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The Shehnai of Bismillah KhanThinking about the Text1) Tick the right answer:

- 1) The (Shehnai, pungi) was a 'reeded noisemaker'.
- 2) (Bismillah Khan, A barber, Ali Bux) 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) Find the words in the text which show Ustad Bismillah Khan's feelings about the items listed below. Then mark a tick (✓) in the correct column. Discuss your answers in class.

1) Bismillah Khan's feelings about

- i) Teaching children - positive music

- 2) The film world - Negative
- 3) Migrating to the U.S.A - Negative
- 4) Playing at temples - Positive
- 5) Getting the Bharat Ratna - Positive
- 6) The banks of the Ganga - Positive
- 7) Leaving Benaras and Dumraon - Negative

III) Answer these questions in 30-40 words.

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

Ans) Emperor Aurangzeb banned the playing of the musical instrument called pungi in the royal palace because its sound was shrill and unpleasant.

2) How is a Shehnai different from a pungi?

Ans) Shehnai has a better tonal quality than pungi. It is a natural hollow stem pipe with holes on its body and is longer and broader than the pungi. Shehnai is, in a way, an improvement upon the pungi.

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

Ans) Traditionally, the Shehnai was a part of the raub^{at} or traditional ensemble of nine instruments found at royal courts. Those ~~best~~ days, it was played only in temples and weddings. Bismillah Khan changed this by bringing in onto the classical stage.

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

Ans) Bismillah Khan got his big break in 1938 with the opening of the All India Radio in Lucknow. He started playing the Shehnai on radio and soon became quite popular.

5) Where did Bismillah Khan get his big break? play the Shehnai on 15 August 1947? Why was the event historic?

Ans) On 15 August, 1947 Bismillah Khan played the raag Kaa^{pi} on his Shehnai from the Red Fort. The event was historical because it was on the occasion of India's Independence from British rule.

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

Ans) Bismillah Khan refused one of his student's request to start a Shekhai school in the U.S.A because he would not live away from Hindustan specifically, from Benaras, the River Ganga and Dumrasn.

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

Ans) In his initial years, Bismillah used to practice in the temples of Benaras and on the banks of River Ganga. Later, his love for India and Benaras made him turn down the offer to hear a Shekhai school in the U.S.A.

1) Complete the following sentences. Beginning with a to-verb, try to answer the questions in brackets.

1) The school sports team hopes to perform better than the last time.

2) We all want to go to the zoo.

3) They advised the hearing impaired child's

mother to take her to a specialist.

4) The authorities permitted us to organise a charity event.

5) A musician decided to take India's music to the world.

II) 1) the home of royal people (1) the royal residence

2) the state of being alone (5) solitude

3) a part which is absolutely necessary (2) indispensable

4) to do something not done before (5) invent

5) without much effort (13) effortlessly

6) quickly and in large quantities (9) thick and fast

III) Tick the right answer.

1) When something is revived, it (~~remains~~ remains 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)

IV) Adjective	only before noun	not before noun
1) indispensable		✓
2) impressed		✓
3) afraid		✓
4) outdoor	✓	
5) paternal	✓	
6) countless	✓	
7) priceless	✓	

both before and after the verb be :-

✓

✓

✓

✓

- 1) She is indispensable for the successful completion of the project.
- 2) Sunita was impressed by my singing.
- 3) He is afraid of the dark.
- 4) I enjoy the company of my paternal uncle.
- 5) Gennie was showed with countless gifts.
- 6) My grandmother gave me a priceless piece of advice.