

About the Author

Nelson Mandela was born on 18 July, 1918 in the village of Mvezo in the Eastern Cape. He served as President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. Nelson Mandela is one of the greatest moral and political leaders of our time: an international hero whose lifelong dedication to the fight against racial oppression in South Africa won him the Nobel Peace Prize and the presidency of his country.

Theme

'Long Walk to Freedom' is the 1994 autobiography of Nelson Mandela, detailing his ascent from an anti-apartheid activist and Robben Island-jailed terrorist, to an ANC leader and a cultural icon. This autobiography illustrates and interprets the theme of struggle for freedom. With the help of theories, the study examines how Mandela showcases his individual role as well as the role of all the oppressed, in the struggle in his autobiography.

Summary

Nelson Mandela was born on 18 July, 1918. He was the first South African Black President after over three centuries of White rule. His African National Congress party, won the first democratic elections of South Africa's history. 10th of May was the day when Nelson Mandela took up the President's mantle officially. There was a huge gathering of international leaders and dignitaries at the swearing-in ceremony which was held in Union Building in Pretoria and the first non-racial government took charge. Nelson Mandela gave a speech on the victory of justice, peace and human dignity. Mandela pledged to liberate his people from poverty, suffering and discrimination. A colourful show by jets and helicopters depicting the military's might and loyalty took place. Two national anthems were sung to signify equality and inclusion—the old 'Nkosi Sikelel' by the whites and the new 'Die Stem' by the blacks. A new system was formed that recognised the rights and freedom of all. Mandela recalled the courage and unimaginable sacrifices of thousands of his people and thanked them for their services. He offered salutations to some great freedom fighters—Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulu, Chief Luthuli, Yusuf Dadoo and others. Mandela in his speech, addressing the citizens, said that a country is rich because of its people not because of the minerals. Courage is not the absence of fear but the victory over it. People should love others not hate them due to their colour or religion. Love comes naturally not by force, which is the natural goodness, whereas people must learn to hate and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love. He also said that man should try to create a balance between his duties—duties towards his family and duty towards his country and community. Mandela said that freedom has different interpretations, for a kid, it is to run and play, and for an adult, it is to fulfil needs of his own and his family. Real freedom means equal rights for everyone. He wanted that people of South Africa must live with dignity and respect. He believed the oppressor and the oppressed have to be liberated. Patience and perseverance, guided by discipline and system will yield the desired result.

ANSWERS TO NCERT QUESTIONS

ORAL COMPREHENSION CHECK

1. Where did the ceremonies take place? Can you name any buildings in India that are made of sandstone?

Ans. The ceremonies took place in the campus of the Union Building of Pretoria.

The Parliament House, the Rashtrapati Bhawan and the Supreme Court of India in New Delhi as well as the Madras High Court in Chennai are few examples of public buildings in India that are made of sandstone.

2. Can you say how 10 May is an 'autumn day' in South Africa?

Ans. Autumn is at once symbolic of plenty, ripening, harvest, and abundance; and at the same time, a symbol of decay, decline, old age, and even death. 10 May was therefore typically an 'autumn day' in South Africa because on this day, there was the largest gathering of international leaders on South African soil for the installation of South Africa's first democratic, non-racial government, marking the end of centuries of apartheid.

3. At the beginning of his speech, Mandela mentions "an extraordinary human disaster". What does he mean by this? What is the "glorious ... human achievements" he speaks of at the end?

Ans. By "an extraordinary human disaster", Mandela was referring to the inhuman lives that the Black Africans were subjected to by the Whites, for over three centuries during the apartheid. He considered the end of this glory period as a glorious human achievement whereby, the Blacks were given the freedom to live like respectable citizens in their own land.

4. What does Mandela thank the international leaders for?

Ans. Mandela felt privileged to be the host to the international leaders from over 140 nations of the world who had come to partake in the inauguration ceremony. This was because, till not too long ago, the South Africans were considered outlaws. He thanked these leaders for having come to take possession with the people of South Africa, a common victory for justice, peace and human dignity.

