

Bhavan's Sheth R A College of Arts and Commerce, Ahmedabad
Commercial Communication - Semester - III Colours of Life - (2019-20)
 University paper style: (2.30 hours, four questions, 70 marks)

Text: <i>Colours of Life</i> - <u>Section One</u> (1) <i>The Happy Prince</i> - Oscar Wilde, (2) <i>I'm Hungry</i> - Richard Wright (3) <i>Letter to John D Jhonson</i> - Abraham Lincoln, (4) <i>My Grandmother</i> - Khushwant Singh, (5) <i>My Greatest Olympic Prize</i> - Jesse Owens		
Topics.	Units and Questions	Marks
Text	Unit I - Colours of Life Q. 1 (a) Answer in brief: 3/5 questions (b) Write a short note: 1/3 short notes	09 08
Soft Skills for Effective Communication	Unit II - Soft Skills for Eff Communication Q. 2 Short notes: 2/3 (i) Business Ethics, (ii) Netiquettes, (iii) Leadership qualities, (iv) Presentation skills, (v) Time Management, (vi) Negotiations skills	17
Bank Correspondence	Unit III - Bank Correspondence Q. 3 Write a letter: 1/2 Stop payment of a cheque, Error in pass-book/ bank-statement, Wrongful dishonour of a cheque, Complaint about rude behaviour of a bank employee, Req. bank's support for social welfare, Intimating the loss of a Debit/ ATM/Credit Card, Transfer of a bank account	17
Vocabulary: 50 one-word substitutes	Unit IV- Vocabulary Q. 4 (a) Match the following (six Vocab items) (b) Give Meanings (three Vocab items) (c) Choose the appropriate options (five MCQs - Unit I) (d) True or false (five items - Unit I)	06 03 05 05

Commercial Communication - III - Model Question Paper for University Exam

Text: *Colours of Life*

1. (a) Answer any **three** of the following questions in brief. (09)

- (i) Why did the statue of the Happy Prince cry?
- (ii) How did Richard become aware of his father's personality in the house?
- (iii) Why does Lincoln say that John D Johnston was not lazy but an idler?
- (iv) How did the sparrows mourn the grandmother's death?
- (v) What, according to Jesse Owens, was his greatest Olympics prize?

(b) Write a short note on any **one** of the following. (08)

- (i) The Happy Prince and the little Swallow
- (ii) Richard Wright's experience of hunger
- (iii) Khushwant Singh's grandmother

2. Write short notes on any two of the following: (17)

(a) Leadership qualities (b) Presentation skills (c) Time Management

3. Write a letter to the Manager of the Kalupur Commercial Bank, Ashram Road branch, Ahmedabad intimating him about the loss of your Credit Card. (17)

Or

Write a letter to the Manager of the Barclays Bank, Khanpur branch, Ahmedabad requesting him/ her to stop the payment of a cheque.

4. (a) Match the words given in column "A" with their meanings in column "B": (06)

A	B
(i) amicable	- one who gives life
(ii) gullible	- pen name
(iii) immigrant	- unsuspecting
(iv) pseudonym	- abstainer
(v) martyr	- cordial
(vi) teetotaler	- naturalized citizen

(b) Give meanings: (03)

unanimous, optimist, emigrant

(c) Choose the correct option: (05)

1. The children said that the Happy Prince looked like an -----.

(a) antman (b) angel (c) actor

2. "Kungry" was a non-sense word used by Richard's -----.

(a) brother (b) father (c) mother

3. Lincoln's letter to John D Johnston was dated January 02, -----.

(a) 1861 (b) 1851 (c) 1850

4. The grandmother died with a ----- in her hand.

(a) tablet (b) rosary (c) rose

5. ----- is the epitome of the fundamental principles of the Olympic Games.

(a) Luz Long (b) Josh Long (c) Nose Long

(d) State whether the following statements are true or false: (05)

6. Hitler believed in the superiority of the Aryan race.

7. The little Swallow fell in love with a water bird.

8. Richard's family was going to travel on the boat the Kate Middleton.

9. Lincoln says that Johnston had always been kind to him.

10. As a child, Khushwant Singh carried a calculator to the school.

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Lesson - One *The Happy Prince* (1888) by Oscar Wilde (1854 - 1900)

Summary:

The Happy Prince was a statue. It stood on a tall column high above the city. The Happy Prince was admired for his beauty. There was a large red ruby on his sword-hilt. His eyes were two bright sapphires. The Happy Prince was covered with gold leaves. Children thought that the Happy Prince looked like an angel.

The friends of the little Swallow had already gone to Egypt six weeks ago to spend the winter there. The Swallow had fallen in love with the most beautiful Reed near the river. He courted her through the summer but he had no success. The Swallow's friends said that his love for the Reed was ridiculous because she had no money and too many relatives. They flew away leaving the Swallow behind. When the Swallow tired of his lady-love, he too decided to follow his friends to Egypt.

The Swallow flew all day and reached the city at night. He found a shelter for the night between the feet of the Happy Prince. As the Swallow prepared to go to sleep, a large drop of water fell on him. This was curious because the sky was clear. Then another drop fell. The Happy Prince was crying. His eyes were filled with tears.

The Happy Prince told the little Swallow his story. When he was alive, the Happy Prince did not know tears or sorrow. He lived in a beautiful palace. In the daytime the Happy Prince played with his friends in the garden and at night danced with them in the great hall of the palace. There was a wall around the garden and the Happy Prince did not know how people lived beyond that wall. The Prince was so happy that his courtiers called him the Happy Prince. When he died, his statue was put up high above the city. Now the Happy Prince saw the ugliness and the misery of his people. He was sad. His heart was made of lead but he wept.

The Happy Prince gave away all his material possessions (the ruby, the sapphires and the gold leaves) to help the poor people. The Swallow became his messenger in this selfless service. The Swallow was eager to go to Egypt but, at the Happy Prince's request, stayed on in the city for one night to help a poor woman and her feverish son.

