

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

A. Choose the correct answer :

1. R.K. Narayan was born in _____.
(a) 1906 in Madras
(b) 1906 in Mysore
(c) 1907 in Madras
(d) 1908 in Malgudi
2. He passed away in _____.
(a) 2001
(b) 2002
(c) 2011
(d) 2012
3. **The Guide** was first published in the year _____.
(a) 1968
(b) 1956
(c) 1957
(d) 1958
4. There are _____ chapters in **The Guide**.
(a) ten
(b) eleven
(c) twelve
(d) thirteen
5. The two locales in the novel are :
(a) Malgudi and Madras
(b) Mangalore and Malgudi
(c) Mangal and Malgudi
(d) Mangal and Madurai
6. The novel, **The Guide** is narrated by :
(a) Raju
(b) the author

- (c) both, Raju and the author
(d) Velan
7. The abandoned shrine in which Raju takes refuge is on the bank of river _____.
- (a) Saraswati
(b) Sarayu
(c) Ganges
(d) Mangal
8. Swami Raju proved himself as a great philanthropist by ;
- (a) advising the villagers to send their children to the classes.
(b) by giving them lectures on hygiene and religion.
(c) by prescribing medicines for them.
(d) All of the above.
9. To which village did Velan belong?
- (a) Mangalore
(b) Mangal
(c) Malgudi
(d) Mangrol
10. Raju went to :
- (a) Ryan School
(b) Payal School
(c) Albert Mission School
(d) Pyol School
11. Who uttered the following words in chapter one:-" What must happen must happen; no power on earth or in heaven can change its course, just as no one can change the course of the river".
- (a) Raju
(b) Rosie
(c) Velan's sister
(d) Velan

12. Rosie's new name as a dancer was :
- (a) Nandini
 - (b) Nalini
 - (c) Nandita
 - (d) Lalitha
13. How many day's fast could Swami Raju observe?
- (a) Ten
 - (b) Eleven
 - (c) Twelve
 - (d) Thirteen
14. Who was the care taker of the Peak House?
- (a) Mani
 - (b) Raju
 - (c) Joseph
 - (d) Raju's Mother
15. In the novel Mani was :
- (a) Velan's son
 - (b) Rosie's brother
 - (c) Nalini's and Raju's secretary
 - (d) None of the above
16. Which dance form did Rosie (Nalini) perform?
- (a) Kathak
 - (b) Bharat Natyam
 - (c) Both (a) and (b)
 - (d) None of the above
17. Marco is a _____
- (a) researcher and cultural historian
 - (b) great business tycoon

- (c) forest Officer
 - (d) trader
18. Which natural calamity occurred in village Mangal?
- (a) Flood
 - (b) Forest Fire
 - (c) Drought
 - (d) Earthquake
19. Which of the following statements is **'true'** :
- (a) Marco recognized the innate talent of Rosie and motivated her to dance.
 - (b) Marco and Rosie had similar interests.
 - (c) Raju's mother happily approved Raju's relationship with Rosie.
 - (d) Raju recognized the dancing talent of Rosie and encouraged her to become an eminent dancer.
20. Rosie gave her first public performance of dance at :
- (a) Hotel Peak House
 - (b) Mempi Hills School
 - (c) Albert Mission College
 - (d) Adrienne Mission College
21. Raju named Rosie's husband as Marco because :
- (a) in his dress, he appeared like an eternal tourist or space traveller
 - (b) he resembled his childhood friend
 - (c) he looked like a person coming from Mars
 - (d) None of the above
23. To whom and when did Raju quote these words of Buddha, "Go into every home in this city and find one where death is unknown; if you find such a

place, fetch me a handful of mustard from there, and then I'll teach you how to conquer death"?

- (a) To Velan, when he came to him with a problem
 - (b) To his mother, when she lamented on his father's death
 - (c) To the villagers, when they came for his *darshan*
 - (d) To Rosie, when she was upset
24. Rosie was called a "she-devil" by :
- (a) Marco
 - (b) Raju
 - (c) Raju's uncle
 - (d) Raju's mother
25. Rosie belonged to :
- (a) a family of snake-charmers
 - (b) a noble family
 - (c) an aristocratic family
 - (d) a family of devdasis
26. Rosie was :
- (a) an illiterate woman
 - (b) an M.A. in Economics
 - (c) educated only till primary level
 - (d) None of the above
27. Rosie came to Malgudi from :
- (a) Madras
 - (b) Mangal
 - (c) Myanmar
 - (d) Madurai

28. As soon as Rosie set foot in Malgudi, she wanted to see :
- (a) Mempi Peaks and the natural landscape
 - (b) Ancient caves and paintings
 - (c) any snake in the forest
 - (d) a King Cobra which could dance to the music of a flute
29. "Dead and decaying things seemed to loosen his tongue and fire his imagination, rather than things that lived and moved and swung their limbs". These lines depict the character of :
- (a) Rosie
 - (b) Raju
 - (c) Gaffur
 - (d) Marco
30. Raju observed fast because :
- (a) he wanted to prove that he is 'great'
 - (b) of the folly of Velan's moron brother
 - (c) he wanted to become a national figure
 - (d) None of the above
31. Swami Raju decided to take Velan into confidence and narrate his real life story to him because :
- (a) he thought Velan may provide him food and also keep the villagers off.
 - (b) he wanted to escape the ordeal
 - (c) Both (a) and (b)
 - (d) he suffered from guilt-complex
32. Which of the following statements is **"false"**:
- (a) Raju neglected his business and personal life after his contact with Rosie.

