

The Shehnai of Bismillah Khan

Date _____

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I. Tick the right answer.

1. The (shehnai, pungi) was a reeded noisemaker.
2. (Bismillah Khan, A barber, Ali Buxi) transformed the pungi into a Shehnai.
3. Bismillah Khan's paternal ancestors were (barbers, professional musicians).
4. Bismillah Khan learnt to play the shehnai from (Ali Bux, Paigambar Bux, Ustad Faiyaz Khan).
5. Bismillah Khan's first trip abroad was to (Afghanistan, U.S.A, Canada).

II. Bismillah Khan's feeling about

1. teaching children music

Positive

Negative

Neutral

✓

2. the film world

✓

3. migrating to the USA

✓

4. playing at temples

✓

5. getting the Bharat Ratna.

✓

6. the banks of the Ganga.

✓

7. leaving Banaras and Dumraon

✓

III. 1. Why did Aurangzeb ban the playing of the pungi?

Ans- Aurangzeb banned the playing of the pungi because it had a shrill and unpleasant sound.

2. How is a Shehnai different from a pungi?

Ans- A shehnai is a pipe with a natural hollow that is longer and broader than a pungi. It has several holes on the body of the pipe.

3. Where was the Shehnai played traditionally? How did Bismillah Khan change this?

Ans- The Shehnai was played traditionally in the temple at the royal courts and on the occasions of weddings. The credit must go to Bismillah Khan to take this instrument onto the classical stage.

4. When and how did Bismillah Khan get his big break?

Ans- Bismillah Khan got his big break with the opening of the All India Radio in Lucknow in 1938.

5. Where did Bismillah Khan play the Shehnai on 15 August 1947? Why was the event historic?

Ans- Bismillah Khan played the Shehnai on 15 August 1947 at the Red Fort. He was the first Indian to greet the nation with his musical instrument. This event was historic because we got independence on that day. He poured his heart

out in the presence of large number of people including Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru.

Q6. Why did Bismillah Khan refuse to start a shekmai school in the U.S.A.?

Ans. He refused to start a shekmai school in the USA because he never wanted to leave India. He loved India so much and he did not want to settle anywhere except India. That is why whenever he was in foreign country, he kept yearning to see Hindustan.

Q7. Find at least two instances in the text which tell you that Bismillah Khan loves India and Benaras.

Ans. Bismillah Khan loves India and Benaras. The Sound of Music 197 from the bottom of his heart. He says that he misses the holy Ganga and India when he goes abroad. When in Mumbai, he thinks of only Benaras and holy river. And when he is in Benaras he remembers the unique matta of Dumraon.

1. Thinking about language.

I.1. The school sports team hopes to win

2. We all want to succeed.

3. They advised the hearing impaired child's

mother. to take her to specialist

4. The authorities permitted us to play.

5. A musician decided to play a new Raaga.

- (2)
1. the home of royal people (1) royal residence.
 2. The state of being alone (5) solitude
 3. a part which is absolutely necessary (2) an indispensable component
 4. to do something not done before (5) improvise
 5. without much effort (13) effortlessly
 6. quickly and in large quantities (9) thick and fast

- (Q3)
1. when something is revived, it (remain dead / lives again).
 2. when a government bans something, it wants it (stopped / started).
 3. when something is considered auspicious (welcome it / avoid it).
 4. when we take to something, we find it (boring / interesting)
 5. when you appreciate something, you (find it good and useful / find it of no use).
 6. when you replicate something, you do it (for the first time / for the second time).
 7. when we come to terms with something, it is (still upsetting / no longer upsetting)