

CBSE Class 9 English Language and Literature
Beehive Chapter-2 The Sound of Music
Test Paper-04

1. Bismillah Khan was fascinated watching his uncle's practice the *Shehnai*. Soon Bismillah started accompanying his uncle, Ali Bux to the Vishnu temple of Banaras.
 - A. Where was Bux employed to play Shehnai?
 - B. How did Ali Bux attract Bismillah Khan?
 - C. What is the present name for Benaras?
 - D. What is the meaning of 'fascinate'?
2. He poured his heart out right into *Raag Kafi* from the Red Fort to an audience, which included Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.
 - a. Who poured his heart?
 - b. What does *Raag Kafi* mean?
 - c. What was the occasion when it was played?
 - d. Who was the first Indian to greet the nation with his shehnai?

Short Answer type Questions (30-40 words)

3. Give a biographical sketch of Bismillah Khan.
4. Describe Bismillah Khan's success in celluloid world?
5. What are Bismillah Khan's awards?
6. What is Bismillah Khan's post Bharata Ratna message?
7. How is Bismillah Khan's longingness towards Hindustan is expressed?
8. Explain the rich cultural heritage in Bismillah Khan's life?

Long Answer type Questions (100-150 words)

9. What are awards and recognitions of Bismilla Khan?
10. Why did Bismillah Khan refuse to start a Shehnai school in the U.S.A?

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Answer

1.
 - a. Ali Bux was employed to play shehnai at Vishnu temple of Varanasi.
 - b. Ali Bux, Bismillah's maternal uncle, attracted him by playing fascinating and melodious tunes of shehnai.
 - c. The new name of Benaras is Varasani.
 - d. To Fascinate means to attract attention and interest.
2.
 - a. Bismilla Khan poured his heart.
 - b. The *Raag Kafi* an important raga of Hindustani classical music.
 - c. It was the occasion of first independence day on 15 August 1947.
 - d. Bismillah Khan was the first Indian to greet the nation with his shehnai.
3. Bismillah Khan was born on 21st March 1916 at Dumaron in Buxar district of Bihar in British India. By occupation he is a musician and the instrument he played is Shehnai. He took his last breath in the year 2006 at the age of ninety in Varasani on 21st August in Uttara Pradesh in India.
4. Bismillah Khan's compositions, "Dil Ka Khilona hai toot gaya...." turned out to be a nationwide chartbuster. Despite this huge success in the celluloid world, Bismillah Khan's ventures in film music were limited to two: Vijay Bhatt's *Gunj Uthi Shehnai* and Vikram Srinivasa's Kannada venture, *Sanadhi Apanna*. Bismillah Khan said he cannot come to terms with the artificiality and glamour of the film world.
5. He was awarded India's highest civilian honour, the Bharata Ratna in the year 2001, and he became the third classical musician after M.S. Subba Lakshmi and Ravi Shankar.
6. He got national awards like the Padmasri and the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Vibhushan were conferred on him. In 2001, Ustad Bismillah Khan was awarded India's highest civilian award the Bharata Ratna. With the coveted award resting on his chest and his eyes glinting with rare happiness he said, "All I would like to say is - Teach your children music, this is Hindustani's richest tradition; even the west is now coming to learn our music."
7. In spite of having travelled all over the world, Khansaaab as he is fondly called, is

exceedingly fond of Banaras and Dumraon and they remain for him the most wonderful towns of the world. When a student of his asked him to head a shehnai school in the USA, he refused by saying that would he be able to transport holy Ganga? He used to yearn for Hindustan whenever he went to a foreign land.

8. Ustad Bismillah Khan's life is a perfect example of the rich, cultural heritage of India, one that effortlessly accepts that a devout Muslim like him, who can very naturally play the shehnai every morning at the Kashi Vishwanath temple.
9. Bismillah Khan was invited by the Prime minister of India Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru to play Shehnai on the 1st Independence day of 15th August 1947 in Delhi Red Fort and the 1st Indian to be invited to perform at the prestigious Lincoln Centre Hall in the United States of America. He also took part in the world exposition in Montreal, in the Cannes Art festival and in the Osaka Trade Fair. He became so well known across the world that an auditorium in Teheran was named after as Tahar Mosiquee Ustaad Bismillah Khan.
10. A student of his once wanted him to head a Shehnai school in the U.S.A and the student promised to recreate the atmosphere of Banaras by replicating the temples there. But Khansaab asked him if he would be able to transport river Ganga as well. Later he is remembered to have said, "That is why whenever I am in a foreign country, I keep yearning to see Hindustan." He said that when he used to be in Mumbai, he thought of only Banaras and the holy Ganga. And while in Banaras, he missed the unique *Mattha* of Dumraon.