**STUDY MATERIAL**

**B. A. SEMESTER Ii**

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**The Power of Prayer**

By A.P. J. Abdul Kalam

**Short Answer Questions:**

1. **Describe Abdul Kalam’s childhood house. (I)**

Ans: Kalam lived in the ancestral house which was built in the middle of the 19th century. It was a fairly pucca house, made of limestone and brick, on the Mosque street in Rameshwaram. His strict father would avoid all inessential comforts and luxuries, but he would provide all necessary things like food, medicine or clothes. Kalam would sit on the floor of the kitchen and his mother would serve him rice, sambhar, pickle and fresh coconut chutney. In short Kalam had a secure childhood both mentally and emotionally.

1. **What kind of person was Kalam’s mother? What was her lineage?(I)**

Ans: Kalam was one of many children, a short boy with rather undistinguished looks, born to tall and handsome parents. Kalam’s mother, Ashiamma, was a kind-hearted woman. Kalam had learnt the qualities of goodness and kindness from his mother. Every day she would very happily feed far more outsiders along with the members of her own family. In fact her lineage was very distinguished. One of her ancestors had been bestowed the title of ‘Bahadur’ by the British.

1. **Point out the chief qualities of Kalam’s father.**

Ans: Kalam’s parents were widely regarded as an ideal couple. His father, Jainulabdeen, had neither much formal education nor much wealth. Despite these disadvantages, he possessed great innate wisdom and a true generosity of spirit. His strict father would avoid all inessential comforts and luxuries, but he would provide all necessary things like food, medicine or clothes. He was deeply religious and highly respected person in the area. He could convey the complex spiritual concept in simple Tamil.

1. **What is the power of prayer, according to Kalam’s father? OR**
2. **What are the good points of adversity, according to Kalam’s father?(I)**

Ans: Once Kalam asked his father about the relevance of prayer. His father told him that there was nothing mysterious about prayer. Rather, prayer makes possible a communion of the spirit between people. When one pray he transcends his body and become a part of the cosmos which knows no division of wealth, age, caste or creed. He once told Kalam that every human being is a specific element within the whole of the manifest divine being. One should not be afraid of the sufferings and difficulties. Adversity always presents opportunities for introspection.

1. **How did Jallaluddin and Samsuddin influence the young Kalam?(I)**

Ans: Ahmed Jallaluddin was a close friend of Kalam. He would go with Kalam for long walks and talk of spiritual matters. He would tell him about scientific discoveries, contemporary literature and achievements in medical field. He made Kalam aware of the ‘Brave New World’. Another person Samsuddin was a sole newspaper distributor in Rameshwaram. Kalam would help him distribute his newspapers which taught Kalam the value of earning money. These two people helped Kalam to development creativity in later life.

1. **What were the two aspects of sea that Kalam came to understand through his childhood experiences? (I)**

Ans: When Kalam was six years old, his father started building a wooden boat to take pilgrims from Rameshwaram to Dhanushkodi and back. A relative named Jallaluddin helped him in the work. Kalam’s father was doing good business with that boat. But one day a cyclone carried away the boat with some landmass of Dhanushkodi. The Pamban Bridge collapsed with a train full of passengers. Thus, the beauty of the sea and the uncontrollable energy of the sea are the two aspects of sea life revealed to him.

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**Very Short Answer Questions:**

1. **What is Rameshwaram famous for?**

Ans: Rameshwaram is famous for Shiva Temple.

1. **What did Jallaluddin and Kalam talk about?**

Ans: They talked about spiritual matters.

1. **What does Kalam’s father believe we should do when faced with troubles?**

Ans: When faced with troubles, one should understand the relevance of one’s trouble. Adversity always presents opportunities for introspection.

1. **Who was one of Kalam’s father’s closest friends?**

Ans: Pakshi Lakshmana Sastry, the high priest of Rameshwaram Temple, was the closest friend of Kalam’s father.

1. **What would Jallaluddin call Kalam?**

Ans: Jallaluddin would call Kalam ‘Azad’.

1. **What happened during the cyclone?**

Ans: cyclone carried away the boat of Kalam’s father with some landmass of Dhanushkodi. The Pamban Bridge collapsed with a train full of passengers.

1. **When was Kalam’s ancestral house built?**

Ans: Kalam’s ancestral house was built in the middle of 19th century.

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B.A. Part One. Semester II Notes

**How much Lang Does a Man Need**

By Leo Tolstoy

1. **What condition did the Chief lay out for selling the land of Pahom?**

Ans: The condition was that if Pahom failed to return on the same day to the spot from where he had started, his money would be lost.

1. **Why was the steward hated by the peasants?**

Ans: Because he took to burdening the people with fines.

