

# Class 11th English Hornbill Chapter 7 The Adventure

## Question Answers Gujarat Board

### Understanding the Text

**Say True or False of the following:**

- (1) The story is an account of real events.
- (2) The story hinges on a particular historical event.
- (3) Rajendra Deshpande was a historian.
- (4) The places mentioned in the story are all imaginary.
- (5) The story tries to relate history to science.

Answer:

- (1) False
- (2) True
- (3) False
- (4) False
- (5) True

### Briefly explain the following statements from the text:

**Question 1. "You neither travelled to the past nor the future. You were in the present experiencing a different world."**

Answer:

This statement was said by Rajendra to Professor Gaitonde. He made a transition from one world to another and back again. By making a transition, he was able to experience two worlds although one at a time. He neither travelled to the past nor to the future. He was in the present but experiencing a different world.

**Question 2. "You have passed through a fantastic experience: or more correctly, a catastrophic experience."**

Answer:

This statement was made by Rajendra to Prof. Gaitonde in the text 'The Adventure' by Jayant Vishnu Narlikar. Gangadhar had passed through a strange experience. He had the experience of living in two world, one he lived in now and other where he had spent two days.

**Question 3. Gangadharpant could not help comparing the country he knew with what he was witnessing around him.**

Answer:

Gangadharpant knew India which had seen the decline of Peshwas and experienced the slavery of the British. But the India he had seen in two days was completely different. It had not been subjected to slavery for the whiteman. It was self-dependent and enjoyed self-respect. He compared the two countries the one that he knew already and other that he was witnessing around him. Both had different histories.

#### **Question 4. "The lack of determinism in quantum theory!"**

Answer:

Professor Gaitonde had decided to go to a big library at Bombay and browse through history books. Then he would find out how the present state of affairs was reached. On his return to Pune, he would have a long talk with Rajendra Deshpande. He hoped that Rajendra would help him understand what had happened.

#### **Question 5. "You need some interaction to cause a transition."**

Answer:

This Bombay was under the British Raj. An Anglo-Indian in uniform checked permits. Each of the blue carriages of GBMR had the tiny Union jack painted on it. The Victoria Terminus station looked very neat and clean. The staff was mostly of Anglo-Indians and Parsees along with a handful of British officers.

#### **Talking about the Text**

**Discuss the following statements in groups of two pairs, each pair in a group taking opposite points of view:**

#### **Question 1. A single event may change the course of the history of a nation.**

Answer:

**For:**

A single event may change the course of the history of a nation. The battle of Panipat for example is said to be the turning point in the history of India. In the Battle of Panipat, the Marathas gave in to the forces of Ahmed Shah Abdali. After this event the history of India took another turn. Gradually, the country was overtaken by the foreign forces. In the story 'The Adventure' it is mentioned how in the beginning Prof. Gaitonde was preparing a speech on what course the history would have taken if the Marathas had won the Battle of Panipat. This shows the importance of a single event in the history of a nation.

**Against:**

The notion that a single event may change the course of the history of a nation is a matter of perspective only. It is a relative truth. If we apply the catastrophic theory in understanding history then we will find that there may be alternative outcomes of a single event so that we cannot proclaim that any one course of event is the reality. Since there may be alternative courses of history so debating on a single course is not fruitful.

In the story 'The Adventure' due to catastrophic phenomenon the Battle of Panipat is revealed in a different version to Prof. Gaitonde. According to this version, the Marathas emerged victorious in the Battle of Panipat. After the event the Marathas extended influence over the entire country. India never fell to the alien forces. So, to argue that a single course of event may change the course of history is not tenable. There may be alternative effects following an event.



**Question 2. Reality is what is directly experienced through the senses.**

Answer:

**For:**

Our senses, i.e., the senses of touch, sight, taste, hearing and smell provide us facts about the world we live in. Knowledge from experience come through these senses. The reality is what we directly experience through these senses. No other reality exists which is not revealed to the senses.

**Against:**

Reality is not what is directly revealed to the senses. We cannot experience so many entities like atoms and molecules but these are real. We cannot even predict the behaviour of these entities accurately. This point is mooted by Rajendra in the story 'The Adventure' when he points to the discoveries made by the physicists regarding the behaviour of the atoms. We can predict the position of a bullet fired in a particular direction from a gun but we cannot predict the position of a an electron fired from a source. This proves that reality is not what is directly revealed to the senses, there can be alternative realities existing side by side.

