

**NELSON MANDELLA – A LONG WALK TO FREEDOM**

**Extract based questions**

**1.Never, never, and never again shall it be that this beautiful land will again experience the oppression of one by another. The sun shall never set on so glorious a human achievement.**

(a) What was the wish for the country?

To remain free for ever and no oppressor to rule on them.

(b) What does the expression — ‘the sun shall never set here’ — imply?

That the sun of liberty shall never set and their country should enjoy freedom.

(c) Which experience of oppression is referred to here?

The black is being oppressed by the white people.

(d) What is this beautiful land the speaker refers to?

South Africa

**2.We, who were outlaws not so long ago, have today been given the rare privilege to be host to the nations of the world on our own soil. We thank all of our distinguished international guests for having come to take possession with the people of our country of what is, after all, a common victory for justice, for peace, for human dignity.**

Questions:

(a) Who were outlaws not so long ago?

The blacks in South Africa were considered as outlaws not so long ago.

(b) What privilege have they been given?

Now, the same blacks have been given the privilege of hosting the nations of the world on their soil.

(c) Whom does the speaker thank?

Nelson Mandela thanks all the international leaders and dignitaries who have come to this inauguration ceremony.

(d) What is a common victory for all?

Getting rid of a racial government and the establishment of a democratically elected non-racial government is a common victory for all the people of the world.

3. **The policy of apartheid created a deep and lasting wound in my country and my people. All of us will spend many years, if not generations, recovering from that profound hurt. But the decades of oppression and brutality had another, unintended effect, and that was that it produced the Oliver Tambos, the Walter Sisulu, the Chief Luthuli’s, the Yusuf Dadoos, the Bram Fishers, the Robert Sobukwes of our time — men of such extraordinary courage, wisdom and generosity that their like may never be known again**

(a) What did the policy of apartheid create

The policy of apartheid created a deep and lasting wound in the blacks of South Africa.

(b) What was the effect of decades of oppression and brutality?

The decades of oppression and brutality produced many brave and fearless patriots like Tambos, Sisulus, Dadoos, Fishers and Sobukwes of their time.

(c) What kind of men were they?

They were men of extraordinary courage, wisdom and generosity.

(d) What do these lines show about Mandela’s character?

These lines show that Mandela was grateful to those patriots and heroes who fought against the apartheid in the past.

**4. I was not born with a hunger to be free. I was born free — free in every way that I could know. Free to run in the fields near my mother’s hut, free to swim in the clear stream that ran through my village, free to roast mealiest under the stars and ride the broad backs of slow-moving bulls. As long as I obeyed my father and abided by the customs of my tribe, I was not troubled by the laws of man or God.**

(a) Was Mandela indeed ‘free in every way’ in his childhood?

No, Nelson Mandela was not free in every way even in his childhood. He had to abide by the custom of his tribe.

(b) How was he free in his childhood?

He was free to run in the fields, free to swim and free to ride on the backs of slow-moving bulls.

(c) Was he troubled by the laws of man or God when he was a child?

No, as a child he was not troubled by the laws of man or God as long as he obeyed his father and followed the customs of his tribe.

(d) Did his concept of freedom remain the same when he grew up?

No, Nelson Mandela’s concept of personal freedom was broadened into the freedom of his people and race..

**Answer the following questions in 30-40 words**:

**1. What unintended effect was produced by decades of oppression?**

**Ans**. The decades of oppression made him a strong person. He set out the goal to liberate the people of South Africa from continuing bondage of poverty, deprivation, suffering and other discrimination. He decided to have freedom and justice for all.

**2. What ideals does Mandela set out for the future of South Africa in his speech?**

**Ans**. The ideal Mandela set out for the future of South Africa in his speech was to liberate the people of South Africa from continuing bondage of poverty, deprivation, suffering, gender and other discriminations.

**3. What did Nelson Mandela remember on the day of the Inaugural Ceremony?**

**Ans**. He remembered the history — the birth Apartheid, its effect on his people and long fight for freedom. He remembered the freedom fighters who suffered and sacrificed for freedom. He also remembered what freedom meant to him at different stages of life and his hunger for freedom.

