

Bihar Board Class 9 Panorama English Book Solutions

Chapter 6 The Shehnai of Bismillah Khan

A. Work in small groups and discuss the following:

Question 1.

Have you ever heard a shehnai being played in marriage ceremonies or festivals?

Answer:

Yes, I have heard a shehnai being played in marriage ceremonies and festivals on so many occasions.

Question 2.

How do you like this instrument?

Answer:

I like this instrument very much. It has magical power to charm every one.

Question 3.

Discuss any pipe instrument which is played in your local-ity in marriage ceremonies or festivals.

Answer:

Clarinet is a pipe instrument which is played in my locality in marriage and festivals. This is a part of the band party. The man who plays on the clarinet is the master of the musical party, he heads the party.

Question 4.

Do you know that it was Bismillah Khan, the great Shehnai maestro, who made this instrument a reality?

Can you name some leading players of other popular musical instruments?

Answer:

I know that it was Bismillah Khan the great Shehnai maestro. Who made this instrument a reality. Pandit Ravishanker plays Sifar, Guddai Maharaj Tabla, Amjad Ali Khan SaTod. They are leading players of these popular instruments.

B.1.1. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements:

1. Bismillah Khan belongs to a family of musicians from Uttar Pradesh.
2. Bismillah Khan's ancestors were also great shehnai players.
3. The flowing water of the Ganga gave inspiration to Bismillah to create ragas.

4. He learnt shehnai from his parent and grandfather.

Answer:

1. — F
2. — T
3. — T
4. — F

B.1.2. Complete the sentences on the basis of the unit you have just studied.

1. The pungi is a _____ instrument.
2. The pungi became the generic name for _____ noise makers.
3. The instrument which is so different from the pungi is called _____
4. _____ holes were made on the body of a pipe.
5. _____ was the Shehnai nawaj of Bhojpuri king's court.
6. _____ was Bismillah's grandfather.
7. Bismillah accompanied _____ to the Vishnu temple of Benaras.
8. Bismillah played at the temple of _____ and at the banks of _____ as a young apprentice.

Answer:

1. musical
2. reeded
3. Shehnai
4. Seven
5. Rasool Bux Khan
6. Rasool bux Khan
7. Ali Bux
8. Balaji and Mangla Maiya, the Ganga.

B.1.3. Answer the following questions very briefly:

Question 1.

Who banned the playing of the pungi?

Answer:

Emperor Aurangzeb banned the playing of the pungi.

Question 2.

What generic name did the pungi come to acquire?

Answer:

The pungi became the generic name for reeded the pungi.

Question 3.

Who revived the pungi?

Answer:

A barber of a family of professional musician revived the pungi.

Question 4.

Where was the Shehnai played for the first time?

Answer:

The Shehnai was played for the first time in the Shah's chamber.

Question 5.

Who played the instrument for the first time so different from the pungi?

Answer:

A barber of a family of professional musicians played the instrument for the first time so different from the pungi.

Question 6.

What is naubat called?

Answer:

The naubat is traditional ensemble of nine instruments.

Question 7.

Who brought the instrument shehnai on the classical stage?

Answer:

Ustad Bismillah Khan brought the instrument Shehnai on the classical stage.

Question 8.

Which sport did Bismillah Khan play in his childhood?

Answer:

In his childhood Bismillah Khan played gilli-danda.

Question 9.

Where did he play the sports?

Answer:

He played gilli-danda near a pond in the ancient estate of Dumraon in Bihar.

Question 10.

Where did he go to sing the Bhojpuri "Chaita"?

Answer:

He went to Bihariji temple to sing the Bhojpuri "Chaita".

Question 11.

What is the highest civilian award in India?

Answer:

'The Bharat Ratna' is the highest civilian award in India.

Question 12.

Who was Bismillah's father?

Answer:

Paigamber Bux was Bismillah's father.

Question 13.

Who was Bismillah's maternal uncle?

Answer:

Ali Bux was Bismillah's maternal uncle.

