

**CBSE TEST PAPER-03**  
**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.
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1. What did M Hamel say about the French language?
2. Why did villagers come to school that day?
3. How did Franz find teaching and learning that day?
4. Franz' attitude towards school as well as towards M. Hamel changes when he comes to know about the takeover of his village by Prussians. Do you agree? Discuss with reference to the 'Last Lesson'.
5. Give a brief description of M Hamel.
6. Why did Franz prefer to spend his day outdoors?
7. The people in this story suddenly realize how precious their language is to them. What shows you this? Why does this happen?
8. What does M Hamel tell about the significance and safeguarding of French language? How does he conclude his last lesson?
9. How did M Hamel react when Franz failed to recite rule for the participle?
10. How did M Hamel behave during the last lesson?

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**Answers**

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1. M Hamel said that French language was world's most beautiful, clearest and logical language and therefore it should be guarded and should not be forgotten by them. He also added that the love with one's own language can be proven as the key to the prison for the people who are enslaved.
2. The old men of the village came to the school that day to thank M. Hamel for his forty years of faithful service. They also came to show their respect for the country that was theirs no more and pay a tribute to their teacher.
3. Franz found teaching and learning very interesting that day. He was very attentive and careful. Franz also realised that M Hamel had never explained everything with so much patience. It seemed almost as if the poor man wanted to give them all he knew before going away. M Hamel wanted to put it all into their heads at one stroke as it was their last lesson.
4. The orders from Berlin to take over the village where Franz lives have been pasted on the school notice board. Only German language would be taught in the school and French teacher had to go. Franz felt sorry for not learning his lessons in French any more. His books that had seemed such a nuisance a short while ago, which he found so heavy to carry seemed to him old friends. His feelings about his French teacher M Hamel got changed. He decided to pay attention to the lesson. The school became very important for him. The idea that the teacher was going away, genuinely upset Franz who became too serious for history and grammar. I fully agree with it as one has to take one's deeds seriously when he feels the loss of it.
5. M Hamel was a very devoted, dedicated and a strict man of discipline. Students were afraid of his cranky nature and iron ruler. He was a true patriot and a sincere teacher who dedicatedly served the school for long forty years. The heart of this true Frenchman totally broke when he received the order from Berlin to vacate his place to make the space for a new German teacher. He remained upset during his last class. This changed his behavior too and he behaved rather very politely and patiently. When Franz was not able to say his lesson correctly, he, instead of scolding him, just made him understand about the importance and relevance of learning the mother tongue. He preached

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everyone presented in the class that important things should never be postponed as time flies very fast.

6. The weather was warm and bright that day. The birds were chirping at the edge of the woods and Prussian soldiers were drilling outside next to the mill. As Franz has not learned anything on participles so he was in great dread of scolding and hence preferred to spend his day outdoors instead of going to school and getting scolding by M. Hamel.
7. M. Hamel told the students and villagers that from the day after only German would be taught in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine. Those who called themselves Frenchmen would neither be able to speak nor write it. He praised French as the most beautiful, the clearest and most logical language in the world. He said that for the enslaved people, their language was the key to their prison. Then the people realised how precious their language was to them. This shows people's love for their own culture, traditions and country.
8. M Hamel said that French was the most beautiful, clear and logical language in the world. They must guard it among them and never forget it because when the people are enslaved, as long as they hold fast to their language it is as if they had the key to their prison.

Then M. Hamel opened a grammar and read the students their lesson. All he said seemed so easy. He had never explained everything with so much patience: After the grammar, they had a lesson in writing. M Hamel had new copies for the students, written in a beautiful round hand: France, Alsace, France, Alsace. He had the courage to hear every lesson to the very last. It seemed almost as if he wanted to give us all he knew before going away and put it all into their heads at one stroke. He wanted to say something, but he could not go on. Then he turned on the blackboard, took a piece of chalk and wrote "Vive La France!" Lastly he said: "School is dismissed—you may go."

9. Franz's name was called to recite the rule for the participles. But he got mixed up on the first word. He was standing there, holding on to his desk, his heart beating and not daring to look up. But M. Hamel instead of scolding, he told Franz that he must feel bad enough. He said that every day we think that we have plenty of time and we will learn it tomorrow. And now you see where we have come out by putting off learning till tomorrow. Now those fellows out there will have the right to say to you, "How is it; you pretend to be Frenchman, and yet you can neither speak nor write your own language?" Then M Hamel told Franz that only he was not to be blamed. His parents were not

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anxious enough to have him learn. They preferred to put Franz to work on a farm or at the mills, so as to have a little more money. M. Hamel blamed himself for it also. He said that quite often he had been sending Franz to water his flowers instead of learning his lessons. And when he wanted to go for fishing, he would just give him a holiday.

10. During his last French class though M. Hamel was emotional, yet he kept control over his emotions and got fully involved himself in the teaching learning process. He heard every lesson to the last sitting motionless in the chair. He was solemn and gentle. He performed his duties faithfully. He gazed at one thing or the other, perhaps he wanted to fix in his mind how things looked in that little school room. He must have been feeling heavy at heart to leave after forty years of service. When the church bell struck twelve he stood up pale in the chair. He wanted to say some parting words but was choked with something in heart then he wrote 'Vive La French' on the blackboard with a piece of chalk. He leaned his head against the wall and without a word made a gesture to the students with his hands to communicate that the school was dismissed.