

Chapter - 3 | My Childhood

QUIZ-01

1. Where was Abdul Kalam born?

- A. Chennai
- B. Rameswaram
- C. Ramanathapuram
- D. Madurai (B)

Explanation : Kalam was born in a middle-class Tamil family in Rameswaram, a town in the erstwhile Madras State, as described in his autobiography.

2. What was Kalam's father known for?

- A. His wealth and education
- B. Wisdom and generosity
- C. Political influence
- D. Scientific achievements (B)

Explanation : Kalam described his father as possessing great innate wisdom and a true generosity of spirit despite lacking formal education or wealth.

3. What significant historical event occurred when Kalam was eight years old?

- A. Indian Independence
- B. Partition of India
- C. Second World War
- D. Quit India Movement (C)

Explanation : The Second World War began in 1939 when Kalam was eight. It influenced his early life, including earning his first wages by helping with newspaper distribution.

4. How did Abdul Kalam earn his first wages?

- A. Selling tamarind seeds
- B. Working as a clerk
- C. Distributing newspapers
- D. Helping his father in fishing (C)

Explanation : Kalam earned his first wages by helping his cousin Samsuddin distribute newspapers when train stops were suspended during the war.

5. Who confronted Kalam's teacher for discriminating against him in class?

- A. Kalam's father
- B. Lakshmana Sastry
- C. Sivasubramania Iyer
- D. Jallaluddin (B)

Explanation : Lakshmana Sastry, the high priest of the Rameswaram temple, reprimanded the teacher for spreading social inequality and demanded an apology.

6. What lesson did Sivasubramania Iyer teach Abdul Kalam through his actions?

- A. The importance of academic success
- B. Respect for orthodox traditions
- C. Breaking social barriers
- D. Military discipline (C)

Explanation : Sivasubramania Iyer encouraged Kalam to rise above social differences and invited him to his home for meals, despite his conservative wife's objections.

7. What was the new teacher's reaction to seeing Kalam sit with Ramanadha Sastry?

- A. He praised their friendship
- B. He encouraged them to sit together
- C. He moved Kalam to the back row
- D. He ignored them (C)

Explanation : The teacher, disturbed by a Muslim boy sitting with a Hindu priest's son, asked Kalam to sit at the back, an incident that left a lasting impression on him.

8. What advice did Kalam's father give when he wanted to leave Rameswaram to study?

- A. "Stay here and support the family."
- B. "You must always follow tradition."
- C. "Go ahead and fulfill your dreams."
- D. "Children are like seagulls, meant to fly." (D)

Explanation : Kalam's father supported his decision to leave by quoting Khalil Gibran and likening children to seagulls destined to soar independently.

9. What social values did Abdul Kalam inherit from his parents?

- A. Ambition and perseverance
- B. Honesty and kindness
- C. Wealth and social status
- D. Discipline and loyalty (B)

Explanation : Kalam credited his father for his honesty and self-discipline and his mother for her faith in goodness and deep kindness.

10. Why did Sivasubramania Iyer's wife eventually serve food to Kalam herself?

- A. She realized her mistake
- B. She was forced by her husband
- C. Kalam demanded it
- D. She wanted to teach him manners (A)

Explanation : After initially refusing, Iyer's persistence and open-mindedness inspired her to overcome her prejudices and serve Kalam herself during his second visit.