

CHAPTERWISE QUESTION**Class XII****ENGLISH****Time : 2 hrs****THE LAST LESSON****Marks : 60****SECTION A : READING****1. Read the passage given below.**

My grandmother's house is like a chambered sea shell it has many rooms, yet it is not amansion. Its proportions are small and its design simple. It is a house that has grown organically, according to the needs of its inhabitants. To all of us in the family it is known as lacasa de Mama. It is the place of our origin; the stage for our memories and dreams of Island life.

I remember how in my childhood it sat on stilts; this was before it had a downstairs-it rested on its perch like a great blue bird-not a flying sort of bird, more like a nesting hen, but with spreadwings. Grandfather had built it soon after their marriage. He was a painter and house builder by trade-a poet and meditative man by nature. As each of their eight children were born, new rooms were added. After a few years, the paint didn't exactly match, nor the materials, so that there was a chronology to it, like the rings of a tree, and Mama could tell you the history of eachroom in her casa, and thus the genealogy of the family along with it.

Her own room is the heart of the house. Though I have seen it recently- and both woman and room have diminished in size, changed by the new perspective of my eyes, now capable of looking over counter tops and tall beds-it is not this picture I carry in my memory of Mama's casa. Instead, I see her room as a queen's chamber where a small woman loomed large, athrone room with a massive four poster bed in its centre, which stood taller than a child's head.

It was on this bed, where her own children had been born, that the smallest grandchildren were allowed to take naps in the afternoons; here too was where Mama secluded herself to dispense private advice to her daughters, sitting on the edge of the bed, looking down at whoever sat on the rocker where generations of babies had been sung to sleep. To me she looked like a wise empress right out of the fairy tales I was addicted to reading.

And there was the monstrous wardrobe she kept locked with a little golden key she did not hide.This was a test of her dominion over us; though my cousins and I wanted a look inside that massive wardrobe more than anything, we never reached for that little key lying on top of her Bible on the dresser. This was also where she placed her earrings and rosary when she took them off at night. God's word was her security system. This wardrobe was the place where imagined she kept jewels, satin slippers, and elegant silk, sequined gowns of heart - breaking fineness.

I lusted after those imaginary costumes. I had heard that Mama had been a great beauty in her youth, and the belle of many balls. My cousins had ideas as to what she kept in that wooden vault: its secret could be money (Mama's did not hand cash to strangers, banks were out of the question, so there were stories that her mattress was stuffed with dollar

bills, and that she buried coins in jars in her garden under rose-bushes, or kept them in her untouched wardrobe there might be that legendary gun salvaged from the Spanish American conflict over the Island. We went wild over suspected treasures that we made up simply because children have to fill locked trunks with something wonderful.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer any eight out of the nine questions given below. **8**

- i) What was the la casa de Mama in the family?
- ii) What did the changing face of the house reflect?
- iii) Briefly explain the structure of Grandmother's house.
- iv) How did the narrator's grandmother assert herself?
- v) Why did Mama not keep the little golden key hidden?
- vi) What had the author heard of Mama as a young woman?
- vii) Find the word from the passage – authority/control (para 4)
- viii) Find the word from the passage – a string of beads to count prayers (para 4)
- ix) "My cousins had ideas as to what she kept in that wooden vault" what was kept in that wooden vault?

SECTION B - WRITING

Attempt the following Questions.

4

2. Frequent cases of theft, burglary, eve-teasing and electricity break down in the society are being reported to the Resident Welfare Association of Ashok Nagar. As the President of the society write a notice in not more than 50 words inviting all members for a general body meeting to discuss the issue and to find a solution. Agenda of the meeting must be mentioned. You are Surya.
3. You are Dr. Amit Gupta, an eminent educationist. You have been invited to preside over an Inter Zonal Declamation competition by Nalini, the President of English Literary Club of Government Model Sr. Sec. School, Sector-20, Chandigarh. Write a reply accepting the invitation. **4**

SECTION - C - LITERATURE

4. **Read the extract and answer the following questions.**

4 × 1 = 4

A "What a thunderclap these words were to me!"