**Question 3. The methods of inquiry of History, Science and Philosophy are similar.**

Answer:

**For:**

The methods of inquiry of History, Science and Philosophy are similar. In the story 'The Adventure' one can find the perspectives of History, Philosophy and Science converging towards a focal point. History employs the methods of observation, analysis and rationalism in understanding the course of past events. Science is based on observation, experimentation and analysis.

Rationalism is the most fundamental principle that Science follows. Philosophy is thoroughly critical in methodology. Philosophy examines everything including the assumptions and methodology of Science and other disciplines like History. In the story 'The Adventure' History, Science and Philosophy converge, Prof.

Gaitonde experienced an altogether different version of the outcome of the Battle of Panipat. Contrary to the version as provided in History text books, the Marathas emerged as victorious in this battle, Prof. Gaitonde tried to understand this rationally but he failed to get any clue. In this context, Rajendra intervened to explain this phenomenon in the light of the Catastrophic theory which is being employed by Physicists in understanding the behaviour of atoms. Here we find Science and History converging.

The similar perspective is, seen in Philosophy that truth is relative and not absolute. In fact, the philosophical movement of post Modernism is based on this. In other words, the methods of inquiry of History, Science and Philosophy are similar.



**Against:**

It is a misnomer that the methods of inquiry of History, Science and Philosophy are similar. The similarity is at superficial level and not at the core. In the story, 'The Adventure' Rajendra tried to rationalise the experience of Prof. Gaitonde by applying the Catastrophic theory. But this explanation is not convincing though it convinced the professor,

Catastrophic theory can best explain phenomenon of the physical world but History deals with behavioural world. It is concerned with the behaviour of society and individuals. The ' methods of inquiry will also vary accordingly. The method of inquiry of Philosophy is speculative. Philosophy even questions rationalism.

Philosophy is highly critical of the methods of Science and History. In other words, the methods of History, Science and Philosophy are not similar. The story 'The Adventure' by Jayant Vishnu Narlikar is, in fact, a science fiction which is trying to show the convergence of Science, History and Philosophy. In reality the three disciplines, namely, Science, History and Philosophy have to employ different methodology of inquiry Vis-a-vis the subject matter.

**Question 4. The story is called 'The Adventure'. Compare it with the adventure described in 'We're Not Afraid to Die.'**

Answer:

The underlying theme of both the stories, 'The Adventure' and 'We Are Not Afraid to Die' is the same. However, the execution is very different. One deals with the adventure in a real life situation and the other one is about the adventure that was mentally experienced. In the story, 'We Are Not Afraid to Die,' the characters take a hazardous sea voyage, to overcome the odds and survive. Whatever the dangers were, they were very real. In the story, 'The Adventure' the protagonist does not embark upon an adventurous journey. His collision with the truck triggers his mind to travel to a world, which is different from the world that he lives in.

**Question 5. Why do you think Prof. Gaitonde decided never to preside over meetings again?**

Answer:

Prof. Gaitonde was experiencing a different version of the Battle of Panipat.

According to this version, the Marathas emerged victorious in the Battle and started extending influence over the entire country. His mind was actually witnessing a different version of the historical reality. Interestingly, he was also witnessing an event that was not conforming to the conventions. The event was a lecture session on the outcomes of the Battle of Panipat. In this lecture session Prof.

Gaitonde observed that the chair of the President was vacant. This again was contrary to the conventions. Prof. Gaitonde rushed to occupy the chair and started explaining the need of a President in a lecture session like this. The public got angry on this point and started



throwing objects on him. He had a harrowing experience. This led him to decide not to preside over meetings again.

### Thinking about Language

**Question 1. In which language do you think Gangadharpant and Khan Sahib talked to each other? Which language did Gangadharpant use to talk to the English receptionist?**

Answer:

Gangadharpant and Khan Sahib talked in Hindi language. Gangadharpant used English to talk to the English receptionist.

**Question 2. In which language do you think Bhausahebanchi Bakhar was written?**

Answer:

Bahusahebanchi Bakhar was written in Marathi language.

**Question 3. There is mention of three communities in the story: the Marathas, the Mughals, the Anglo-Indians. Which language do you think they used within their communities and while speaking to the other groups?**

Answer:

The Marathas naturally used Marathi in their community and while speaking to other groups they used Hindi.

