

CHAPTER-7 | A Visit to Cambridge

QUIZ-01

1. Why did the author feel weak after being granted time with Stephen Hawking?
 - A. He was scared to meet a scientist
 - B. He was tired from traveling
 - C. He was emotionally overwhelmed
 - D. He had to cancel his tour (C)

Explanation : The author felt weak because, growing up disabled, seeing someone like him achieve something great gave him hope and strength beyond imagination.

2. How does Stephen Hawking communicate?
 - A. Through hand signals
 - B. Using a sign language interpreter
 - C. By typing on a computer which speaks for him
 - D. Through a helper who interprets his expressions (C)

Explanation : Hawking used a computer to communicate; he would tap a switch with his fingers to form words, which the computer would then speak.

3. What impression did the author initially have upon seeing Stephen Hawking?
 - A. That he looked very ordinary
 - B. That he looked like a still photograph
 - C. That he was very energetic
 - D. That he was disinterested (B)

Explanation : The author describes Hawking's first appearance as shocking, like a still photo — motionless, resembling his images in media.

4. What emotion did the author often feel while talking to Hawking?
 - A. Confidence
 - B. Boredom
 - C. Guilt
 - D. Anger (C)

Explanation : The author felt guilty forcing Hawking to respond using the slow, tedious computer system, knowing the effort it took.

5. What was Stephen Hawking's view on disabled people participating in events like the Paralympics?
 - A. He strongly supported it
 - B. He believed it was inspiring
 - C. He thought it was a waste of time
 - D. He had no opinion (C)

Explanation : Hawking advised disabled people to focus on what they're good at and referred to events like the disabled Olympics as "a waste of time."

6. What realization did the author have about his own body during the meeting?
 - A. That he was stronger than Hawking
 - B. That he was grateful for the little movement he had
 - C. That he needed medical treatment
 - D. That his condition was worsening

Explanation : Every time the author moved his wrist or shifted, he felt relief and joy for the physical possibilities of his body.

7. How did Hawking respond when asked if people think disabled individuals are always unhappy?
 - A. He disagreed strongly
 - B. He laughed loudly
 - C. He said he finds it amusing when people patronize him
 - D. He said he often feels sad (C)

Explanation : Hawking replied that he finds it amusing when people treat him with false pity or condescension.

8. What metaphor does the author use to describe Stephen Hawking's essence beyond the body?
 - A. A steel machine
 - B. A glowing lantern
 - C. A blooming flower
 - D. A ticking clock (B)

Explanation : The author compares Hawking to a lantern with worn walls, allowing the inner light — his mind and spirit — to shine through.

9. Why did the author feel the journey to meet Stephen Hawking was significant?
 - A. It was a chance to interview a celebrity
 - B. It marked the end of a personal quest
 - C. It was part of his job as a travel writer
 - D. He got to tour Cambridge (B)

Explanation : Meeting Hawking was a deeply personal journey for the author; it symbolized a full-circle moment of self-discovery and inspiration.

10. How did Stephen Hawking respond when asked if knowing he inspired others helped him?
 - A. He felt very proud
 - B. He said it didn't make much difference
 - C. He said it encouraged him greatly
 - D. He started crying (B)

Explanation : Hawking replied "No" when the author asked if being an inspiration helped, illustrating that admiration from others doesn't ease his daily struggles.