

**CBSE TEST PAPER-02**  
**Class - 10 English Communicative**  
**(The Letter)**

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**General Instruction: -**

- Question No. 1 to 6 carry four marks.
  - Question No. 7 carry eight marks.
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1. “What a pest you are brother!” he exclaimed.
  - a. Who speaks these lines and to whom?
  - b. Why has the listener been called a pest?
  - c. What does it show about the character of the speaker?
  - d. Is the listener really a pest? Why/ why not?
2. Tortured by doubt and remorse, he sat down in the glow of the charcoal sigri to wait.
  - a. Who is tortured by doubt and remorse?
  - b. Why is he feeling like that?
  - c. What is he waiting for?
  - d. What does the word ‘remorse’ mean?
3. What strange wish did Ali make in his last meeting with Lakshmi Das? Why? Was it fulfilled?
4. What trouble came to the postmaster one day?
5. At one point, Ali sat down under a tree and wept bitterly. Why?
6. What did the working-class people at the post office discuss during their periodic rest?
7. ‘Ali symbolizes love, patience and faith.’ These are the essential elements which bind this world. Justify the statement in the context of the story.

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**[Answers]**

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1. Answers

- a. Postmaster speaks this line to Coachman Ali.
- b. The postmaster who was in a great hurry to go somewhere was annoyed with Ali's persistent query about his letter and called him a 'pest'.
- c. It shows that the speaker was ill-tempered, arrogant and insensitive.
- d. No, the listener was not a pest. He never bothered the staff at the post office. He sat quietly in a corner on a bench waiting for his letter.

2. Answers

- a. The postmaster
  - b. He was filled with remorse because he failed to understand Ali's agony and anxiety. Also, in the early dawn the postmaster handed over the letter to Ali, but on knowing that Ali has been dead for three months he was in complete dilemma about the credibility of the incident. So, he was in doubt.
  - c. His daughter became unwell and he anxiously waited for some news of her well-being.
  - d. regret
3. Ali did not come to the post office for many days and when he returned he knew that his end was near. In frustration he decided to make an offer to one clerk of the post office. He requests the clerk to place the letter of his daughter at his grave yard when it comes and as a favour for this he offers five golden guineas to him. Yes, his last wish was fulfilled after his death.
4. The postmaster's daughter lay ill in another town and he waited anxiously for her news. He was feeling miserable and spent a sleepless night in anxiety.
5. Coachman Ali took pride in his hunting skills and found pleasure on seeing the terror-struck eyes of the young partridges or rabbits that he shot. But when his daughter left him after her marriage, he was soon disillusioned and realized that the whole universe is

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made up through love and pain of separation is inescapable. After seeing this, he sat down under a tree and wept.

6. Ali visited the post office every day without fail to enquire whether there was any letter for him. The staff there found this very amusing and took their periodic rest from their work by discussing the lunatics and their experiences with them. They narrated different amusing anecdotes about the lunatics. The postmaster too joined them by saying that the mad live in a world of their own making and to them rest of the world appears mad too.
7. Age had made Ali weak and frail but his love for his daughter made his resolve stronger and this enabled him to cover a long distance to the post office daily for five years in the hope of receiving a letter from his only daughter. The sadness of separation had made him resilient and patient. He who had been apathetic to the suffering of animals gave up hunting. He never retorted to the pranks and insensitive remarks of the post office staff or the postmaster. Ali displayed unparalleled faith in God. Although he had to return empty handed every day, it was his faith that kept him going. So hopeful was he of receiving the letter that he requested Lakshmi Das to deliver the letter, as and when it came at his grave.

Love, patience, hope and faith are the virtues that help a person sail over a crisis in life and to empathize with other people.