

## THE LAST LESSON

1. Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:

I jumped over the bench and sat down at my desk. Not till then, when I had got a little over to my fright, did I see our teacher had on his beautiful green coat, his frilled shirt, and the little black silk cap, all embroidered, that he never wore except on inspection and prize days. Besides, the whole school seemed so strange and solemn. But the thing that surprised me the most was to see, on the back benches that were always empty, the village people sitting quietly like ourselves.

i. Why was Franz afraid?

- A. He was late for the school.
- B. He was not in proper dress.
- C. He had not learnt the rules of participle
- D. Both 'a' and 'c'

ii. Why was the teacher dressed in his formals?

- A. For he had to attend a wedding
- B. For he had to attend a award ceremony
- C. For he had to juggle and inter-school competition
- D. For it was his last lesson in French

iii. Why were the senior citizens were sitting at the back of the class

- A. They had to learn French language
- B. They had meeting with the teacher
- C. They wanted to respect their teacher for his service
- D. Both 'a' and 'C'

iv. What was the otherwise atmosphere of the school

- A. It remained cool and calmed
- B. Usually full of noise
- C. Full of noise with opening and closing of desk
- D. Spanish

2. Read the stanza given below and answer the questions that follow:

Poor man! It was in honour of this last lesson that he had put on his fine Sunday clothes, and how I understood why the old men of the village were sitting the back of the room. It was because they were sorry, too, that they had not gone to school more. It was their way of thanking our master for his forty years of faithful service and of showing their respect for the country that was theirs no more.

i. who is being referred to as the poor man?

- A. Old Hauser
- B. M. Hamel
- C. Franz
- D. The Blacksmith.

ii. Why is the expression 'poor man' used for him?

- A. Because he was delivering his last lesson in French.
- B. For he was very poor
- C. Because he was wrongly accused of a crime
- D. For he was injured

iii. Why was the country theirs no more?

- A. For it came under the dictatorship.
- B. For it was split
- C. For it was captured by the Prussians
- D. For they left their country.

iv. Why were the village people present there

- A. to learn French
- B. To respect their teacher.
- C. To celebrate the win of Prussians
- D. to help the teacher in his work.

3. Tick the right answer from the options:

i. What does the phrase, 'Will they make them sing' means:

- A. The Students will talk in German only from the next day.

- B. The pigeon will coo and German from the next day.
- C. The villagers of Alsace and Lorraine will sing only in German from the next day
- D. All of these

ii. What does the lesson stand for

- A. Loss of language
- B. Loss of material possession
- C. Loss of language, freedom and identity
- D. All of these

iii. Why did M. Hamel say, “we’ve all a great deal to reproach ourselves with.”

- A. Because they took the school and education for granted
- B. Because they never realized the importance of mother language
- C. Because they gave more priority to sending their children to work.
- D. All of these

iv. Who does the word ‘wretches’ denote when Franz says “oh! the wretches”

- A. The people of Prussia
- B. Soldier of Prussia
- C. The student and senior citizen in the class
- D. The people standing at the town hall reading the bulletin board

v. What change does Franz observe in himself and M. Hamel in this last lesson

- A. That he was enjoying the class a lot
- B. That M. Hamel was very strict that day
- C. That Franz and M. Hamel both were more serious in their approach
- D. That M. Hamel was a little excited in this last class.

vi. The Human Tendency highlighted in ‘The Last Lesson’ is:

- A. Greed
- B. Courage
- C. Male Chauvinism
- D. Procrastination

vii. What does M. Hamel mean to say when he says, 'As long as you hold fast to your language it is as if you have the key to your prison'?"

- A. The language will save them from Prussian atrocities
- B. If they preserve their language within themselves, they will have chance to get united with their countrymen in future.
- C. They will be released from Prison
- D. None of these

4. Answer any five out of the following questions in about 30 words:

- i. What temptation was Franz able to overcome and finally proceed to the school?
- ii. What is the significance of the bulletin board? Why was there a crowd in front of it?
- iii. Why were the old men of the village presented/sitting in the class that day?
- iv. What did M. Hamel write on the white board and what does it signify?
- v. Why did M. Hamel say 'we've all a great deal of reproach ourselves with?'
- vi. Why were the old men of the village presented/sitting in the class that day?

5. Answer any two out of the following questions in 125 words:

- i. How does 'The last lesson' signify the role played by the mother language in a citizen's life?
- ii. Justify the title of the story, 'The last lesson'
- iii. What impression of M. Hamel's Character do you form after reading the story, The Last Lesson?'