B.2.1. Complete the sentences on the basis of the unit you have just studied:

1. At the age of fourteen Bismillah accompanied his uncle to _____
2. In 1938 came Bismillah's first break in _____ in _____
3. He sang _____ on 15th August 1947.
4. His first trip abroad was to _____
5. Film director Vijay Bhatt named his film as _____ after being impressed by the shehnai.
6. National awards like the _____ and the Padma Vibhushan were conferred on him.
7. Bismillah Khan was also referred to as _____
8. An auditorium in Tehran named after him is called _____

Answer:

1. The Allahabad music conference
2. All India Radio, Lucknow
3. Raga Kafi
4. Afghanistan
5. Gunj Uthi Shehnai
6. Padma Shri, the Padma Bhushan
7. Khansaab
8. Tahar Musiqee Ustad Bismillah Khan.

B.2.2. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements:

1. An auditorium in Tehran was named after Bismillah Khan.
2. Bismillah Khan was fondly called 'Khansaab'

3. Khan Saab was a shehnai player of international repute even then no National Awards were conferred on him.

Answer:

1. — T
2. — T
3. — F

B.2.3. Answer the following questions very briefly:

1. When was Bismillah Khan awarded India's highest civilian award?
2. Of which two cities was he most fond of?

Answer:

1. In 2001 Bismillah Khan was awarded India's highest civilian award
2. Benaras and Dumraon.

C. Long Answer Type Questions

Question 1.

Which emperor banned the playing of the pungi? Do you think that is against the right to expression?

Answer:

Emperor Aurangzeb banned the playing of the pungi. I think it is against the right to expression. But it must be thought that it was time of kingship, not 'democracy.' Those days a king was free to do that mind it playing Pungi was banned in the palace only not for public places.

Question 2.

Ustad Khan refused the celluloid world after two films. Was it a loss to the cinema world or gain to Hindustani Music? Discuss.

Answer:

Ustad Bismillah Khan refused the celluloid world only after two films. It was not much loss to the cinema world because it was a great gain to Indian Hindustani music. Classical music has not much importance to the general public, who go to see a popular cinema. Ustad rejected films because it was an artificial world and it was much too glamorous. He preferred music to money. So it is clear that according to Ustad outside cinema. Natural Hindustani music exists.

Question 3.

Capture in your own words the feeling of the Ustad, when he received Bharat Ratna.

Answer:

When Ustad Bismillah Khan received the Bharat Ratna he became very happy. The covered award was resting on his chest. His eyes were glinting with more happiness. He told that “All I would like to say is. Teach your children music this is Hindustani’s richest tradition even the West is now coming to Meant our music.”

Question 4.

‘Only in India it is possible that a devout Muslim like Khan Saheb can very naturally play the shehnai every morning at Kashi Vishwanath temple.’ What light does this statement throw on India’s cultural heritage? Discuss.

Answer:

India is a land of composite culture. There is religious tolerance in our society. Temple is no place for a muslim. But a muslim like Bismillah Khan used to play shehnai in Hindu Temple. Not only Bismillah but his uncle used to play in different Hindu temples. It makes the composite culture of India tellingly clear. Their playing in temple and getting the love and admiration of all in the bargain is a wonderful example of our rich cultural heritage that denies any sort of discrimination on the basis of religion. It embraces all.

Question 5.

Describe the incident of Ustad Khan visiting Pakistan.

Answer:

After partition of India Ustad Khan did not want to go to Pakistan. He could not leave Benaras and the Ganga, He went to Pakistan only once. He crossed the boarder just to say that he had been to Pakisten. He was there for only about an hour. He said ‘Namaskar’ to the Pakistanis and ‘Salam Alai-kum’ to the Indians. This was an exchange of language. He had a good laugh at that incident.

Question 6.

How did shehnai get its name? Describe in your own words the process how the Pungi became the shehnai.

Answer:

The musical instrument was named shehnai because it was bom in the chamber of shah or emperor. The nai or the barber who perfected it also deserved credit. So Shah and nai put together become Shehnai. Shehnai has its origin from the pungi which had an unpleasant sound. A barber decided to improve the tonal quality of this instrument. He chose a pipe. This hollow stem was longer and broader than the Pungi. He drilled seven holes in it. It now ‘produced a musical sound. The nai played it in the chamber of Emperor Aurangzeb. It became popular in course of time.