

NCERT Solutions for Class 9th: Ch 10 Kathmandu Beehive English

By Vikram Seth

Page No: 131

Thinking about the Text

1. On the following map mark out the route, which the author thought of but did not take, to Delhi.



Answer

1. The route the author had thought of but did not take is given below:
Kathmandu — Bihar (Patna) — Uttar Pradesh (Benares-Allahabad-Agra)
— Delhi

Page No: 132

I. Answer these questions in one or two words or in short phrases.

1. Name the two temples the author visited in Kathmandu.
2. The writer says, “All this I wash down with Coca Cola.” What does ‘all this’ refer to?
3. What does Vikram Seth compare to the quills of a porcupine?
4. Name five kinds of flutes.

Answer

1. The two temples the author visited in Kathmandu were the Pashupatinath temple and the Baudhnath stupa.

2. ‘All this’ refers to eating a bar of marzipan, a corn-on-the-cob roasted in a charcoal stove (rubbed with salt, chilli powder and lemon), and reading a couple of love story comics and a Reader’s Digest.

3. Vikram Seth compares the fifty or sixty bansuris protruding in all directions from the pole of a flute seller to the quills of a porcupine.

4. The reed neh, the Japanese shakuhachi, the deep bansuri of Hindustani classical music, the clear or breathy flutes of South America, and the high-pitched Chinese flutes.

II. Answer each question in a short paragraph.

1. What difference does the author note between the flute seller and the other hawkers?
2. What is the belief at Pashupatinath about the end of Kaliyug?
3. The author has drawn powerful images and pictures. Pick out three examples each of
 - (i) the atmosphere of 'febrile confusion' outside the temple of Pashupatinath (for example: some people trying to get the priest's attention are elbowed aside...)
 - (ii) the things he sees
 - (iii) the sounds he hears

Answer

1. The author notes that while the other hawkers shouted out their wares, the flute seller did not. He simply played a flute, slowly and meditatively, without excessive display.

2. At Pashupatinath, there is a small shrine that protrudes from the stone platform on the river bank of Bagmati. It is believed that when the shrine will emerge fully, the goddess inside it will escape. The evil period of Kaliyug on earth will then end.

3. (i) The author has drawn powerful images and pictures of the atmosphere of 'febrile confusion' outside the temple of Pashupatinath.

These include the following: a group of saffron-clad Westerners struggling to enter the main gate as only Hindus were allowed to enter the temple; a fight that breaks out between two monkeys; and a royal Nepalese princess for whom everyone makes way.

(ii) He saw that the Baudhnath Stupa had an immense white dome, which was ringed by a road. Small shops were there on the outer edge where felt bags, Tibetan prints and silver jewellery could be bought. There were no crowds there. On the busiest streets of Kathmandu, he saw fruit sellers, flute sellers, hawkers of postcards, shops selling Western cosmetics, film rolls, chocolate, copper utensils and Nepalese antiques.

(iii) The sounds he heard were film songs that were blaring out from the radios, car horns, bicycle bells, vendors shouting out their wares. He also listened to flute music, calling it the most universal and most particular of sounds.

III. Answer the following questions in not more than 100 – 150 words each.

1. Compare and contrast the atmosphere in and around the Baudhnath shrine with the Pashupatinath temple.

Answer

The atmosphere at the Pashupatinath temple was noisy, and full of chaos and confusion. Worshippers were trying to get the priest's attention; others were pushing their way to the front; saffron-clad

Westerners were trying to enter the temple; monkeys were fighting and adding to the general noise; a corpse was being cremated on the banks of the river Bagmati; washerwomen were at their work, while children were bathing. In contrast, the Baudhnath stupa was “a haven of quietness in the busy streets around”. There was no crowd, which helped build the stillness and serenity at the Buddhist shrine.

2. How does the author describe Kathmandu’s busiest streets?

Answer

Along Kathmandu’s narrowest and busiest streets, there are small shrines and flower-adorned deities. Apart from these, there are fruit sellers, flute sellers, hawkers of postcards, shops selling Western cosmetics, film rolls, chocolate, those selling copper utensils and Nepalese antiques. The author hears film songs that were blaring out from the radios, sounds of car horns and bicycle bells, vendors shouting out their wares. He says that stray cows roam about on the roads. He also draws a vivid picture of a flute seller with many *bansuris* protruding from his pole. He describes how the serene music produced by the flute seller is heard clearly above all the other noise.

3. “To hear any flute is to be drawn into the commonality of all mankind.” Why does the author say this?

Answer

The author considers flute music to be “the most universal and most particular” of all music. This is a musical instrument that is common to all cultures. We have the reed *neh*, the recorder, the Japanese

shakuhachi, the deep *bansuri* of Hindustani classical music, the clear or breathy flutes of South America, the high-pitched Chinese flutes, etc. Even though each of these has its specific fingering and compass yet, for the author, to hear any flute is “to be drawn into the commonality of all mankind”. This is because in spite of their differences, every flute produces music with the help of the human breath. Similarly, despite the differences in caste, culture, religion, region, all human beings are the same, with the same living breath running through all of them.

