

LONG WALK TO FREEDOM

Q1. The Autumn Day here has a symbolical meaning. It symbolises the season of fruits when the South Africans will taste the sweet fruits (their freedom) after a long season/summer of oppression.

Besides South Africa is a part of Southern Hemisphere, where the autumn months are March to May while as in Northern Hemisphere these months are the time of Spring Season.

Q2. Mandela calls Apartheid an extraordinary human disaster and freedom from it as a glorious human achievement.

Q3. He mentions and sets various ideals for liberating his people (South Africans) from bondage which has been there. He mentions to liberate his people from poverty, deprivation, suffering and gender discrimination.

Q4. They had come to celebrate and honour the South Africa's first representative democratic and non-racial government. It signified the common victory for justice, peace and human dignity.

Q5. He means to say that what he is today, it is because of the sacrifices of all those people who had gone before him. His becoming the first black president of India has not been possible without their sacrifices. That is the reason why he called himself 'simply the sum of all those African Patriots' who had gone before him.

Q6. Mandela is correct in what he says. Because the oppression in South Africa produced the great persons like the Oliver Tambo, the Walter Sisulu, the Chief Lutthuli, the Yusuf Dadoo, the Bram Fischers and the Robert Sobukwe who were the men of extra-ordinary courage, wisdom and generosity.

The deeper the oppression, the higher the character also proved true in case of Mandela as he felt not only for the oppressed but also for the oppressor. He saw the oppressor not as a cruel master but a helpless slave (prisoner) of hatred locked behind the bars of prejudice and narrow-mindedness.

Q7. The twin obligations a man has are the obligations to his family, parents, wife, and children and he has an obligation to his community and country.

Q8. Mandela experienced many hardships and felt that freedom was the ultimate goal. He was deprived of his freedom when it came to perform his duty to the family.

He observed that South Africans were forced to live apart, a twilight existence of secrecy and rebellion and it shocked him. But slowly he observed that he was not the one whose freedom was curtailed but the freedom of everyone who looked like him. People wanted to be free and this gave a new meaning and impetus to his hunger. People instilled faith and strength in him. The South Africans were not treated as human beings and this made him to go ahead in his struggle for freedom.

Q9. Mandela observed that his people wanted to be free from slavery. This feeling in his people gave him a fresh impetus to fight for freedom. Now the hunger for his own freedom became a greater hunger for the freedom of his people. It was this desire for the freedom of his people that transformed Mandela from a frightened young man into a bold one, drove a law-abiding attorney to become a criminal, turned a family-loving husband into a man without a home, forced a life-loving man to live like a monk. People thus were his power and strength.