

CBSE TEST PAPER-03
Class - 10 English Communicative
(The Story Of My Life)

General Instruction:

- Question No. A carry Ten marks.
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A. Answer the following questions in 200-250 words each

1. What difficulty did Helen have to face to take her final examinations for Radcliffe College? (or) It was her determination that helped Helen Keller get admission to Radcliffe College. Comment.

OR

2. “Helen soon discovered that college was not quite the romantic lyceum she had imagined”. What was Helen’s dissatisfaction?

OR

3. How did Helen view books? What did she say of her reading of Shakespeare, World History and French and German literature?

OR

4. What were the things Helen found ‘a joy’ to learn? Explain?

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[Answers]

A. Answers

1. Helen's admission to Radcliffe college was full of difficulties but it was her hope and her determination to succeed at all costs which helped her to overcome the difficulties. On the 29th and 30th of June, 1899, Helen took her final examinations for Radcliffe. The college authorities didn't allow Miss Sullivan to read the examination papers to Helen. Mr. Eugene C. Vining, an instructor at the Perkins Institution for the Blind, was employed to copy the papers for her in American Braille. The Braille worked well enough in the languages. It did not work well in case of geometry and algebra. Helen was badly perplexed because she had used only the English Braille in her algebra. The symbols in the American Braille were different from those in the English Braille. Helen was not familiar with its signs. Two days before the examination, Helen had to learn the American symbols, but in spite of her preparation, the combinations of bracket, brace and radical confused her. Mr. Keith had relied too much on her ability to solve problems mentally, so she was very slow in her work. She had to read the examples repeatedly to understand what she was required to do. She was not sure if she really read the signs correctly. Mr. Keith could not help her. Helen remained confused. The administrative board of Radcliffe made the examination very difficult for her, knowingly or unknowingly. However, she overcame all obstacles and cleared her exams.

OR

2. Helen always wanted to go to college and compete for a degree with normal girls. She secured admission in Radcliffe College and couldn't be happier. Helen had expected college to be a dreamland. She had expected to gain knowledge in a world free from all constraints and restrictions. She hoped for happy times. But she soon discovered that college was not a paradise. There was a lack of time. She could not have leisure time even to commune with her thoughts. She remarks:
"One goes to college to learn, it seems, not to think," Helen feels a college is not the place

where scholars teach philosophy, but a place where the mind, which is burdened with all kinds of information and knowledge, cannot enjoy the treasures it has secured over the years. In a college, the students barely get the time to actually think, to reflect and to talk to their minds. Thinking and solitude require free time, but in college students have no time.

She learnt to her dismay that as one enters college one leaves behind the pleasure of solitude, books and imagination.

Then there were some practical problems. She found her professors remote. She could not make notes during the lecture she jotted down what she could remember of them when she got home. She wrote everything on her typewriters. As very few books were printed for the blind, she was forced to have them spelled into her hand. So, she needed more time to prepare her lessons than other girls.

OR

3. Helen depended on books not only for pleasure and for the wisdom, they gave her, but also for the knowledge which came to her by the books acting as her eyes and ears. Books have meant much more in her education than in that of others. It is true that Helen loved to read Shakespeare's work. She writes that ever since she started to love books, she has loved Shakespeare. "Macbeth" seemed to have impressed her most as one reading was sufficient to print every detail of the story upon Helen's memory forever. She read "King Lear" soon after "Macbeth," and she would never forget that feeling of horror when she came to the scene in which Gloster's eyes are put out. Helen viewed books as her friends who talked to her without embarrassment or awkwardness. They provided her "large loves and heavenly charities."

She took instinctive delight in reading them. She found all the meaning into his lines by critics "weary". The interpretations of literature always "discouraged and vexed" her. Next to poetry, Helen loved history. She read every historical work that she was able to find, including Swinton's 'World History.'

She learnt how the races of men spread across the world and built great cities. She read of great rulers who opened the gates of happiness for millions and closed them upon millions. She learnt about the decay and rise of civilization.

OR

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4. Books had a great importance in Helen's life. She read books not only for pleasure and wisdom but for acquiring knowledge. It was not only reading that she found a joy but there were various other activities which provided immense pleasure.

Nothing gave her greater pleasure than taking her friends out rowing when they came to see her. At times she went rowing without a rudder. She also enjoyed canoeing specially on moonlit nights. Ancient Greece had a mysterious fascination for Helen. She imagined that the gods and goddesses still walked on earth and talked face to face with men. She believes that it was this that made her paradise. When she read the finest passages of the Iliad she forgot her physical limitations. Helen also admired the Bible and Shakespeare's literature. She also praised history of German and French Literature.

The harbor was her paradise. She often visited the sea. They spent several hours in the shadow of the great, men-of-war. Its memory was a joy forever. Helen also had a great love for nature and trees. She joined sports and rambles through the woods and frolics in water. Each individual has a subconscious memory of the green earth and murmuring waters and blindness and deafness cannot rob him of this gift from past generations. She had many dogs and trees as friends. Whenever possible her dog accompanied her on a walk or ride. For Helen, Museum and art stores were also sources of pleasure and imagination.