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Class 10 English (First Flight) Notes

Nelson Mandela



Key Notes and Important Questions with Answers

CH-2 : NELSON MANDELA : LONG WALK TO FREEDOM

Key Points :

- *Nelson Mandela, the first black President of South Africa, fought for the freedom of his people.*
- *He was discriminated against by the Whites along with other Black people.*
- *He was an enthusiastic young boy who con sidered staying away from his home to be free.*
- *He wanted to marry the person of his choice, gradually he realized that freedom is more meaningful.*
- *He decided to bring freedom for his own people. On 10th May 1994 he was able to materialize his dreams long cherished by the black people who sacrificed their lives to give dignity to their coming generations.*
- *He gives two contradictory pictures of his country, one, in which the black people were tortured and had to suffer quietly, second when the blacks will be free to live a life of their own.*

WORDS	MEANINGS
Obligation	*a duty or commitment*
Oppressor	*harsh exerciser of authority or power*
Virtuous	*morally correct, ethical*
Grim	*depressing, uninviting (situation)*
Brutal	*cruel, bloodthirsty*

SEEN PASSAGE

SOLVED

1. Read the passage below and answer the following questions:

The policy of apartheid created a deep and lasting wound in my country and my people. All of us will spend many years, if not generations, recovering from that profound hurt. But the decades of oppression and brutality had another, unintended, effect, and that was that it produced the Oliver Tombos, the Walter Sisulus, the Chief Luthulis, the Yusuf Dadoos, the Brahm Fischers, the Robert Sobukwes of or time, men of such extraordinary courage, wisdom and generosity that their like may never be known again. Perhaps it requires such depths of oppression to create such heights of character. My country is rich in the minerals and gems that lie beneath in soil, but I have always known that its greatest wealth is its people, finer and truer than purest diamonds.

(a) What did the policy of apartheid do?

(b) What effect did the decades of oppression and brutality have?

(c) What, according to Mandela, is the greatest wealth of South Africa?

(d) What natural resources is South Africa rich in?

ANSWERS

(a) *The policy of apartheid created a deep and permanent wound in the people of South Africa and the country itself.*

(b) *The decades of oppression and brutality produced men of extraordinary courage, wisdom and generosity who fought against apartheid.*

(c) *The greatest wealth of South Africa is its people.*

(d) *South Africa is rich in minerals and gems.*

UNSOLVED

PASSAGE 2

Tenth may dawn bright and clear. For the past few days I had been pleasantly besieged by dignitaries and world leaders who were coming to pay their respects before the inauguration.

The inauguration would be the largest gathering ever of international leaders on South African soil. The ceremonies took place in the lovely sandstone amphitheater formed by the Union Buildings in Pretoria. For decades this had been the seat of white supremacy and now it was the site of a rainbow gathering of different colors and nations for the installation of South Africa's first democratic, non-racial government.

(a) *Who is the speaker of these lines?*

(b) *Why were the dignitaries and world leaders coming to South Africa?*

(c) *Why has it been called a rainbow gathering?*

(d) *Where did the ceremony take place?*

PASSAGE 3

That is when I joined African National Congress and that is when the hunger for my own freedom became the greater hunger for the freedom of my people. It was this desire for the freedom of my people to live their lives with dignity and self-respect that animated my life, that transformed a frightened young man into a bold one, that drove a law-abiding attorney to become a criminal, that turned a family-loving husband into a man without a home, that forced a life-loving man to live like a monk. I am no more virtuous or self-sacrificing than the next man, but I found that I could not even enjoy the poor and limited freedom I was allowed when I knew my people were not free.

(a) *When did Mandela join the African National Congress?*

(b) *What changes did the desire for the freedom of his people bring about in Mandela's life?*

(c) *Give the noun forms of the following:*

(i) Transform *(ii) virtuous*

PASSAGE 4

It was only when I began to learn that my boyhood freedom was an illusion, but when I discovered as a young man that my freedom had already been taken from me, that I began to hunger for it. At first, as a student, I wanted freedom only for myself, the transitory freedoms of being able to stay out at night, read what I pleased and

go where I chose. Later, as a young man in Johannesburg, I yearned for the basic and honorable freedoms of achieving my potential, of earning my keep, of marrying and having a family-the freedom not to be obstructed in a lawful life.

(a) When did Mandela begin to feel the hunger for freedom?

(b) What kind of freedom did he yearn for as a young man?

(c) What did Mandela conclude about his boyhood freedom?

(d) Find a word from the passage which means the same as 'desired'.

PASSAGE 5

But in a country like South Africa, it was almost impossible for a man of my birth and colour to fulfill those obligations. In South Africa a man of colour who attempted to live as a human being was punished and isolated.

(i) What happened in country like South Africa ?

(ii) What happened to a coloured man who tried to live as a human being?

(iii) Give verb form of

(a) Obligation (b) inclination

Short Answer Type Questions

SOLVED (SAQ)

(i) What were the major sufferings that the blacks of South Africa faced at the hands of White people?

(ii) Which twin obligations, according to Nelson Mandela, does every man have in life?

ANSWERS

(i) The white-skinned people of South Africa erected a system of racial domination against the dark- skinned people. The structure they created gave birth to one of the harshest and most inhuman society.

(ii) According to Nelson Mandela man's first obligation is to his family, his parents, to his wife and children. His second obligation is to his people, his community, and his country. These twin obligations can be fulfilled in a civil and human society according to his own inclinations and abilities.

UNSOLVED

i) How did Mandela's understanding of freedom change with age and experience ?

ii) What was the policy of apartheid ?

iii) What ideals does Nelson Mandela set out for the future of South Africa?

Type III

Nelson Mandela : A long walk to Freedom

Long Answers Question

(i) What difference came in Mandela's opinion about the meaning of freedom, when he was a little boy and when he became young? Describe.

(ii) Describe Mandela as an icon of the anti-apartheid stuggle.

(iii) What ideas did we get about freedom, the oppressor and the oppressed from this lesson? How did Nelson Mandela get hunger for freedom?