4 .**What was born out of the experience of an extraordinary human disaster? Why should humanity be proud of it?**

**Ans.** The apartheid regime was an extraordinary human disaster for the blacks of South Africa. The end of the apartheid laid down the foundation of a non-racial democratic regime in South Africa. This government based on human equality and dignity would be an ideal one of which all humanity would be proud.

**5. Why was the apartheid regime in South Africa one of the harshest and most inhuman systems in the world?**

**Ans.** The apartheid regime was based on the racial discrimination and exploitation of blacks in South Africa. The basic or fundamental rights were only for the whites and the blacks were deprived of these freedoms. Oppression, torture and exploitation of the blacks were common features of the apartheid regime.

**6.What are the twin obligations every man has in life?**

**Ans.** Mandela thinks that every man has twin obligations in life. The first is his obligation to his family, to his parents, to his wife and children. The second duty is his duty to his people, his community and his country. Each man has to fulfil these two obligations according to his position and abilities.

**7.Freedom is “indivisible”, said Mandela. How were the chains on anyone were the chains on all of his people?**

**Ans.** Mandela thought that he is not more virtuous than the others. He thought that “freedom is indivisible”. The chains on any one of his people were chains on all of them. The chains on all of his people were the chains on him.

**8.Why did Nelson Mandela feel that both the oppressor and the oppressed are robbed of their humanity and hence, both of them must be liberated?**

Ans. Nelson Mandela rightly believes that both the oppressor and the oppressed are robbed of their humanity. A man who takes away another’s freedom is a prisoner of hatred. He is locked behind the bars of prejudice and hate. A person can never be free if his freedom is taken away. Hence, the oppressed and the oppressor alike are robbed of their humanity.

### Answer the following questions in 100-120 words:

**1.The inauguration ceremony symbolized a common victory for justice, for peace, for human dignity against the most hated apartheid regime based on racial discrimination. Comment.**

**Ans.** The inauguration ceremony of the installation of a democratically elected government in South Africa was of great historical importance. After the Boer war, the white ‘peoples’, patched up their differences. They imposed the domination of the whites through the apartheid based on racial discrimination. The inauguration ceremony attracted worldwide recognition. International leaders and dignitaries from more than 140 countries assembled at the amphitheatre in the Union Buildings in Pretoria. The whole world hailed it as a common victory for justice, for peace, for human dignity. The grand struggle of the black patriots against the most hated regime of apartheid succeeded. There was a spectacular display of jets and the salute by the bedecked generals with ribbons to President Mandela. It showed the military’s loyalty to democracy. The playing of the two national anthems symbolised a new regime based on equality irrespective of race and colour.

**2. Describe the contribution of Nelson Mandela in the struggle for independence of the blacks of his country against the hated apartheid regime.**

**OR**

**Draw a character-sketch of Nelson Mandela highlighting his struggle against the apartheid regime for the human rights of his people.**

Ans. Nelson Mandela was the tallest of all the black heroes who waged a relentless fight against the racial-regime in South Africa. He suffered untold sufferings and tortures in prison but led the country to install the first democratically elected government in South Africa. Nelson Mandela was not born with a hunger to be free. Later on, he realised that his boyhood freedom was an illusion. He also realised his concept of freedom in his youth was also ‘transitory’ and was limited to his personal freedom. Only when he joined the African National Congress, his own freedom became the greater hunger for the freedom of his people. Only then, a frightened young lawyer was transformed into a bold `criminal’. A family-loving husband was forced to lead the life of a monk in secrecy. Nelson Mandela is grateful in acknowledging the unimaginable sacrifices of thousands of black heroes for the freedom of their people. Modestly, he realises that freedom is indivisible. He realised that he could not lead a free and honourable life if his people were in chains.

Nelson Mandela had a wider vision of humanity. For him, freedom was comprehensive and couldn’t be divided. It shows his greatness that both the oppressor and the oppressed should be liberated. Both of them alike are robbed of their humanity.