



**ENGLISH**

**BOOKS - FULL MARKS ENGLISH  
(HINGLISH)**

**NELSON MANDELA : LONG WALK TO  
FREEDOM**

**Passages For Comprehension**

1. Tenth May dawned bright and clear. For the past few days I had been pleasantly besieged by dignitaries and world leaders who were coming to pay their respects before the inauguration. The inauguration would be the largest gathering ever of international leaders on South African soil.

Why was 10th of May so important for South Africa?



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2. Tenth May dawned bright and clear. For the past few days I had been pleasantly besieged by dignitaries and world leaders who were coming to pay their respects before the inauguration. The inauguration would be the largest gathering ever of international leaders on South African soil.

Why were so many dignitaries and world leaders coming to South Africa?



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3. The ceremonies took place in the lovely sandstone amphitheatre formed by the Union Buildings in Pretoria. For decades this had been the seat of white supremacy, and now it was the site of rainbow gathering of different colours and nations for the installation of South Africa's first democratic, non-racial government.

Where did the ceremonies take place and why was the place famous for decades?



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4. The ceremonies took place in the lovely sandstone amphitheatre formed by the Union Buildings in Pretoria. For decades this had been the seat of white supremacy, and now it was the site of rainbow gathering of different colours and nations for the installation of South Africa's first democratic, non-racial government.

What was the visible change in the situation?



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5. Today, all of us do, by our presence here...confer glory and hope to newborn liberty. Out of the experience of an extraordinary human disaster that lasted too long, must be born a society of which all humanity will be proud.

What did 'confer glory and hope to newborn liberty and how?



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6. Today, all of us do, by our presence here...confer glory and hope to newborn liberty. Out of the experience of an extraordinary human disaster that lasted too long, must be born a society of which all humanity will be proud.

What was the extraordinary human disaster and how did it end in?



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7. 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.

Who were the outlaws not so long ago and what rare privilege were they given now?



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8. 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.

Why did Mandela thank and what for?



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9. We have, at last, achieved our political emancipation. We pledge ourselves to liberate all our people from the continuing bondage of poverty, deprivation, suffering, gender and other discrimination. 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. Let freedom reign. God bless Africa !

What did Mandela urge the people to pledge themselves to?



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**10.** We have, at last, achieved our political emancipation. We pledge ourselves to liberate all our people from the continuing bondage of poverty, deprivation, suffering, gender and other discrimination. 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. Let freedom reign. God bless Africa !

What would never happen again in South Africa?



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**11.** On the day of the inauguration, I was overwhelmed with a sense of history. In the first decade of the twentieth century, a few years after the bitter Anglo-Boer war and before my own birth, the white-skinned peoples of South Africa patched up their differences and erected a system of racial

domination against the dark-skinned peoples of their own land. The structure they created formed the basis of one of the harshest, most inhumane, societies the world has ever known. What did the white people erect in South Africa after the Anglo-Boer war?



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**12.** On the day of the inauguration, I was overwhelmed with a sense of history. In the first decade of the twentieth century, a few

years after the bitter Anglo-Boer war and before my own birth, the white-skinned peoples of South Africa patched up their differences and erected a system of racial domination against the dark-skinned peoples of their own land. The structure they created formed the basis of one of the harshest, most inhumane, societies the world has ever known. What kind of structure did the whites in South Africa erect?



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**13.** That day had come about through the unimaginable sacrifices of thousands of my people, people whose suffering and courage can never be counted or repaid. I felt that day, as I have on so many other days, that I was simply the sum of all those African patriots who had gone before me. That long and noble line ended and now began again with me. I was pained that I was not able to thank them and that they were not able to see what their sacrifices had wrought.

Who made unimaginable sacrifices and what did Mandela think about them?



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14. That day had come about through the unimaginable sacrifices of thousands of my people, people whose suffering and courage can never be counted or repaid. I felt that day, as I have on so many other days, that I was simply the sum of all those African patriots who had gone before me. That long and noble line ended and now began again with me. I was pained that I was not able to thank them and that they were not able to see what their



sacrifices had wrought.

Why was he pained?



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**15.** 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 Sisulus, the Chief Luthulis, 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.

What did the policy of the apartheid create and how?



