

Class 11th English Hornbill Chapter 8 Silk Road Question Answers Gujarat Board

Understanding the Text

Give reasons for the following statements:

Question 1. The article has been titled 'Silk Road'.

Answer:

The title of the article has been named on the historic silk road or routes. The network connected the Afro-Eurasian landmass. It established trade of Chinese silk, spices, teas and porcelain; Indian textiles, precious stones and pepper; and the Roman Empire's gold, silver, fine glassware, wine, carpets and jewels. The road was named Silk Road largely because of the silk trade with China. In the chapter the author travels to Mount Kailash, exploring the Himalayan belt in Tibet. Since the author explored this region, the article is titled as 'Silk Road'.

Question 2. Tibetan mastiffs were popular in China's imperial courts.

Answer:

Tibetan mastiffs were popular in China's imperial courts as hunting dogs. They were brought along the Silk Road in ancient times as tribute from Tibet. They were huge black dogs used as watchdogs. They explode into action like bullets. They are furious and fearless.

Question 3. The author's experience at Hor was in stark contrast to earlier accounts of the place.

Answer:

Hor was a grim, miserable place. The dust and rocks were scattered everywhere in abundance; there was little vegetation. The place seemed unfortunate and dejected, though it sat on the shore of the Lake Manasarovar. The author was flabbergasted to realise the contrast in his experience to that of the earlier read accounts. A Japanese monk, Ekai Kawaguchi, who had arrived there in 1990, was so moved by the sanctity of the lake that he burst into tears.

The hallowed waters had a similar effect on Sven Hedin, a Swede who was not prone to sentimental outbursts. However, for the author, when he reached Hor, first he had to get two punctures mended. The only relaxation was the tea served by a Chinese youth in the only cafe in the town, which was constructed from badly painted concrete and had three broken windows. The good view of the lake through one of them helped to compensate however.

Question 4. The author was disappointed with Darchen.

Answer:

The author was disappointed with Darchen. The high altitude was giving him health problems. He had a bad cold and was not able to sleep at night. Since he was one of the

early arrivals there weren't any pilgrims coming to the place. The place was dusty, partially derelict and punctuated by heaps of rubble and refuse.

Question 5. The author thought that his positive thinking strategy worked well after all.

Answer:

The author was disappointed with Darchen. He also complained of bad health. Tsetan had left for Lhasa. He was feeling rather lonely with no pilgrims around. It was then he met Norbu, a Tibetan who too wanted to visit Kailash. They would be a good team as both of them were academicians who had, escaped from the library. The author started thinking positively and it gave him some delight and a new enthusiasm.

Briefly comment on:

Question 1. The purpose of the author's journey to Mount Kailash

Answer:

Nick Middleton is a Oxford professor as well as an adventurer. He follows the most difficult terrain through the Silk Road and reaches Mount Kailash. He visits the holy place to complete the kora going around the place.

Question 2. The author's physical condition in Darchen

Answer:

The author was not physically well when he reached Darchen., His sinuses were blocked due to the cold wind at Hor and he was not able to sleep well at night. The next day Tsetan took him to the Darchen medical college and the doctor there gave him some medicine that gave him some relief.

Question 3. The author's meeting with Norbu

Answer:

The author was feeling rather lonely without Tsetan who had left for Lhasa. There weren't any pilgrims at Darchen as he had reached the place much early in the season. It was then he met Norbu who was a Tibetan and also an academician. He too was there to visit Kailash and they decided to go there together.

Question 4. Tsetan's support to the author during the journey

Answer:

Tsetan was a good and efficient driver. He drove the car very carefully. During the journey, he spoke to the author giving information about the places they were visiting. He was very caring. At Darchen when he found that the author was not well, he took him to the medical college and got medicine for him. He was a good Buddhist.

Question 5. "As a Buddhist, he told me, he knew that it didn't really matter if I passed away, but he thought it would be bad for business"

Answer:

Tsetan was a good Buddhist and believed that death was not the end of life. Kailash being a



holy place it would be better for him as it would take him to heaven. Then if the author would die there, it would be bad for his business as his credibility will be at stake in looking after the tourists and later he may not get any customers.

Talking about the Text

Discuss the following in groups of four:

Question 1. The sensitive behaviour of hill-folk

Answer:

The hill-folk are quite unsophisticated and innocent. People like Tsetan are very religious and God-fearing. They are very much hospitable and take care of the visitors from outside.

Question 2. The reasons why people willingly undergo the travails of difficult journeys

Answer:

The author was an academician, hence, he undertook the journey for the purpose of education. For him it was a learning experience. Secondly, people undertake such journeys because of the spirit of adventure. The areas covered by the author are some of the most difficult terrains in the world. The third can be a religious reason. People visit places like Mount Kailash as part of their pilgrimage.

Question 3. The accounts of exotic places in legends and the reality

Answer:

There are many accounts of exotic places in legends and the reality. Places like Mount Kailash, Manasarovar occupy a prominent place in legends. There are many articles written about these places.

