

Poets and Pancakes

इस अध्याय के सभी महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न – उत्तर सहित। पहले खुद हल करने की कोशिश करो, फिर उत्तर मिलाओ।

अभ्यास प्रश्न-उत्तर (हर टॉपिक से)

» Introduction to Gemini Studios and the Narrator

प्रश्न 1 (आसान). What was the name of the author of 'My Years with Boss'?

उत्तर – Asokamitran

प्रश्न 2 (आसान). In which city was Gemini Studios established?

उत्तर – Chennai

प्रश्न 3 (मध्यम). Even though Asokamitran performed an 'insignificant function', why was he considered 'the most well-informed'?

उत्तर – Because his job of cutting newspaper clippings involved him observing and being aware of many subjects and activities around the studio, making him privy to a lot of information.

प्रश्न 4 (कठिन). How does Gemini Studios represent a significant part of 'early Indian film-making'?

उत्तर – Gemini Studios was set up in 1940 and became 'one of the most influential film-producing organisations of India' in its early days, shaping the direction and content of Indian cinema during that period.

» The Make-up Department: Its Fiery Misery and Hierarchy

प्रश्न 5 (आसान). What kind of lights caused 'fiery misery' in the make-up room?

उत्तर – Incandescent lights.

प्रश्न 6 (आसान). Who was responsible for making up the crowd players?

उत्तर – The office boy.

प्रश्न 7 (मध्यम). How did the make-up department demonstrate 'national integration'?

उत्तर – The department had staff from various regions like Maharashtra, Karnataka (Dharwar), Andhra, Madras, and an Anglo-Burmese, all working together.

प्रश्न 8 (कठिन). Why did the make-up artists use 'truck-loads of pancake and a number of other locally made potions and lotions'?

उत्तर – They used excessive make-up because most shooting was indoors, and strong studio lights required heavy make-up to make actors look 'presentable' or 'ugly' (as stated by the author) on screen.

» The Office Boy: A Disillusioned Artist

प्रश्न 9 (आसान). What was the 'office boy's' actual age, according to the text?

उत्तर – He was in his early forties.

प्रश्न 10 (आसान). What kind of make-up work was the 'office boy' responsible for?

उत्तर – He was responsible for applying make-up to the crowd players.

प्रश्न 11 (मध्यम). List two career aspirations the 'office boy' had when he joined Gemini Studios.

उत्तर – He aspired to become a star actor or a top screen writer, director, or lyric writer.

प्रश्न 12 (कठिन). How did the 'office boy' express his frustration to the narrator, and what does this tell us about his feelings?

उत्तर – He would deliver 'extended lectures' to the narrator, expressing how his 'great literary talent was being allowed to go waste in a department fit only for barbers and perverts'. This shows his deep disillusionment, anger, and a sense of wasted potential, feeling his work was demeaning and not worthy of his abilities.

» Kothamangalam Subbu: The 'No. 2' Genius

प्रश्न 13 (आसान). What was Subbu's position at Gemini Studios?

उत्तर – Subbu was the 'No. 2' at Gemini Studios.

प्रश्न 14 (आसान). How did Subbu react to a flop film?

उत्तर – He had the ability to look cheerful at all times even after having had a hand in a flop film.

प्रश्न 15 (मध्यम). How did Subbu show his loyalty to The Boss?

उत्तर – His sense of loyalty made him identify himself with his principal completely and turn his entire creativity to his principal's advantage. He would always provide multiple creative solutions for any film scene asked by The Boss.

प्रश्न 16 (कठिन). What makes Subbu a 'many-sided genius'? Give examples.

उत्तर – Subbu was a 'many-sided genius' because he excelled in multiple fields: he was a creative problem-solver in filmmaking (offering numerous alternatives for scenes), a talented poet and novelist ('Thillana Mohanambal'), and an amazing actor who performed subsidiary roles better than lead players, showcasing his diverse abilities.

» The Story Department: Poets, Lawyers, and Incongruity

प्रश्न 17 (आसान). What was the main job of the Story Department?

उत्तर – To write stories for films.

प्रश्न 18 (आसान). What two types of people were mainly in the Story Department?

उत्तर – Writers and poets.

प्रश्न 19 (मध्यम). Why was the lawyer called 'the opposite' of a legal adviser?

उत्तर – Because his cold, logical actions, like recording the actress, went against the creative, emotional nature of the department and caused harm rather than offering helpful legal advice in a conventional way.

