

## ► Thinking about the Text

### 1. Tick the correct answer.

1) The (shehnai, <sup>✓</sup>pungi) was a 'reeded noise-maker.'  
ans) The pungi was a 'reeded noise-maker.'

2) (Bismillah Khan, <sup>✓</sup>A Barber, Ali Bux) transformed the pungi into a shehnai.

ans) A barber transformed the pungi into a shehnai.

3) Bismillah Khan's paternal ancestors were (barbers, professional musicians).

ans) Bismillah Khan's paternal ancestors were professional musicians.

4) Bismillah Khan learnt to play the shehnai from (Ali Bux, Paigambar Bux, Ustad Faiyaz Khan).

ans) Bismillah Khan learnt to play the shehnai from Ali Bux.

5) Bismillah Khan's first trip abroad was to (Africa, Afghanistan, U.S.A, Canada).

ans) Bismillah Khan's first trip abroad was to Afghanistan.

11. Find the words in the text which shows Ustad Bismillah Khan's feelings about the items listed below. Then mark a tick (✓) in the correct column. Discuss your answers in class.

Bismillah Khan's feelings about	Positive	Negative	Neutral
1) teaching children music	✓		
2) the film world		✓	
3) migration to the U.S.A.		✓	
4) playing at temples			✓
5) getting the Bharat Ratna	✓		
6) the banks of the Ganga	✓		
7) leaving Benaras and Dumraon		✓	



III. Answer these questions in 30-40 words

1) Why did Aurangzeb ban the playing of the pungi?

ans) Aurangzeb banned the playing of pungi because of the shrill and unpleasant sound.

2) How is shehnai different from pungi?

ans) A shehnai's stem is hollow, longer and broader than that of pungi. Shehnai has seven holes in its body.

3) Where was the shehnai played traditionally? How did Bismillah Khan change this?

ans) Traditionally, shehnai was played a part of the maubot or traditional ensemble of nine instruments found at royal courts. It was played in temples and at marriages. Bismillah Khan took it into 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. He became an often-heard shehnai player on radio.

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

ans) Bismillah Khan refused to start a school played the shehnai from the Red Fort on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1947. He was first Indian to greet the nation with his shehnai. The event was historic because that is the day when India got independence. Bismillah Khan played Raag Kafi to an audience that included Jawaharlal Nehru.

6) Why did Bismillah Khan refuse to start a shehnai school in U.S.A.?

ans) Bismillah Khan refused to start a shehnai school in U.S.A. because he didn't want to leave his country. He felt unbreak bond with ~~it~~ his towns - Dumraon and Banarua, and with the Holy River Ganga.

7) Find at least two instances in the text which tell you that Bismillah Khan loves India and Banarua.

ans) The two instances in the text which tell us that

Bismillah Khan loves India and Banaras very much.

i. He says that whenever he is in a foreign country, he keeps yearning to see Hindustan.

ii. He also says that when he is in Mumbai, he thinks of the Banaras and the holy Ganga.