**A TRULY BEAUTIFUL MIND**

**ALBERT EINSTEIN**

### ****WORD-MEANINGS****

**[Page 36 ] Genius** = great natural ability

**reigns** =  sovereignty

**journals** = magazines

**cosmos =** universe

**transformed** = converted

**synonyms** = of the same meaning

**indication** = symptom

**destined** = fixed

**contrary**= opposite

**freak** = abnormal

**uttered**= spoke

**profession** = career, business

**[Page 37] Amateur** = doing something for personal enjoyment

**maintaining** = keeping

**regimentation** = discipline

**clashed** = got in dispute

**stifled** = suffocated

**prolonged** = detailed/lengthy

**liberal** = that understands other opinions

**gifted**= special quality

**appealed** = pleased

**dashing** =sprinted

**walrus** = sea-horse

**Serb** = citizen of Serbia

**[Page 38]** **Ally** = an associate

**philistines** = the people who do not like art, literature or music, **constantly** = continuously

**odds** = not even/strange

**affection** = love

**tenderness** = softness,

**relativity** = connectivity

**secured** = got

**expert** = skilful

**patent** = a document  giving right

**assessing**= evaluating

**absolute** = not in relation to anything else

**perfectly** =completely

**accurate** = exact

**unravelling**= starting to fail

**[Page 39] Bothered** = disturbed

**put off** = not to put into practice,

**faltered** =became weak

**divorced** = parted the marriage bond

**coincided** = by chance

**interpretation**  = explanation

**eclipse**  =putting of a shadow on the sun/moon

**deflected** =changed direction

**proclaimed**= announced

**lauded** = praised

**Nazis** = a political group in Germany headed by Rudolf Hitter

**colleague**= co-worker

**territory**= area

**[Page 40] Shaken** = moved

**extent of** = so much

**missive**  =a long letter

**proposed**  =put a proposal

**impact** = effect

**decade** =a term of ten years

**agitating** = protesting

**visionary =** a person who looks into the future,

**Albert Einstein**

 Albert Einstein has been portrayed as a great intellectual genius and a peace-loving human being with liberal ideas. As an intellectual, he created a revolution in the field of science, particularly physics. Ma human being, he spread the message of love, liberty and peace.

During his childhood, Einstein did not show any traces of intelligence. He was a slow child who started speaking very late. Even his mother considered him to be a freak and the headmaster of his school had such a negative opinion about him that he stated that Einstein would never achieve success in any career that he chi” However, Einstein proved to be a good student as he had s13’en interest and skills in mathematics and physics and he also scored in all other subjects.

Einstein’s love for freedom dated back to his school days. He felt suffocated in his school in Munich because of excessive discipline. He opted to study in Switzerland in a school with a liberal environment. He left Germany for America when the dictatorial Nazis took over because he was averse to every type of authority.

Though a great scientist, Einstein was a lover of arts and literature. He was against philistinism (ignorance of or hostility towards art and culture). He fell in love with a Serbian girl Mileva Maric because she held similar ideas about art. As a scientist, his theories of relativity and gravity created a stir in the world of science. He was awarded the Nobel Prize and got numerous other honours.

Einstein was a great lover of mankind. He wanted a world government. He was perturbed by the destructive use of science when the atom bomb was dropped over Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He spent the rest of his life spreading the message of peace and democracy. Thus, Einstein’s traits as a scientific genius and a peace-loving human being with a deep love for freedom are amply highlighted in this biographical account.

### ****Read the following passages and answer the questions given at the end of each :****

### ****PASSAGE 1****

 Albert Einstein was born on March 14,  1879) in the German city of Ulm, without any indication that he was destined for greatness. On the contrary, his mother thought Albert was a freak. To her, his head seemed much too large.

At the age of two-and-a-half, Einstein still wasn’t talking. When he finally did learn to speak, he uttered everything twice. Einstein did not know what to do with other children, and his playmates called him “Brother Boring.” So the youngster played by himself much of the time. He especially loved mechanical toys. Looking at his newborn sister, Maja, he is said to have said: “Fine, but where are her wheels?

### ****Questions :****

**(i) When was Albert Einstein born?**

**(ii) Where was Albert Einstein born?**

**(iii) What problem did arise in Einstein in his childhood?**

**(iv) What did Einstein love in his childhood?**

**(v) Who was Maja?**

### ****Answers :****

**(i) Einstein was born on March 14, 1879.**

**(ii) Einstein was born in the German city of Ulm.**

**(iii) He uttered every word twice.**

**(iv) In his childhood, he loved Mechanical toys.**

**(v) Maja was Einstein’s younger sister.**

### ****PASSAGE 2****

 At the urging of a colleague, Einstein wrote a letter to the American president, Franklin D. Roosevelt. on August 2, 1939, in which he warned: “A single bomb of this type……. exploded in destroy the whole port together with some of the surrounding territory ” His words did not fail to have an effect. The Americans developed the atomic bomb in a secret project of their own, Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945.