प्रश्न 20 (कठिन). Explain the term 'incongruity' in the context of the Story Department.

उत्तर – Incongruity here refers to the strange and mismatched combination of creative, emotional poets and writers with a very cold, logical, and practical lawyer in the same department. Their contrasting natures made the department unusual and often led to misunderstandings or conflicts, as seen with the actress incident.

» Gemini Studios and Political Aversion: The MRA Visit

प्रश्न 21 (आसान). What political ideology did Gemini Studios generally dislike?

उत्तर – Gemini Studios generally disliked 'Communism'.

प्रश्न 22 (आसान). Who founded the Moral Re-Armament (MRA) army?

उत्तर – The MRA army was founded by Frank Buchman.

प्रश्न 23 (मध्यम). Name the two plays presented by the MRA at Gemini Studios.

उत्तर – The MRA presented two plays: 'Jotham Valley' and 'The Forgotten Factor'.

प्रश्न 24 (कठिन). How did the MRA visit have a 'lasting impact' on Tamil plays?

उत्तर – For many years, almost all Tamil plays adopted a scene of a 'sunrise and sunset in the manner of Jotham Valley', showing the MRA plays' lasting influence.

» The Mysterious English Visitor: A Poet or an Editor?

प्रश्न 25 (आसान). What were the names of English poets the Gemini staff commonly knew?

उत्तर – The Gemini staff commonly knew 'Wordsworth and Tennyson'.

प्रश्न 26 (आसान). What was the main reason for the 'lack of understanding' during the Englishman's speech?

उत्तर – The main reason was that 'no one knew what he was talking about and his accent defeated any attempt to understand what he was saying'.

प्रश्न 27 (मध्यम). Why was the visit of the English poet/editor considered an 'unexplained mystery'?

उत्तर – The visit was considered an 'unexplained mystery' because the Gemini Studios staff, who made Tamil films for common people, could not understand why an English poet would visit them, and what he was trying to convey during his speech.

प्रश्न 28 (कठिन). How did the Boss's speech reflect his limited knowledge about the visitor?

उत्तर – The Boss's speech 'was all in the most general terms' and 'peppered with words like freedom and democracy'. This showed 'he too knew precious little about the poet (or the editor)', as he couldn't talk about the visitor's specific work or identity, relying instead on broad, patriotic themes.

» Unveiling the Mystery: Stephen Spender and 'The God That Failed'

प्रश्न 29 (आसान). What was the name of the book that helped the author identify Stephen Spender?

उत्तर – 'The God That Failed'

प्रश्न 30 (आसान). Where did the author find the book 'The God That Failed'?

उत्तर – On the footpath in front of the Madras Mount Road Post Office.

प्रश्न 31 (मध्यम). What was the main theme described by the eminent men of letters in 'The God That Failed'?

उत्तर – They described 'their journeys into Communism and their disillusioned return'.

प्रश्न 32 (कठिन). How did the revelation about Stephen Spender affect the author's understanding of the past event at Gemini Studios?

उत्तर – The author felt 'a dark chamber of my mind lit up by a hazy illumination', and 'The reaction to Stephen Spender at Gemini Studios was no longer a mystery', meaning he finally understood the purpose behind Spender's visit and the confusion it caused.

हल किए हुए उदाहरण (step-by-step)

उदाहरण 1. Which city was Gemini Studios located in, and what was Asokamitran's main job there?

- › The text states that Gemini Studios was 'located in Chennai'.
- › It also mentions, 'The duty of Asokamitran in Gemini Studios was to cut out newspaper clippings'.
- › So, we identify both pieces of information directly from the provided description.

उत्तर – Gemini Studios was located in Chennai. Asokamitran's main job was to cut out newspaper clippings and store them in files.

उदाहरण 2. Explain the concept of 'National Integration' in the context of Gemini Studios' Make-up Department.

- › The make-up department was not staffed by people from one region.
- › It had a diverse team: a Maharashtrian chief, assisted by a Dharwar Kannadiga, an Andhra, a Madras Indian Christian, an Anglo-Burmese, and local Tamils.
- › This mix of people from different parts of India, working together, demonstrated national integration.
- › The author points out that this happened naturally in the studio, even before national programs on integration began broadcasting on A.I.R. and Doordarshan.

उत्तर – The Gemini Studios' Make-up Department was a living example of national integration because its staff consisted of individuals from various Indian states and communities, working harmoniously long before government initiatives promoted such unity.

उदाहरण 3. Who was the 'office boy' at Gemini Studios, and what were his aspirations and frustrations?

