

CBSE Class 09 English Language and Literature
NCERT Solution
Beehive Chapter 10
Kathmandu

Page No: 131 Thinking about the Text

1. On the following map mark the route, which the author thought of but did not take, to Delhi.



Ans: The route that the author had thought of but did not take, is given below:
Kathmandu — Bihar (Patna) — Uttar Pradesh (Benares-Allahabad-Agra) — Delhi

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I. Answer the following questions in one or two words or in short phrases.

1. Name the two temples that the author visited in Kathmandu.
2. The writer says, “All this I wash down with Coca Cola.” What does ‘all this’ refer to?
3. What does Vikram Seth compare to the quills of a porcupine?

4. Name five kinds of flutes.

Ans: 1. The two temples the author visited in Kathmandu were the Pashupatinath temple and the Baudhnath stupa.

2. 'All this' refers to buying a bar of marzipan, a corn-on-the-cob roasted in a charcoal brazier (rubbed with salt, chilli powder and lemon), a couple of love story comics and a Reader's Digest.

3. The flute seller had a pole in his hand with an attachment at the top from which fifty or sixty bansuris protruded in all directions. Vikram Seth compares the protruded bansuris to the quills of a porcupine.

4. The different kinds of flutes are the reed neh, the Japanese shakuhachi, the deep bansuri of Hindustani classical music, the clear or breathy flutes of South America, and the high-pitched Chinese flutes. Each has its own specific fingering and compass.

II. Answer each of the following question in a short paragraph:

1. What difference does the author note between the flute seller and the other hawkers?

2. What is the belief at Pashupatinath about the end of Kaliyug?

3. The author has drawn powerful images and pictures. Pick out three examples each of:

(i) the atmosphere of 'febrile confusion' outside the temple of Pashupatinath (for example: some people trying to get the priest's attention are elbowed aside...)

(ii) the things he sees

(iii) the sounds he hears

Ans: 1. The author notes that when the other hawkers shout out their wares the flute seller doesn't. The flute seller selects a flute and plays slowly, meditatively, without excessive display. Occasionally he made a sale and took a break to talk to the fruit seller.

2. At Pashupatinath, there is a small shrine that half protrudes from the stone platform on the river bank of Bagmati. The people believed that when the shrine will emerge fully, the goddess inside will escape and the evil period of Kaliyug will come to an end.

3. (i) Outside the temple of Pashupatinath the author found an atmosphere of 'febrile confusion'. There were many worshippers. Some people were trying to get the priest's attention and were elbowed aside by others. A party of saffron-clad Westerners were

struggling for permission to enter. A fight broke out between two monkeys.

(ii) The things he sees include the temple at Pashupatinath, the Baudhnath stupa, shops owned by Tibetan immigrants, small shrines, flute sellers, hawkers, shops selling Western cosmetics, Nepalases antiques,

(iii) The sounds he heard were of film songs blaring out from the radios, car horns, bicycle bells, vendors shouting out their wares. He also heard flute music which appealed to him as the most universal and most particular of sounds.

III. Answer the following questions in not more than 100 – 150 words each.

1. Compare and contrast the atmosphere in and around the Baudhnath shrine with the Pashupathinath temple.

Ans: In and around the Pashupathinath temple the atmosphere was of ‘febrile confusion’. Priests, hawkers, devotees, tourists, monkeys, pigeons, dogs all roamed about. The worshippers who were trying to get the priest’s attention were elbowed by others pushing their way to the front; saffron-clad Westerners were struggling to get permission to enter the temple; two monkeys were fighting; a corpse was being cremated on the banks of the river Bagmati. In contrast, the atmosphere at Baudhnath stupa had a sense of stillness. There was no crowd, small shops were owned by Tibetan immigrants. The author felt as if it was “a haven of quietness in the busy streets around”.

2. How does the author describe Kathmandu’s busiest streets?

Ans: The author says that Kathmandu’s narrowest and busiest streets had small shrines and flower-adorned deities. There were fruit sellers, flute sellers, hawkers of postcards, shops selling Western cosmetics, film rolls, chocolate, those selling copper utensils and Nepalese antiques. Film songs blared out from the radios, vendors were shouting out their wares and the sound of the car horns and bicycle bells were heard. He roamed around the streets mindlessly and brought some refreshments and books. He found a flute seller who played it slowly and meditatively. The sound of the flute music rised clearly above the noise of the traffic and the hawkers’ cries.

3. “To hear any flute is to be drawn into the commonality of all mankind.” Why does the author say this?

Ans: According to the author flute music is the most universal and most particular of all

sounds. This musical instrument is common to all cultures. We have the reed *neh*, the recorder, the Japanese *shakuhachi*, the deep *bansuri* of Hindustani classical music, the clear or breathy flutes of South America, the high-pitched Chinese flutes, etc. Each flute has its specific fingering and compass but when you hear it, you are drawn into the commonality of all mankind. This is because every flute produces music with the help of the human breath. Similarly, despite the differences in caste, culture, religion all human beings are the same, with the same living breath running through all of them.

