

A Truly Beautiful

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.

i) Einstein's Equation

9

ii) Einstein meets his future wife

7

iii) The making of a violinist

3

iv) Milera and Einstein's mother

10

v) A letter that launched the atom race

16

vi) A desk drawer full of ideas

8

viii) Marriage and divorce

11

2. Who had these opinions about Einstein?

i) He was boring

→ Einstein's playmates

ii) He was stupid and would never succeed in life

→ Einstein's headmaster of school in Munich

iii) He was a freak

→ Einstein's mother

3. Explain what the reasons for the following are:

i) Einstein leaving the school in Munich for good.

→ Einstein left the school in Munich for good because he hated the school's regimentation and often clashed with his teachers.

ii) Einstein wanting to study in Switzerland rather than Munich.

→ Einstein wanted to study in Switzerland rather than Munich because German-speaking Switzerland was more liberal than Munich.

iii) Einstein seeing in Mileva an ally.

→ Einstein saw Mileva as an ally because she

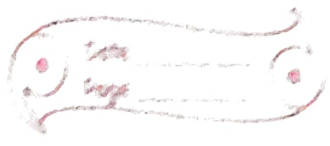
was against the philistines (a word used disapprovingly to talk about people who do not like art, music etc) those in his family, and at the university with whom he was constantly at odds.

17) What do these tell you about Einstein?

→ These tell me about Einstein that he was visionary. He was clever and never hesitated in keeping his point of view in front of others.

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

→ Einstein was working as a technical expert in the patent office in Berlin. He called his desk drawer at the patent office in the 'bureau of theoretical physics'. He called it so because while he was supposed to be assessing other people's inventions, he was actually developing his own ideas in secret and his desk drawer was where he stored these ideas.



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

→ When the Nazis came to power in Germany, Einstein emigrated to the United States of America. The American physicists were in an uproar because of the discovery of nuclear fission in Berlin. They were afraid that the Nazis could now build and use an atomic bomb. So, Einstein wrote a letter to Franklin Roosevelt to warn him of the consequences of an atomic explosion.

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

→ Einstein was deeply shaken by the disaster in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He wrote a public message to the United Nations urging the formation of world government to stop the nuclear weapons. Over the next decade, he got more involved in politics, trying to agitate people to bring an end to the arms race.

7. Q. Why does the world remember Einstein as a "world citizen"?

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

8. Here are some ~~factories~~ facts from Einstein's life. Arrange them in chronological order.

- [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 leaves Germany for the United States.
[5] Einstein joins a university in Zurich, where he meets Mileva.
[6] He works in a patent office as a technical expert.
[7] He provides a new interpretation of gravity.
[8] Einstein publishes his special theory of relativity.
[9] He was 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.

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