- › Identify the 'office boy' as an older man (in his forties), not a literal boy.
- › Recall his initial aspirations: to become a star actor, top screen writer, director, or lyric writer.
- › Explain his actual role: applying make-up to crowd players, a menial task.
- › Describe his disillusionment: feeling his 'great literary talent' was wasted in a department fit only for 'barbers and perverts'.
- › Mention his habit of venting his frustration to the narrator (Asokamitran).

उत्तर – The 'office boy' at Gemini Studios was a man in his early forties, also a poet, who had joined the studios years ago hoping to become a star actor, top screen writer, director, or lyric writer. However, he was relegated to the menial task of applying make-up to crowd players. This led to deep frustration and disillusionment, as he felt his significant 'literary talent' was being wasted in a department he considered beneath him, often expressing his grievances to the narrator.

उदाहरण 4. Kothamangalam Subbu की किन्हीं तीन प्रतिभाओं का उल्लेख कीजिए।

- › पाठ में Subbu के कई गुणों और क्षमताओं का वर्णन किया गया है।
- › उसकी 'multi-talented' nature को पहचानें।
- › उसकी अलग-अलग भूमिकाओं को याद करें - फिल्म निर्माण में, लेखन में और अभिनय में।
- › उदाहरण के लिए, वह फिल्म के दृश्यों के लिए रचनात्मक सुझाव देता था, एक कवि और उपन्यासकार था, और एक अद्भुत अभिनेता भी था।

उत्तर – Kothamangalam Subbu एक बहु-प्रतिभाशाली व्यक्ति था। उसकी तीन मुख्य प्रतिभाएँ थीं: (1) फिल्म निर्माण में रचनात्मक समस्या-समाधान (जैसे किसी भी मुश्किल सीन के लिए ढेरों विकल्प देना), (2) एक सफल कवि और उपन्यासकार होना (जैसे 'Thillana Mohanambal' लिखना), और (3) एक अद्भुत सहायक अभिनेता होना, जो मुख्य कलाकारों से भी बेहतर प्रदर्शन करता था।

उदाहरण 5. कहानियों के विभाग में वकील की भूमिका किस घटना से सबसे अच्छे से समझाई गई है?

- › पाठ में उस घटना को देखें जहाँ 'an extremely talented actress, who was also extremely temperamental, once blew over on the sets'.
- › ध्यान दें कि उस अभिनेत्री ने गुस्से में प्रोड्यूसर के खिलाफ बहुत कुछ कहा था, और 'everyone stood stunned' थे।
- › इस दौरान, 'the lawyer quietly switched on the recording equipment' और जब अभिनेत्री रुकी, तो 'played back the recording'.
- › उसने अपनी आवाज़ सुनकर 'she was struck dumb' हो गई, क्योंकि 'she hadn't gone through all the stages of worldly experience'.
- › इससे अभिनेत्री का 'brief and brilliant acting career' खत्म हो गया, जो वकील की 'cold logic' और 'incongruous' सोच का परिणाम था।

उत्तर – अभिनेत्री के गुस्से में बोलने की घटना और वकील द्वारा उसकी आवाज़ रिकॉर्ड करके उसे वापस सुनाना, जिससे उसका करियर खत्म हो गया, इस घटना से वकील की 'cold logic' और कवियों से अलग प्रकृति साफ दिखाई देती है।

उदाहरण 6. Explain why Gemini Studios readily welcomed the Moral Re-Armament army, considering their political leanings.

- › Step 1: Identify Gemini Studios' general political stance. The studios were 'averse to Communism'.
- › Step 2: Understand MRA's ideology. The Moral Re-Armament army was explicitly 'anti-Communist'.
- › Step 3: Connect the two. Since both shared an 'anti-Communist' stance, Gemini Studios saw MRA as an ally.
- › Step 4: Describe the welcome. Gemini Studios provided a 'warmer host' to MRA, demonstrating their alignment and enthusiasm.

उत्तर – Gemini Studios readily welcomed the Moral Re-Armament (MRA) army because they shared a common 'political aversion' to Communism. The studio staff were largely 'averse to Communism', and MRA was an 'anti-Communist' group. This ideological alignment made the studios a natural and enthusiastic host for MRA's plays and messages.

उदाहरण 7. पाठ के आधार पर, Gemini Studios के स्टाफ ने शुरू में अंग्रेज मेहमान के बारे में क्या समझा और बाद में उन्हें क्या लगा?