5. What ideals does he set out for the future of South Africa?

Ans. Mandela sets out the ideals of poverty alleviation, and removal of suffering of people. He also sets the ideal for a society where there would be no discrimination based on gender or racial origin.

6. What do the military generals do? How has their attitude changed, and why?

Ans. The highest military generals of the South African defence force and police saluted Mandela and pledged their loyalty.

Their attitude towards the man in particular and the Blacks in general had undergone a great change, as Nelson Mandela was no longer an ordinary criminal as was once regarded and the dreaded apartheid had ended.

7. Why were two national anthems sung?

Ans. The day of the inauguration saw yet another spectacular event. The two national anthems of the country were played. It was symbolic because the Whites sang the anthem of the Blacks 'Nkosi Sikeli Africa' and the Blacks sang 'Die Stem' the anthem of the Whites. This was indicative of the beginning of a new era in the history of South Africa.

8. How does Mandela describe the systems of government in his country

- (i) in the first decade, and
- (ii) in the final decade, of the twentieth century?

Ans. (i) In the first decade of the twentieth century, the white-skinned people of South Africa patched up their differences and erected a system of racial domination against the dark-skinned people of their own land, thus creating the basis of one of the harshest and most inhuman societies, the world had ever known.

(ii) In the final decade of the twentieth century, the previous systems had been overturned forever and replaced by one that recognised the rights and freedom of all people, regardless of the colour of their skins.

9. What does courage mean to Mandela?

Ans. For Mandela, courage does not mean the absence of fear but victory over fear. According to him, brave men need not be fearless but should be able to conquer fear.

10. Which does he think is natural, to love or to hate?

Ans. For Mandela, love comes naturally to the human heart than hate.

11. What “twin obligations” does Mandela mention?

Ans. Mandela mentions that every man has twin obligations. The first is to his family, parents, wife and children; the second obligation is to his people, his community and his country.

12. What did being free mean to Mandela as a boy and as a student? How does he contrast these “transitory freedoms” with “the basic and honourable freedoms”?

Ans. Like any other boy, freedom for Mandela meant making merry and enjoying a blissful life. He was free to run near his fields in his mother’s hut or swim in the clear stream that ran through his village. His sense of freedom was limited to his own enjoyment. As long as he obeyed his father and abided by customs of his tribe, his freedom wasn’t restricted by the laws of man or God. Gradually, he learnt that his boyhood freedom was an illusion. Once a person becomes an adult, then antics of childhood look transitory because most of the childish activity is wasteful from an adult’s perspective.

As an adult, he wanted freedom only for himself, the transitory freedom of being able to stay out at night, read what he pleased and go where he chose. Later, as a young man in Johannesburg, he yearned for the basic and honourable freedom of achieving his potential, earning his keep, and of marrying and having a family. Earning honest livelihood for the daily bread gets an honourable existence in the family and in the society.

13. Does Mandela think the oppressor is free? Why/Why not?

Ans. Mandela does not feel that the oppressor is free because according to him, an oppressor is a prisoner of hatred, who is locked behind the bars of prejudice and narrow-mindedness. He feels that both the oppressor and the oppressed are robbed of their humanity.

THINKING ABOUT THE TEXT

1. Why did such a large number of international leaders attend the inauguration? What did it signify the triumph of?

Ans. The presence of a large number of international leaders was a gesture of solidarity from the international community to the idea of the end of apartheid. It signified the triumph of good over evil, the triumph of the idea of a tolerant society without discrimination.

2. What does Mandela mean when he says he is “simply the sum of all those African patriots” who had gone before him?

Ans. Mandela wants to pay his tribute to all the people who had sacrificed their lives for the sake of freedom. He feels that he is the culmination of all those African patriots who had gone before him because those heroes of yester-years had paved the path for the creation of an apartheid free democratic nation where all the Africans could enjoy freedom and respect. The struggle that his ancestors had begun ended with him.

3. Would you agree that the “depths of oppression” create heights of character? How does Mandela illustrate this? Can you add your own example to this argument?

