

CBSE TEST PAPER-02
Class - 10 English Communicative
(Ozymandias)

1. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:

And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things.
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed;

- a. What is the meaning of 'sneer'?
- b. What is the ambiguity juxtaposition in line 3?
- c. Name the poet and the poem of the above lines?
- d. How do you think a sculptor has become more powerful than a king?

OR

The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed;
And on the pedestal, these words appear.
My name is Ozymandias, king of kings

- a. What is the meaning of the phrase the 'hand that mocked them'?
- b. What is the meaning of the expression 'the heart that fed'?
- c. What does the last line tell us about Ozymandias?
- d. Which 'pedestal' is being talked about here?

2. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each:

- a. "My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:" Why does Ozymandias refer to himself as king of kings? What quality of the king is revealed through this statement?
- b. What is your impression of Ozymandias as a king?
- c. Bring out the irony in the poem?
- d. What impression do you form of the sculptor who created the statue of Ozymandias?

3. Answer any one of the following questions in 80-100 words:

How does Shelly create a negative impression of the ruler Ozymandias in this poem?

OR

What is the irony in the poem Ozymandias?

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[Answers]

1.
 - i.
 - a. 'Sneer' means facial expression of scorn or hostility in which the upper lip may be raised.
 - b. On one hand the statue is a lifeless thing but on the other, the passions of Ozymandias survive through the skills of the sculptor.
 - c. The poet is Percy Bysshe Shelly and the poem 'Ozymandias'.
 - d. The king had died but his statue created by the sculptor still survives.
 - ii.
 - a. It means 'made fun of'.
 - b. The expression means that the poet's heart could well understand the expressions of the king's face.
 - c. The last line tells us that Ozymandias was a proud king.
 - d. The pedestal of Ozymandias' statue.
2.
 - a. Ozymandias was proud of himself. He boasted about his greatness. The lines show that he was an arrogant king and thought himself to be the greatest among all kings.
 - b. Ozymandias was an arrogant and wicked king. He was proud of himself but he took care of his people. He wanted the people to see his works and praise him. He thought himself to be greater than any other king.
 - c. In Percy Bysshe Shelly's poem Ozymandias, there is an overriding irony presented to show the difference between the sculptor and sculpture.
The poem's irony revolves around Ozymandias himself. The great irony here was having the pharaoh narrate the poem, boasting of all his greatness and power, yet all that he has 'established' now lies in ruins, crumbling through time, slowly joining the surrounding sands. Ozymandias was full of authority, even though there was nothing left of what he boasts. His kingdom and his glory now lie in the sands with only stone slabs.
 - d. The sculptor was a good artist who could bring out the expressions in stones. He was a good judge and great philosopher who understood the irony and law of nature.
3. After reading the poem by Shelley we get a clear negative impression of the ruler Ozymandias. When we read the two lines Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown

and wrinkled lip and sneer of cold command we get a clear idea that these lines are full of negative words and when expressed together create an immediate negative impression of the king. The sculptor has carved a permanent expression, a frown, indicates displeasure. In the next line Wrinkled lip is a physical action that could indicate contempt. Sneer is also a contemptuous action and we do not get the acceptability that his command is one welcomed by his people as it is carried out in a cold manner. This shows that Ozymandias was a king full of vanity, without emotions and full of cold command towards his subjects.

It is very clear that he was not liked even by the sculptor as it is said that the hands of the sculptor had quite skillfully carved the face and had brought out the expressions of cruelty and arrogance of the king, for the viewer to see what sort of feelings he had in his heart which fed those feelings. When we read my name is Ozymandias, king of kings. Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair! It clearly indicates that they were not created for the benefit of his subjects but merely to satisfy his own ego. Drunk with power, he compares himself with the Almighty.

All in all, the poet creates a character which is impossible to like.

OR

In Percy Bysshe Shelly's poem Ozymandias, there is an overriding irony presented to show the difference between the sculptor and sculpture.

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The life of Ozymandias and his end are so different. All his life he fought battles, expanded his kingdom, built places and ruled ruthlessly over his people. The inscription also highlighted his victories. But the statue made the passersby feel totally opposite to what it was meant for. It made the people wonder that name, fame, power are all reduced to dust after certain time. Everything is eroded with time. Time is all powerful and it can destroy anything. Today after he was gone the huge statue of Ozymandias was lying broken on the ground. The poem makes us realize that power, wealth and victories are all fleeting.