1. **Who alerted Pahom about the Bashkir’s land?**

Ans: A passing dealer happened to stop at Pahom’s house one day. He informed Pahom about the Bhaskir’s land.

1. **Why did Pahom complain to the District court against the neighbouring peasants?**

Ans: Because they used to let their cows and horses stray into meadows and corn.

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B.A. Part One. Semester II Notes (Unit II) (Q. 3 A & B)

**The Felling of the Banyan Tree**

By Dilip Chitre

Que 1. **What is the significance of the last four lines of the poem ‘The felling of the Banyan Tree’? OR**

**What is the attitude of the speaker towards the cutting of the Banyan Tree? OR**

**Bring out the symbolism of the banyan tree and how it is linked to the theme of the poem. OR**

**How was the banyan tree different from the other trees? How does the poet, Dilip Chitre describe the tree? OR**

**Write the gist of the poem ‘The Felling of the Banyan Tree’?**

Ans:

1. The poem ‘The felling of the Banyan Tree’ about the cutting down of a tree in the yard of poet’s ancestral house. Here Dilip Chitre brings to the fore concepts of relocation as well as the quest for finding one’s roots.
2. The banyan tree was very different from the other trees. Its branches were very deep into the soil and it was two hundred years old. It was three times as tall as the poet’s house. It had a circumference of fifty feet. Fifty men were busy for seven days to cut the tree.
3. The cutting of the banyan tree is symbolic of the severing of the poet’s family from its very roots as the family shifted from Baroda to Bombay after cutting the tree. The poet’s grandmother considered it crime as she does not want to depart from her roots. Thus, the banyan tree becomes the symbol of permanence, stability, tradition, immobility and conservatism. The shifting of the family to Bombay is also symbolic of the movement of modern man into the barren urban landscape where there are no trees except ones that grow in one’s dreams.

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**The Felling of the Banyan Tree**

**Very Short Answer Questions:**

1. **What does the poet’s father ask the tenants?**

Ans: The poet’s father asked the tenants to leave the house.

1. **Why do you think the poet’s father requested the tenants to leave?**

Ans: The poet’s father requested the tenants to leave because their houses were going to be demolished.

1. **What was the grandmother’s opinion about the felling of the trees?**

Ans: The grandmother said that the trees are sacred and felling them is a crime.

1. **What kind of personality does the poet’s father have?**

Ans: The poet’s father had an adamant and dominating personality.

1. **How many days did the workers take to cut the branches of the banyan tree?**

Ans: The workmen took seven days to cut the branches of the banyan tree.

1. **What is referred to as a problem in the poem ‘The felling of the Banyan tree?**

Ans: The huge banyan tree is referred as problem in the poem.

1. **How old was the banyan tree?**

Ans: The banyan tree was two hundred years old.

1. **How tall was the banyan tree?**

Ans: The tree was three times as tall as the poet’s house.

1. **Where did the poet’s family shifted after felling of the banyan tree?**

Ans: The family shifted to Bombay (Mumbai) from Baroda.

1. **How did the insects and birds react to the felling of the banyan tree?**

Ans: The insects and birds left the tree.

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B.A. Part One. Semester II Notes

**Laugh and Be Merry**

By John Masefield

**Very Short Answer Questions:**

1. **What did God fill the heaven and the earth with?**

Ans: God filled the heaven and the earth with the strong red wine of His mirth.

1. **What do you think the poem ‘Laugh and Be Merry’ addressed to?**

Ans: The poem is addressed to everyone who wants to lead a joyful life in this world.

1. **What is referred to as the deep blue cup?**

Ans: The sky is referred to as the deep blue cup.

1. **What kind of relationship should we have with others in this world, according to Masefield?**

Ans: We should live in this world like brothers related by blood.

1. **Why is the world compared to ‘a beautiful inn’?**

Ans: Our stay in this world is short just as guests stay in an inn. So we should enjoy this short life just as the guests enjoy dance and music in an inn.

1. **What does the poet refer to as ‘the sign of the joy of the Lord’?**

Ans: The poet refers to ‘the deer green earth’ as the sign of the joy of the lord.

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**B.A. Part One. Semester II Notes**

**Refund**

By Fritz Karinthy

Q1. **Where did Wiser Kopf get the idea of the refund of his tuition fees? (OR)**

**What did he want from the school?**

Ans:- Wasserkopf was removed from his job once again. He met his friend leader. Leader was going to collect money which he made by gaming in foreign exchange market. Wasserkopf could not understand anything about foreign exchange. Laddered said that he had no time to explain. He advised Wasserkopf to claim the refund of his tuition fees from his college, if he did not understand anything about foreign. This advice gave Wasserkopf the idea of his tuition fees.