Ans. I agree that “depths of oppression” creates “heights of character”. Nelson Mandela illustrates this by giving examples of great heroes of South Africa who sacrificed their lives in the long freedom struggle. India is full of such examples. During India’s freedom struggle, there was a galaxy of leaders of great character. Probably, the oppression under the British rule created such great men. The intense oppression at the hands of the mighty, transform them into brave hearts, thus creating leaders of impeccable character, who want to transform the society and establish humane living conditions for their people.

4. How did Mandela’s understanding of freedom change with age and experience?

Ans. With age, Nelson Mandela realised that he had a lot of responsibilities of his people, his community and his country. As a boy, Mandela did not have a hunger for freedom because he thought that he was born free. He believed that as long as he obeyed his father and abided by the custom of his tribe, he was free in every possible manner. He had certain needs as a teenager and certain needs as a young man. Gradually, he realised that he was selfish during his childhood. He slowly understood that it is not just his freedom that is being curtailed, but the freedom of all Blacks. It is after attaining this understanding that he developed a hunger for the freedom of his people.

5. How did Mandela’s ‘hunger for freedom’ change his life?

Ans. Mandela realised in his youth that it was not just his freedom that was being curtailed, but the freedom of all Blacks. The hunger for his own freedom became the hunger for the freedom of his people. This desire of a non-racial society transformed him into a virtuous and self-sacrificing man. Thus, he joined the African National Congress and this changed him from a frightened young man into a bold man.

THINKING ABOUT LANGUAGE

I. There are nouns in the text (*formation, government*) which are formed from the corresponding verbs (*form, govern*) by suffixing – (at)ion or ment. There may be change in the spelling of some verb-noun pairs; such as *rebel, rebellion; constitute, constitution*.

1. Make a list of such pairs of nouns and verbs in the text.

Ans.

Noun	Verb
rebellion	rebel
constitution	constitute
<u>formation</u>	<u>form</u>
<u>government</u>	<u>govern</u>

<u>obligation</u>	<u>oblige</u>
<u>transformation</u>	<u>transform</u>
<u>discrimination</u>	<u>discriminate</u>
<u>deprivation</u>	<u>deprive</u>
<u>demonstration</u>	<u>demonstrate</u>
<u>oppression</u>	<u>oppress</u>
<u>imagination</u>	<u>imagine</u>

2. Read the paragraph below. Fill in the blanks with the noun forms of the verbs in brackets.

Martin Luther King's _____ (contribute) to our history as an outstanding leader began when he came to the _____ (assist) of Rosa Parks, a seamstress who refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white passenger. In those days, American Blacks were confined to positions of second class citizens by restrictive laws and customs. To break these laws would mean _____ (subjugate) and _____ (humiliate) by the police and the legal system. Beatings, _____ (imprison) and sometimes death awaited those who defied the System. Martin Luther King's tactics of protest involved non-violent _____ (resist) to racial injustice.

Ans. Martin Luther King's contribution (contribute) to our history as an outstanding leader began when he came to the assistance (assist) of Rosa Parks, a seamstress who refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white passenger. In those days, American Blacks were confined to positions of second class citizens by restrictive laws and customs. To break these laws would mean subjugation (subjugate) and humiliation (humiliate) by the police and the legal system. Beatings, imprisonment (imprison) and sometimes death awaited those who defied the System. Martin Luther King's tactics of protest involved non-violent resistance (resist) to racial injustice.

II. Here are some more examples of 'the' used with proper names. Try to say what these sentences mean. (You may consult a dictionary if you wish. Look at the entry for 'the'.)

1. Mr Singh regularly invites the Amitabh Bachchans and the Shah Rukh Khans to his parties.
2. Many people think that Madhuri Dixit is the Madhubala of our times.
3. History is not only the story of the Alexanders, the Napoleons, and the Hitlers, but of ordinary people as well.

Ans.

1. This means that Mr Singh regularly invites famous personalities such as Amitabh Bachchans and Shah Rukh Khans to his parties.
2. This means that Madhuri Dixit is compared to a landmark in acting in the form of legendary actress Madhubala.
3. This means that history is not only the story of the extraordinary fighters and leaders, such as Alexander, Napoleon, and Hitler, but also of ordinary people, with ordinary roles.

