

CHAPTER-8 | Kathmandu

QUIZ
PART-03

1. Which two temples did the author visit in Kathmandu?

- A. Gokarna Mahadev and Santaneshwar Mahadev
- B. Pashupatinath and Baudhnath Stupa
- C. Kathmandu Durbar Square and Swayambhunath
- D. None of these (B)

Explanation: The narrator visited two sacred shrines — Pashupatinath, holy for Hindus, and Baudhnath Stupa, sacred to Buddhists.

2. What does “all this” refer to in the line “All this I wash down with Coca Cola”?

- A. Fruits and vegetables
- B. Marzipan and roasted corn rubbed with salt, chilli, and lemon
- C. Silver jewellery and felt bags
- D. Reader’s Digest and comic books (B)

Explanation: “All this” refers to corn-on-the-cob roasted on a charcoal brazier with salt, chilli, lemon, and a bar of marzipan.

3. What did Vikram Seth compare to the quills of a porcupine?

- A. Monkeys fighting
- B. A princess’s crown
- C. Flutes tied to the flute seller’s pole
- D. The Bagmati River shrines (C)

Explanation: The author compared the fifty or sixty flutes tied to the flute seller’s pole to the quills of a porcupine.

4. Name five kinds of flutes mentioned in the text.

- A. Recorder, guitar, bansuri, tabla, shakuhachi
- B. Reed neh, recorder, shakuhachi, bansuri, South American flutes
- C. Shakuhachi, violin, bansuri, harmonium, drum
- D. Reed neh, bansuri, shehnai, sitar, flute-pipe (B)

Explanation: The five types are the reed neh, the recorder, the Japanese shakuhachi, the bansuri of Hindustani music, and the breathy flutes of South America.

5. How was the flute seller different from other hawkers?

- A. He shouted more loudly than others
- B. He made sales casually, as if it was secondary to his playing
- C. He never played the flute
- D. He sold other goods with the flutes (B)

Explanation: Unlike other hawkers, the flute seller sold his flutes in a casual, offhanded way, as if sales were incidental to his music.

6. What belief at Pashupatinath is connected with the end of Kaliyug?

- A. When a shrine emerges fully from the Bagmati river, Kaliyug will end
- B. When the monkeys leave the temple, Kaliyug will end
- C. When Baudhnath Stupa falls, Kaliyug will end
- D. When the Bagmati river dries up, Kaliyug will end (A)

Explanation: People believe that when a small shrine emerges completely from the Bagmati River, the goddess inside will escape and Kaliyug will end.

7. What vivid incident at Pashupatinath temple does the author describe involving monkeys?

- A. A monkey eating fruit offerings
- B. Two monkeys fighting, one jumping onto a shivalinga and running around
- C. A monkey stealing clothes from a devotee
- D. A monkey bathing in the Bagmati River (B)

Explanation: The author describes two monkeys fighting, one jumping onto a shivalinga and then running screaming around the temple.

8. What differences did the author note between Pashupatinath and Baudhnath?

- A. Both were crowded and noisy
- B. Pashupatinath was chaotic, Baudhnath was peaceful
- C. Pashupatinath was empty, Baudhnath was crowded
- D. Both were silent and calm (B)

Explanation: At Pashupatinath there was confusion and chaos, but Baudhnath offered stillness, quietness, and a sense of peace.

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

- A. Modern, wide, and clean
- B. Vivid, religious, and filled with shrines, sellers, and noises
- C. Deserted, dusty, and rural
- D. Silent and empty with only shrines (B)

Explanation: Kathmandu’s streets were vivid, mercenary, and religious, with shrines, fruit sellers, postcard hawkers, shops, and loud noises everywhere.

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

- A. Because every country sells flutes
- B. Because all flutes are identical
- C. Because flute music soothes everyone, transcending caste, creed, and culture
- D. Because only Indians love flute music (C)

Explanation: He notes that flute music is closest to the human voice, requiring breath and pauses, and its phrases resemble human sentences.