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**16.** 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 Tambo, the Walter Sisulu, the Chief Luthuli, the Yusuf Dadoo, the Bram Fishers, the Robert Sobukwe of our time - men of such extraordinary courage, wisdom and generosity that their like may never be known again.

What did decades of oppression and brutality produce in South Africa?

17. Perhaps it requires such depths of oppression to create such heights of character. My country is rich in the minerals and gems that lie beneath its soil, but I have always known that its greatest wealth is its people, finer and truer than the purest diamonds.

What does it require to create such heights of character?



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**18.** Perhaps it requires such depths of oppression to create such heights of character. My country is rich in the minerals and gems that lie beneath its soil, but I have always known that its greatest wealth is its people, finer and truer than the purest diamonds.

What is the greatest wealth of people?



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**19.** It is from these comrades in the struggle that I learned the meaning of courage. Time and again, I have seen men and women risk and give their lives for an idea. I have seen men stand up to attacks and torture without breaking, showing a strength and resilience that defies the imagination. I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumphs over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.

How did Mandela learn the meaning of courage?



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**20.** It is from these comrades in the struggle that I learned the meaning of courage. Time and again, I have seen men and women risk and give their lives for an idea. I have seen men stand up to attacks and torture without breaking, showing a strength and resilience that defies the imagination. I learned that

courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumphs over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.

Who is really a brave man?



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**21.** No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can



be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite. Even in the grimmest times in prison, when my comrades and I were pushed to our limits, I would see a glimmer of humanity in one of the guards, perhaps just for a second, but it was enough to reassure me and keep me going. Man's goodness is a flame that can be hidden but never extinguished.

How does love come naturally to the human heart?

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**22.** No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite. Even in the grimmest times in prison, when my comrades and I were pushed to our limits, I would see a glimmer of humanity in one of the guards, perhaps just for a second, but it was enough to reassure

me and keep me going. Man's goodness is a flame that can be hidden but never extinguished.

Can man's flame of good ever be extinguished?



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**23.** In life, every man has twin obligations — obligations to his family, to his parents, to his wife and children, and he has an obligation to his people, his community, his country. In a civil and humane society, each man is able to

fulfil those obligations according to his own inclinations and abilities. But in a country like South Africa, it was almost impossible for a man of my birth and colour to fulfil both of those obligations. In South Africa, a man of colour who attempted to live as a human being was punished and isolated.

What are twin obligations that every man has?



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**24.** In life, every man has twin obligations — obligations to his family, to his parents, to his wife and children, and he has an obligation to his people, his community, his country. In a civil and humane society, each man is able to fulfil those obligations according to his own inclinations and abilities. But in a country like South Africa, it was almost impossible for a man of my birth and colour to fulfil both of those obligations. In South Africa, a man of colour who attempted to live as a human being was punished and isolated.

How was it almost impossible for a black like Mandela to fulfil both the obligations?



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**25.** 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 mealies 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.

How was Mandela not born with a hunger to be free?



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**26.** 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 mealies 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.

How was Mandela not troubled by the laws of man or God?



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27. It was only when I began to learn that my boyhood freedom was an illusion, when I discovered as a young man that my freedom had already been taken from me, that I began to hunger for it. At first, as a student, I wanted freedom only for myself, the transitory freedoms of being able to stay out at night, read what I pleased and go where I chose. Later, as a young man in Johannesburg, I yearned for the basic and honourable freedoms of achieving my potential, of earning my keep, of marrying and having a family - the

freedom not to be obstructed in a lawful life.

How was his boyhood freedom an illusion?



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**28.** It was only when I began to learn that my boyhood freedom was an illusion, when I discovered as a young man that my freedom had already been taken from me, that I began to hunger for it. At first, as a student, I wanted freedom only for myself, the transitory freedoms of being able to stay out at night,

read what I pleased and go where I chose. Later, as a young man in Johannesburg, I yearned for the basic and honourable freedoms of achieving my potential, of earning my keep, of marrying and having a family - the freedom not to be obstructed in a lawful life.

What did Mandela yearn for as a young man?



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**29.** But then I slowly saw that not only was I not free, but my brothers and sisters were also

not free. I saw that it was not just my freedom that was curtailed, but the freedom of everyone who looked like I did. That is when I joined the African National Congress, and that is when the hunger for my own freedom became the greater hunger for the freedom of my people. It was this desire for the freedom of my people to live their lives with dignity and self-respect that animated my life, that transformed a frightened young man into a bold one, that drove a law-abiding attorney to become a criminal, that turned a family-loving husband into a man without a home, that

forced a life-loving man to live like a monk.

