

CBSE Class 12 English Flamingo Book Important Questions for Chapter 1 The Last Lesson

The Last Lesson 2 Marks Important Questions (30 to 40 words)

Q.- Why did Franz not want to go to school that day?

A. M Hamel had asked the class to revise the grammar topic of Participles for a test. Franz did not know participles and feared the scolding. So, he did not want to go to school.

Q.- How is the mother tongue important to a person? What does M Hamel, the teacher say about it?

A. Mother tongue is the common factor which unites the countrymen. M Hamel made the villagers realize the importance of the mother tongue. He spoke about the beauty of their mother tongue – the French language. He asked the class to guard it because it was the key to their freedom.

Q1.- i. Why did the elders of the village attend the Last Lesson?

ii. Comment on the significance of the villagers sitting at the back in M Hamel's classroom.

A. Berlin had ordered that French language would no longer be taught across schools in Alsace and Lorraine. The village elders were present in the class which was the last class of the French language. They were there to pay respect to the teacher, M Hamel who had taught there for forty years. They regretted not having attended school in their childhood days.

Q2.- What words did M Hamel write on the blackboard before dismissing the class? What did they mean?

A. Before dismissing the class, M Hamel wrote the following words on the blackboard – “Vive la France”. “Vive la France” means ‘Long live France’. It was a way of showing his love and support towards his mother tongue and his country.

Q3.- What changes did the order from Berlin bring about on the day of the last lesson?

A. The order from Berlin brought all the routine hustle-bustle of the school life to a standstill. The teacher, M. Hamel, was kind towards his students and taught with more patience. The students became more attentive and concerned about education.

Q4.- How was Mr Hamel dressed differently that day? Why?

A. M Hamel was dressed in his special dress that he wore on a few occasions. It consisted of his beautiful green coat, frilled shirt and a little black silk cap, all embroidered. He wore the special dress because it was the last lesson that he would deliver in the school where he had been teaching for the last forty years.

Q5.- After sitting down at his desk, what unusual thing did Franz observe about M Hamel?

A. Franz observed that M. Hamel was wearing his special dress that he wore on selected occasions only. He was not holding the ruler in his hands. He was calm and kind towards the students. The village elders were present in the class too.

Q6.- Why was Franz not scolded for reaching school late that day?

A. M Hamel was very kind and calm that day because it was the last lesson in French. Berlin had ordered that instead of French, Germany would be taught in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine. So, M Hamel did not scold Franz for being late.

Q7.- How did M Hamel make his last lesson a special one? What did he emphasize on in it?

A. M Hamel made the last lesson by wearing his special dress to the class. He got new copies for the students which had the words "France, Alsace" written beautifully on them.

Q8.- How did Franz react to the declaration that it was their last French lesson?

A. Franz was shocked to know that he could not learn French anymore. He repented that he had not been serious before. He wished he had revised participles and would be able to answer M Hamel's questions. Franz gained a sudden liking for his teacher and did not want him to leave.

The Last Lesson 5 Marks Important Questions (120 to 150 words)

Q1. How different from usual was the atmosphere at school on the day of the last lesson?

A. There was a lot of sadness due to the order from Berlin that only the German language would be taught in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine. The school was unusually still and quiet as was on a Sunday morning. There was no sound of the opening and closing of desks and lessons being repeated in unison.

The French teacher, M. Hamel, was wearing his special dress which he wore only on special occasions like inspection and prize days. There was also a profound change in his behavior and he was more polite than usual.

The back benches of the classroom were occupied by the village elders who were attending the class as a mark of respect for their mother-tongue.

Q2. What shows Mr Hamel's love for the French language?

A. M Hamel was a linguistic chauvinist. He was proud of French, his mother tongue. He said that French was the most beautiful, clearest and logical language. He wrote the words "Vive la France" meaning 'long live France' on the blackboard. He added that people of a nation had their mother tongue as the key to freedom from slavery.

M Hamel added that Frenchmen had not been serious in learning their mother tongue and now, the enemy soldiers would mock at them. The French would be enslaved easily. They had been procrastinating but now the opportunity had come to an end. The village elders had also not studied during their childhood and felt sorry for themselves. The teacher, students and their parents – all were to be blamed for the sorry state of affairs.