

The Sound of Music - Deborah Cwley

Answers To NCERT Questions

PART-I

THINKING ABOUT THE TEXT

Answer these questions in a few words or a couple of sentences each.

1. How old was Evelyn when she went to the Royal Academy of music?

Ans: Evelyn was 17 years old when she went to the Royal Academy of Music.

2. When was her deafness just noticed? When was it confirmed?

Ans: Her deafness was first noticed by her mother when she was just 8 years old. Her deafness was confirmed when she was 11 years old.

Answer each of these questions in a short paragraph (30–40 words).

1. Who helped her to continue with music? What did he do and say?

Ans: Ron Forbes, the percussionist helped Evelyn to pursue music. He identified her potential. He began by tuning two large drums to different notes. He advised her to feel music through the different parts of her body.

2. Name the various places and causes for which Evelyn performs.

Ans: Apart from performing in professional concerts, she would do free concerts in prisons and hospitals. She gave high priority to classes for young musicians.

Answer the questions in two or three paragraphs (100–150 words).

1. How does Evelyn hear music?

Ans: Evelyn lost her ability to hear when she was 11 years old. She experienced the magic of music by sensing the notes on different parts of her body, even through her hair. It was Ron Forbes, the percussionist, who inspired her to feel music. He tuned two drums to different notes and asked her to sense the sound through the vibration. Evelyn realised that she could feel the higher drum from the waist up and the lower one from the waist down.

When she plays xylophone, she could sense the sound passing up the stick into her fingertips. By leaning against the drums, she could feel the resonance flowing into her body. On a wooden platform, she removes her shoes, so that vibrations pass through her bare feet and up her legs. Evelyn explains that music pours through every part of her body. It tingles upon her skin, her cheekbones and even her hair.

PART-II

THINKING ABOUT THE TEXT

Tick the right answer:

1. The (Shehnai, Pungi) was a reeded noisemaker?

Ans: Pungi was a reeded noisemaker.

2. (Bismillah Khan, A barber, Ali Bux) transformed the pungi into a shehnai.

Ans: A barber transformed the pungi into a shehnai.

3. Bismillah Khan's paternal ancestors were (barbers, professional musicians).

Ans: Bismillah Khan's paternal ancestors were professional musicians.

4. Bismillah Khan learnt to play the shehnai from (Ali Bux, Paigambar Bux, Ustad Faiyaaz Khan).

Ans: Bismillah Khan learnt to play the shehnai from Ali Bux.

5. Bismillah Khan's first trip abroad was to (Afghanistan, USA, Canada).

Ans: Bismillah Khan's first trip abroad was to Afghanistan.

Find the words in the text which show Bismillah Khan's feelings about the items listed below. Then mark a tick (3) in the correct column. Discuss your answers in class.

Bismillah Khan's feelings about		Positive	Negative	Neutral
(1)	teaching children music			
(2)	the film world			
(3)	migrating to the USA			

(4)	playing at temples			
(5)	getting the Bharat Ratna			
(6)	the banks of the Ganga			
(7)	leaving Benaras and Dumraon			

Ans:

Bismillah Khan's feelings about		Positive	Negative	Neutral
(1)	teaching children music	(3)		
(2)	the film world		(3)	
(3)	migrating to the USA		(3)	
(4)	playing at temples	(3)		
(5)	getting the Bharat Ratna	(3)		
(6)	the banks of the Ganga	(3)		
(7)	leaving Benaras and Dumraon		(3)	

Discussion over the feelings of Bismillah Khan about different things

Bismillah Khan's Feelings About	Words in the Text
Teaching children music Getting the Bharat Ratna	With the coveted award resting on the chest and his eyes glinting with rare happiness, he said, "All I would like to say is teach your children music, this is Hindustan's richest tradition, even the west is now coming to learn our music."