There was a poor house in a little street. A seamstress (one who earns her living by sewing) lived in that house. She was embroidering a gown for the Queen's maid-of-honour. Her little boy had a fever. He was thirsty and asking for oranges. The poor mother had no money and gave her son only the river water. The Happy Prince asked the Swallow to take the ruby to the poor woman. It was cold but the Swallow felt warm after dropping the ruby on the poor woman's table.

The Happy Prince asked the Swallow to stay for one more night in the city.

Next morning the Happy Prince saw far away in the city a young man in a garret (a small, uncomfortable room). He had large and dreamy eyes. He was trying to finish a play but he was too hungry and cold to write any more. It was winter and he had no fire in the house to keep him warm. The Happy Prince commanded the Swallow to take out one of the sapphires from his eyes for the poor young man. (The sapphires were brought from India a thousand years ago.) The Swallow hesitated but then he followed the Happy Prince's command and plucked a sapphire out from one of his eyes. He flew over the city and dropped the sapphire on the young dramatist's desk.

The Happy Prince asked the Swallow again to stay for one more night in the city. It was winter here and the Swallow's friends enjoyed the warm sun in Egypt.

A little match-girl was crying in the square below the statue. She had dropped the matches in the gutter and spoiled them. If she did not take home some money, her father would beat her. That was why she was crying. The Swallow hesitated but then plucked the other sapphire from the Happy Prince's eye. He dropped it on the match-girl's palm. She thought it was a lovely piece of glass and went home smiling.

The Happy Prince lost both of his eyes and became blind. The Swallow said that he would now always stay with the blind Prince. The next day the Swallow sat on the Happy Prince's shoulder and told him about the marvellous things he had seen in Egypt. The Prince had no interest in the marvellous things. He was interested only in the misery of the people. The Happy Prince asked the Swallow to fly over the city and tell him what he saw there. The rich people were happy in their beautiful houses and the beggars were sitting outside at their gates. In the dark lanes, the starving children had white faces. Under a bridge, two little boys were cold and hungry but the watchman drove them out into the rain. The little Swallow reported the misery of the poor people to the Happy Prince. The bird took the gold leaves one by one and gave them to the poor. The poor children were happy when the Happy Prince's gold got them bread.

Without his material possessions, the Happy Prince looked dull and ugly. It was winter. There was everywhere snow and frost. The streets looked as if they were made of silver. The little Swallow felt cold and tried to keep warm by flapping his wings. That didn't help him much. He knew he was going to die. He had just enough strength to fly up to the Prince's shoulder and say good-bye. The Happy Prince thought that the Swallow was finally going to Egypt. The Swallow said that he was going to the House of Death and fell down dead at the feet of the Happy Prince. That moment the leaden heart of the statue broke into two.

Next morning the Mayor and the Councillors walked in the square below the statue. They noted that the Happy Prince looked shabby like a beggar. They saw a dead bird at his feet. They pulled down the statue and melted it. The overseer of the workmen found it strange that the lead heart did not melt. They threw the lead heart on the dust-heap where the dead bird was lying.

The Mayor and the Councillors were quarreling among themselves - everybody wanted his own statue to be put up in place of the Happy Prince's. God commanded the Angel to bring the two most precious things from the city. The Angel presented before God the lead heart and the dead bird. The Happy Prince and the little Swallow found a permanent place in heaven for their selfless service to the poor people.

Answer the following questions in brief: *The Happy Prince* - Oscar Wilde

1. **Why did the Happy Prince cry? Or Describe the statue of the Happy Prince in your words.**

The Happy Prince was a statue. It stood on a tall column high above the city. The Happy Prince was admired for his beauty. There was a large red ruby on his sword-hilt. His eyes were two bright sapphires. The Happy Prince was covered with gold leaves. But he was very sad. The Happy Prince's heart was made of lead but he was crying to see the ugliness and the misery in the city.

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2. Why was the Swallow six weeks behind his friends in going to Egypt? Or Why did the Swallow's friend did not approve of his attachment for the Reed?

The friends of the little Swallow had gone to Egypt six weeks ago to spend the winter there. The Swallow had fallen in love with the most beautiful Reed near the river. He courted her through the summer but he had no success. The Swallow's friends said that his attachment for the Reed was ridiculous because she had no money and too many relatives. They flew away leaving the Swallow behind. When the Swallow tired of his lady-love, he too decided to follow his friends to Egypt.

3. Describe the Happy Prince's life when he was alive. Or Why did the courtiers call him the Happy Prince?

The Happy Prince was a statue. He told the little Swallow his story. When he was alive, the Happy Prince did not know tears or sorrow. He lived in a beautiful palace. In the daytime the Happy Prince played with his friends in the garden and at night danced with them in the great hall of the palace. The Prince didn't know how people lived beyond his garden wall. He was so happy that his courtiers called him the Happy Prince.

4. How did the little Swallow become the messenger of the Happy Prince in serving the poor people? Or Why did the Swallow decide to stay always with the Happy Prince?

The little Swallow was going to Egypt to spend the winter there. But at the Happy Prince's request, the Swallow stayed with him and became his messenger in serving the poor people. The Swallow took the Happy Prince's ruby to the poor mother, the sapphires to the young dramatist and the little match-girl, and the gold leaves to the poor children and so on. When the Happy Prince became blind, the little Swallow said that he would now always stay with the blind Prince.

5. What did the little Swallow see in the city? or What did the Happy Prince say when the Swallow reported the misery of the poor people in the city?

The Happy Prince had no interest in the marvellous things the little Swallow had seen in Egypt. He was not interested only in the misery of the poor people. He asked the Swallow to fly over city and tell him what he saw there. The Swallow saw that the rich people were enjoying life in their beautiful houses and the beggars were sitting at their gates. In the dark lanes, he saw white faces of the starving children. The Swallow the saw two cold and hungry little boys under a bridge. The Happy Prince was covered with gold leaves. He told the Swallow to take the gold leaves, one by one, to the poor people in the city.