- (b) Marco expressed his gratitude to Raju in his newly published book.
 - (c) Rosie forgot her husband completely when she started living with Raju.
 - (d) Raju's mother called her brother from the village to tackle with Raju and Rosie.
33. After listening to Swami Raju's entire life story :
- (a) Velan was very angry
 - (b) Velan told about the fake Swami to all the villagers
 - (c) Velan continued to respect him as a saint
 - (d) None of the above
34. Marco got a book published which was entitled :
- (a) Culture of India
 - (b) History of Indian Temples
 - (c) Indian Culture and Traditions
 - (d) Cultural History of India
35. Raju was arrested because :
- (a) he forged Rosie signature
 - (b) he cheated the innocent villagers
 - (c) he betrayed Marco's trust
 - (d) he was a thief
36. Raju was sentenced to _____ years imprisonment.
- (a) ten
 - (b) two
 - (c) twenty
 - (d) twelve

37. Which of the following statement is "**false**" :
- (a) Raju's conduct in the prison was ideal.
 - (b) Raju told stories to the prisoners and kept them in high spirits.
 - (c) Raju helped everyone in the prison.
 - (d) Raju was elated when he was free from the high prison walls.
38. When Swami Raju observed fast , an American film-maker named _____ from _____ interviewed him.
- (a) James J. Malone from Columbia
 - (b) James K. Jalone from California
 - (c) James J. Malone from California
 - (d) Mani Joseph from Washington
39. On the eleventh day of Raju's fast the doctors examined him and:
- (a) told him that he is perfectly fine
 - (b) declared that his condition is grave and he should break his fast immediately
 - (c) took him to a hospital
 - (d) sent him to Velan's house
40. Raju's last words were :
- (a) Velan, it won't rain, so take me home
 - (b) Velan, its dark in the hills, but I am not afraid
 - (c) Velan, see Rosie is coming from the hills, I can feel it.
 - (d) Velan, it's raining in the hills. I can feel it coming up under my feet.....

B. Very Short Answer Questions :

1. What is the full name of R.K. Narayan ?
2. Name the first novel of Narayan. When was it first published ?
3. When did Narayan receive the Sahitya Academi Award and for which novel ?

4. Mention three other literary works by R.K. Narayan.
5. What is Malgudi ?
6. What do you understand by the term 'double narration' ?
7. **The Guide** begins with a statement, "Raju welcomed the intrusion....." What was the intrusion ?
8. Why did Raju welcome the intrusion ?
9. Why was Raju mistaken as a saint by Velan ?
10. Why did Raju feel at home on the railway platform ?
11. Why did Raju's father not send him to Albert Mission School ?
12. Why was Raju surprised when his old teacher took him to a local Board High School and blessed him ?
13. Initially, did Raju feel comfortable in his role as a saint ?
14. Why did Raju wish that he had hidden himself somewhere when Rosie arrived in Malgudi and got down the train ?
15. When did Raju realize that Rosie was "the greatest dancer of the century" ?
16. When did Rosie come close to Raju ?
17. Why was Rosie's name changed ?
18. Who crushed the dreams and ambitions of Rosie ?
19. Who was Gaffur ?
20. What led to the downfall of Raju - the tourist guide ?
21. Write some adjectives describing Raju's qualities as a tourist guide.
22. What kind of relationship existed between Raju and Marco ?
23. Write some adjectives describing Marco's characteristics as Rosie's husband.
24. Write a few words describing Rosie - the dancer.
25. Describe Raju's mother in a few words.
26. Write some adjectives to describe Raju's uncle.

27. Write a few adjectives describing Raju as Rosie's stage manager.
28. What did Rosie do to help Raju, when he was taken to police custody ?
29. What was Rosie's reaction when she went to see Raju in the police lock-up?
30. Why was Raju referred to as '*Vadhyar*' in the prison ?
31. What work did Raju do in the back-yard of the jail superintendent's house?
32. In the prison, when Raju turned the last page of *The Hindu*, what did he find there ?
33. What was the cause of quarrel in the village Mangal after the drought ?
34. What was the effect of Velan's brother's distorted message on the people of the village ?
35. How long did Raju's narration of his life story continue ?
36. When did the narration conclude ?
37. What was Raju's imagination about Velan's reaction, after he concluded his narration ?
38. Did Swami Raju succeed in eating something on the first day of the fast ? How?
39. In the last chapter, what was the heading of the telegram, which the press correspondent sent to his paper at Madras ?
40. The ending of **The Guide** is 'ambiguous'. What is the meaning of the word 'ambiguous' ?