III. Match the italicised phrases in Column A with the phrase nearest in meaning in Column B. (Hint: First look for the sentence in the text, which the phrase in Column A occurs.)

A	B
1. I was <i>unmindful</i> of the fact	(i) had not forgotten: was aware of the fact (ii) was not careful about the fact (iii) forgot or was not aware of the fact
2. when my comrades and I <i>were pushed to our limits</i>	(i) pushed by the guards to the wall (ii) felt that we could not endure the suffering any longer (iii) took more than our share of beatings
3. to reassure me and <i>keep me going</i>	(i) make me go on walking (ii) help me continue to live in hope in this very difficult situation (iii) make me remain without complaining
4. the basic and honourable freedoms of... <i>earning my keep</i> ...	(i) earning enough money to live on (ii) keeping what I earned (iii) getting a good salary

Ans.

A	B
1. I was <i>unmindful</i> of the fact	(i) had not forgotten: was aware of the fact
2. when my comrades and I <i>were pushed to our limits</i>	(ii) felt that we could not endure the suffering any longer
3. to reassure me and <i>keep me going</i>	(ii) help me continue to live in hope in this very difficult situation
4. the basic and honourable freedoms of... <i>earning my keep</i> ...	(i) earning enough money to live on

WRITING

Looking at Contrasts

Nelson Mandela's writing is marked by balance: many sentences have two parts in balance.

Use the following phrases to complete the sentences given below.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| (i) they can be taught to love. | (ii) I was born free. |
| (iii) but the triumph over it. | (iv) but he who conquers that fear. |
| (v) to create such heights of character. | |

1. It requires such depths of oppression _____
2. Courage was not the absence of fear _____
3. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid _____
4. If people can learn to hate _____

5. I was not born with a hunger to be free. _____

- Ans.**
1. It requires such depths of oppression to create such heights of character.
 2. Courage was not the absence of fear but the triumph over it.
 3. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid but he who conquers that fear.
 4. If people can learn to hate they can be taught to love.
 5. I was not born with a hunger to be free. I was born free.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Extract-Based Questions

(5 Marks each)

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

1. To the assembled guests and the watching world, I said: Today, all of us do, by our presence here . . . confer glory and hope to newborn liberty. Out of the experience of an extraordinary human disaster that lasted too long, must be born a society of which all humanity will be proud. We who were outlaws not so long ago, have today been given the rare privilege to be host to the nations of the world on our own soil. We thank all our distinguished international guests for having come to take possession with the people of our country of what is after all, a common victory for justice, for peace, for human dignity.
(CBSE Question Paper, Code 2/5/1; 2022-23)

- (a) What was born of human disaster, according to the extract? (2)
- (b) The former outlaws were given the privilege of: (1)
 - (i) getting citizenship of their country
 - (ii) participating in a trade conclave
 - (iii) finalizing the foreign policy
 - (iv) hosting the nations of the world on their soil
- (c) The speaker was overwhelmed with the sense of: (1)

(i) gratitude	(ii) achievement
(iii) happiness	(iv) charity
- (d) State whether the following statement is True or False: (1)
The common victory was when South Africa did not become an independent nation.

- Ans.**
- (a) A society of which all humanity will be proud was born out of an extraordinary human disaster which lasted too long.
 - (b) (iv) hosting the nations of the world on their soil
 - (c) (i) gratitude
 - (d) False
2. The ceremonies took place in the lovely sandstone amphitheatre formed by Union Buildings in Pretoria. For decades this had been the seat of white supremacy, and now it was the site of a rainbow gathering of different colours and nations for the installation of South Africa's first democratic, non-racial government.
 - (a) Which ceremonies are being referred to here? (1)
 - (b) What type of government was chosen in South Africa? (1)
 - (i) A democratic government through fair elections

- (ii) A democratic government through unfair means
- (iii) A government in the King's name
- (iv) A democratic government in the Queen's name
- (c) **Why did the military generals' attitude change towards Mandela?** (2)
- (d) **What lesson can be learned from this story?** (1)
 - (i) To believe in justice
 - (ii) To fight for what is right and for those who can't fight for themselves
 - (iii) To go where your destiny takes you
 - (iv) None of these