Thinking about Language

Question 1. Notice the kind of English Tsetan uses while talking to the author. How do you think he picked it up?

Answer:

Tsetan must have picked up the kind of English through his interactions with tourists.

Question 2. What do the following utterances indicate ?

(i) "I told her, through Daniel....."

Answer:

She was not able to follow English but Daniel translated what he told in English in the Tibetan language to her.

(ii) "It's a cold," he said finally through Tsetan.

Answer:

The doctor spoke in Tibetan language, which Tsetan translated into English for the author.



Question 3. Guess the meaning of the following words:

kora, drokba, Kyang

In which language are these words found?

Answer:

kora: Walk all the way round, circumambulate

drokba: shepherd

Kyang : It is a wild Tibetan ass.

These words are found in Tibetan Language.

Working with Words

Question 1. The narrative has many phrases to describe the scenic beauty of the mountainside like:

‘A flawless half-moon floated in a perfect blue sky.’ ”

Scan the text to locate other such picturesque phrases.

Answer:

(1)..... the river was wide and mostly clogged with ice, brilliant white and glinting in the sunshine.

(2) It was marked by a large cairn of rocks festooned with silk scarves and ragged prayer flags.

Question 2. Explain the use of the adjectives in the following phrases:

(1) shaggy monsters

(2) brackish lakes

(3) rickety table

(4) hairpin bend

(5) rudimentary general stores

Answer:

(1) shaggy monsters: hairy, unkempt

(2) brackish lakes: salty

(3) rickety table: wobbly, shaky

(4) hairpin bend: very sharp bend

(5) rudimentary general stores: elementary

Noticing Form

Question 1. The account has only a few passive voice sentences. Locate them. In what way does the use of active voice contribute to the style of the narrative.

Answer:

(1) Passive constructions in ‘Silk Road:

1. Hor’s only cafe which, like all other buildings in town, was constructed from badly painted concrete.

2. One of my nostrils was blocked again.

3. I wasn’t convinced that the other would provide me with sufficient oxygen.

4. I was simply not allowed to go to sleep.
5. I'd been told that at the height of the pilgrimage season.

(2) Generally, when there is a narrative, more clarity in writing is needed, hence Passive voice should be avoided. Active voice is used for most non-scientific writing. Using active voice for the majority of the sentences makes the meaning clear for readers, and keeps the sentences from becoming too complicated or wordy. Hence active voice contributes to the style of this narrative.

Question 2. Notice this construction: Tsetan was eager to have them fixed. Write Jive sentences with a similar structure.

Answer:

- (1) The professor had the work done by his lab assistant.
- (2) The judge had the lawyer defend the suspect.
- (3) Rakesh got the mechanic to check his brakes.
- (4) Although she hates the dentist, she has had her teeth cleaned regularly.
- (5) The police inspector made the criminal confess his crime.

Things to Do

“The plateau is pockmarked with salt flats and brackish lakes, vestiges of the Tethys Ocean which bordered Tibet before the continental collision that lifted it skyward.”

Given below is an extract from an account of the Tethys Ocean downloaded from the Internet. Go online, key in Tethys Ocean in Google search and 'you will And exhaustive information on this geological event. You can also consult an encyclopedia.

Today, India, Indonesia and the Indian Ocean cover the area once occupied by the Tethys Ocean. Turkey, Iraq, and Tibet sit on the land once known as Cimmeria. Most of the floor of the Tethys Ocean disappeared under Cimmeria and Laurasia. We only know that Tethys existed because geologists like Suess have found fossils of ocean creatures in rocks in the Himalayas. So, we know those rocks were underwater, before the Indian continental shelf began pushing upward as it smashed into Cimmeria. We can see similar geologic evidence in Europe, where the movement of Africa raised the Alps.

Answer:

The Tethys Ocean, Tethys Sea or Neothethys was an ocean during much of the Mesozoic Era located between the ancient continents of Gondwana and Laurasia, before the opening of the Indian and Atlantic Oceans during the Cretaceous period.



Class 11th English Hornbill Poem Chapter 5 Father to Son

Question Answers Gujarat Board

Think it Out

Question 1. Does the poem talk of an exclusively personal experience or is it fairly universal?

Answer:

The poem does talk of an exclusively personal experience. However, we can also call it fairly universal because a conflict like this is quite common in many households. It is also known as generation gap.

Question 2. How is the father's helplessness brought out in the poem?

Answer:

The helplessness of the father is highlighted through the depiction of the emotional struggle that he undergoes. He is aware of the problem and is willing to resolve it, but is unable to do so. He regrets the lack of a strong emotional bond and proper communication with his son who is also physically distanced from him.

Question 3. Identify the phrases and lines that indicate distance between father and son.

Answer:

Phrases/lines that indicate distance between the father and the son are :

- I do not understand this child.
- I know / Nothing of him.
- We speak like strangers.
- There's no sign / Of understanding in the air.
- Silence surrounds us.

Question 4. Does the poem have a consistent rhyme scheme?

Answer:

No, the poem does not follow a consistent rhyme scheme.