What did Mandela learn about himself and his people?



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**30.** But then I slowly saw that not only was I not free, but my brothers and sisters were also not free. I saw that it was not just my freedom that was curtailed, but the freedom of everyone who looked like I did. That is when I joined the African National Congress, and that

is when the hunger for my own freedom became the greater hunger for the freedom of my people. It was this desire for the freedom of my people to live their lives with dignity and self-respect that animated my life, that transformed a frightened young man into a bold one, that drove a law-abiding attorney to become a criminal, that turned a family-loving husband into a man without a home, that forced a life-loving man to live like a monk.

What transformed a frightened young man into a bold one?

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**31.** I am no more virtuous or self-sacrificing than the next man, but I found that I could not even enjoy the poor and limited freedoms I was allowed when I knew my people were not free. Freedom is indivisible, the chains on anyone of my people were the chains on all of them, the chains on all of my people were the chains on me.

How did Mandela not consider himself more virtuous or self-sacrificing than the next man?



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**32.** I am no more virtuous or self-sacrificing than the next man, but I found that I could not even enjoy the poor and limited freedoms I was allowed when I knew my people were not free. Freedom is indivisible, the chains on anyone of my people were the chains on all of them, the chains on all of my people were the chains on me.

How is freedom indivisible?



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**33.** I knew that the oppressor must be liberated just as surely as the oppressed. A man who takes away another man's freedom is a prisoner of hatred, he is locked behind the bars of prejudice and narrow-mindedness. I am not truly free I am taking away someone else's freedom, just as surely as I am not free when my freedom is taken from me. The oppressed and the oppressor alike are robbed of their humanity

How should the oppressor be liberated?



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**34.** I knew that the oppressor must be liberated just as surely as the oppressed. A man who takes away another man's freedom is a prisoner of hatred, he is locked behind the bars of prejudice and narrow-mindedness. I am not truly free I am taking away someone else's freedom, just as surely as I am not free when my freedom is taken from me. The oppressed and the oppressor alike are robbed of their humanity

Am I truly free if I am taking someone else's freedom? How?



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## Ncert Textbook Questions Solved

1. Where did the ceremonies take place? Can you name any public buildings in India that are made of sandstone?



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2. Can you say how May 10 is 'an autumn day' in South Africa?



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3. At the beginning of his speech, Mandela mentions "an extraordinary human disaster". What does he mean by this? What is the glorious ...human achievement" he speaks of at the end?



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4. What does Mandela thank the international leaders for ?



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5. What ideals does he set out for the future of South Africa ?



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6. What do the military generals do? How has their attitude changed, and why?



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7. Why were two national anthems sung?



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8. How does Mandela describe the systems of government in his country (i) in the first

decade, and (ii) in the final decade, of the twentieth century?



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9. What does courage mean to Mandela?



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10. What does he think is natural, to love or to hate?



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11. What 'twin obligations' does Mandela mention?



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12. What did being free mean to Mandela as a boy, and as a student? How does he contrast these 'transitory freedoms' with the basic and honourable freedoms'?



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**13.** Does Mandela think the oppressor is free?

Why/why not?



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**14.** Why did such a large number of international leaders attend the inauguration?

What did it signify the triumph of?



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15. What does Mandela mean when he says he is "simply the sum of all those African patriots" who had gone before him?



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16. Would you agree that the depths of oppression" create "heights of character"? How does Mandela illustrate this? Can you add your own examples to this argument?



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**17.** How did Mandela's understanding of freedom change with age and experience?



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**18.** How did Mandela's 'hunger for freedom' change his life?



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19. Make a list of such pairs of nouns and verbs in the text.

Noun	Verb
rebellion	rebel
constitution	constitute



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20. Read the paragraph below. Fill in the blanks with the noun forms of the verbs in brackets.

Martin Luther King's.....(contribute) to our

history as an outstanding leader began when he came to the ..... (assist) of Rosa Parks, a seamstress who refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white passenger. In those days American Blacks were confined to positions of second class citizenship by restrictive laws and customs. To break these laws would mean .....(subjugate) and ..... (humiliate) by the police and the legal system. Beatings, ..... (imprison) and sometimes death awaited those who defied the System. Martin Luther King's tactics of protest involved non-violent ..... (resist) to racial injustice.