- i) What were the words that shocked the narrator?
 - a) that there would be no class that day
 - b) that it was their last French lesson
 - c) that the teacher was sick
 - d) that he couldn't come in as he was late
- ii) Why did the words sound like a thunder clap?
 - a) The news was startling and unexpected

- b) it was raining
- c) The news was startling but an expected one
- d) It was something Franz wanted
- iii) Why did the words affect him so deeply?
 - a) he wanted it to happen
 - b) he had learned his lessons
 - c) he was embarrassed at having been scolded
 - d) He regretted not having learnt his lessons
- iv) What did he think about the teacher ?
 - a) very inspiring
 - b) smart and handsome
 - c) very well read
 - d) the teacher was cranky

B. Read the extract and answer the following questions.

5

“ Then he stopped and leaned his head against the wall, and, without a word, he made a gesture to us with his hand....”

- i) What did the gesture indicate ?
 - a) stand
 - b) to pray
 - c) end of class
 - d) he was angry
- ii) What was the last thing the children studied before M Hamel asked the students to go ?
 - a) participles
 - b) stories of saints
 - c) grammar
 - d) babies chanted their ba be bi bo
- iii) What prompted him to stop the class ?
 - a) physical exhaustion
 - b) The church bell
 - c) the notice
 - d) the lack of interest
- iv) Why couldn't the M Hamel continue speaking?
 - a) lack of interest
 - b) invasion of enemies
 - c) overcome by emotions
 - d) indiscipline of students
- v) What did little Franz feel at this moment ?
 - a) wanted to laugh and cry at the same moment
 - b) wanted to run away
 - c) wanted to join the army
 - d) wanted to go out into the sun

C. Read the extract and answer the following questions.

5

For a moment I thought of running away and spending the day out of doors. It was so warm, so bright! The birds were chirruping at the edge of the woods; and in the open field back of the sawmill, the Prussian soldiers were drilling. It was all much more

tempting than the rule for participles, but I had the strength to resist, and I hurried off to school.

- i) Who is the narrator of the given extract ?
a) Franz b) M.Hamel c) post man d) village head
- ii) Why did he want to run away?
a) tired of boring life
b) Wanted to enjoy the sunny day and also he was not prepared with the lessons
c) was more interested in the war d) wanted to enjoy the sunny day
- iii) What seemed more tempting to him?
a) Sunny day b) Grammar lessons
c) Sunny day, birds chirruping, soldiers drilling
d) stories of saints
- iv) What factory is sawmill?
a) iron b) weapons c) books d) wood
- v) What did the presence of Prussian soldiers indicate ?
a) That they had lost their freedom to Germans.
b) That they had won their freedom from Germans.
c) That it was time to join the army
d) That the war was over

5. Answer the following questions in about 40 - 50 words. 10 × 2 = 20

- i) What was the mood in the classroom when M. Hamel gave his last French lesson?
- ii) What had the narrator counted on to enter the school, unnoticed?
- iii) What changes came over little Franz after he heard M.Hamel's announcement?
- iv) What was unusual about M. Hamel's dress and behaviour on the day of his last French lesson?
- v) Why had the bulletin-board become a centre of attention during the last two years?
- vi) Who did M.Hamel blame for the neglect of learning on the part of boys like Franz?
- vii) Franz thinks, "Will they make them sing in German, even the pigeons?" What does this tell us about the attitude of the Frenchmen?
- viii) What did M. Hamel tell the people in the class about French language? What did he ask them to do and why?
- ix) What changes did the order from Berlin cause in the school?
- x) What change was there in Franz' attitude towards M. Hamel?

6. Attempt any two of the following questions in about 120 - 150 words. 2 × 5 = 10

- i) How different from usual was the atmosphere at school on the day of the last lesson?
- ii) Our language is part of our culture and we are proud of it. Describe how regretful M.Hamel and the village elders are for having neglected their native language, French.
- iii) What did the French teacher tell his students in his last French lesson? What impact did it have on them? Why?