- Ans.** (a) The ceremony being referred to here is the installation of the non-racial government.
- (b) (i) A democratic government through fair elections
 - (c) The military generals' attitude changed towards Mandela because the country had got freedom from racial discrimination.
 - (d) (ii) To fight for what is right and for those who can't fight for themselves

3. "We, who are outlaws not so long ago, have today been given the rare privilege to be host to the nations of the world on our own soil. We thank all of our distinguished international guests for having come to take possession with the people of our country of what is, after all, a common victory for justice, for peace, for human dignity."

(CBSE Question Bank)

- (a) **It is a victory for 'human dignity'. Pick the option that lists the correct answer for what 'human dignity' would include.** (1)
 - (i) equality, liberty, indecency (ii) liberty, indecency, self-respect
 - (iii) immorality, self-respect, equality (iv) equality, liberty, self-respect
- (b) **Why does the speaker say that it is 'rare privilege'?** (1)
- (c) **How do you think is the speaker feeling?** (2)
- (d) **Pick the option that showcases the usage of 'host' as in the extract.** (1)
 - (i) He was praised for his hospitality as the host of the party.
 - (ii) She was able to host the event without any hindrance.
 - (iii) She met the host and apologized for her friend's misbehaviour.
 - (iv) He is the best host that one can ever come across.

- Ans.** (a) (iv) equality, liberty, self-respect
- (b) He says this as they have experienced it for the first time.
 - (c) The speaker is feeling overwhelmed, elated and honoured to host the nations of the world in his soil.
 - (d) (ii) She was able to host the event without any hindrance.

4. "It was only when I began to learn that my boyhood freedom was an illusion, when I discovered as a young man that my freedom had already been taken from me, that I began to hunger for it. At first as a student, I wanted freedom only for myself, the transitory freedoms of being able to stay out at night, read what I pleased and go where I chose. Later, as a young man in Johannesburg I yearned for the basic and honourable freedoms...."

(CBSE Question Bank)

(a) The title that best suits this extract is: (1)

- (i) Freedom for Everything (ii) Knowledge about Freedom
(iii) Significance of Freedom (iv) Realisation of Freedom

(b) Why do you think the speaker mentions some freedoms as 'transitory'? (2)

(c) The speaker says, 'at first as a student I wanted freedom only for myself.' Why do you think he only thought about himself? (1)

(d) A part of the extract has been paraphrased. Choose the option that includes the most appropriate solution to the blanks in the given paraphrase of the extract. (1)

The speaker's belief about freedom, since childhood proved false. It was not until the speaker grew up to be a young man when it (1) _____ on him that he was (2) _____ of freedom. Then he began (3) _____ it.

- (i) (1) desired, (2) dawned, (3) depriving
(ii) (1) dawned, (2) deprived, (3) desiring
(iii) (1) dawned, (2) arrived, (3) desiring
(iv) (1) arrived, (2) deprived, (3) dawned

Ans. (a) (iii) Significance of Freedom

(b) The speaker mentions some freedoms as 'transitory' because the freedoms are momentary and keep changing with time. As a student, he wanted freedom only for himself to be able to stay at night, read whatever he desired and go wherever he chose.

(c) He only thought about himself because he was too young to realise that freedom was denied to others as well.

(d) (ii) (1) dawned, (2) deprived, (3) desiring

5. Tenth May dawned bright and clear. For the past few days, I had been pleasantly besieged by dignitaries and world leaders who were coming to pay their respects before the inauguration.

The inauguration would be the largest gathering ever of international leaders on South African soil. The ceremonies took place in the lovely sandstone amphitheatre formed by the Union Buildings in Pretoria. For decades, this had been the seat of white supremacy and now it was the site of a rainbow gathering of different colours and nations for the installation of South Africa's first democratic, non-racial government.