6. What happened to the statue when the little Swallow died?

The little Swallow was going to Egypt to spend the winter there. But at the Happy Prince's request, the Swallow stayed with him and became his messenger in serving the poor people. It was winter. There was everywhere snow and frost. The little Swallow felt cold and tried to keep warm by flapping his wings. That didn't help him much. He died of winter cold. When the little Swallow died, the leaden heart of the statue of the Happy Prince broke into two.

7. **Why did the Mayor and the Councillors decide to pull down the statue of the Happy Prince? Or What did the Mayor and the Councillors do with the statue of the Happy Prince? What strange thing happened then?**

The Happy Prince gave away all his material possessions to help the poor people in the city. Without the ruby, the sapphires and the gold leaves, the Happy Prince became blind and ugly. The Mayor and the Councillors noted that the Happy Prince looked shabby like a beggar. They pulled down the statue and melted it. The Mayor and the Councillors wanted their own statues to be put up in the place of the statue of the Happy Prince. The overseer of the workmen found it strange that the lead heart of the Happy Prince did not melt in the fire.

8. **How did God reward the Happy Prince and the little Swallow for helping the poor people?**

The Mayor and the Councillors were quarreling among themselves - everybody wanted his own statue to be put up in place of the statue of the Happy Prince. The workmen threw the lead heart of the Happy Prince on the dust-heap where the dead bird was lying. God commanded the Angel to bring the two most precious things from the city. The Angel presented before God the lead heart and the dead bird. The Happy Prince and the little Swallow found a permanent place in heaven for their selfless service to the poor people.

Short Note/s: *The Happy Prince* - Oscar Wilde

The Moral of the story *The Happy Prince* Or God's reward to the Happy Prince and the Swallow

The Happy Prince was a statue. He was admired for his beauty. There was a large red ruby on his sword-hilt. His eyes were two bright sapphires. The Happy Prince was covered with gold leaves. The Swallow was going to Egypt for the summer. He found a shelter for the night between the feet of the Happy Prince. The Happy Prince told the Swallow his story. When he was alive, the Happy Prince did not know tears or sorrow. He was so happy that his courtiers called him the Happy Prince. When he died, his statue was put up in the city. Now he saw the ugliness and the misery of his people. He was sad. His heart was made of lead but he wept.

The Happy Prince gave away all his material possessions to help the poor people. At the Happy Prince's request, the Swallow stayed on in the city to help the poor. The Happy Prince gave his ruby to the seamstress and his sapphires to a young dramatist and the little match girl. He became blind. The Swallow took the gold leaves one by one and gave them to the poor. Without his material possessions, the Happy Prince looked dull and ugly. It was winter. The Swallow felt cold and fell down dead at the feet of the Happy Prince. That moment the leaden heart of the statue broke into two.

The Mayor and the Councillors noted that the Happy Prince looked shabby like a beggar. They saw a dead bird at his feet. They pulled down the statue and melted it. But the lead heart did not melt. The workmen threw the lead heart on the dust-heap where the dead bird was lying. God commanded the Angel to bring the two most precious things from the city. The Angel presented before God the lead heart and the dead bird. The Happy Prince and the little Swallow found a permanent place in heaven for their selfless service to the poor people. The moral of the story is that God rewards us for our selfless service to the needy and poor people.

Points for MCQs: *The Happy Prince* - Oscar Wilde

1. The children said that the statue of the Happy Prince looked like an angel.
2. The friends of the little Swallow had reached Egypt six weeks ahead of him.
3. The little Swallow admitted that the Reed was domestic.
4. The heart of the Happy Prince's statue was made of lead.
5. Jews lived in the Ghetto in the city.
6. The Happy Prince's sapphires were brought from India.
7. The poor ill boy was asking for oranges.
8. The young man could not finish the play because he was too cold to write any more.
9. The Mayor and the Councillors pulled down the statue because it was no longer beautiful.
10. The lead heart and the dead Swallow were thrown on a dust heap.

Points for true or false: *The Happy Prince* - Oscar Wilde

1. The Mathematical Master did not like children to sing.
2. The little Swallow's courtship of the Flower lasted through the summer.
3. The Swallow was delayed in his journey to Egypt because he was in love with the Reed.
4. The Swallow put a pizza on the table in the house of the poor seamstress.
5. The eyes of the statue of the Happy Prince were two rubies.
6. The Swallow took a sapphire to the poor young dramatist.
7. The little beggar boy thought that the sapphire was a lovely piece of glass.
8. The little Swallow died of the winter cold.
9. The lead heart of the statue melted in the fire.
10. God rewarded the Happy Prince and the Reed by giving them a place in heaven.

Lesson - *Two I'm Hungry* (1945) by Richard Wright (1908-1960)

Summary:

Richard Wright was a Black American writer. He writes about his childhood life in this chapter. One day Richard's mother told him that the family was going to Memphis (Tennessee State, USA). They would travel on a boat. The name of the boat was the Kate Adams. The news excited the boy. He was very eager to make the journey. The day of the departure was not fixed and each night Richard hoped that the next day would be the day of departure.

Richard asked his mother about the boat. She said that the boat was white and as big as a mountain. They would spend a day and a night on the boat. However, Richard was disappointed to see the boat. It was dirty and tiny. The mother had told him a lie. But Richard soon found solace. The presence of other Negroes on the boat gave him a sense of belonging or security. The throbbing of the machines in the engine room fascinated him for hours.

The family lived in one-story brick tenement in Memphis. Richard found the surrounding bleak and hostile. The house was small for four members. It had only a kitchen and a bedroom. Richard's father worked as a porter in a drugstore. He worked at night and slept in the daytime. Richard could not make noise in the house for fear of waking up his father. The father had a huge body and a bloated belly. He drank beer and ate heavily. But Richard didn't get enough food. The father was always an alien and a stranger to Richard.

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The father brought food for the family. Richard was always hungry. He constantly begged for bread and was satisfied when his mother gave him a crumb or two. His father left the family all of a sudden. Initially Richard felt happy because in his father's absence he could make as much noise as he wanted. But the absence of the father also meant the absence of food in the house. Richard realized this fact when he was hungry and demanded food from the mother.

