

CBSE TEST PAPER-05
Class 12 English Core (The Last Lesson)

General Instructions:-

- All questions are compulsory.
 - Question No.1 to 7 carries 3 marks each.
 - Question No. 8 to 10 carries 6 marks each.
-

1. What was Franz's attitude towards his studies?
2. Why did the teacher M Hamel wear festive clothes on that day?
3. What did the teacher say about the mother tongue of a country?
4. What was the attitude of the teacher towards his job?
5. Why did the people of the village come to attend the class?
6. What was the mission of the teacher when he took the last lesson?
7. What was unusual about the school that day that Franz noticed?
8. How did Franz's attitude change when he learnt that that was the last lesson of French class?
9. Was the teacher Mr. M Hamel successful in imparting what he wanted to do?
10. What, according to you is the theme of the story?

CBSE TEST PAPER-05
Class 12 English Core (The Last Lesson)
Answers

1. Franz's attitude towards his studies was very casual. He always thought that he had plenty of time to learn and never cared about it. Books always seemed very heavy to carry and nuisance and the stories of the saints boring.
2. The teacher Mr. Hamel wore festive clothes on that day because it was the last day of French being taught in the school. Germany had overtaken the province of Alsace and Lorraine and ordered that French would no longer be taught. In honor of the last French lesson the teacher wore festive clothes.
3. The teacher said that the mother tongue of a country is most important language and that we must guard it among us and never forget it, because when a people are enslaved, as long as they hold fast to their language it is as if they had the key to their prison.
4. The teacher was very sincere towards his job. He was worried about the future of people of Alsace as they did not know their language. He blamed not only the students, their parents but himself too for not taking the language sincerely. On the last day of the French class he tried his level best to impart the language to people that they must know and preserve.
5. The people of the village had come to attend the class in honor of the last lesson of French language so that they could learn it in a day and to honor the French teacher Mr. Hamel who had imparted forty years of meritorious service to them.
6. When he took the last lesson, the mission of the teacher was to make people of the village and students to know the importance of their language and to rouse their patriotic feelings towards their country. He also wanted to give them as much knowledge of the language as he could.
7. Franz noticed that the school was unusually quiet. Usually, there was a great commotion of the opening and closing of desks, of lessons repeated in unison, and the teacher's huge ruler rapping on the table. But that particular day, it was as quiet as Sunday morning.
8. Franz's attitude towards the language and studies was very casual initially. He never bothered to learn the books as they seemed to him very heavy, a burden, and boring. When he learnt from his teacher that this was the last day of French class, he realized that he had not learnt the language. He regretted that he had never paid attention to

studies and there was no time to learn as German language had been enforced on them. The books now were his friends and he knew that he could never give them up. He also regretted that he was going to feel the absence of the teacher who wouldn't be there anymore.

9. The teacher M Hamel was successful in imparting the importance of the language to the students and the people of the village. He told them that their mother tongue, that is the French language, was the most practical and logical language of the world and they must guard it. If the people of a country know their language, they have a key to the prison if they are enslaved. He also made them understand that putting off things would never give them any success. Although we have the tendency of putting off the things for the next day as we feel we have plenty of time, that time never comes, and we regret our actions.
10. The central theme of the story 'The Last Lesson' is linguistic chauvinism. This means showing an over-enthusiastic and aggressive loyalty towards one's own language. The story highlights the penchant of the colonizers to destroy the culture of the colonised, to ruin their existence, to stomp their identity. Language is much more than a means of communication -- it is a vehicle to propagate your culture, customs, and mores etc. Hence, its importance is immeasurable. Taking away mother tongue and forcing others to accept a foreign language is the first step of such colonial aggression. In order to combat such advancement, one needs to embrace his own language. M. Hammels, the French teacher of the school while conducting his last class, gives this advice to his young students. He was successful in inculcating the importance of the language to the students and the people of the village. Although the story is located in a particular village of Alsace district of France which had come under Prussian dominance, but it definitely has a universal appeal.