(a) "For decades, this had been the seat of white supremacy". Here, white supremacy refers to: (1)

- (i) control from white house (ii) serving by landlords
(iii) white race mass (iv) people following white flags

(b) "The inauguration would be the largest gathering"... inauguration literally means beginnings of something. Was it really an inauguration of something great? What was it? (2)

(c) Which word from the passage means the same as 'placement of person in office with ceremony'? (1)

(d) 'The site of a rainbow gathering of different colours and nations.' The word 'rainbow' refers to: (1)

(1) People from different regions

(2) Dignitaries from different countries

(3) High profile dignitaries from different nations and races

(4) Decor of ampitheatre with bright hue

(i) Only 1

(ii) 1 and 2

(iii) 1, 2 and 3

(iv) Only 4

Ans. (a) (i) control from white house

(b) It was indeed an inauguration of something great. It was the first democratic, non-racial government that took path in South Africa. Thousands of people of South Africa of all the races attended to make the day memorable.

(c) Installation

(d) (ii) 1 and 2

Short Answer Questions

(40-50 words: 3 Marks each)

1. When did Mandela's hunger for self, turn into a hunger for freedom for all his people?

Ans. As Nelson Mandela turned into an adult, he gradually realised that freedom was curtailed for those people who looked like he did, but not for the Whites. Consequently, he joined the African National Congress, and that was when his "hunger for freedom" became a "greater hunger."

2. What did Nelson Mandela pledge when he was sworn in as President?

Ans. Nelson Mandela pledged to uphold the Constitution of his country and devote himself to liberate his people from the bondage of poverty, deprivation, suffering, gender and other discriminations. There would be freedom and justice for one and all, irrespective of their gender or race.

3. What did Nelson Mandela remember on the day of inaugural ceremony?

Ans. Nelson Mandela remembered the history — the birth of Apartheid, its effect on his people and the long fight for freedom. He remembered the freedom fighters who suffered and sacrificed for the freedom. He also remembered what freedom meant to him at different stages of life and his hunger for freedom.

4. Your teacher organized a mini-debate competition in class on the topic: 'Courage, Wisdom and Generosity are the only attributes of a remarkable leader.' Write a debate script with two points to supplement your stand, either as a proposition speaker or as an opposition one.
(Competency-based Question) (CBSE Question Bank)

Ans. As a proposition speaker:

- A courageous leader should be ready to face any problem. To solve the matter, he should be able to analyse the situation before passing a judgement. For that, he should have the wisdom to take wise decisions.
- When necessary, a leader should be generous in helping his friends or followers without hesitation.

OR

Ans. As an opposition speaker:

- It is not courage, wisdom and generosity, but presence of mind, ruthlessness and power to withstand adverse situations that make one a remarkable leader.
- It is the interest of the majority, and not concerns about friends, family and followers, that a leader should consider at all times.

5. Struggles teach us many lessons. With reference to the times, you struggled with mastering a skill or learning a concept, write about the lessons you learnt.

(Competency-based Question) (CBSE Question Bank)

Ans. In the ongoing crisis, I decided to tackle this unpleasant state of being bored through engaging in purposeful and meaningful activity. My resolution during this hour of distress was to start cultivating the habit of reading books. I realised that reading increases the ability to make assumptions, form ideas and generally better understand the texts while we read.

6. What unintended effect was produced by decades of oppression?

Ans. Mandela thought that the decades of brutality and oppression had an unintended effect of creating many African patriots with unimaginable heights of character. Thus, he felt that the greatest wealth of South Africa is its people.

7. Why is 10th May 1994 important for South Africa?

Ans. 10th May 1994 is important for South Africa because the first democratic, non-racial government elections were held on this day in the country, electing Nelson Mandela as the first Black President of the country.

8. Who, according to Nelson Mandela, is a courageous man? (CBSE Sample Paper, 2021)

Ans. According to Nelson Mandela, a courageous man should not be fearless but he must have tenacity and fortitude to overcome his fear.

9. What did Nelson Mandela remember on the day of the inaugural ceremony?

(CBSE Question Paper, 2020; Code no. 2/4/1)

Ans. On the day of the inaugural ceremony, Nelson Mandela remembered the first decade of the twentieth century, when white-skinned peoples of South Africa resolved their mutual differences and created a system of racial domination against the dark-skinned peoples of the same land.