The mother wanted to make the pain of hunger as light as possible. She teased Richard about it. When Richard told the mother that he was hungry, she asked him to jump and catch a kungru. The non-sense word kungru was used only as a joke. After the father left the family, the mother gave only a cup of tea whenever Richard complained of hunger. There was no more bread for him. Sometime later he was informed that he would remain hungry till the mother got a job. Richard associated his hunger with his father with a deep sense of bitterness.

Answer the following questions in brief: I'm Hungry - Richard Wright

1. What made Richard restless after his mother told him about going to Memphis?

Richard was a Black (Negro) boy. One day Richard's mother told him that the family was going to Memphis. They would travel on a boat. The name of the boat was the Kate Adams. The news excited Richard. He became restless because he was very eager to make the journey. The day of the departure was not fixed and each night Richard hoped that the next day would be the day of departure.

2. Why was Richard disappointed to see the boat? What was his solace then?

One day Richard's mother told him that the family was going to Memphis on a boat. He asked her how big the boat was. She said that the boat was white and as big as a mountain. However, Richard was disappointed to see the boat. It was dirty and tiny. The mother had told him a lie to keep him in good mood. But Richard soon found solace. The presence of other Negroes on the boat gave him a sense of belonging or security. The throbbing of the machines in the engine room fascinated him for hours.

3. **How did Richard become aware of his father's personality in the house?** Or Describe Richard's father as he saw him in his childhood.

Richard's family lived in one-story brick tenement in Memphis. He found the surrounding bleak and hostile. The house was small for four members. It had only a kitchen and a bedroom. Richard's father worked as a porter in a drugstore. He worked at night and slept in the daytime. Richard could not make noise in the house for fear of waking up his father. The father had a huge body and a bloated belly. He drank beer and ate heavily. But Richard, a growing boy, was always hungry. The father was always an alien and a stranger to Richard.

4. **Describe Richard's experience of hunger.** Or What is the difference between the hunger in the past and the hunger he felt after his father left the family?

Richard's father worked as a porter in a drugstore. He brought food for the family. The father drank beer and ate heavily. But Richard, a growing boy, was always hungry. He constantly begged for bread and was satisfied when his mother gave him a crumb or two. Richard's father left the family all of a sudden. Initially the boy felt happy. But the father's absence also meant the absence of food in the house. After the father left the family, the mother gave only a cup of tea whenever Richard complained of hunger. There was no more bread for him.

5. What is a kungry? Why did Richard's mother use that word? Or Why and how did the mother tease Richard when he complained of hunger?

The mother wanted to make Richard's pain of hunger as light as possible. She teased him about it. When Richard told the mother that he was hungry, she asked him to jump and catch a kungry. The non-sense word kungry rhymes with hungry. It was used only as a joke. After the father left the family, the mother gave only a cup of tea whenever Richard complained of hunger. There was no more bread for him.

6. **Why does Richard feel bitter about his father?** Or How is Richard's hunger associated with his father?

Richard's father brought food for the family. He father drank beer and ate heavily. But Richard, a growing boy, was always hungry. He constantly begged for bread and was satisfied when his mother gave him a crumb or two. But Richard's father left the family all of a sudden. The father's absence also meant the absence of food in the house. After the father left the family, the mother gave only a cup of tea whenever Richard complained of hunger. He would remain hungry till the mother got a job. Thus Richard associated his hunger with his father with a deep sense of bitterness.

Short Note/s: *I'm Hungry* - Richard Wright

Richard Wright's experience of hunger or The association between Richard's hunger and his father

Richard Wright was a Black American writer. In the chapter *I'm Hungry*, he writes about his experience of hunger in his childhood. There was not enough food for him because his family was poor. Moreover, his father did not care for him. Later in life, Richard Wright associates his father with his hunger. Richard's family lived in one-story brick tenement in Memphis. His father worked as a porter in a drugstore. The father had a huge body and a bloated belly. He drank beer and ate heavily. But Richard didn't get enough food. The father was always an alien and a stranger to Richard.

The father brought food for the family. Richard was always hungry. He constantly begged for bread and was satisfied when his mother gave him a crumb or two. But his father left the family all of a sudden. Initially Richard felt happy because in his father's absence he could make as much noise as he wanted. But the absence of the father also meant the absence of food in the house. Richard realized this fact when he was hungry and demanded food from the mother.

The mother wanted to make the pain of hunger as light as possible. When Richard told the mother that he was hungry, she asked him to jump and catch a kungry. The non-sense word kungry rhymes with hungry. It was used only as a joke. After the father left the family, the mother gave only a cup of tea whenever Richard complained of hunger. There was no more bread for him. Sometime later he was informed that he would remain hungry till the mother got a job. Richard associated his hunger with his father with a deep sense of bitterness.

Points for MCQs: *I'm Hungry* - Richard Wright

1. Richard's family was going to Memphis.
2. The Wright family lived in one-story brick tenement in Memphis.
3. The Wright family had four members.
4. Richard's father worked as a porter in a drugstore.
5. Richard's father brought food for the family.
6. The father's absence also meant no food in Richard's house.
7. Richard would remain hungry till his mother got a job.

Points for true or false: *I'm Hungry* - Richard Wright

1. Richard's family was going to travel on the boat the Kate Willams.
2. The Wright family house had only a kitchen and a bedroom.
3. Richard's uncle was always an alien and a stranger to him.
4. 'Kungry' was a non-sense word used by Richard's father.
5. Richard was initially happy about his father's absence from the house.
6. After the father left the family, the mother gave Richard only tea when he was hungry.
7. At the end of the story, Richard felt bitter about his father.

Lesson - Three *Letter to John D Johnston* (1852) by Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)

Summary:

Abraham Lincoln was the 16th President (1861-1864) of the USA. He had humble beginnings. He did not get a regular school education. Lincoln borrowed books and taught himself. He struggled as a lawyer to provide for his family. In spite of the financial troubles, Lincoln helped his aged parents - Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Johnston.