The film world	"I just can't come to terms with the artificiality and glamour of the film world, he says with emphasis.
Migrating to the USA	A student of his, once wanted him to head a Shehnai school in the USA and the student promised to recreate the atmosphere of Benaras by replicating the temples there. But Khan saab asked him if he would be able to transport river Ganga as well. Later, he remembered to have said, "That is why, whenever I am in a foreign country, I keep yearning to see Hindustan!
Playing at temples	Ustad Bismillah Khan's life is a perfect example of the rich, cultural heritage of India, one that effortlessly accepts that a devout Muslim like him can very naturally play the Shehnai every morning at the Kashi Vishwanath Temple.
The banks of the Ganga	The flowing waters of the Ganga inspired him to improvise and invent ragas that were earlier considered to be beyond the range of the Shehnai.
Leaving Benaras and Dumraon	Later, he is remembered to have said, "That is why, whenever I am in a foreign country, I keep yearning to see Hindustan. While in Mumbai, I think of only Benaras and the holy Ganga and when in Benaras, I miss the unique mattha of Dumroon.

Answer these questions in 30–40 words.

1. Why did Aurangzeb ban the playing of pungi?

Ans: Emperor Aurangzeb banned the playing of pungi because of its shrill and unpleasant sound. It became the generic name for reeded noisemakers.

2. How is shehnai different from a pungi?

Ans: Unlike pungi, shehnai is a hollow stem that is longer and broader. It has seven holes on its body. When it is played by placing the fingers and closing and opening the holes on its surface, soft and melodious sounds are produced.

3. Where was the shehnai played traditionally? How did Bismillah Khan change this?

Ans: The shehnai was traditionally played in royal courts, temples and weddings. The flowing waters of the Ganga inspired Bismillah Khan to improvise and invent raagas that were earlier considered to be beyond the range of the shehnai.

4. When and how did Bismillah Khan get his big break?

Ans: Bismillah Khan got his big break with the opening of the All India Radio in Lucknow in 1938. He soon became a regular shehnai player on the radio.

5. Where did Bismillah Khan play the shehnai on 15 August 1947? Why was the event historic?

Ans: On 15 August 1947, Bismillah Khan played the shehnai from the Red Fort. It was a historic day as India gained independence on that day. He became the first Indian to greet the nation with his shehnai and poured his heart out into 'Raag Kafi', cherishing the freedom of the country.

6. Why did Bismillah Khan refuse to start a shehnai school in the USA?

Ans: Bismillah Khan's student had asked him to head a shehnai school in the USA, and the student promised to recreate the atmosphere of Benaras by replicating the temples in the city. To this, Bismillah Khan asked him if he could also transport the River Ganga to the USA. Khansaab, as he is fondly called, is remembered to have said that while he was in a foreign land, he kept yearning to see Hindustan.

7. Find at least 2 instances in the text which tell you that Bismillah Khan loves India and Benaras.

Ans: Bismillah Khan loves India and Benaras from the bottom of his heart. He says that he misses the holy Ganga and India when he goes abroad. While in Mumbai, he thinks only of the holy river and the holy city. He was not ready to leave his country on the request of his student and head the shehnai school in the USA.

THINKING ABOUT LANGUAGE

I. Complete the following sentences. Beginning with a to-verb, try to answer the questions in brackets.

1. The school sports team hopes _____ (What does it hope to do?)

Ans: The school sports team hopes to win the tournament.

2. We all want _____ (What do we all want to do?)

Ans: We all want to attend the party.

3. They advised the hearing-impaired child's mother _____ (What did they advise her to do?)

Ans: They advised the hearing-impaired child's mother to take her to a specialist for consultation.

4. The authorities permitted us _____ (What did the authorities permit us to do?)

Ans: The authorities permitted us to organise a cultural show.

5. A musician decided to _____ (What did the musician decide to do?)

Ans: A musician decided to play the flute.

II. From the text on Bismillah Khan, find the words and phrases that match these definitions and write them down. The number of the paragraph where you will find the words/phrases has been given for you in brackets.

1. home of royal people (1) _____

Ans: Royal residence

2. The state of being alone (5) _____

Ans: Solitude

3. A part which is absolutely necessary (2) _____

Ans: An indispensable component

4. To do something not done before (5) _____

Ans: Improvise

5. Without much effort (3) _____

Ans: Effortlessly

6. Quickly and in large quantities (9) _____ and _____

Ans: Thick and fast

III. Tick the right answer.

1. When something is revived, it (remains dead/lives again).

Ans: lives again

2. When a government bans something, it wants it (stopped/started).

Ans: stopped

3. When something is considered auspicious, (welcome it/avoid it).

Ans: welcome it

4. When we take to something, we find it (boiling/interesting).

Ans: interesting

5. When you appreciate something, you (find it good and useful/find it of no use).

Ans: find it good and useful

6. When you replicate something, you do it (for the first time/for the second time).

Ans: for the second time

7. When we come to terms with something, it is (still upsetting/no longer upsetting).

Ans: no longer upsetting

IV. Consult your dictionary and complete the following table. The first one has been done for you.

adjective	only before noun	not before noun	both before and after the verb be
indispensable			(3)
impressed			
afraid			
outdoor			
paternal			
countless			
priceless			