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21. You know that the definite article 'the' is not normally used before proper nouns. Nor do proper nouns usually occur in the plural. (We do not say: \*The Nelson Mandela, or \*Nelson Mandelas). But now look at this sentence from the text:

... the decades of oppression and brutality.....  
produced the Oliver Tambos, the Walter  
Sisulus.....of our our time. Used in this way  
with the and/or in the plural, a proper noun

carries a special meaning. For example, what do you think the names above mean? Choose the right answer. (a) for example Oliver Tambos, Walter Sisulus, ... (b) many other men like Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulu .../many men of their type or kind, whose names may not be as well known. Did you choose option (b)? Then you have the right answer. Here are some more examples of the used with proper names. Try to say what these sentences mean. (You may consult a dictionary if you wish. Look at the entry for 'the').

1. Mr. Singh regularly invites the Amitabh

Bachchans and the Shah Rukh Khans to his parties.

2. Many people think that Madhuri Dixit is the Madhubala of our times.

3. History is not only the story of the Alexanders, the Napoleons and the Hitlers, but of ordinary people as well.



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**22.** Match the italicised phrases in Column A with the phrase nearest in meaning in Column



B .

A	B
1. I was <i>not unmindful of the fact</i>	(i) had not forgotten; was aware of the fact.  (ii) was not careful about the fact.  (iii) forgot or was not aware of the fact.
2. when my comrades and I <i>were pushed to our limits</i>	(i) pushed by the guards to the wall.
	(ii) took more than our share of beatings.  (iii) felt that we could not endure the suffering any longer.
3. to reassure me and <i>keep me going</i>	(i) make me go on walking.  (ii) help me continue to live in hope in this very difficult situation.  (iii) make me remain without complaining.
4. the basic and honourable freedoms of <i>earning my keep</i> .	(i) earning enough money to live on.  (ii) keeping what I earned.  (iii) getting a good salary.



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**23.** In groups , discuss the issues suggested in the box below .

Then prepare a speech of about two minutes on the following topic (First make notes for your speech in writing ) .

True liberty is freedom from poverty , deprivation and all forms of discrimination .

- **causes of poverty and means of overcoming it.**
- **discrimination based on gender, religion, class, etc.**
- **constitutionally guaranteed human rights.**



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24. Nelson Mandela's writing is marked by balance : Many sentences have two parts in balance.

Use the following phrases to complete the sentences given below :

(i) they can be taught to love.	(ii) I was born free
(iii) but the triumph over it.	(iv) but he who conquers that fear
(v) to create such heights of character	

It requires such depths of oppression .....



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25. Nelson Mandela's writing is marked by balance : Many sentences have two parts in balance.

Use the following phrases to complete the sentences given below :

(i) they can be taught to love.	(ii) I was born free
(iii) but the triumph over it.	(iv) but he who conquers that fear
(v) to create such heights of character	

Courage was not the absence of fear .....



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**26.** Nelson Mandela's writing is marked by balance : Many sentences have two parts in balance.

Use the following phrases to complete the sentences given below :

(i) they can be taught to love.	(ii) I was born free
(iii) but the triumph over it.	(iv) but he who conquers that fear
(v) to create such heights of character	

The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid .....



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(i) they can be taught to love.	(ii) I was born free
(iii) but the triumph over it.	(iv) but he who conquers that fear
(v) to create such heights of character	

If people can learn to hate .....

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**28.** Nelson Mandela's writing is marked by balance : Many sentences have two parts in balance.

Use the following phrases to complete the sentences given below :

(i) they can be taught to love.	(ii) I was born free
(iii) but the triumph over it.	(iv) but he who conquers that fear
(v) to create such heights of character	

I was not born with a hunger



**View Text Solution**

**29.** This text repeatedly contrasts the past with the present or the future. We can use coordinated clauses to contrast two views, for emphasis or effect. Given below are sentences carrying one part of the contrast. Find in the text the second part of the contrast, and complete each item. Identify the words which signal the contrast. This has been done for you in the first item.

For decades the Union Buildings had been the seat of white supremacy, and now....