John D Johnston was Lincoln's step-brother. When Lincoln's mother Nancy Hanks died, his father Thomas Lincoln married Sarah Bush Johnston. J D Johnston was Sarah's son by her first husband and was the same age as Lincoln. Lincoln came up in life with hard work and did not like his step-brother's idleness. John borrowed money occasionally from Lincoln.

The present letter was written by Lincoln on January 02, 1851 in reply to Johnston's request for money. Johnston lived in Coles County (Illinois). He was in debt. He was so desperate for (greatly in need of) money that he was willing to give his place in heaven for seventy or eighty dollars. Johnston even offered to transfer his land to Lincoln if he gave that much money.

In the past, as we can judge from the given letter, Lincoln must have helped Johnston on several occasions. Johnston, Lincoln points out, had a habit of getting into debt again and again. This time Lincoln didn't help Johnston. Instead Lincoln advised him to mend his habit of idleness.

Johnston, according to Lincoln, was not lazy but idle. He wasted his time uselessly and did no serious work. Johnston did not find work profitable. His children might perhaps develop his habit of idleness. The children would naturally live longer than the father. So, Lincoln told Johnston that it would be better for his children also if he mended his habit of idleness.

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Lincoln advised Johnston to work "tooth and nail" (hard) to earn good wages. Lincoln suggested that Johnston could leave the farm in care of the father and his (Johnston's) children and find work near his home. Lincoln promised to pay Johnston an extra dollar for every dollar that he earned through his own labour. In this way, Lincoln said, Johnston could repay his debts.

Lincoln concluded the letter with a remark that Johnston would find his (Lincoln's) advice much more useful than eighty dollars that he (Johnston) wanted to borrow.

Answer the following questions in brief: Letter to John D Johnston - Abraham Lincoln

1. How much money does Johnston want to borrow from Lincoln? Why does Lincoln refuse to help him?

John D Johnston was Lincoln's step-brother. He requested Lincoln for eighty dollars. In the past, Lincoln helped Johnston several times but this time he refused to give the money. Lincoln felt that Johnston was an idler and it was his habit to borrow. Lincoln refused to help Johnston because he wanted his step-brother to overcome the habit of idleness.

2. **Lincoln says that Johnston was not "lazy" but an "idler"?** Or How does Lincoln explain the meaning of idleness in his letter?

Johnston requested Lincoln for eighty dollars. Lincoln refused to help him because he felt that Johnston was an idler. Lincoln said that Johnston was an idler but not lazy. Johnston did not dislike work but he wasted his time uselessly. Laziness is not doing any work at all. Idleness, as Lincoln explains the meaning, is not doing any useful work.

3. Why, according to Lincoln, is it more important for Johnston's children if their father overcomes the habit of uselessly wasting time?

When Johnston requested Lincoln for eighty dollars, he advised him to mend his habit of idleness. Johnston, according to Lincoln, was not lazy but idle. He wasted his time uselessly and did no serious work. Johnston did not find work profitable. His children might perhaps develop his habit of idleness. The children would naturally live longer than the father. So Lincoln told Johnston that it would be better for his children also if he mended his habit of idleness.

4. **What was Lincoln's offer to Johnston as an alternative to lending the latter eighty dollars instantly? What was his motive for making that offer?**

Johnston, according to Lincoln, was not lazy but idle. He wasted his time uselessly and did no serious work. Lincoln advised Johnston to mend his habit of idleness. He advised Johnston to work "tooth and nail" (hard) to earn good wages. Lincoln also promised to pay him an extra dollar for every dollar that he earned through his own labour. In this way, Lincoln said, Johnston could repay his debts.

5. **How can we understand from Lincoln's letter that Johnston must have been desperate for money?**

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John D Johnston was Lincoln's step-brother. He requested Lincoln for eighty dollars. From Lincoln's letter, it is clear that Johnston must have borrowed money from him several times in the past. This time Johnston was ready to give his place in heaven for seventy or eighty dollars. He was also ready to transfer his land to Lincoln for that much money. This shows that Johnston must have been desperate for money.

6. Why does Lincoln remark that his advice would be worth more than eighty dollars that Johnston wanted to borrow from him?

Johnston wasted his time uselessly and did no serious work. He requested Lincoln for eighty dollars. But Lincoln refused to give him the money. Instead Lincoln advised Johnston to mend his habit of idleness. Lincoln also promised to pay him an extra dollar for every dollar that Johnston earned through his own labour. If Johnston began to work seriously all his troubles would end. So Lincoln remarked that his advice was worth more than the eighty dollars that Johnston had requested for.

Short Note/s: **Letter to John D Johnston** - Abraham Lincoln

Lincoln's advice to John D Johnston

John D Johnston was Lincoln's step-brother. John borrowed money occasionally from Lincoln. The present letter was written by Lincoln on January 02, 1851 in reply to Johnston's request for money. Johnston lived in Coles County (Illinois). He was in debt. He was so desperate for money that he was willing to give his place in heaven for seventy or eighty dollars. Johnston even offered to transfer his land to Lincoln if he gave that much money. Johnston, Lincoln points out in the letter, had a habit of getting into debt again and again.

This time Lincoln didn't help Johnston. Instead Lincoln advised him to mend his habit of idleness. Johnston, according to Lincoln, was not lazy but idle. He wasted his time uselessly and did no serious work. Johnston did not find work profitable. His children might perhaps develop his habit of idleness. The children would naturally live longer than the father. So, Lincoln told Johnston that it would be better for his children also if he mended his habit of idleness.

Lincoln advised Johnston to work "tooth and nail" (hard) to earn good wages. Lincoln suggested that Johnston could leave the farm in care of the father and his (Johnston's) children and find work near his home. Lincoln promised to pay Johnston an extra dollar for every dollar that he earned through his own labour. In this way, Lincoln said, Johnston could repay his debts. Lincoln concluded the letter with a remark that Johnston would find his (Lincoln's) advice much more useful than eighty dollars that he (Johnston) wanted to borrow.