Ans:

adjective	only before noun	not before noun	both before and after the verb be
indispensable	(3)		
impressed		(3)	
afraid		(3)	
outdoor	(3)		
paternal	(3)		
countless	(3)		
priceless		(3)	

Use these words in phrases or sentences of your own.

Additional Questions

PART-I

Evelyn Gennie Listens to sound without Hearing it

Extract Based Questions

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow: (4 Marks each)

1. RUSH hour crowds jostle for position on the underground train platform. A slight girl, looking younger than her seventeen years, was nervous yet excited as she felt the vibrations of the approaching train. It was her first day at the prestigious Royal Academy of Music in London and daunting enough for any teenager fresh from a Scottish farm. But this aspiring musician faced a bigger challenge than most: she was profoundly deaf.

- (a)** What action can be seen at the train platform?
- (b)** Why was the girl nervous?
- (c)** Which word in the passage is the antonym of 'disinclined'?
- (d)** What was the challenge the girl faced?

Ans:

- (a)** Crowd jostling for a seat on the underground train platform.
- (b)** The girl was nervous because it was her first day at the prestigious Royal Academy of Music in London.
- (c)** Aspiring
- (d)** This aspiring musician was profoundly deaf.

2. Evelyn Glennie's loss of hearing had been gradual. Her mother remembers noticing something was wrong when the eight-year-old Evelyn was waiting to play the piano. "They called her name and she didn't move. I suddenly realised she hadn't heard, says Isabel Glennie. For quite a while Evelyn managed to conceal her growing deafness from friends and teachers. But by the time she was eleven her marks had deteriorated and her headmistress urged her parents to take her to a specialist. It was then discovered that her hearing was severely impaired as a result of gradual nerve damage. They were advised that she should be fitted with hearing aids and sent to a school for the deaf.

"Everything suddenly looked black, says Evelyn.

- (a)** Why was Evelyn asked to see a specialist?
- (b)** What was the cause of hearing impairment?
- (c)** Who noticed the problem and how?
- (d)** What had happened to Evelyn's academic performance? Why?

Ans:

- (a)** The headmistress of the school advised that Evelyn should be taken to a specialist as her hearing was impaired.
- (b)** The cause of hearing impairment was a gradual nerve damage.
- (c)** Evelyn's mother noticed that her daughter did not respond while her name was being called. This was how she realised that her daughter was having a problem with hearing.
- (d)** By the time she was eleven, her hearing impairment was severe. Her academic performance began to deteriorate as a result of her growing deafness.

3. But Evelyn was not going to give up. She was determined to lead a normal life and pursue her interest in music. One day she noticed a girl playing a xylophone and decided that she wanted to play it too. Most of the teachers discouraged her but percussionist Ron Forbes spotted her potential. He began by tuning two large drums to different notes.

“Don’t listen through your ears, he would say, “try to sense it some other way. Says Evelyn, “Suddenly I realised I could feel the higher drum from the waist up and the lower one from the waist down. Forbes repeated the exercise, and soon Evelyn discovered that she could sense certain notes in different parts of her body. “I had learnt to open my mind and body to sounds and vibrations. The rest was sheer determination and hard work.

- (a) What was Evelyn determined to do?
- (b) Who inspired Evelyn to sense music and how?
- (c) Which word in the passage is the synonym of ‘doggedness’?
- (d) How did she begin to feel the drums?

Ans:

- (a) Evelyn was determined to lead a normal life and to pursue her interest in music.
- (b) The percussionist Ron Forbes encouraged her to sense music through different parts of her body. He tuned two large drums to different notes. He encouraged her to feel/sense the music and not to hear it.
- (c) Determination
- (d) Evelyn began to feel the higher drum from the waist above, and the lower drum from the waist down.