### ****Questions :****

**(i) Name the lesson from which this passage has been taken.**

**(ii) What was Franklin D. Roosevelt?**

**(iii) About what did he write a letter to Franklin D. Roosevelt?**

**(iv) What did America develop?**

**(v) When did America drop atom bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki?**

### ****Answers :****

**(i) ‘A Truly Beautiful Mind’,**

**(ii) The President of the United State at the time of the Second World War in 1939.**

**iii) About the dangers of the atom bomb.**

**(iv) They’ developed atom bombs.**

**(v) In August 1945.**

**SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

**(to be answered in about 30 – 40 words each)**

**Q1. Who is a ‘freak’? Why did Einstein’s mother think him to be a ‘freak’?**

**Ans:** A ‘freak’ is a word used disapprovingly for a person who is unusual in looks and behaviour. Einstein’s mother thought him to be a ‘freak’ because his head seemed too large to her. This made him look different from the other children of his age.

**Q2. During his childhood, Einstein did not show any traces of becoming a genius one day. How?**

**Ans:** As a child, Einstein had a large head and did not start to speak till he was two-and-a-half years old. Finally, when he did speak, he used to utter everything twice. He could not interact freely with his playmates either. All this showed the absence of any traces in him of becoming a genius one day.

**Q3. Why did Einstein’s playmates call him “Brother Boring”?**

**Or**

**Why did Einstein play all alone when he was a child?**

**Ans:** Einstein did not know what to do with other children. His shy and introvert nature made his company boring to his playmates. So, they teased him as “Brother Boring” and did not include him in their games. Therefore, he played all alone when he was a child.

**Q4. What kind of toys attracted the attention of Einstein when he was a child? Why?**

**Ans:** Einstein could not enjoy the company of playmates because of his introvert nature. Instead as a child, he was attracted only by mechanical toys. It showed his scientific temperament since mechanical toys work on some kind of scientific principles.

**Q5. Why did Einstein try to look for wheels on the body of his newly born sister?**

**Ans:** Einstein was much too interested in mechanical toys and had scientific inclinations. When his sister was born, he thought her to be a new toy; that is why he tried to search for wheels on her body.

**Q6. What was the opinion of the school headmaster about Einstein?**

**Ans:** The school headmaster considered Einstein to be a good-for-nothing boy. He was of the opinion that Einstein would never succeed in any profession. Therefore, choice of profession would not make any difference in the results of his efforts.

**LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS**

**(Answer in about 100 – 150 words each)**

**Q1.Write a short note on Einstein’s education from school to university.**

**Ans:** As a young boy, Einstein did not show any symptoms of an intellectual genius. His headmaster had a very poor opinion about him and he even declared that Einstein would fail in any career that he chose. However, as he grew up and joined a school in Munich, he showed appreciable progress in studies scoring good marks in almost all the subjects. But the strict discipline of the school was not in accordance with the free spirit of Einstein. As a result, he frequently had scuffles with his teachers. Being a person of liberal ideas, he felt so suffocated that he ultimately left that school for good. He chose to complete his studies in a school in Switzerland where the environment was more liberal as compared to Munich. Highly gifted in mathematics and having a great interest in Physics, Einstein joined the university in Zurich after completing school and from where he graduated in 1900.

**Q2.Which values does the life of Einstein teach you?**

**Ans:** Einstein was not only a great scientist but a man with love for peace. His life history contains in itself the moral lesson that one must love one’s fellow beings and all the discoveries of science should be oriented towards the aim of establishing peace. Einstein had written a letter to the American President Roosevelt to warn him against the destructive atom bomb that Germany would build on the principle of nuclear fission. But Einstein was terribly shocked when America caused a large scale destruction in Japan by dropping an atom bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Einstein made sincere efforts to spread the message of peace. He even wrote a letter to the United Nations proposing that a world government should be established. He did not use his popularity for selfish or personal gains. Instead, he worked for furthering the cause of democracy and peace. He was never carried away by his achievements; on the contrary, the honours bestowed on him encouraged him to work more for the welfare of humanity. The life of Einstein thus inspires in us the values of sincere work, devotion to humanity, selfless service of mankind, and love of peace.