Points for MCQs: Letter to John D Johnston - Abraham Lincoln

1. Lincoln's letter to Johnston is dated January 02, 1851.
2. Johnston was a habitual borrower.
3. Johnston lived with his family in Coles County.
4. Johnston was ready to transfer his land to Lincoln for seventy or eighty dollars.
5. Lincoln says that Johnston has always been kind to him.

1. Johnston was not lazy but an idler.
2. Lincoln advised Johnston to break the habit of wasting time uselessly.
3. Lincoln offered to give Johnston an extra dollar for every dollar the latter earned.
4. Johnston offered his place in heaven for seventy or eighty dollars.
5. Lincoln didn't mean to be unkind to Johnston.

Lesson - Four My Grandmother by Khushwant Singh (1915-2014)

Summary:

Khushwant Singh was one of the most popular Indian writers in English. He was born at Hadali (Punjab Province now in Pakistan).

Khushwant Singh's father and grandfather moved to Delhi and served as building and labour contractors when the new capital of the British India was coming up. So he spent his early childhood at his native village with his grandmother. A bond of friendship was established between the two.

Khushwant Singh's grandmother was a religious woman. She woke the author up early in the morning and sang her prayer as she got him ready for the school. The school was attached to the village temple (Gurudwara). The grandmother thought that the boy would learn the prayer. Khushwant Singh loved her voice and listened to the prayer. But he never bothered to learn it.

The grandmother took the author to the village temple. The priest taught the children the alphabet and the morning prayer in the verandah of the temple. During the school hours, the grandmother sat inside the temple and read the scriptures. While returning home, she threw pieces of stale chapattis to the dogs.

When the author's parents were comfortably settled in the city he and the grandmother moved there. A turning point came in their friendship. The author went to the school by bus. There were no dogs in the street. So the grandmother started feeding the sparrows in the courtyard of the house.

Khushwant Singh and the grandmother still shared the same room but, as years passed, they saw less of each other. She would often ask him what the teacher taught him at the school. But she understood neither English words nor things about Western science. When Khushwant Singh joined the university, he had a separate room for himself. The grandmother sat by her spinning-wheel from sunrise to sunset. She rarely talked to anyone in the house. In the afternoon, she fed the sparrows.

The grandmother was gradually withdrawing herself from other family members. When Khushwant Singh went abroad for higher studies, she showed no emotion. When he came back after five years, the grandmother went to receive him at the station but she did not look even a day older.

That evening a change came over the grandmother. Khushwant Singh had always seen her pray in the evening. But that evening was the first time that the grandmother did not pray. That evening she collected the women of the neighbourhood to sing songs of the home-coming of the warriors. The grandmother played the drum for several hours.

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The next morning the grandmother fell ill. The doctor said that it was not a serious illness. But she knew that her end was near. Since she had missed one prayer, she avoided talking to the family and said her beads in bed. When she died, the rosary fell from her lifeless fingers.

The grandmother's dead body lay in her room till the evening. Thousands of sparrows landed in the courtyard and some went up to her lifeless body. There was no chirping. Khushwant Singh's mother scattered crumbs of bread for the sparrows but they took no notice of those crumbs. The sparrows flew away quietly when the body was taken away for cremation. Next morning the sweeper gathered the bread crumbs and threw them into the dust bin.

Answer the following questions in brief: My Grandmother - Khushwant Singh

1. Why did Khushwant Singh have to live with his grandmother in his early childhood in the native village? What was their morning routine there?

Khushwant Singh spent his early childhood at his native village with his grandmother. His parents had gone to live in the city and left him in her care. A bond of friendship was established between the two. The grandmother was a religious woman. She woke the author up early in the morning and sang her prayer as she got him ready for the school. The grandmother thought that the boy would learn the prayer. Khushwant Singh loved her voice and listened to the prayer. But he never bothered to learn it.

2. What did the grandmother do while the priest taught the children in the temple?

The school was attached to the village temple (Gurudwara). The grandmother took the author to the school. The priest taught the children the alphabet and the morning prayer in the verandah of the temple. During the school hours, the grandmother sat inside the temple and read the scriptures. While returning home, she threw pieces of stale chapattis to the dogs.

3. When did a turning point come in the friendship between the author and his grandmother?

Khushwant Singh spent his early childhood at his native village with his grandmother. A bond of friendship was established between the two. The school was attached to the village temple (Gurudwara). The grandmother took the author to the school in the village. When they moved to the city a turning point came in their friendship. Now the author went to the school by bus. The grandmother could not go with him. As years passed, the author and the grandmother saw less of each other.

4. How did the grandmother spend her days after she joined her family in the city?

When the author's parents were comfortably settled in the city, he and his grandmother moved there. The author went to the school by bus so the grandmother could not go with him. As years passed, the author and the grandmother saw less of each other. In the city, the grandmother sat by her spinning-wheel from sunrise to sunset. She rarely talked to anyone in the house. In the afternoon, she fed the sparrows because there were no dogs in the streets.

5. How did the grandmother celebrate the author's home-coming from abroad?

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Khushwant Singh went abroad for higher studies. He came back after five years. The grandmother went to receive him at the station but she did not look even a day older. That evening was the first time that the grandmother did not pray. Instead she collected the women of the neighbourhood to sing songs of the home-coming of the warriors. The grandmother played the drum for several hours.

6. Describe the last moments of the grandmother's life.

Khushwant Singh returned home from abroad after five years. On the evening of his return, the grandmother collected the women of the neighbourhood to sing songs of the home-coming of the warriors. The grandmother played the drum for several hours. The next morning she fell ill. The grandmother knew that her end was near. Since the previous evening she had missed one prayer, she avoided talking to the family and said her beads in bed. When the grandmother died, the rosary fell from her lifeless fingers.

7. **How did the sparrows mourn the grandmother's death?** Or What unusual thing happened after the grandmother's death?

