

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS: THE LAST LESSON

Q1. Describe the feelings, emotions, and behaviour of Mr. Hamel on the day of the last lesson. (2019 HBSE)

In the chapter "The Last Lesson," Alphonse Daudet explains the conditions after the war. The French lost the war to the Prussians. Therefore, Berlin issued an order to stop the teaching of French in Alsace and Lorraine. The author explains his views through the French teacher, M. Hamel. He started his lecture by saying, "My children, this is the last lesson."

M. Hamel was a strict teacher. He had been teaching French to the students for forty years. Throughout his career as a teacher, he remained disciplined and punctual in his work. The students considered him a strict teacher. He had a great love for his country and language. He delivered his last lesson and told people to protect the French language.

In his last lesson, he became emotional and couldn't speak for the last time. Therefore, he wrote on the blackboard that the French might live a long time. He was very polite on the last day of his lesson. His behaviour was excellent and he spoke softly.

The order from Berlin aroused a particular zeal in the school.

Observation (2018 D HBSE)

OR

Q3. What order had been received from Berlin that day? What effect did it have on life at school?

In the chapter "The Last Lesson," Alphonse Daudet explains the conditions after the war. The French lost the war to the Prussians. Therefore, Berlin

issued an order to stop the teaching of French in Alsace and Lorraine. The author explains his views through the French teacher, M. Hamel. He started his lecture by saying, "My children, this is the last lesson." Berlin has issued an order to stop teaching French in schools as German is going to be taught in schools from tomorrow onwards.

The order from Berlin compelled M. Hamel to deliver his last lesson in French. He had been teaching French for forty years at the school. The teacher came to school in his green coat to deliver his last lesson. Villagers were there to thank him for his long service to his nation as a French teacher.

Everybody was looking sad. The author also felt sorry for not learning French. The teacher explained the importance of the French language, and he praised French as being the best language in the world. He asked the people to defend the French language. He became emotional at the end and couldn't speak his last words. Therefore, the orders from Berlin affected a lot in two districts of France.

Q4. Explain the theme of "The Last Lesson." What is the reason behind its universal appeal?

Alphonse Daudet was a famous French novelist. He explains the effects of war in the last chapter, **The Last Lesson. He explains how war can affect even the education system of a country.**

The author explains the theme of the chapter through M. Hamel. He taught French at the school for forty years. France lost the war to the Prussians. Berlin's orders to stop teaching French in schools in Alsace and Lorraine This shows the cruel nature of rulers toward language. They try to spread their own language with a simple order. Berlin sent an order to teach German in French schools.

The whole story revolves around a village school where French was taught by M. Hamel. It shows one more thing that people value the language when it is not allowed to be taught. The author himself had the least interest in French till the last day. When he couldn't learn French, he finally understood how important it was to know more than one language.

Therefore, in the last, we see that the teacher becomes emotional and can't utter words. He had a great love for his country, but he was helpless.

Q5. Explain the appropriateness of the title "The Last Lesson".

The theme and plot of the story are heavily influenced by the title. Alphonse Daudet, the author, explains the title very well. The entire plot revolves around the chapter title.

In the last lesson, he discusses the effects of war. He explains how war can have an impact on a country's education system.

Through M. Hamel, the author explains the chapter's theme. For forty years, he taught French at the school. The Prussians defeated France in the war. Berlin's orders to stop teaching French in Alsace and Lorraine schools. The title completely determines the chapter's theme. Everything is centred on school. Berlin issued an order mandating the teaching of German in French schools.

The entire plot revolves around a village school where M. Hamel teaches French. It demonstrates yet again that people value the language when it is not permitted to be taught. Until the very last day, the author had little interest in French. When he was unable to learn French, he realised the value of knowing more than one language.

As a result, we can say that the title is appropriate for the story and plot.

Q6. What impression do you form of M.Hamel on the basis of your study of the story 'The Last Lesson'?

OR

Explain the character sketch of M. Hamel, the French teacher.

M. Hamel is an **experienced teacher** who has taught in the village school for the past forty years. He is a strict teacher, and students like Franz, who are slow learners, are terrified of being punished by him.

The order from Berlin compelled him to leave the school for ever. He became emotional while he was delivering his last lesson. So, we can say that he became emotional in the end.

His performance in the last lesson was outstanding. He uses a solemn and gentle tone when he is addressing the villagers and students. He has a logical mind and can analyse problems to determine what is causing them.

He is aware of a language's emotional hold on its users. He is an excellent communicator who patiently explains everything. Partings are painful, and M. Hamel, being human, is no exception. He can't say goodbye because his throat is blocked in the last. Overall, he is a patriotic gentleman.

VALUE-BASED QUESTIONS

Q1. War destroys lives and spreads enmity. People are uneasy. Consider the drawbacks of war while remembering the Franco-Prussian War (1870–1971).

Ans: War is a significant threat to humanity. Some of the consequences of conflict are fear, worry, stress, and hatred. No one is in favour of such a heinous conduct. Because of the vested interests of some crooked politicians, innocent people are killed. Furthermore, fighting is not the answer to any

situation. It merely widens the chasm between the two countries. Hatred and feelings of hostility spread as a result of the desire to dominate the other. The effects of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are still visible. It's also worth remembering that each country is making every effort to become a nuclear power. Nuclear weapons have the ability to destroy entire countries. Hundreds of thousands of people will perish. There will be no one left alive. If anyone survives, he or she will be handicapped. There is no doubt that conflict has jeopardised humanity's existence. We've heard seers advise people to let go of their egos. Nations must likewise believe that they are equally significant. There is no such thing as a self-sufficient nation. Peace boosts productivity and creativity. All countries should adopt the concept of a global community. As a result, no one benefits from conflict. It is not something that should be encouraged.

Q3. People in Alsace and Lorraine were compelled to learn German. It was forbidden for them to study French. It means that just one language was taught to students in the area. At school, they did not understand the concept of three languages. Write an article about the "School Advantages of Three Language Systems."

The Advantages of a Multi-Language System

India is a democratically run country. It's full with people from various backgrounds and cultures. Their traditions and customs differ. Their dialects are also distinct. A South Indian's language differs significantly from that of a North Indian. People have their own regional dialects and languages. In such situations, deciding which language should be taught in schools becomes a mammoth effort. As a result, India's educational system is based on a three-language system. It is a boon to the people who live in a specific area. They do not believe that their language is unimportant or unheard. They have a lot of options when it comes to the languages they want to learn or speak. Pupils gain a basic understanding of three languages and are able to appreciate literature in all three languages. Due to language hurdles, such kids never fail. They offer honour to both their parents and their countries. They

seem to effortlessly explore new paths and horizons. To familiarise youngsters with multiple language patterns, all nations must adopt three language systems. Both languages, German and French, could be taught to the people of Alsace and Lorraine. Linguistic discrimination marries humanity's future.