C. Short Answer Questions :

1. Discuss the central theme of the novel, **The Guide**.
2. In chapter one of the novel, what problem did Velan share with Raju ?
3. How did Raju solve this problem ?
4. Towards the end of chapter one, why did Raju suddenly find himself asking, "Have I been in a prison or in some sort of transmigration" ?
5. Discuss Raju's childhood.

6. Draw a brief pen-portrait of Raju's father.
7. Describe the activities at the railway station, when the train first came to Malgudi.
8. Draw a short pen-portrait of Malgudi, as depicted in **The Guide**.
9. Why and how did Marco and Rosie get married ?
10. Throw light on the relationship between Rosie and Marco.
11. Why did Marco abandon his wife ?
12. Was Marco, a typical man of a patriarchal society ? Yes or No ? Give reasons for your answer.
13. What was Raju's reaction when he first saw Rosie and how does he describe her physical appearance ?
14. What kind of relationship existed between Raju and Rosie ?
15. Did Raju use Rosie for his own ulterior motives ? If yes, how ?
16. Discuss Raju's role as a tourist guide.
17. Throw light on Rosie's career as a dancer.
18. Discuss the circumstances that compelled Raju's mother to leave Raju ?
19. Draw a brief character-sketch of Raju's uncle.
20. "I thought that Othello was kindlier to Desdemona". By whom and when were these words spoken ? and Why ?
21. What happened when Raju concealed Marco's newly published book from Rosie ?
22. Discuss the role of Mani in the novel.
23. In chapter nine of the novel, a letter arrived. What was written in the letter? What did Raju do after receiving it ?
24. What was the reaction of Raju's mother when the court sent him to the prison ? Discuss.
25. How was Raju's life in the prison ? Did he enjoy it ? Why ?

26. Why was Raju considered a model prisoner ?
 27. Describe Velan's first encounter with Raju.
 28. Did Swami Raju observe fast, due to the folly of Velan's brother ? How ? Elucidate.
 29. How did Raju adapt himself to the life of a saint ?
 30. Describe the scene in the village Mangal when Swami Raju observed fast.
 31. In the last chapter of the novel what were the repercussions of the trick done by the pen of the wandering journalist ?
 32. Describe the activities of the Health Department, after Swami Raju undertook fast.
 33. Describe the activities of the American film-maker in the village Mangal.
 34. Francis Bacon said, "Some men are born great, while some others have greatness thrust upon them." Discuss this statement with reference to Raju.
 35. How does the novel **The Guide** portray the religious beliefs and superstitions in the Indian society ?
 36. Discuss in brief the satire in the novel.
 37. Discuss in brief the irony in the novel.
 38. What happened to Swami Raju on the last day of his fast ? Describe the ending of the novel.
 39. Does the novel **The Guide** convey a message ? Discuss briefly.
 40. How does a 'novel' differ from a 'short story'. Explain.
- D. **Long Answer Questions :** (Answer the following questions with suitable illustrations from the text)
1. Why is R.K. Narayan's novel entitled **The Guide**? Discuss the significance of the title.
 2. Discuss the thematic concerns in **The Guide**.
 3. Write a note on the plot construction and structure of **The Guide** .

4. Trace the transformation of the protagonist, Raju, from a tourist guide to a spiritual guide and then one of the greatest holy man of India.
5. The novel **The Guide** explores different faces of India. Discuss in detail.
6. Do you think Raju has a dual personality ? Discuss the dichotomy in his character in detail.
7. Raju is neither passive nor an agent. He acts and is acted upon. Explain.
8. Draw a character-sketch of Rosie.
9. Critically analyse the character of Marco.
10. Write a note on the narrative technique in **The Guide**.
11. Write a note on the theme of family bonds in **The Guide**.
12. Elaborate the frailties and lapses in Raju's character that led to his downfall.
13. Discuss Narayan's use of symbols in **The Guide**.
14. "Narayan's major novel are serious comedies". Discuss with special reference to **The Guide**.
15. **The Guide** explores the subtle and complex human relationships in a very lucid manner. Explain.
16. Write an elaborate note on Raju-Rosie relationship.
17. Write a note on R.K. Narayan's art of characterization with special reference to **The Guide**.
18. Write a note on the minor characters in **The Guide**.
19. Discuss the condition of women in a male-dominated patriarchal society with special reference to **The Guide**.
20. In **The Guide** there is a conflict between tradition and modernity. Discuss.