4. She never looked back from that point onwards. She toured the United Kingdom with a youth orchestra and by the time she was sixteen, she had decided to make music her life. She auditioned for the Royal Academy of Music and scored one of the highest marks in the history of the academy. She gradually moved from orchestral work to solo performances. At the end of her three-year course, she had captured most of the top awards.

- (a) At the age of sixteen, what did Evelyn decide to do?
- (b) How did Evelyn change her performing style in music?
- (c) Which word in the passage is the antonym of ‘liberated’?
- (d) How did Evelyn create history?

Ans:

- (a) At the age of sixteen, Evelyn decided to make music her life.
- (b) Evelyn gradually moved from orchestra work to solo performances.
- (c) Captured

(d) She auditioned for the Royal Academy of Music and scored the highest marks in the history of the academy.

5. Not surprisingly, Evelyn delights her audiences. In 1991 she was presented with the Royal Philharmonic Society's prestigious Soloist of the Year Award. Says master percussionist James Blades, "God may have taken her hearing but he has given her back something extraordinary. What we hear, she feels — far more deeply than any of us. That is why she expresses music so beautifully.

Evelyn confesses that she is something of a workaholic. "I've just got to work . . . often harder than classical musicians. But the rewards are enormous.

(a) What extraordinary ability does Evelyn have inspite of being deaf?

(b) What did Evelyn confess about herself?

(c) Which word in the passage is the synonym of 'distinguished'?

(d) What happened in 1991?

Ans:

(a) Evelyn may be deaf but she has the extraordinary ability to feel music more deeply than those who can hear it.

(b) Evelyn confessed that she was a workaholic as she needs to work harder than classical musicians.

(c) Prestigious

(d) In 1991, she was presented with the Royal Philharmonic Society's prestigious Soloist of the Year Award.

Short Answer Questions (30-40 words: 2 Marks each)

1. How did Ron Forbes influence Evelyn to listen to music and then play the instrument?

Ans: Ron Forbes sensed the potential within Evelyn and motivated her to play the drums. He tuned two large drums to different notes and encouraged Evelyn to feel the rhythm instead of trying to hear it. She soon realised that she could sense certain notes in different parts of her body.

2. Apart from the regular concerts, where else did Evelyn perform and why?

Ans: Apart from the regular concerts, Evelyn gave free concerts in prisons and hospitals, so as to inspire the inmates. She also gave high priority to classes for young musicians, so that they learn to master their skills and achieve success. She was much more than an inspiration to them. She gave enormous pleasure to millions of people.

3. Evelyn turned deaf by the age of eleven, so how did she understand music and become an inspiration to millions?

Ans: Evelyn explains that music poured in through every part of her body. It tingles in the skin, her cheek bones and even her hair. When she plays the xylophone, she can sense the sound passing up the stick into her fingertips. By leaning against the drums, she could feel the resonance flowing into her body. On a wooden platform, she removes her shoes, so that the vibrations pass through her bare feet and up her legs.

4. What message do you get from the life of Evelyn Glennie?

Ans: The message we get is never to allow adversity to come in the way of your pursuit to success. If one sense organ is damaged, make good use of the other sensory organs but never give up hope. Life is a precious gift, it should not be wasted. We should not give up just because we don't know how to face challenges. Work towards success. Evelyn was a workaholic. She had to work harder than classical musicians because she listened through all her sensory organs. She wanted to prove to herself and achieve perfection. She was a living legend to the world of less fortunate.

Long Answer Questions (100-150 words: 8 Marks each)

1. It was eight years old, when Evelyn gradually began to lose the ability to hear. Write a paragraph, expressing the feelings that might have gone through her mind.

Ans: It was on the day of the piano recital. My mother was in the audience. She noticed that something was seriously wrong when I was not responding when my name was being announced to play the piano. My mother suddenly realised that I was not able to hear. I was too young to realise the predicament (difficult situation) I was in. Gradually, the seriousness of my impairment began seeping into my mind, and I began to cry bitterly. My love for music! If I can't hear, it would be impossible to enjoy or play music. Her world seemed to come crashing down, everything suddenly looked black. She could not spot even a faint glow at the end of the tunnel. She folded her little hands and looking at the stars, that shone in the sky, and cried with a heavy heart, "Why me oh! Lord!