Thinking about Language

I. Read the following sentences carefully to understand the meaning of the italicised phrases. Then match the phrasal verbs in Column A with their meanings in Column B.

1. A communal war *broke out* when the princess was abducted by the neighbouring prince.
2. The cockpit *broke off* from the plane during the plane crash.
3. The car *broke down* on the way and we were left stranded in the jungle.
4. The dacoit *broke away* from the police as they took him to court.
5. The brothers *broke up* after the death of the father.
6. The thief *broke into* our house when we were away.

A	B
(i) break out	(a) to come apart due to force
(ii) break off	(b) end a relationship
(iii) break down	(c) break and enter illegally; unlawful trespassing
(iv) break away (from someone)	(d) of start suddenly, (usually a fight, a war or a disease)
(v) break up	(e) to escape from someone's grip
(vi) break into	(f) stop working

Answer

A	B
(i) break out	(d) of start suddenly, (usually a fight, a war or a disease)
(ii) break off	(a) to come apart due to force
(iii) break down	(f) stop working
(iv) break away (from someone)	(e) to escape from someone's grip
(v) break up	(b) end a relationship
(vi) break into	(c) break and enter illegally; unlawful trespassing

II.

1. Use the suffixes -ion or -tion to form nouns from the following verbs. Make the necessary changes in the spellings of the words.
Example: proclaim – proclamation

cremate	act	exhaust
_____	_____	_____
invent	tempt	immigrate
_____	_____	_____
direct	meditate	imagine
_____	_____	_____
dislocate	associate	dedicate
_____	_____	_____

2. Now fill in the blanks with suitable words from the ones that you have formed.

- (i) Mass literacy was possible only after the _____ of the printing machine.
- (ii) Ramesh is unable to tackle the situation as he lacks _____.
- (iii) I could not resist the _____ to open the letter.
- (iv) Hardwork and _____ are the main keys to success.
- (v) The children were almost fainting with _____ after being made to stand in the sun.

Answer

1.

cremate <u>cremation</u>	act <u>action</u>	exhaust <u>exhaustion</u>
invent <u>invention</u>	tempt <u>temptation</u>	immigrate <u>immigration</u>
direct <u>direction</u>	meditate <u>meditation</u>	imagine <u>imagination</u>
dislocate <u>dislocation</u>	associate <u>association</u>	dedicate <u>dedication</u>

2.

- (i) Mass literacy was possible only after the invention of the printing machine.
- (ii) Ramesh is unable to tackle the situation as he lacks direction.
- (iii) I could not resist the temptation to open the letter.
- (iv) Hardwork and dedication are the main keys to success.
- (v) The children were almost fainting with exhaustion after being made to stand in the sun.

III. Punctuation

Use capital letter, full stops, question marks, commas and inverted commas wherever necessary in the following paragraph.

an arrogant lion was wandering though the jungle one day he asked the tiger who is stronger than you you O lion replied the tiger who is more fierce than a leopard asked the lion you sir replied the leopard he marched upto an elephant and asked the same question the elephant picked him up in his trunk swung him in the air and threw him down look said the lion there is no need to get mad just because you don't know the answer

Answer

An arrogant lion was wandering through the jungle. One day, he asked the tiger, "Who is stronger than you?" "You, O lion!" replied the tiger. "Who is more fierce than a leopard?" asked the lion. "You sir," replied the leopard. He marched up to an elephant and asked the same question. The elephant picked him up in his trunk, swung him in the air,

and threw him down. "Look," said the lion, "there is no need to get mad just because you don't know the answer."

Page No: 134

IV. Simple Present Tense

In these sentences words like *everyday, often, seldom, never, every month, generally, usually*, etc. may be used.

1. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

(i) The heart is a pump that _____(send) the blood circulating through our body. The pumping action _____(take place) when the left ventricle of the heart _____(contract). This _____(force) the blood out into the arteries, which _____(expand) to receive the oncoming blood.

(ii) The African lungfish can live without water for up to four years. During drought, it _____(dig) a pit and _____(enclose) itself in a capsule of slime and earth, leaving a tiny opening for air. The capsule _____(dry) and _____(harden), but when rain _____(come), the mud _____(dissolve) and the lungfish _____(swim) away.

(iii) Mahesh: We have to organise a class party for our teacher.

_____ (Do) anyone play an instrument?

Vipul: Rohit _____(play) the flute.

Mahesh: _____(Do) he also act?

Vipul: No, he _____(compose) music.

Mahesh: That's wonderful!

Answer

(i) The heart is a pump that sends the blood circulating through our body. The pumping action takes place when the left ventricle of the heart contracts. This forces the blood out into the arteries, which expands to receive the oncoming blood.

(ii) The African lungfish can live without water for up to four years. During drought, it digs a pit and encloses itself in a capsule of slime and earth, leaving a tiny opening for air. The capsule dries and hardens, but when rain comes, the mud dissolves and the lungfish swims away.

(iii) Mahesh: We have to organise a class party for our teacher. Does anyone play an instrument?

Vipul: Rohit plays the flute.

Mahesh: Does he also act?

Vipul: No, he composes music.

Mahesh: That's wonderful!