

JINENDER SONI
Founder, MISSION GYAN**Chapter-2 | The Sound
of Music****Worksheet-2****Multiple Choice Questions**

1. **Where was the Royal music Academy?**
(a) Burmingham (b) Paris
(c) London (d) U.S.
2. **Where did Ustad Bismillah Khan first play the shehnai after India's independence?**
(a) The Agra Fort (b) The Qutub Minar
(c) The India Gate (d) The Red Fort
3. **Why was playing Pungi in Aurangzeb's palace banned?**
(a) It wasn't good. (b) It was unpleasant.
(c) It had a sharp sound. (d) All of these
4. **What word best describes the attitude of the author towards Evelyn?**
(a) Balanced (b) Deferential
(c) Reverential (d) Laudatory
5. **Who all were present at the event of 15th August?**
(a) All of these (b) Nehru
(c) All eminent people (d) Gandhi
6. **Despite his huge success, Ustad Bismillah Khan did not associate himself with the celluloid world. What was the argument behind his view?**
(a) he thought it was dangerous to perform within the celluloid world.
(b) he dejected the artificiality and glamour of the celluloid world.
(c) he could not qualify further to work within the celluloid world.
(d) he was not a good actor.
7. **What did Evelyn want to pursue?**
(a) Study (b) Fashion
(c) Music (d) Dance
8. **Name India's highest civilian award that Ustad Bismillah Khan was awarded in the year 2001**
(a) The Padma Bhushan (b) The Padma Vibhushan
(c) The Padmashri (d) The Bharat Ratna

9. Which prestigious award was Evelyn Glennie presented with in the year 1991?

- (a) Leonardo da Vinci International Art Award
- (b) The Royal Philharmonic Society's Soloist of the Year Award
- (c) Queen's Commendation prize for all-round excellence
- (d) Best Chamber Music Performance in the Grammy Awards

10. How is the Shehnai different from the Pungi?

- (a) Shehnai looks more beautiful
- (b) All of these
- (c) Shehnai has a better sound
- (d) Shehnai is made of wood

Fill in the blanks :

11. She scored one of the highest marks in _____.

12. At the end of her _____ course she had captured most of the top awards.

True / False

13. Bismillah Khan was called Ustad saab.

14. On August 15, 1947, Raag Kafi was played by Bismillah Khan from the Red Fort.

Very Short Type Questions

15. "Music has no religion." How did Bismillah Khan's Shehnai prove it?

16. How did young Bismillah develop his interest in Shehnai?

Short Type Questions

17. How was Bismillah Khan associated with the film world?

18. Give a brief character sketch of Ustad Bismillah Khan.

Essay Type Questions

19. Which traits of Evelyn's personality enabled her to overcome the challenge of deafness?

20. In spite of her towering success, Evelyn Glennie does not accept any hint of heroic achievement. Explain

21. **Assertion (A) :** The shehnai is a refined version of the pungi.

Reason (R) : A barber improved the tonal quality of the pungi by modifying its design and sound.

- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- (c) A is true, but R is false.
- (d) A is false, but R is true.

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Answer & Solution

1. (c) London
2. (d)
Ustad Bismillah Khan became the first to greet the nation with his shehnai from the Red Fort as India achieved independence on 15th August 1947.
3. (d) All of these
4. (d) Laudatory
5. (a) All of these
6. (b)
Growing up in a world of immense musical tradition and having been so closely related to nature, Ustad Bismillah Khan could not indulge himself further into the artificial atmosphere of the film world and was in completely negative terms with its glamorous nature.
7. (c) Music
8. (d)
Ustad Bismillah Khan was awarded the Bharat Ratna regarded to be India's highest civilian award in the year 2001.
9. (b)
Evelyn Glennie had been an inspiration with her astonishing achievements in spite of her being physically challenged with the inability to hear and it was with her astounding achievements that she was presented with the Royal Philharmonic Society's prestigious Soloist of the Year Award in 1991.
10. (c) Shehnai has a better sound
11. royal Academy of Music
12. three year
13. False
14. True
15. Music is the voice of the soul. It is sacred beyond the religion. It is eternal and acts as a source of inspiration for everyone. A musician never plays music for any particular religion. Bismillah Khan belonged to a Muslim community. Despite being a devout Muslim, he played Shehnai in temples. He was deeply attached to the holy city of Benaras and the holy river Ganga. The river Ganga and its flowing water were the main source of inspiration for him. Inspired by the music of the flowing waters of the Ganga, he created new ragas that were earlier considered beyond the scope of the shehnai. He could never think of leaving Benaras and the holy river Ganga. Since his childhood, he was fond of music. As a five-year-old child, he used to visit the Bihariji temple at Dumraon to sing Bhojpuri Chaita.

