

CBSE TEST PAPER-01
Class - 10 English Communicative
(The Letter)

General Instruction: -

- Question No. 1 to 6 carry four marks.
 - Question No. 7 carry eight marks.
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1. “Beholding the wooden arch of this building, the old man was filled with the joy that the pilgrim feels when he first sees the goal of his journey.”
 - a. Who is the old man referred to in the above lines?
 - b. What makes the old man feel joyful?
 - c. Why is the old man called a pilgrim?
 - d. What is the meaning of the word ‘pilgrim’?
2. “Now he understood the meaning of love and separation. He could no longer enjoy the sportsman’s pleasure and laughter at the bewildered terror of the young partridges bereft of their parents.”
 - a. How has Ali understood the meaning of love and separation?
 - b. Which sports did Ali enjoy?
 - c. How he used to react at the sight of bewildered young partridges?
 - d. What is the meaning of the word ‘bewildered’?
3. What was the turning point in Ali’s life?
4. The post office staff displays a total lack of empathy towards Ali. Justify the statement.
5. Why was the Postmaster tortured by doubt and remorse?
6. How can you say that Ali was a great shikari?
7. ‘What goes around comes around’. Justify the statement in the light of the lesson “The Letter”.

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[Answers]

1. Answers

- a. Coachman Ali
- b. The sight of the post office of the town makes him feel joyful.
- c. The old man comes to the post office with the devotion and faith of a pilgrim heading for a place of worship and in that respect, he is called a pilgrim.
- d. a person who makes a journey to a holy place

2. Answers

- a. Ali's only daughter gets married and settles far away from him, he has not got any news of his daughter for the past five years. His loneliness and separation with his daughter makes him understand these feelings.
 - b. Ali enjoyed hunting.
 - c. Earlier, Ali used to enjoy and laugh at the hunting of the young partridges.
 - d. confused or unable to understand anything
3. Earlier Ali used to enjoy the sportsman's pleasure in hunting. After the marriage of his only daughter Ali became alone. This loneliness made him realize the meaning of love and pain of separation. He understood that by hunting he was separating young animals and birds with their parents. He now became compassionate and decided to give up hunting.
4. The post office staff had fun at Ali's expense. They treated him to be a mad person who visited the post office without any reason. They mocked and jeered at him and played with his emotions. They could never realize the anguish of a father who had waited so long to hear from his daughter. Their behaviour lacked empathy.
5. Like the rest of the staff, the postmaster too was ruthless and lacked empathy and compassion. Being ill tempered and impatient, he even went to the extent of calling Ali a pest when he requested him to note his daughter Miriam's name. The Postmaster's

attitude changed when his daughter lay ill in another town and he waited anxiously for her news. This worry and anxiety about his daughter changed him. He could now relate to Ali's emotions and anxiety for his daughter. In order to repent for his haughty behaviour he delivered the letter personally to Ali when he came in the morning but was perplexed and full of doubt when Lakshmi Das informed him that Ali had died three months ago.

6. Ali possessed an exemplary hunting skill. He could sight the earth brown partridge, almost invisible to other eyes. Where even dogs failed, his sharp eyes could spot a crouching hare. Besides this he would often go out fishing with his friends.
7. Everything we say or do manifests itself at some or the other point in our life. This is the law of cause and effect which also holds true in case of the two main protagonists of 'The Letter'. Coachman Ali took pride in his hunting skills and found pleasure on seeing the terror-struck eyes of the young partridges or rabbits that he shot. As fate would have it, he had to suffer a similar pang of separation from his only daughter from whom he had not heard for the past five years. In a desperate attempt to get a letter from her, he used to go to the post office daily where the staff and the Post master misbehaved with him. Soon the postmaster found himself in the same spot. He was waiting to receive a letter from his own daughter who was sick in another town. Realization now dawned upon him, how unmerciful he had been towards Ali and perhaps this was the reason why he had to face the same mental agony as Ali. These events justify that what goes around comes around.