

CHAPTER-2 | The Sound of Music

QUIZ
PART-04

1. Why did Emperor Aurangzeb ban the playing of the pungi in the royal residence?
A. It had a sharp sound
B. It wasn't good
C. It was unpleasant
D. All of the above (D)

Explanation: Aurangzeb banned the pungi because its shrill, unpleasant sound made it unsuitable for royal settings.

2. Who is credited with improving the tonal quality of the pungi and creating the shehnai?
A. A temple priest
B. A barber from a family of musicians
C. A royal court singer
D. A traveling fakir (B)

Explanation: A barber from a family of professional musicians modified the pungi and created the shehnai.

3. How did the shehnai get its name according to legend?
A. From its sweet sound
B. From being played in temples
C. From being played in the Shah's chamber by a nai (barber)
D. From Bismillah Khan himself (C)

Explanation: The name came from it being played in the Shah's chambers by a nai (barber), hence "shehnai".

4. In which occasions did the shehnai become indispensable in North India?
A. Political meetings
B. Festivals and fairs
C. Weddings and temple ceremonies
D. Funerals and memorials (C)

Explanation: The shehnai came to be regarded as auspicious and became essential for weddings and temple rituals.

5. Who is credited with bringing the shehnai onto the classical stage?
A. Ali Bux
B. Rasool Bux Khan
C. Ustad Bismillah Khan
D. Paigambar Bux (C)

Explanation: Ustad Bismillah Khan elevated the shehnai to the classical stage and gave it recognition as a serious instrument.

6. What reward did young Bismillah receive at the Bihariji temple for singing the Bhojpuri Chaita?
A. A bag of rice
B. A gold coin
C. A laddu weighing 1.25 kg
D. A flute (C)

Explanation: The local Maharaja rewarded him with a big laddu weighing 1.25 kg for his singing.

7. When and where was Bismillah Khan born?
A. 21 March 1916, Benaras
B. 21 March 1916, Dumraon, Bihar
C. 10 April 1910, Lucknow
D. 5 May 1920, Patna (B)

Explanation: Ustad Bismillah Khan was born on 21 March 1916 in Dumraon, Bihar.

8. Who was Bismillah Khan's maternal uncle who inspired him with the shehnai?
A. Ali Bux
B. Rasool Bux
C. Paigambar Bux
D. Faiyaz Khan (A)

Explanation: His maternal uncle, Ali Bux, was a shehnai player at the Vishnu temple of Benaras and mentored young Bismillah.

9. Which natural setting inspired Bismillah Khan to improvise new raagas?
A. Red Fort in Delhi
B. Ghats of the Ganga
C. Royal courts of Benaras
D. Temples of South India (B)

Explanation: The flowing waters of the Ganga inspired him to create raagas once thought impossible on the shehnai.

10. Which event gave Bismillah Khan his first big break as a shehnai artist?
A. His performance at the Allahabad Music Conference at age 14
B. His first concert at Benaras temple
C. His award from the Maharaja of Dumraon
D. His tour to South India (A)

Explanation: At 14, after performing at the Allahabad Music Conference, Ustad Faiyaz Khan praised him, marking his first big recognition.