He was rewarded with a big laddu for his melodious singing by the Maharaja. His love for music was so deeply influenced by Benaras and the river Ganga that he declined the offer to settle in the USA. Once a student of his from the USA wanted him to head a shehnai school there. He promised to recreate the atmosphere of Benaras in the USA by replicating the temples. But Bismillah Khan refused, saying that he couldn't bring the Ganga there.

16. Bismillah was fascinated watching his uncles practice the Shehnai when he was only three years old. He was deeply fascinated by the music of Shehnai. Soon Bismillah started accompanying his uncle Ali Baksh, to the Vishnu Temple of Benaras where Baksh was employed to play Shehnai. Bismillah picked up the finer nuances of Shehnai and practiced for hours on the banks of river Ganga. The flowing waters of the holy river inspired him to improvise and invent new ragas. At the age of 14, Bismillah accompanied his uncle to Allahabad Music Conference where Ustad Fayaz Khan patted his shoulder which inspired and encouraged him to work harder.
17. Film director Vijay Bhatt heard Bismillah Khan at a festival. He was so impressed by Bismillah Khan that he named a film after the instrument, 'Gunj Uthi Shehnai'.

The film turned out to be a huge hit. One of Bismillah Khan's compositions, "Dil ka khilona hai toot gaya", turned out to be very popular. In spite of his great success in the film world, Bismillah Khan's musical composition for film music was limited to two. Vijay Bhatt's 'Gunj Uthi Shehnai' and Vikram Srinivas's 'Sanadhi Aparna' were the only two films in which he played his shehnai. Unlike other musicians, the glamour of the film industry failed to captivate Bismillah Khan. The great maestro did not continue with films. He made it clear that he could not come to terms with the artificiality and glamour of the film world.

18. Ustad Bismillah Khan was a Shehnai master of national and international fame. He was a great musician. Ali Bux, his maternal uncle, trained and made him perfect in music. Shehnai was brought to the classical stage by Ustad Bismillah Khan. He practiced for hours and worked very hard to attain perfection. It was his melodious music that made him the first Indian to greet independent India. Ustad Bismillah Khan created many new ragas. He was given many awards and he even received the "Bharat Ratna". He was a true patriot, who declined many offers to settle abroad. He was a true artist but a simple man. He had great regard for Hindustani Classical Music. His life is a perfect example of the rich, cultural heritage of India.

19. Evelyn's firm determination, her industrious nature and her clarity of aim is well revealed in her statement, 'If you work hard and know where you're going, you'll get there.' Her strength of character enabled her to overcome her handicap bravely. The encouragement and training provided by Ron Forbes paved the way for her advancement and she stuck to the path with unwavering confidence. It was this confidence and faith in herself that made her dare to audition for the Royal Academy of Music, London where she scored one of the highest marks in the history of the academy and then went on to receive most of the topmost awards. Evelyn was a workaholic. With her earnest efforts, she moved from orchestra to solo performances and eventually became an internationally renowned multi-percussionist. According to James Blades, Evelyn expressed music so beautifully because she could feel the music rather than just hear it. Her firm decisions, her sincere efforts, her passionate labour and her untiring devotion to music are a source of inspiration for people with challenges.
20. Evelyn Glennie had a hearing loss and was discouraged by most of the teachers but she did not give up her determination. Ron Forbes, a percussionist spotted her potential and guided her to listen through her body, not her ears. Eventually, Evelyn learned to open her body and mind to sound and vibrations. She scored the highest marks in the history of the Royal Academy of Music. She also captured many top awards and brought percussion to the front of the orchestra. She has given pleasure to millions and in spite of this towering success, she does not accept any hint of heroic achievement and is a very simple person. Evelyn is an extremely humble and generous person who is truly an inspiration for many.
21. (a)
- The shehnai was indeed developed by a barber who modified the pungi, making the reason a correct explanation of the assertion.

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