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Only moments before, the highest generals of the South African defence force and police ...

saluted me and pledged their loyalty. ... not so many years before they would not have saluted ....



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complete each item. Identify the words which signal the contrast. This has been done for you in the first item.

Although that day neither group knew the lyrics of the anthem ... they would soon



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carrying one part of the contrast. Find in the text the second part of the contrast, and complete each item. Identify the words which signal the contrast. This has been done for you in the first item.

My country is rich in the minerals and gems that lie beneath its soil, .....



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coordinated clauses to contrast two views, for emphasis or effect. Given below are sentences carrying one part of the contrast. Find in the text the second part of the contrast, and complete each item. Identify the words which signal the contrast. This has been done for you in the first item.

The Air Show was not only a display of pinpoint precision and military force, but

.....



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It was this desire for the freedom of my people

(i) ..... that transformed (ii) ..... into a bold one, that drove (iii) ..... to become a criminal, that turned (iv) ..... into a man without a home.



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**35.** Do you think there is colour prejudice in our own country? Discuss this with your friend and write a paragraph of about 100 to 150 words about this. You have the option of making your paragraph a humorous one. (Read the short verse given below.) When you were born you were pink When you grew up you became white When you are in the sun you are red When you are sick you are yellow When you are angry you are purple When you

are shocked you are grey And you have the  
cheek to call me 'coloured'.



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## Additional Question Solved Short Answer Type Questions

1. Why was 10th of May, 1994 a red letter day in  
the history of South Africa?



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2. Where did the ceremonies take place? What had it been for decades?



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3. How was that site a rainbow gathering of different colours and nations?



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4. Who were the persons sworn in on 10th 5 of May? What did Mandela pledge to obey?



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



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6. Who were given the rare privilege to be host to the nations of the world on their own soil?



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7. After achieving political emancipation what does Mandela want to do in South Africa?



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8. What did the display of jets and military salute symbolise?



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9. Why did the same generals saluted Mandela who would have arrested him not so many years ago?



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10. What did the playing of two national anthems symbolise?



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11. Why was Mandela overwhelmed with a sense of history and what bad thing happened in the first decade of the 10th century?



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



**View Text Solution**

**13.** Why does Nelson Mandela call himself simply the sum of those African patriots who had gone before him?



**View Text Solution**

**14.** How did the policy of apartheid create a deep and lasting wound in South African blacks?



**View Text Solution**

**15.** How did the policy of apartheid and deep oppression produce patriots of extraordinary, courage, wisdom and generosity?



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**16.** What is the greatest wealth of a country according to Nelson Mandela?



**View Text Solution**

**17.** How does Mandela define courage and from where did he learn the meaning of courage?



**View Text Solution**



**18.** How can people be taught to love? Which comes naturally to human heart - love or hate?



**View Text Solution**

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



**View Text Solution**

20. Why was it impossible for a man of Mandela's birth and colour to fulfil the twin obligations?



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21. Was Mandela born with a hunger to be free? What did freedom mean to him in childhood ?



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**22.** What were the transitory freedoms that Nelson Mandela yearned for as a youngman? Why did he feel that his boyhood freedom was an illusion?



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**23.** When and how did Mandela's hunger for his own freedom become the greater hunger for the freedom of his people?



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24. What, according to Mandela, is 'true freedom'?



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25. What animated Mandela's life and transformed a frightened young lawyer into a bold criminal?



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**26.** Freedom is "indivisible", said Mandela. How were the chains on any one were the chains on all of his people?



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**27.** 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?



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## Additional Question Solved Long Answer Type Questions

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



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2. Why was Nelson Mandela overwhelmed with a sense of history? Give the birth and finally the burial of the apartheid regime in South Africa.



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3. The apartheid regime, the whites created in South Africa, was one of the harshest and most inhumane societies the world has ever known. Elucidate.





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4. Which twin obligations does Nelson Mandela mention in the lesson? Why were he and the rest of blacks not able to fulfil those obligations?



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5. How was Mandela's concept of freedom was different in boyhood and youth than what it was in his mature age? How were 'transitory



freedoms' changed into his hunger for the freedom of his people?



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6. Why does Mandela say that freedom is indivisible? How are the oppressed and the oppressor alike are robbed of their humanity?



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



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