

Thinking about the Text

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).

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.

Bismillah Khan's feelings about	Positive	Negative	Neutral
1. teaching children music	✓		
2. the film world		✓	
3. migrating 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*?
2. How is a *shehnai* different from a *pungi*?
3. Where was the *shehnai* played traditionally? How did Bismillah Khan change this?
4. When and how did Bismillah Khan get his big break?
5. Where did Bismillah Khan play the *shehnai* on 15 August 1947? Why was the event historic?
6. Why did Bismillah Khan refuse to start a *shehnai* school in the U.S.A.?
7. Find at least two instances in the text which tell you that Bismillah Khan loves India and Benaras.

Bismillah Khan.

① Why did Aurangzeb ban the playing of Pungi?
ans - Emperor Aurangzeb banned the playing of Pungi because it had a shrill and unpleasant sound. It became the generic name for needed noisemaker. Due to its unpleasant sound, it was banned in the royal court.

② How is Shehnai different from a Pungi?
ans - Unlike Pungi, Shehnai is a pipe with natural hollow stem that is longer and broader. It has seven holes on its body. When it is played by the closing and opening of some of the holes. It produces soft and melodious sounds. Hence it is different from Pungi.

③ Where was the Shehnai played traditionally?
How did Bismillah Khan change this?
ans - The Shehnai was traditionally played in the Royal courts, temples and weddings. Bismillah Khan changed this by improvising and creating Ragas that were earlier considered to be beyond the range of the Shehnai.

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 soon became an often-heard shehnai player on radio.

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

ans - On 15th August 1947, Bismilla Khan played the shehnai from the Red Fort. It was a historic day as India gained Independence on that day. He became the first Indian to play the shehnai on Independence Day.

⑥ Why did Bismilla Khan refuse to start a shehnai school at USA?

ans - Bismillah Khan's student had asked him to head a music school in the USA, but he refused because he couldn't live outside India. The student promised that he would recreate the atmosphere of Lucknow, Benaras by replicating the temples in the city.

To this Bismillah Khan wanted to know if his student could also transport the river Ganga.

⑦ find atleast two instances in the text which tell you that Bismilla Khan loves India and Benaras?

ans The first instance is when he turned down his student's offer to start a Shehnai school in USA. The second instance is when he was asked why he did not shift to Pakistan during partition. He said that he would never leave Benaras.

Thinking about Language

I. Look at these sentences.

- Evelyn was determined *to live a normal life*.
- Evelyn managed *to conceal her growing deafness from friends and teachers*.

The italicised parts answer the questions: "What was Evelyn determined to do?" and "What did Evelyn manage to do?" They begin with a to-verb (*to live*, *to conceal*).

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

1. The school sports team hopes to win (What does it hope to do?)
2. We all want to succeed (What do we all want to do?)
3. They advised the hearing-impaired child's mother to show her to a specialist (What did they advise her to do?)
4. The authorities permitted us to play (What did the authorities permit us to do?)
5. A musician decided to play a new raga (What did the musician decide to do?)

II. From the text on Bismillah Khan, find the words and phrases that match these definitions and write them down. The number of the paragraph where you will find the words/phrases has been given for you in brackets.

1. the home of royal people (1) Royal residence
2. the state of being alone (5) to be solitude
3. a part which is absolutely necessary (2) an indispensable component

3 / Beehive

4. to do something not done before (5) improvise
5. without much effort (13) effortless
6. quickly and in large quantities (9) thick and fast

III. Tick the right answer.

1. When something is *revived*, it (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. Dictionary work

- The sound of the shehnai is *auspicious*.
- The *auspicious* sound of the shehnai is usually heard at marriages.

The adjective *auspicious* can occur after the verb *be* as in the first sentence, or before a noun as in the second. But there are some adjectives which can be used after the verb *be* and not before a noun. For example:

- Ustad Faiyaz Khan was *overjoyed*.

We cannot say: *the *overjoyed* man.

Look at these entries from the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* (2005).

elder *adj., noun*

adjective 1 [**only before noun**] (of people, especially two members of the same family) *older*: my elder brother • his elder sister 2 (the elder) used without a noun immediately after it to show who is the older of two people: the elder of their two sons 3 (the elder) (formal) used before or after sb's name to show that they are the older of two people who have the same name: the elder Pitt • Pitt, the elder.

awake *adj., verb*

adjective [**not before noun**] not asleep (especially immediately before or after sleeping): to be half/fully awake; to be wide awake. I was still awake when he came to bed.