Thinking about Language

I. Read the following sentences carefully to understand the meaning of the italicised phrases. Then match the phrasal verbs in Column A with their meanings in Column B.

1. A communal war *broke out* when the princess was abducted by the neighbouring prince.
2. The cockpit *broke off* from the plane during the plane crash.
3. The car *broke down* on the way and we were left stranded in the jungle.
4. The dacoit *broke away* from the police as they took him to court.
5. The brothers *broke up* after the death of the father.
6. The thief *broke into* our house when we were away.

A	B
(i) break out	(a) to come apart due to force
(ii) break off	(b) end a relationship
(iii) break down	(c) break and enter illegally; unlawful trespassing
(iv) break away (from someone)	(d) of start suddenly, (usually a fight, a war or a disease)
(v) break up	(e) to escape from someone's grip
(vi) break into	(f) stop working

Ans:

A	B
(i) break out	

	(d) to start suddenly, (usually a fight, a war or a disease)
(ii) break off	(a) to come apart due to force
(iii) break down	(f) stop working
(iv) break away (from someone)	(e) to escape from someone's grip
(v) break up	(b) end a relationship
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II. 1. Use the suffixes -ion or -tion to form nouns from the following verbs. Make the necessary changes in the spellings of the words.

Example: proclaim – proclamation

cremate ____	act ____	exhaust ____
invent ____	tempt ____	immigrate ____
direct ____	meditate ____	imagine ____
dislocate ____	associate ____	dedicate ____

Ans:

cremate-cremation	act-action	exhaust-exhaustion
invent-invention	tempt-temptation	immigrate-immigration
direct-direction	meditate-meditation	imagine-imagination
dislocate-dislocation	associate-association	dedicate-dedication

2. Now fill in the blanks with suitable words from the ones that you have formed.

(i) Mass literacy was possible only after the ____ of the printing machine.

(ii) Ramesh is unable to tackle the situation as he lacks ____.

(iii) I could not resist the ____ to open the letter.

(iv) Hard work and ____ are the main keys to success.

(v) The children were almost fainting with ____ after being made to stand in the sun.

Ans. (i) Mass literacy was possible only after the invention of the printing machine.

- (ii) Ramesh is unable to tackle the situation as he lacks direction.
 - (iii) I could not resist the temptation to open the letter.
 - (iv) Hard work and dedication are the main keys to success.
 - (v) The children were almost fainting with exhaustion after being made to stand in the sun.
-

III. Punctuation

Use capital letter, full stops, question marks, commas and inverted commas wherever necessary in the following paragraph.

an arrogant lion was wandering though the jungle one day he asked the tiger who is stronger than you you O lion replied the tiger who is more fierce than a leopard asked the lion you sir replied the leopard he marched upto an elephant and asked the same question the elephant picked him up in his trunk swung him in the air and threw him down look said the lion there is no need to get mad just because you don't know the answer

Ans: An arrogant lion was wandering through the jungle. One day, he asked the tiger, "Who is stronger than you?". "You, O lion!" replied the tiger. "Who is more fierce than a leopard?" asked the lion. "You Sir," replied the leopard. He marched up to an elephant and asked the same question. The elephant picked him up in his trunk, swung him in the air, and threw him down. "Look" said the lion, "there is no need to get mad just because you don't know the answer."

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IV. Simple Present Tense

In these sentences words like *everyday, often, seldom, never, every month, generally, usually*, etc. may be used.

1. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

(i) The heart is a pump that ___(send) the blood circulating through our body. The pumping action ___(take place) when the left ventricle of the heart ___(contract). This ___(force) the blood out into the arteries, which ___(expand) to receive the on coming blood.

Ans: The heart is a pump that sends the blood circulating through our body. The pumping action takes place when the left ventricle of the heart contracts. This forces the blood out into

the arteries, which expands to receive the on coming blood.

(ii) The African lungfish can live without water for up to four years. During drought, it ___(dig) a pit and ___(enclose) itself in a capsule of slime and earth, leaving a tiny opening for air. The capsule ___(dry) and ___(harden), but when rain ___(come), the mud ___(dissolve) and the lungfish ___(swim) away.

Ans: The African lungfish can live without water for up to four years. During drought, it digs a pit and encloses itself in a capsule of slime and earth, leaving a tiny opening for air. The capsule dries and hardens, but when rain comes, the mud dissolves and the lung fish swims away.

(iii) Mahesh: We have to organise a class party for our teacher. ___(Do) anyone know how to play an instrument?

Vipul: Rohit ___(play) the flute.

Mahesh: ___(Do) he also act?

Vipul: No, he ___(compose) music.

Mahesh: That's wonderful!

(iii) Mahesh: We have to organise a class party for our teacher. Does anyone know how to play an instrument?

Vipul: Rohit plays the flute.

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