

CBSE TEST PAPER-03
Class - 10 English Communicative
(Ozymandias)

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

Stand in the desert. Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
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. Who is the person described here?
- b. What does the face expresses?
- c. What does the word 'visage' means in the above lines?
- d. What does 'sneer of cold command' mean?

OR

Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things.
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed;

- a. What is that 'yet survives'?
- b. Which is the hand that mocked them?
- c. What does the word, 'stamped' in this context mean?
- d. What are lifeless things mentioned here?

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

- a. What remains at the site of the statue? What can be seen around the statue?
- b. How can the poem 'Ozymandias' be compared to today's society?
- c. What did the traveller tell the poet about?
- d. What is the tone of the poem?

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

Bring out the central idea of the poem Ozymandias. (or) "The poem, 'Ozymandias' illustrates the vanity of human greatness." Comment.

OR

How do you say the poem 'Ozymandias' is memorable?

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Answers

1. (i) Answers

- a. Ozymandias is described here.
- b. The face expresses pride and frown.
- c. 'Visage' means face.
- d. It means the facial expression of scorn or hostility.

1. (ii) Answers

- a. The vanity and self-importance on the face have survived.
- b. The sculptor's hand mocked them.
- c. It means sculpted.
- d. Two vast and trunkless legs of stone.

2. Answers

- a. There is nothing but vast stretch of sand around the statue. The statue lies in a shattered condition. Everyone, however mighty he is, will be destroyed. Nothing on this earth is permanent, everything is time bound.
- b. Man has been running after materialistic pleasures. For him, money and power means everything. He feels that his inheritance will be there forever. But time can destroy everything. Man forgets that nothing is permanent; everyone and everything will be destroyed one day.
- c. The traveller told the poet that far in the desert he saw a huge statue lying in the dust. The statue was broken but expressions on the face of the statue were intact. It seemed that it was the statue of a boastful king of old times.
- d. The tone of the poem 'Ozymandias' suggests that pride comes before a fall. The tone of the poet involves an element of gloating over someone else's misfortunes. Nothing is permanent, everything is ephemeral. Everyone has to die one day. Nothing remains except good deeds and a great work of art.

3. The theme of Ozymandias is clear and vivid. It highlights the vanity of human glory and power. No human emotions of haughtiness, sneer, pride, arrogance assures immortality and durability against the mightiest time and nature. It says man is mortal. No matter how great a king might be, he is not immortal. Neither he nor his works will last forever. Everything perishes with the passage of time and under the powerful influence of the elements of nature. Ozymandias thought his works would last forever and would be above everyone else's. Nothing is left intact and his own statue is in ruins. Even the mightiest of the mighty become one with the dust. No trace of them is left on the sands of time. Time is all powerful. But Ozymandias boasted that the others should look at his kingdom and despair but now even his statue was lying in a despicable condition. He desired to immortalize his name and got a statue built but all the things he builds are ruined. In an attempt to immortalize himself as the king of kings, Ozymandias has made a mockery of himself. Ozymandias appears to be foolish for his short sightedness. Power, glory and might is reduced to nothing with time.

OR

Shelly's brilliant poetic rendering of the story and the subject of the poem, through merely a broken statue, makes the poem memorable. It brings out the impermanence of man and his foolish urge to immortalize his name. The poem illustrates the vanity of human glory and power. Framing the sonnet as a story told to the speaker by "a traveller from an ancient land" enables the poet to add another level of obscurity to Ozymandias' position with regard to the reader. We hear about the status of the statue from someone who has seen it makes the poem great. First it is about the shattered visage, then the face, then the facial expressions, later about the sculptor. It is a great idea of the poet which makes the readers spell bound. Even though it is a poem the poet has shown his brilliant story telling power and takes the readers into the era of Ozymandias. When we read the lines "Look upon my works, ye Mighty, and despair!" the poet demolishes the imaginary picture of the king and clearly suggest the reader that nothing beside remains and everything is time bound. I like the way the poet narrated the poem and he gives a clear message that man is mortal only his good deeds are remembered.