2. Has the life of Evelyn been able to motivate you in any way? Elaborate.

Ans: Yes. It was a wonderful experience reading about the remarkable transformation of the deaf young girl into an acclaimed musician. It was similar to the story of Helen Keller. It was very sad to read about the progressive deterioration of Evelyn's ability to hear. And the complete impairment at the age of eleven was indeed tragic. This was especially so, because of her need for the faculty of hearing, being passionate about music. Her school and family were losing all hopes of reviving the young child and her love for music. Her life seemed to be slipping into gloom. But 'every cloud has a silver lining', and the silver lining in Evelyn's life was Ron Forbes, who taught her to feel music

if she could not hear it. The struggle that the young girl went through to develop her other senses, was an example for every one to emulate. It was exceptional to find that this young girl began acquiring honours as an exceptional musician later in her life.

3. Attempt a character sketch of Evelyn.

Ans: Evelyn was a determined and hardworking girl. With her strong will power, she overcame the obstacle that was placed before her by the divine. In her early childhood, she lost her ability to hear because of a nerve degeneration. At the age of eleven, her hearing power was totally damaged. In spite of her handicap, she did not want to give up as music was her passion. Her teachers discouraged her, but the percussionist Ron Forbes guided her to sense and feel the music through different parts of her body. She auditioned for the Royal Academy of Music and scored one of the highest marks in the history of the academy. She gradually moved from orchestral work to solo performances. At the end of her three-year course, she had captured most of the top awards. In 1991, she was presented with the Royal Philharmonic Society's prestigious Soloist of the Year Award. Says master percussionist James Blades, "God may have taken her hearing but he has given her back something extraordinary. What we hear, she feels — far more deeply than any of us. That is why, she expresses music so beautifully.

PART-II

The Shehnai of Bismillah Khan

Extract Based Questions

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow: (4 Marks each)

1. EMPEROR Aurangzeb banned the playing of a musical instrument called pungi in the royal residence for it had a shrill unpleasant sound. Pungi became the generic name for reeded noisemakers. Few had thought that it would one day be revived. A barber of a family of professional musicians, who had access to the royal palace, decided to improve the tonal quality of the pungi. He chose a pipe with a natural hollow stem that was longer and broader than the pungi, and made seven holes on the body of the pipe. When he played on it, closing and opening some of these holes, soft and melodious sounds were produced.

- (a) Which musical instrument was banned by the emperor and why?
- (b) Who improvised the instrument?
- (c) Which word in the passage is opposite to 'discordant'?
- (d) How did he improvise the instrument?

Ans:

- (a) The pungi was banned as it had a shrill unpleasant sound.
- (b) A barber, who belonged to a family of professional musicians, decided to improve the tonal quality of the pungi.
- (c) Melodious
- (d) He chose a pipe with a natural hollow stem that was longer and broader than the pungi, and made seven holes on the body of the pipe. When he played on it, closing and opening some of these holes, soft and melodious sounds were produced.

2. The instrument so different from the pungi had to be given a new name. As the story goes, since it was first played in the Shah's chambers and was played by a nai (barber), the instrument was named the 'shehnai'.

The sound of the shehnai began to be considered auspicious. And for this reason it is still played in temples and is an indispensable component of any North Indian wedding. In the past, the shehnai was part of the naubat or traditional ensemble of nine instruments found at royal courts. Till recently it was used only in temples and weddings. The credit for bringing this instrument onto the classical stage goes to Ustad Bismillah Khan.

- (a) How did the instrument 'shehnai' get its name?
- (b) How is shehnai important?
- (c) Which word in the passage is the opposite to 'superfluous'?
- (d) What did Bismillah Khan do?

Ans:

(a) The shehnai was very different to pungi in sound, so it had to be given another name. Since it was first played in the Shah's chambers and was played by a nai (barber), the instrument was named the 'shehnai'.

(b) Shehnai is important as it was part of the naubat or traditional ensemble of nine instruments at the royal courts. It is played at temples and weddings because of its melodious sound.

(c) Indispensable

(d) Bismillah Khan was responsible for bringing the shehnai onto the classical stage.

3. The young boy took to music early in life. At the age of three when his mother took him to his maternal uncle's house in Benaras (now Varanasi), Bismillah was fascinated watching his uncles practise the shehnai. Soon Bismillah started accompanying his uncle, Ali Bux, to the Vishnu temple of Benaras where Bux was employed to play the shehnai. Ali Bux would play the shehnai and Bismillah would sit captivated for hours on end. Slowly, he started getting lessons in

playing the instrument and would sit practising throughout the day. For years to come the temple of Balaji and Mangala Maiya and the banks of the Ganga became the young apprentice's favourite haunts where he could practise in solitude. The flowing waters of the Ganga inspired him to improvise and invent raagas that were earlier considered to be beyond the range of the shehnai.

