

ALBERT EINSTEIN AT SCHOOL

Q1. What plan did Albert Einstein make to stay away from the school for six months? How far did he succeed?

Or

Write a character sketch of Albert Einstein.

Answer. Albert Einstein is considered to be the greatest man of the 20th century. He influenced the world with his research on nuclear energy. He was the boy who made his own course rather than following the beaten track.

In his school life, he was very different from other students. He did not believe in the existing education system and was constant rebellion in the class. Instead of learning dates and facts, he wanted to know the reasons behind these facts. The history teacher calls him a disgrace for the class and advises him to ask his father to take him away from there. The boy realized that he was just wasting his time in the school as he was more interested in math and science. He plans to get away from the school for six months and try to get admission in an Italian school in Milan. He needed a medical certificate in nervous breakdown. With the help of Yuri, he manages to get a certificate of nervous breakdown from Dr. Earnest Weil. But before he could use the certificate, the school principal turned him out of the school. The boy had got the reference of his math's teacher Mr. Koch. The letter helped him to get admission in the Italian school.

Q2. What were Einstein's views regarding rote learning? Why is mere rote learning useless?

Answer. Albert Einstein was a constant rebellion in school as he did not believe in the education system. He did not believe in learning dates and facts as it was quite easy to access such information from any resource book. He was of the opinion that one should try to study the reasons and consequences of historical events. There was no use learning when the war of Waterloo took place.

The boy was more interested in meaningful learning. He believed that a teacher must teach the students to improve their thinking skill and creativity. A student must know how to think rationally about all the aspects of a subject. A teacher can not mould a child with his own stamp. He must get freedom to produce his own ideas and follow

them. Such approach helps a child develop the skill to identify and solve problems by himself.

Q3. Who is Yuri and what is his role in the life/success of Albert Einstein?

Answer. Yuri was the senior student and an all-weather friend for Einstein. He plays a vital role the success of Albert. Yuri stood with him when he was struggling hard to free himself from that unworthy school and make his career as a scientist. Both the boys had strong chemistry. Yuri was the only person whom the budding scientist could trust. Yuri knew that the boy was just wasting his time there and he was destined to for something big. When Albert shares his plan to get away from the school for six months by obtaining a medical certificate of nervous breakdown, he agrees for it. He knew that the boy did not have any money to pay for the certificate. He arranges a meeting of albert with Dr. Ernst Weil who agrees to give him a certificate saying that the boy was very close to a nervous breakdown, he should keep away for the school for six months. He also advises him to get a testimonial for his math teacher that later helped him to get admission in the Italian School in Milan.

Q4. How did the history teacher react to Albert's reply?

Or

Why did Einstein said, 'I think it's not facts that matters, but ideas?'

Answer. When Mr. Braun, the history teacher asked Einstein why he had not learnt the history lesson, he answered that he hated learning dates and facts. He believed that anybody could find these dates in history books. He wanted to know the reason behind these facts. This audacity/impudence of the young boy made the teacher kind of mad.

Q5. What punishment did the history teacher give him for not answering his question?

Or

What was the history teacher's opinion about Albert?

Answer. Einstein told the history teacher that he hated learning dates and facts. He, even, did not believed the existing education system that make students to memorize data and store them in mind. The teacher got exasperated to see the way boy lectured him. He punished him by making stay in the class for an extra hour after the school was over.

Q6. Where did Albert stay? Was he satisfied with the place?

Or

Why did author say that, 'going back to his lodging did not cheer him'?

Answer. Albert lived in a rented room in the noisy atmosphere of slum in Munich. The Children of the landlady kept on wailing and howling/crying throughout the day as their mother beat them up for one reason or the another. On Saturday her husband would come in drunken condition and thrashed/beat her. It was hard for the boy to keep up with that incessant noise and violence of the industrial slum.

Q7. Why didn't Einstein not want to continue in the school anymore?

Answer. Einstein spent six months studying in a school slum. As the boy came from a mediocre family, he had to rent a house in industrial slum of the city. After spending six months there, he realized that he was just wasting his time and father's hard-earned money as the boy was more interested in math and science rather than learning dates and facts. Moreover, the boy felt suffocated amid the noise and violence of the industrial slum.

Q8. Who is Elsa? What was her suggestion to Einstein about examination?

Answer. Elsa was one of Einstein's cousin who lived in Berlin. Her father was businessman. When Albert his concern and his inability to pass exams, she suggested him to try hard. She takes the example of other boys who did not know much, but they repeat the things time and time again and thus manage to pass the exam.

Q9. How did Albert hope to get admission in an Italian school?

Or

What glowing reference did Mr. Koch give to Albert?

Answer. Albert got the reference of his math teacher Mr. Koch who agreed to give him a written testimonial of his excellence. It said that the boy had got perfect knowledge in math at school level. The teacher didn't hesitate to say that he was not able to teach him and probably the boy would be able to teach him.

This reference helped him to get the admission in an Italian school.

Q10. Who was Yuri? What role does he play in Albert's success? How did he help Einstein?

Answer. Yuri was a senior student and a friend of Einstein. He played a valuable/important role in the success of Albert. He helped him to get the medical certificate of nervous breakdown. He arranged a meeting with Dr. Earnest Weil who agreed to give him a certificate to help Albert get away for the school.

Q11. What advice does Yuri give to Albert when he meets Dr. Ernest Weil?

Answer. Yuri arranges a meeting of Albert with Dr. Ernest Weil. He believes that Albert is world's worst liar. So, he advises him not to try to deceive the doctor with wrong information. He suggests him to be honest and tell everything he had in his mind.

Q12. What was Dr. Ernest Weil's response to Einstein?

Answer. Albert Einstein was very nervous when he met Dr. Earnest Weil. The Dr. could see the nervousness on his face. Yuri had already told him about the mental condition of the boy. The Dr. readily agreed to give him a certificate of nervous breakdown saying that he was genuinely suffered with mental stress and he should be away from the school to get him out of this traumatic condition.

Q13. How did the medical certificate of nervous breakdown proved useless?

Or

Why did the certificate of nervous breakdown was burning in Einstein pocket?

Or

What did the head teacher tell Einstein when he met him?

Or

What reason did the head teacher give for expelling Einstein from School?

Answer. The principal had already been reported about what had happened between Einstein and the history teacher. On the other hand, Einstein had got the medical certificate of nervous breakdown that would get him away from the school. The boy was summoned by the head teacher. He said that the boy was constant rebellion of the education system. It makes it impossible for the teachers and student to learn and he could not afford to have

him in the school anymore. He asked him to leave the school. Thus, the boy was out of the school and the medical certificate left unused in his pocket.

Q14. What was the only solace for the young boy when he was staying in a rented room in Munich?

Or

Why does Einstein say, 'Music is the only thing that cheered him?'

Answer. Einstein felt sad and disheartened in the suffocated atmosphere of industrial slum. The children of the landlady kept howling throughout the day the lady thrashed him for that. Albert had two hobbies-reading books on science and playing violin. Whenever there was a howling of children, he would start playing his violin to divert his attention.