mustafa Kamal developed his country industrially and economically. He re-organized banking system. He set up heavy industries. He introduced useful economic reforms and policies. Turkey became an advanced country in a short time.