While living in the city, the grandmother fed the sparrows in the afternoon. When she died the sparrows also mourned her death. The grandmother's dead body lay in her room till the evening. Thousands of sparrows landed in the courtyard and some went up to her lifeless body. There was no chirping. The author's mother scattered crumbs of bread for the sparrows but they took no notice of those crumbs. The sparrows flew away quietly when the body was taken away for cremation.

Short Note/s: ***My Grandmother*** - Khushwant Singh

The Character of the Grandmother or the Bond between the Author and the Grandmother

Khushwant Singh spent his early childhood at his native village with his grandmother. A bond of friendship was established between the two. The grandmother was a religious woman. She sang her prayer as she got the author ready for the school. The grandmother thought that the boy would learn the prayer. Khushwant Singh loved her voice and listened to the prayer. But he never bothered to learn it. During the school hours, the grandmother read the scriptures. While returning home, she threw pieces of stale chapattis to the dogs.

A turning point came in the friendship between the author and the grandmother when they moved to the city. The author went to the school by bus. The grandmother would often ask him what the teacher taught him at the school. But she understood neither English words nor things about Western science. There were no dogs in the street. So the grandmother started feeding the sparrows in the courtyard of the house. The grandmother sat by her spinning-wheel from sunrise to sunset. She rarely talked to anyone in the house. In the afternoon, she fed the sparrows.

Khushwant Singh returned from abroad after five years. On the evening of the author's homecoming, the grandmother did not pray. This was the first time that she missed her prayer. The next morning the grandmother fell ill. She said her beads in bed. When she died, the rosary fell from her lifeless fingers. Thousands of sparrows landed in the courtyard and some went up to her lifeless body. There was no chirping. Khushwant Singh's mother scattered crumbs of bread for the sparrows but they took no notice of those crumbs. The sparrows flew away quietly when the body was taken away for cremation. Next morning the sweeper gathered the bread crumbs and threw them into the dust bin.

Points for MCQs: My Grandmother - Khushwant Singh

1. As a child, Khushwant Singh carried a wooden slate to the school.
2. The grandmother took the author to the school in the village.
3. After moving to the city, the author went to the school by bus.
4. The grandmother spent her days in the city sitting by the spinning-wheel.
5. The grandmother fed the sparrows in the afternoon.
6. The grandmother died with a rosary in her hand.

Points for true or false: My Grandmother - Khushwant Singh

1. The slate was plastered with white chalk.
2. The author's first school was attached to the village temple.
3. The author went to a Hindi medium school in the city.
4. The author had a separate room for himself after he joined the university.
5. The author spent four years abroad for higher studies.
6. The grandmother did not look even a day older when the author returned from abroad after five years.

Lesson - Five My Greatest Olympic Prize by Jesse Owens (1930-1980)

Summary:

Pierre de Coubertin (1863-1937) is considered the father of the modern Olympic Games. Inspired by the Olympic Games in ancient Greece, the first modern Olympic Games were held in Athens in 1896. They are held every four years. The Olympic Games are the most important international sports events. The Summer and the Winter Olympic Games are held separately.

Coubertin believed that taking part in the Olympic Games is more important than winning them. All games have an element of competition but the Olympic Games are expected to encourage harmony and friendship.

In this lesson, the black American athlete, Jesse Owens recounts his experience in the Summer Olympics held in Berlin in 1936. He presents his rival, the German athlete Luz Long as a perfect specimen of the spirit of the Olympic Games. Owens was upset in the qualifying rounds for the broad-jump event. He might have disqualified for the event if Long had not guided Owens to make the right jump in the third and the final attempt. Owens won the broad jump event but, he says, his best prize in the Olympic Games was his friendship with Long.

Jesse Owens travelled 3000 miles to take part in the Olympic Games in Berlin. Adolf Hitler was 'Der Fuhrer' (Leader) of the Nazi Germany. He believed that the Germans were Aryans and, for that reason, were the "master race." Nationalist feelings were high in Germany at the time. Hitler expected German players to prove their superiority at the Games.

Owens had prepared for six years for the Olympic Games. He expected to take home one or two gold medals. At the Ohio State University, he had set the world record of 26 feet 8-1/4 inches in broad jump. That gave him a hope for winning a gold medal in that event. But there was an alarming surprise for him during the practice sessions. Owens' German rival Luz Long made almost 26 feet on the practice leaps. It seemed difficult to beat Long in broad jump.

With his excellent performance in the broad jump practice sessions, Long qualified for the finals in the first attempt. Owens was already "hot under the collar" about Hitler's theory of Aryan/ German superiority. He was a Negro from USA. Owens thought if Long won the broad jump event, it would give some support to the theory of Aryan superiority. An angry athlete makes mistakes. Owens made two fouls in the qualifying jumps. Now he had only one chance to qualify for the event.

At this point, Long put his hand on Owens' shoulder and tried to calm him. Long seemed to understand the reason for Owens' anger. While making the jump, Owens moved several inches beyond the take-off board. Long advised him to draw a line few inches back from the take-off board and make the jump. Owens did that and qualified for the finals.

That evening Owens visited Luz Long in his room and spent two hours there. Next morning they met again for the finals. Here Long broke his own record and there was only one thing Owens could do - to perform his best. He did and set the Olympic record of 26 feet 5/5-16 inches. Hitler glared at Long and Owens but Long heartily congratulated Owens for his success.

For Owens the greatest Olympic prize was not the gold medal in the broad-jump but the German athlete Luz Long's friendship. Long epitomized the spirit of the Olympic Games.

Answer the following questions in brief: My Greatest Olympic Prize - Jesse Owens

- 1. Why were German nationalistic feelings at all-time high in the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin?**

Jesse Owens travelled 3000 miles to take part in the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin. Adolf Hitler was 'Der Fuhrer' (Leader) of the Nazi Germany. He believed that the Germans were Aryans and, for that reason, were the "master race." Therefore nationalist feelings were high in Germany at the time. Hitler expected German players to prove their superiority at the Games.