10. What does Mandela refer to as ‘an extraordinary human disaster’?

(CBSE Question Paper, 2020; Code no. 2/5/2)

Ans. By using the words ‘an extraordinary human disaster’ Mandela is referring to the practice of apartheid in South Africa. During this, there was racial segregation based on colour and the blacks suffered a lot. They weren’t allowed to demand freedom or any right.

Long Answer Questions

(100-120 words: 6 Marks each)

1. Discuss the scene of the inauguration ceremony. Who took oath in the ceremony? Why is the inauguration called a historic occasion for South Africa?

Ans. 10th May, 1994 the first Black President of South Africa was going to take oath. The inauguration ceremony took place in the lovely sandstone amphitheatre formed by the Union Buildings in Pretoria, which was for decades, the seat of white supremacy, and now it was the site of a rainbow gathering of different colours and nations. The ceremony began with the swearing in of the two deputy presidents. President Mandela pledged to obey and uphold the Constitution, and devote himself to the well-being of the Republic and its people. He then addressed the world with an exceptional speech. The generals and the police officers with their medals and ribbons on their chests, saluted the President pledging allegiance and loyalty. South African jets, helicopters and troop carriers roared in perfect formation over the Union Buildings. The day was also symbolised with the singing of the two national anthems of the country.

2. What were the difficulties faced by Nelson Mandela in achieving freedom for his people?

Ans. In his endeavour to get freedom for his countrymen from the rule of Apartheid, Nelson Mandela had to undergo many hardships and suffered a lot. This great patriot had to sacrifice the comfort of his home and loving family. He was declared an outlaw for demanding equality for all his fellow black Africans. He was punished, isolated and put into jail. He and his comrades were oppressed and tortured beyond tolerance. He suffered hunger, oppression and injustice, but kept the flame of independence burning in his heart. His undaunted courage, persistent struggle, and unparalleled sacrifice, bore fruit, and South Africa got freedom from the rule of Apartheid on 10 May, 1994.

3. Give the character sketch of Nelson Mandela.

Ans. Nelson Mandela was a great patriot. He loved his country and countrymen. For him, the greatest wealth of South Africa was his people. He sacrificed his life of comfort, family, and home, and plunged into the struggle for freedom. He believed in equality for all. He also sympathised with both oppressed and the oppressor. He opposed the rule of Apartheid for which he was declared an outlaw. He was oppressed and tortured in jail for several years, but he never broke. It showed traits of tolerance, courage and perseverance.

4. What different concepts of freedom did Mandela have at different stages of his life?

Or

How did Mandela's understanding of freedom change with age and experience?

Ans. Mandela had different concepts of freedom at different stages of his life. As a boy, he had an illusion about freedom. He thought as long as he obeyed his elders, he had the freedom to run in the fields, swim in the stream, and ride on the back of bulls.

As a student, he cared for transitory freedom — freedom to stay out at night, read the books of his choice and go wherever he liked.

When he became a young man, he yearned for basic and honourable freedom of achieving his potential, earning his keep, marrying, having a family and living a lawful life.

Slowly, his concept of freedom widened, especially, when he joined the African National Congress. He realised that true freedom is not an individual freedom but freedom for all.

5. What does Mandela say about the policy of Apartheid?

Or

Write down Mandela's views about the policy of Apartheid.

Ans. Mandela says that the policy of Apartheid created a deep and lasting wound in his country and his people. It was such a deep wound that all of them would take many years, if not generations, to recover from. The people of South Africa had to suffer decades of oppression and brutality. This had another unintended effect. It produced men of extraordinary courage, wisdom and generosity among the Blacks. The deeper the oppression, the stronger becomes the character that suffers it. Mandela says his country is rich in the minerals and gems that lie beneath its soil, but its greatest wealth is its people who are finer and truer than the purest diamonds. The policy of Apartheid practiced by the Whites brought to light these purest diamonds among the Blacks of South Africa.