- (a) Who inspired Bismillah Khan to play the shehnai and where?
- (b) Where did Bismillah Khan practise playing the shehnai?
- (c) Which word in the passage is the synonym of 'isolation'?
- (d) What role did the Ganga river play in Khansaab's life?

Ans:

(a) Bismillah Khan's maternal uncle, Ali Bux who played the shehnai at the Vishnu temple in Benaras, inspired him to play the instrument.

(b) Bismillah Khan practised playing at the temple of Balaji and Mangala Maiya and the banks of the Ganga.

(c) Solitude

(d) The flowing waters of the Ganga inspired him to improvise and invent raagas that were earlier considered to be beyond the range of the shehnai.

4. At the age of 14, Bismillah accompanied his uncle to the Allahabad Music Conference. At the end of his recital, Ustad Faiyaz Khan patted the young boy's back and said, "Work hard and you shall make it. With the opening of the All India Radio in Lucknow in 1938 came Bismillah's big break. He soon became an often-heard shehnai player on radio.

When India gained independence on 15 August 1947, Bismillah Khan became the first Indian to greet the nation with his shehnai. He poured his heart out into Raag Kafi from the Red Fort to an audience which included Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who later gave his famous 'Tryst with Destiny' speech.

- (a)** Who motivated Bismillah Khan to work hard and where?
- (b)** How did Bismillah Khan welcome the dawn of independent India?
- (c)** Which word in the passage means the same as 'fate'?
- (d)** How did Bismillah Khan get his first break?

Ans:

(a) Ustad Faiyaz Khan motivated Bismillah Khan to practise hard after his recital, at the Allahabad Music Conference.

(b) On 15 August 1947, Bismillah Khan greeted the nation with a recital of Raag Kafi on his shehnai.

(c) Destiny

(d) With the opening of the All India Radio in Lucknow in 1938, came Bismillah's big break. He soon became an often-heard shehnai player on radio.

5. National awards like the Padmashri, the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Vibhushan were conferred on him.

In 2001, Ustad Bismillah Khan was awarded India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna. With the coveted award resting on his chest and his eyes glinting with rare happiness he said, "All I would like to say is: Teach your children music, this is Hindustan's richest tradition; even the West is now coming to learn our music."

(a) What was the highest award conferred upon Bismillah Khan and when?

(b) What message did Bismillah Khan give to the Indians?

(c) Which word in the passage is the antonym of 'undesirable'?

(d) How did he feel when he received the Bharat Ratna?

Ans:

(a) Bismillah Khan was awarded the highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna in 2001.

(b) Bismillah Khan's message to the Indians was to teach their children music, Hindustan's richest tradition. He further added that the West was coming to India to learn our music.

(c) Coveted

(d) His eyes were glinting with rare happiness.

Short Answer Questions (30-40 words: 2 Marks each)

1. How can you say Bismillah Khan was a perfect example of India's cultural heritage?

Ans: Bismillah Khan was a perfect example of India's cultural heritage because he was a symbol of secularism. Despite being a muslim, he played shehnai at temples and at the banks of the river Ganga. He reflected India's core principle, 'Unity in Diversity.'

2. Who were the influencing factors in shaping Bismillah Khan as a musician?

Ans: It is said that the impressionable years of one's life is the childhood and when talent is nurtured at this stage, it has better chances of flowering to a full bloom in the years to come. Such was the case with Bismillah Khan. He took to music at an early age of three, being in a family of musicians from his paternal and maternal side. His grandfather and father were professional musicians. He was influenced by his maternal uncle Ali Bux, who played Shehnai at the Vishnu temple in Benaras.

3. How did a reeded noisemaker get transformed to a shehnai?

Ans: Emperor Aurangzeb banned the playing of pungi because of its jarring sound. However, a barber, who belonged to a family of musicians, transformed it by choosing a longer and broader pipe upon which he made a few holes. When he played on this pipe by closing and opening some holes, it produced a very melodious sound that appealed to the Shahs. Thus, the instrument designed by a 'nai' and appreciated by the Shahs, got the name 'Shehnai'.