**Q2. How to Wasserkopf wish to claim the refund of his tuition fees?**

Ans:- Wasserkopf wishes to claim the refund of his tuition fees after his friend leader gave him the idea. He claims that he learnt nothing in the college from which he graduated. He suggested to the principal that he is prepared to go for. Re-examination by the teachers to prove that he learnt nothing. His plan is to give wrong answer and fail in the examination and then claim the refund of his tuition fees.

**Q3. What are the plans of the teacher and the principal for the re-examination of Wasserkopf ?**

Ans:- The principal informs the teacher that Wasserkopf has demanded the refund of his tuition fees. He also says that Wasserkopf is prepared to take re-examination. Mathematics teacher says that there that there is nothing to lose in this re-examination. He asks other teacher not to ask difficult questions. He also asks them to stand united to defeat Wasserkopf . They decide of even before the questions are asked that his answered will be correct. These are the plan of the teachers for the re-examinations of Wasserkopf .

**Q 4. How does the history face Wasserkopf ? (OR)**

**How did the history teacher react to Wasserkopf ’s answer?**

Ans:- The teacher have already decided to ask easy quotations, and pass Wasserkopf in spite of wrong answer. The history master asks him as to how long the thirty year war last. The physic master whispers loudly that it lasted thirty years. Wasserkopf replies that it was seven meter explains that according to Einstein’s theory of relativity seven meters represent seven years. If the hours of rest and non-war works are deducted from the thirty years period, the war lasted only seven years.

**Q 5. Describe the encounter between Wasserkopf and the physics teacher?**

Ans:- Wasserkopf calls the physics the cannibal because he chews his own thumbs. Physics teacher’s quotations is: “Do clock in church steeples really become smaller as you walk away from them, or do they merry appear to become smaller because of an optical illusion.” Wasserkopf says the clock appear large to him as he goes away from them. When physics teacher asks him to answer in a word, he calls him an ass. Physics teacher says that an ass is the symbol of illusion and Wasserkopf answer is correct. He declares him very good in physics.

**Q 6. How does geography teacher prove Wasserkopf answer correct?**

Ans:- the geography teacher asks Wasserkopf the name of city which is the capital of Brunswick province and has the same name. Wasserkopf answer ‘same’, geography teacher call it correct and gives this explanation. Once emperor barbarossa came there. He met a village girl munching a bun. He said her ‘God bless you’ and asked the name of the city. The girl could say ‘same to you’ and couldn’t speak more. The emperor thought that ‘same’ was the name of city. For many years the city was known by this name only.

**Q 7. How does mathematics teacher defeat Wasserkopf ?**

Ans:- Mathematic teacher says to Wasserkopf that he will ask him one easy and one difficult question. His easy question is absurd and complex. Wasserkopf gives equally absurd answer. Mathematics teacher says that his answer is incorrect. Wasserkopf says that he has failed and so his tuition fees should be refunded. Mathematics teacher asks him has to how much money he wants as the refund. Wasserkopf gives the exact amount. Mathematics teacher says that is his difficult quotations and he has given answer. Thus Wasserkopf is defeated.

**VERY SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

Q1. **How does Wasserkopf look like?**

Ans:- Wasserkopf has a beard and he look like a fairly intelligent man.

Q2. **How many years back were Wasserkopf a student of the school?**

Ans:- Wasserkopf was a student of the school after a gap of eighteen years because he wants a refund of his tuitions fees.

Q3. **Why does Wasserkopf return to his school after a gap of eighteen years?**

Ans:- Wasserkopf returns to it his school after a gap eighteen years because he wants a refund of his tuition fees.

Q4. **What was the reason for Wasserkopf to ask for the refund of his tuition fees?**

Ans:- Wasserkopf thought that he learnt nothing in the school and he was fired from the job, so he wants his tuition fees refunded.

Q5. **How does Wasserkopf present himself for re-examination?**

Ans:- Wasserkopf ’s hat is over one ear. He greets nobody. He keeps his hands in the pocket. He stares rudely. In this way, he presents himself for the re-examination.

**Q6. What are the disciplines in which the teacher decides not to examine Wasserkopf ?**

Ans:- The teacher decide not to examine Wasserkopf ‘in gentlemen-lines’,’manness’, ‘physical culture’, Alertness’, Perseverance’, Logic’ etc.

Q7. **What is Wasserkopf replay to the geography teacher?**

Ans:- Geography teacher asks him the name of the city of the same name of the German province Brunswick, and his replay is ‘Same’.

**Q8. What was the last question of the re-examination of Wasserkopf ?**

Ans:- The mathematics teacher asks Wasserkopf the last question as to what is the total amount of the refund by Wasserkopf .

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