6. Freedom is inconsequential if it is behind bars of prejudice and narrow mindedness. How would you explain this statement? Support your answer with suitable examples from the real world. (Competency-based Question) (CBSE Question Bank)

Ans. As a kid, Mandela had different meaning for being free as he wanted to run in the fields and wanted to stay out at night. As he grew older, he wanted the freedom of livelihood

for himself and his family. But soon he realized that such freedom was only an illusion. His hunger for freedom became great for the freedom of his people. He desired that everyone should be given the right to live his life with dignity and respect. He wanted the oppressor and the oppressed to be liberated. As no one is free, if one is taking someone else's freedom. Only such feelings can bring true freedom for everyone.

7. Describe the value of freedom for the human beings and how it is important for the growth of civilisation and humanism as described in the lesson 'Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom'.
(CBSE 2014)

Ans. Every living being wants to live free as freedom is a gift of nature. The value of freedom is better known to that human being who has not tasted it till he gets it. A person who is chained, kept in bondage, and is not allowed to perform his duties freely, values freedom more than anyone else. For instance, the value of freedom became more significant to Mandela when he understood the plight of his fellow beings, and circumstances had forced him to be behind the bars most of his life. Think about a bird or an animal that is kept confined instead of being allowed to move around freely in its own habitat. Life becomes a hell if we are deprived of freedom. There is no growth of civilisation as it grows only when one has freedom. Similarly, humanism grows in the atmosphere of freedom.

8. 'No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background or his religion.' Do you agree? Elaborate on the basis of the chapter 'Nelson Mandela – Long Walk to Freedom'.

(CBSE Question Paper, Code 2/4/3; 2022-23)

Ans. Yes, I agree that no one is born hating another person because of his or her skin colour, ethnicity or religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than hatred does. Even when Mandela and his friends were pushed to their limits in prison, he would glimpse a spark of humanity in one of the guards, if only for a split second, but that was enough to reassure him and keep him going. The goodness of man is a flame that can be smothered but never extinguished. Hate and prejudice are learned behaviours that are thought through social and political systems. Mandela's philosophy of non-violence and reconciliation is a testament to the power of education, understanding, and compassion to overcome hate and prejudice and create a more just and equal society.

QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE

Extract-Based Questions

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

- I felt that day, as I have on so many other days, that I was simply the sum of all those African patriots who had gone before me. That long and noble line ended and now began again with me.
 - What was the speaker feeling that day? (1)
 - He was feeling powerful.
 - He was feeling peace and calm.
 - He was feeling indebted to the patriots before him.
 - He was feeling bitter due to the long reign of the apartheid system.

- (b) What was so special about this day? (2)
- (c) Which of the following adjectives best describes Mandela? (1)
- (i) Intrepid (ii) Empathetic
 (iii) Sincere (iv) All of these
- (d) 'That long and noble line'. Which noble line is referred to here? (1)

2. The structure they created formed the basis of one of the harshest, most inhumane societies, the world has ever known. Now, in the last decade of the twentieth century, and my own eighth decade as a man, that system had been overturned forever and replaced by one that recognised the rights and freedoms of all people, regardless of the colour of their skin.

- (a) What structure did 'they' create which formed the basis of one of the harshest, most inhumane societies, the world has ever known? (1)
- (b) Who are 'they' in the above lines? (1)
- (i) The white supremacists (ii) People of colour
 (iii) Government of South Africa (iv) Freedom fighters
- (c) Why did the inauguration ceremony take place in the amphitheatre formed by the Union Buildings? (1)
- (i) Because it was a cultural hub
 (ii) Because it was the symbol of white supremacy
 (iii) Because it had been the seat of white supremacy for decades
 (iv) Because it was a place of utmost peace
- (d) How has the new system been described? (2)

Short Answer Questions

(40-50 words)

1. What does Mandela thank the international leaders for?
2. Whom does Mandela call comrades? Why?
3. What is the importance of 10 May, 1994?
4. Why were two national anthems sung?

Long Answer Questions

(100-120 words)

1. Mandela said, "People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love." Discuss. (CBSE Question Paper, Code 2/2/3; 2022-23)
2. Briefly explain Nelson Mandela's contribution for the emancipation of South African people.
3. What were the major effects of the policy of Apartheid?