Long Answer Questions (100-150 words: 8 Marks each)

1. Justify Bismillah Khan as a true Hindustani.

Ans: Music is a universal language, it knows no boundaries. Despite being a devout Muslim, he used to play and practise Shehnai in temples and on the banks of the river Ganga. He was nostalgic about his homeland. When one of his students asked him to head a shehnai school in USA, he refused, as the student on being asked by the Ustad if he could bring the Ganga to the USA said that he could only attempt to create an atmosphere of Benaras but he could not bring the river. Bismillah Khan simply couldn't bear the thought of being away from Hindustan for long intervals.

On getting the Bharat Ratna, he addressed the parents and told them to teach their children Indian music, the country's richest heritage, that was being appreciated and learnt by the westerners, while our nation was failing to do so. He lived and breathed Hindustan!

2. Write a paragraph on the life of Bismillah Khan.

Ans: Bismillah Khan spent his early life in Dumraon in Bihar. His grandfather was a shehnai-nawaz of the Bhojpur king's court. Bismillah Khan took to music early in life when he was three years old in the company of his maternal uncle. His life is a source of simplicity and communal harmony from the very beginning, when he used to sing, 'Chiata' in Bihariji temple and practiced shehnai in Vishnu temple and Mangala Maiya temple of Varanasi. Bismillah Khan got his big break with the opening of the All India Radio in Lucknow in 1938. He also played shehnai on 15 August 1947 from Red fort in the presence of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

Bismillah Khan gave many memorable performances both in India and abroad where he was honoured with so many awards. He also gave music in two movies, 'Gunj Uthi

Shehnai' and 'Sanadhi Apanna'. He was so fond of his motherland India, Benaras and the holy Ganga that he refused an offer to be the head of shehnai school in the USA. In 2001, Ustad Bismillah Khan was awarded the India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna. His life is a perfect example of the rich, cultural heritage of India, one that effortlessly accepts that a devout Muslim like him can very naturally play the shehnai at the Kashi Vishwanath Temple.

Self-Assessment Test

Extract Based Questions

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. It is intriguing to watch Evelyn function so effortlessly without hearing. In our two-hour discussion she never missed a word. "Men with bushy beards give me trouble, she laughed. "It is not just watching the lips, it's the whole face, especially the eyes. She speaks flawlessly with a Scottish lilt. "My speech is clear because I could hear till I was eleven, she says. But that doesn't explain how she managed to learn French and master basic Japanese.

- (a) How did Evelyn conduct her dialogues effortlessly?**
- (b) In spite of being deaf, how many languages could she speak?**
- (c) Which word in the passage is the synonym of 'unblemished'?**
- (d) How was Evelyn able to speak clearly?**

2. In spite of having travelled all over the world — Khansaab as he is fondly called — is exceedingly fond of Benaras and Dumraon and they remain for him the most wonderful towns of the world. A student of his, once wanted him to head a shehnai school in the USA, and the student promised to recreate the atmosphere of Benaras by replicating the temples there. But Khansaab asked him if he would be able to transport River Ganga as well. Later he is remembered to have said, "That is why whenever I am in a foreign country, I keep yearning to see Hindustan. While in Mumbai, I think of only Benaras and the holy Ganga. And while in Benaras, I miss the unique mattha of Dumraon.

- (a) Why was Bismillah Khan invited to the USA?**
 - (b) Which places did Bismillah Khan yearn to be in, when in India?**
 - (c) 'And while in Benaras, I miss the unique mattha of Dumraon. What does he mean?**
 - (d) Which word in the passage is the antonym of 'unloving'?**
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Short Answer Questions

1. Why was Evelyn nervous while on the way to the Royal Academy of Music?
 2. Where did the young Bismillah Khan practise the musical instrument?
 3. Why was Bismillah Khan not mesmerised by the celluloid world?
 4. Who helped Evelyn to continue with music and how?
 5. Bismillah Khan loved India and Benaras the most. Justify it by giving two instances from the text.
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Long Answer Questions

1. Express your joy for having been successful in pursuing your passion for music. You are Evelyn.
2. Make a comparative study of the experiences and difficulties faced by Evelyn and Bismillah Khan in their musical journey.
3. Elicit the differences in the growth of the two musicians, that you may have observed.