- › शुरुआत में स्टाफ को बताया गया कि 'he was a poet from England'.
- › क्योंकि वे सिर्फ Wordsworth, Tennyson जैसे कवियों को जानते थे, उन्हें यह नया नाम समझ नहीं आया।
- › जब वासन जैसे लोगों ने बताया कि वे एक संपादक भी हैं, तो स्टाफ को लगा कि 'He is not a poet. He is an editor.'
- › तो अंत में सब 'confused' थे कि वह कवि हैं या संपादक।

उत्तर – शुरुआत में, स्टाफ ने उन्हें 'एक अंग्रेज कवि' समझा, लेकिन बाद में कुछ लोगों को लगा कि वे वास्तव में 'एक संपादक' थे। यह 'पहचान का भ्रम' उनके पूरे दौर की एक बड़ी विशेषता थी।

उदाहरण 8. लेखक को Stephen Spender की पहचान और उनके Gemini Studios आने का मकसद कैसे पता चला?

- › लेखक Gemini Studios छोड़ने के कई साल बाद Madras Mount Road Post Office के बाहर फुटपाथ पर किताबें देख रहे थे।
- › वहाँ उन्होंने एक पुरानी किताब खरीदी जिसका नाम था 'The God That Failed' मात्र पचास पैसे में।
- › इस किताब में छह प्रसिद्ध लेखकों के निबंध थे, जिन्होंने कम्युनिज्म में अपनी यात्रा और उससे मोहभंग के बारे में लिखा था।
- › इनमें से एक लेखक Stephen Spender थे, जो लेखक को तुरंत याद आ गए कि ये वही व्यक्ति थे जो Gemini Studios आए थे।
- › इस तरह किताब पढ़कर उन्हें Spender की पहचान और उनके दौर का असली उद्देश्य समझ आया, जिससे उनका सारा भ्रम दूर हो गया।

उत्तर – लेखक को Stephen Spender की पहचान और उनके Gemini Studios आने का मकसद 'The God That Failed' नामक कतिब पढ़कर पता चला, जसिमें Spender ने कम्युनिज्म से अपने मोहभंग के बारे में लिखा था।

बोर्ड परीक्षा के लिए खास

- इस चैप्टर से अक्सर Gemini Studios के महत्व और लेखक की भूमिका पर आधारित प्रश्न आते हैं। उनकी 'insignificant function' के बावजूद 'well-informed' होने का कारण समझना ज़रूरी है।
- यह हिस्सा अक्सर 'National Integration' और 'Fiery Misery' पर आधारित छोटे प्रश्न (2-3 अंक) पूछने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है। make-up department में अलग-अलग राज्यों के लोग कैसे काम करते थे, इसे याद रखना।
- इस character sketch को अच्छे से तैयार करना, क्योंकि यह Gemini Studios के 'human element' और 'frustration' को दिखाता है, जो अक्सर long answer questions में पूछा जाता है।
- The incident with the actress clearly shows the lawyer's character. Explain this incident in detail to score well.
- यह प्रश्न अक्सर 'short answer' या 'long answer' में आता है कि MRA का दौरा क्यों हुआ और इसका क्या प्रभाव पड़ा। उनके 'political aversion' और 'ideological alignment' को समझना ज़रूरी है।
- यह हिस्सा अक्सर 'character sketch' या 'theme-based questions' में आता है, जहाँ आपको 'miscommunication' और 'cultural differences' को समझना होता है। इस बात पर ध्यान देना कि 'why' the visit remained a mystery.
- यह प्रश्न कई बार पूछा जाता है कि लेखक ने Stephen Spender की पहचान कैसे की, तो 'The God That Failed' किताब का नाम और उसकी सामग्री ज़रूर याद रखना।

एक नज़र में रिवीज़न

- › Gemini Studios: Chennai, 1940, S.S. Vasan founder. Asokamitran: narrator, cut clippings, well-informed.
- › Make-up department: fiery misery, national integration, strict hierarchy, office boy.
- › Office boy: 40s poet, unfulfilled dream to be star/writer, disillusioned by menial make-up.
- › Story Department: Poets + Lawyer (incongruous mix); Lawyer's cold logic ended actress's career; Department closed.
- › Studios 'averse to Communism', welcomed 'anti-Communist' MRA; MRA plays left lasting impact.
- › English visitor to Gemini Studios: Poet or Editor? Baffling visit, no one understood his accent or purpose.
- › Stephen Spender identified via 'The God That Failed' years later, solving Gemini Studios mystery.