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## Chapter-8 | Kathmandu

## Worksheet-1

## Multiple Choice Questions

1. **What creates the atmosphere of 'febrile confusion' at the Pashupatinath Temple?**
  - (a) Silent prayers
  - (b) Peaceful rituals
  - (c) Hustle and chaos from priests, animals, and devotees
  - (d) Meditation sessions
2. **Who is allowed to enter the Pashupatinath temple?**
  - (a) Tourists
  - (b) Foreigners
  - (c) Hindus only
  - (d) Buddhists only
3. **What causes a fight near the temple?**
  - (a) A priest's argument
  - (b) Two monkeys
  - (c) Devotees
  - (d) Policemen and tourists
4. **What flows below the temple grounds?**
  - (a) Ganga
  - (b) Brahmaputra
  - (c) Yamuna
  - (d) Bagmati
5. **What activity is seen at the banks of the river?**
  - (a) Fishing
  - (b) Cremation
  - (c) Construction
  - (d) Farming
6. **What is expected to happen when the shrine on the river bank fully emerges?**
  - (a) River will dry
  - (b) Goddess will escape and Kaliyug will end
  - (c) New deity will appear
  - (d) Pilgrims will be blessed
7. **What is the Baudhnath Stupa known for?**
  - (a) Being chaotic
  - (b) Political protests
  - (c) Its calmness and stillness
  - (d) Devotees fighting for space
8. **Who owns many of the shops around Baudhnath?**
  - (a) Indian traders
  - (b) Local Nepalese
  - (c) Tibetan immigrants
  - (d) Western tourists

**9. Which items are sold near the Buddhist shrine?**

- (a) Weapons and armor
- (b) Tibetan prints and silver jewellery
- (c) Fish and spices
- (d) Books and maps

**10. What sound fills the streets of Kathmandu?**

- (a) Chirping birds
- (b) Peaceful flute music
- (c) Radios, horns, bicycle bells
- (d) Silence

**Fill in the blanks :**

- 11. Only \_\_\_\_\_ are allowed to enter the Pashupatinath Temple.
- 12. The narrator describes Kathmandu as vivid, mercenary, and \_\_\_\_\_.

**True / False**

- 13. The Baudhnath stupa is chaotic and noisy.
- 14. The narrator buys a flight ticket to return home.

**Very Short Type Questions**

- 15. Why does Vikram Seth decide to buy a ticket directly for the homeward journey?
- 16. What is the impact of the music of the flute on Vikram Seth?

**Short Type Questions**

- 17. What does Vikram Seth compare to the quills of a porcupine?
- 18. The writer says, "All this I wash down with Coca Cola." What does 'all this' refer to?

**Essay Type Questions**

- 19. What is written on the signboard outside the Pashupatinath temple? What does the proclamation signify?
- 20. Why does the author call 'febrile confusion' to the atmosphere at Pashupatinath Temple?

**HOTS**

- 21. **Assertion (A) :** Vikram Seth decided to take a flight back home from Kathmandu.  
**Reason (R) :** He was too exhausted and homesick to take the longer route.

- (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 &amp; Solution

1. (c)  
The temple is full of priests, animals, devotees, and tourists, all contributing to chaos.
2. (c)  
Only Hindus are allowed inside, as proclaimed by a sign at the entrance.
3. (b)  
A fight breaks out between two monkeys.
4. (d)  
The Bagmati river flows near the Pashupatinath temple.
5. (b)  
A corpse is being cremated on the banks of the Bagmati.
6. (b)  
It is believed that when the shrine fully emerges, Kaliyug will end.
7. (c)  
Unlike Pashupatinath, Baudhnath Stupa is a peaceful haven.
8. (c)  
Tibetan immigrants run many of the shops near Baudhnath.
9. (b)  
Tibetan artifacts, including silver jewellery and prints, are common.
10. (c)  
There is a mixture of modern and traditional street sounds.
11. Hindus
12. Religious
13. False
14. False
15. Vikram Seth has been away from home since quite some time. He travels a lot in Kathmandu to visit every place of any significance. He feels very exhausted and homesick. Although his enthusiasm for travelling tempts him to take a longer route to reach back home, his exhaustion and homesickness impel him to buy an air-ticket directly for the homeward journey to Delhi. Hence, he enters a Nepal Airlines office and gets his flight ticket booked to Delhi.
16. The music of the flute has a hypnotic effect on Vikram Seth. He finds it difficult to 'tear' himself away from the square where this music is being played by the flute seller. Although the place where the flute seller is playing his flute is noisy and chaotic, the author finds the sound of the flute relaxing and soothing. He feels tranquil. The sound of the music of flute is clearly noticeable in the crowd also. It has the power to draw him into the commonality of all mankind and he is moved by its closeness to the human voice.

17. Vikram Seth compares the quills of a porcupine to the pole of the flute seller with fifty or sixty bansuris protruding in all directions.
18. All this' in the above sentence refers to a bar of marzipan and a corn-on-the-cob roasted in a charcoal brazier- rubbed with salt, chilli powder and lemon coupled with love story comics and a reader's digest.
19. Outside the Pashupatinath temple, the signboard announces: "Entrance for the Hindus only". It signifies the rigid sanctity that this place of worship associates with and the dogmatic discrimination practised saving this place from being treated like a tourist destination. Westernised saffron clad tries to enter the shrine but is not allowed by the policeman because he is not convinced that they are Hindus.
20. 'Febrile confusion' means a situation of complete confusion and chaos. The author plans to visit two temples in Kathmandu: the Buddhist shrine and the Pashupatinath temple out of which he first visits the Pashupatinath Temple. Like any other Hindu temple or pilgrimage centre, Pashupatinath temple is buzzing with people and mindless activities. There he notices too much clamour. He sees a number of priests, hawkers, devotees, tourists, cows, monkeys, pigeons and dogs roam through the ground. There are so many people at the temple that some people trying to get the priest's attention are pushed aside by the elbows of others. Besides, he sees Westerners seeking permission from the policeman to enter the temple. But the policeman does not allow them to enter it by saying to them that only Hindus are allowed to enter the temple. Moreover, a fight breaks out between two monkeys. One chases the other who jumps onto a Shivalinga then runs screaming around the temples and down the river Bagmati. Thus, the author finds a noisy environment at the temple and that is why he calls atmosphere febrile confusion.
21. (a)  
The author did want to explore more, but exhaustion and homesickness made him choose the direct flight to Delhi.