- 2. Why did Jesse Owens expect to win the broad jump event in the 1936 Summer Olympics? What was his surprise at the time of the practice leaps?**

Jesse Owens travelled 3000 miles to take part in the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin. He had prepared for six years for the Olympic Games. At the Ohio State University, he had set the world record of 26 feet 8-1/4 inches in broad jump. That gave him a hope for winning a gold medal in that event. But there was an alarming surprise for him during the practice sessions. Owens' German rival Luz Long made almost 26 feet on the practice leaps. It seemed difficult to beat Long in broad jump.

- 3. Why was Owens "hot under the collar" at the time of the broad-jump trials?**

Adolf Hitler was 'Der Fuhrer' (Leader) of Germany at the time of the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. He believed that the Germans were Aryans and, for that reason, were the "master race." Owens was a Negro from USA. He was already "hot under the collar" about Hitler's theory of Aryan/ German superiority. During the broad jump trials, the German athlete Luz Long recorded an excellent performance. Owens thought if Long won the broad jump it would give some support to the theory of Aryan superiority.

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4. How did Owens perform at the broad-jump trials? How did Luz Long save him from disqualification? Or What was Long's suggestion to Owens for not fouling in the third trial?

Jesse Owens was "hot under the collar" about Hitler's theory of Aryan/ German superiority. An angry athlete makes mistakes. Owens made two fouls in the qualifying trials for the broad jump event. Now he had only one chance to qualify for the event. At this point, Long put his hand on Owens' shoulder and tried to calm him. While making the jump, Owens moved several inches beyond the take-off board. Long advised him to draw a line a few inches back from the take-off board and make the jump. Owens did that and qualified for the finals.

5. What was Owen's first impression of his German rival Luz Long? How did that impression change later?

Luz Long was a German athlete. He was tall and qualified for the broad jump in the first attempt. Owens thought if Long won the broad jump it would give some support to the theory of Aryan superiority. Owens made two fouls in the qualifying trials. Now he had only one chance to qualify for the event. At this point, Long tried to calm Owens and guided him to qualify for the finals. Later when Owens won the broad jump Long congratulated him heartily. Thus Owens' first impression of Long changed completely.

6. **What, according to Owens, was his greatest Olympic prize? Or Why did Owens say that Luz Long was the epitome of the fundamental principles of the Olympic Games?**

Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympics, believed that taking part in the games is more important than winning them. The Olympic Games are expected to encourage harmony and friendship. In the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin, Owens won the broad jump event. Luz Long was a German athlete. He was Owens' rival in the broad jump. Without Long's support, Owens could not have qualified for the finals. Owens therefore says that Long was the epitome of the fundamental principles of the Olympic Games.

7. Who founded the modern Olympic Games? What fundamental principles did he have in mind for the games?

Pierre de Coubertin is the founder of the modern Olympic Games. He believed that taking part in the Olympic Games was more important than winning them. All games have an element of competition but the Olympic Games are expected to encourage harmony and friendship. Coubertin said that "The essential thing in life is not conquering but fighting well."

Short Note/s: ***My Greatest Olympic Prize*** - Jesse Owens

Owens' Greatest Olympic Prize or Luz Long - the epitome of the spirit of the Olympic Games

Pierre de Coubertin, the father of the modern Olympic Games, believed that taking part in the Olympic Games is more important than winning them. Jesse Owens, a black American athlete, recounts his experience in the Summer Olympics held in Berlin in 1936. He presents his rival, the German athlete Luz Long as a perfect specimen of the spirit of the Olympic Games. With Long's guidance Owens qualified for the final event. The next morning Owens won the broad jump event. But, he says, his best prize was his friendship with Luz Long.

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Adolf Hitler was 'Der Fuhrer' (Leader) of Germany at the time. He believed that the Germans were Aryans and, for that reason, were the "master race." Nationalist feelings were high in Germany at the time. Hitler expected German players to prove their superiority at the Games. Owens was already "hot under the collar" about Hitler's theory of Aryan/ German superiority. An angry athlete makes mistakes. Owens made two fouls in the qualifying jumps. Now he had only one chance to qualify for the event. Long advised him to draw a line few inches back from the take-off board and make the jump. Owens did that and qualified for the finals.

In the final event, Long broke his own record. Now there was only one thing Owens could do - to perform his best. He did and set the Olympic record of 26 feet 5/5-16 inches. Hitler glared at Long and Owens but Long heartily congratulated Owens for his success. For Owens the greatest Olympic prize was not the gold medal in the broad-jump but the German athlete Luz Long's friendship. Long epitomized the spirit of the Olympic Games.

Points for MCQs: My Greatest Olympic Prize - Jesse Owens

1. The Summer Olympic Games were held in Berlin in 1936.
2. Hitler thought the Germans were the master race.
3. Owens had set world record in broad-jump at practice sessions at Ohio State University.
4. Luz Long was Owens' German rival in the broad-jump event.
5. Owens travelled 3000 miles to take part in the Olympic Games.
6. Owens made two fouls in the trials for the broad jump because he was angry.
7. Hitler was angry because Owens won the broad-jump event.
8. Pierre de Coubertin founded the modern Olympic Games.
9. Owens says Luz Long's friendship was his greatest Olympic prize.
10. Owens was angry about Hitler's theory of the superiority of the Aryan race.

Points for true or false: My Greatest Olympic Prize - Jesse Owens

1. Nationalistic feelings were at an all-time low during the 1936 Summer Olympic Games.
2. Jesse Owens had trained for four years for the 1936 Olympic Games.
3. Luz Long had been schooled in the Nazi youth movement.
4. Hitler believed in the superiority of the European race.
5. Hitler is referred to as 'Der Fuhrer.'
6. Luz Long made almost 26 feet in the practice sessions for the broad jump.
7. Luz Long was an inch taller than Owens.
8. Luz Long did not seem to understand the reason for Owens' anger.
9. Long broke his own record in the finals of the broad-jump event.
10. Owens is the epitome of the fundamental principles of the Olympic Games.