- The Mughals used Turkish and Persian language or their derived version-Urdu in their community and while speaking to the other groups they must be using 'Urdu' or rarely Hindi.
- The Anglo-Indians used English in their community and while speaking to the other groups they must be using the same English language.

**Question 4. Do you think that the ruled always adopt the language of the ruler?**

Answer:

No, it hardly happens. Rulers are never permanent, while the ruled have their own culture and language. They retain it at any cost. Yes, it is a prolonged rule, viz. British rule in India, people in administration adopt their language at certain extent but not fully.

### Working with Words

Select the item that is closest in meaning to the following phrases:

**Question 1. to take issue with**

- (a) to accept
- (b) to discuss
- (c) to disagree
- (d) to add

Answer:

- (b) to discuss



**Question 2. to give vent to**

- (a) to express
- (b) to emphasise
- (c) to suppress
- (d) to dismiss

Answer:

- (a) to express

**Question 3. to stand on one's feet**

- (a) to be physically strong
- (b) to be independent
- (c) to stand erect
- (d) to be successful

Answer:

- (b) to be independent

**Question 4. to be wound up**

- (a) to become active
- (b) to stop operating
- (c) to be transformed
- (d) to be destroyed

Answer:

- (b) to stop operating

**Question 5. to meet one's match**

- (a) to meet a partner who has similar tastes
- (b) to meet an opponent
- (c) to meet someone who is equally able as oneself
- (d) to meet defeat

Answer:

- (c) to meet someone who is equally able as oneself

**Distinguish between the following pairs of sentences:**

**Question 1.**

**(i) He was visibly moved.**

**(ii) He was visually impaired.**

Answer:

(i) He was visibly moved means the concerned person was perceptively moved.

(ii) He was visually impaired means the concerned person was impaired with respect to sight.



## Question 2.

(i) Green and black stripes were used alternately.

(ii) Green stripes could be used or alternatively black ones.

Answer:

(i) Green and black stripes were used alternately means green and black stripes were used reciprocally.

(ii) Green stripes could be used or alternatively black ones means either green stripes could be used or black ones, i.e., altering a choice.

## Noticing Form

**The story deals with unreal and hypothetical conditions. Some of the sentences used to express this notion are given below:**

1. If I fire a bullet from a gun in a given direction at a given speed, I know where it will be at a later time.
2. If I knew the answer I would solve a great problem.
3. If he himself were dead in this world, what guarantee had he that his son would be alive.
4. What course would history have taken if the battle had gone the other way?

Notice that in an unreal condition, it is clearly expected that the condition will not be fulfilled.

## Things to Do

**Read the following passage on the Catastrophe Theory downloaded from the Internet:**

Originated by the French mathematician, Rene Thom, in the 1960s, catastrophe theory is a special branch of dynamical systems theory. It studies and classifies phenomena characterised by sudden shifts in behaviour arising from small changes in circumstances.

Catastrophes are bifurcations between different equilibrium, or fixed point attractors.. Due to their restricted nature, catastrophes can be classified on the basis of how many control parameters are being simultaneously varied. For example, if there are two controls, then one finds the most common type, called a 'cusp' catastrophe. If, however, there are more than five controls, there is no classification.

Catastrophe theory has been applied to a number of different phenomena, such as the stability of ships at sea and their capsizing, bridge collapse, and, with some less convincing success, the fight-or-flight behaviour of animals and prison riots.

**Question 1. Look up the Internet or an encyclopedia for information on the following theories:**

1. Quantum Theory
2. Theory of Relativity
3. Big Bang Theory

#### 4. Theory of Evolution (Biology)

Answer:

**1. Quantum Theory:** is a theory in Physics based on the principle that matter and energy have the properties of both particles and waves, created to explain the radiation of energy from a blackbody, the photoelectric effect, and the Bohr theory, and now used to account for a wide range of physical phenomena, including the existence of discrete packets of energy and matter, the uncertainty principle, and the exclusion principle.

**2. Theory of Relativity:** is the theory that space and time are relative concepts rather than absolute concepts.

**3. Big Bang Theory:** is a scientific theory describing the origin of all space, time, matter, and energy approximately 13.7 billion years ago from the violent expansion of a singular point of extremely high density and temperature.

**4. Theory of Evolution (Biology):** is a scientific theory of the origin of species of plants and animals.

