

# GURU GOBIND SINGH PUBLIC SCHOOL

## CHAPTER 1 THE LAST LESSON By Alphonse Daudet (1840-1897)

### Gist of the lesson

'The Last Lesson' revolves around the language and its importance to the citizens of a country. The lesson depicts how after defeating France in the war, the Prussians wanted to rule over not only the territory of France but also over the minds and hearts of the people. The story reinforces the fact that we value something more when it is lost. The pain and anguish of the students and the teacher is evident as everyone realizes how things were taken for granted. The lesson emphasizes the importance of the mother tongue for everyone and the need to realize the fact that it is our language which gives our identity, respect and freedom.

### CHARACTERS:

M HAMEL-He is a French language teacher who served forty years to his nation and language but at the end of his last lesson he breaks down.

FRANZ-A school boy

### SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

- 1 Why did the narrator want to skip school on the day of the last lesson?
2. Who occupied the back benches in the classroom on the day of the last lesson?
3. What announcement did M Hamel make? What was impact of this on Franz?
4. How were the parents and M Hamel responsible for the children's neglect of the French language?
5. What did the M Hamel tell them about the French language? what did he ask them to do and why?
6. How did M Hamel say farewell to his students and the people of the town?
7. What words did M Hamel write on the blackboard before dismissing the last class? What did they mean?

### LONG TYPE QUESTIONS

1. How was the last lesson different from earlier lessons?
2. Write a character sketch on little Franz.
3. Write a character sketch on M Hamel.
4. Justify the title, 'The Last Lesson'.

## Writing Section

II.A On the eve of World Environment Day, your school has decided to have a face painting competition. Draft a notice in not more than 50 words for your school notice board giving details. You are Radhika/Naresh, The Head Girl/Boy, Jeevan Public School, Mohan Nagar.

II.B You are Radhika/Naresh, The Head Girl/Boy, Jeevan Public School, Mohan Nagar. Draft a notice in not more than 50 words for your school notice board giving details about the Teacher's Day celebration to be held in your school.

II.C Of late, many incidents of fake academic degrees of ministers *are* coming into the limelight. It would have been easier had steps been taken to ensure the credibility of the degrees before the ministers were elected. After these things surface, political parties' only contribution is mudslinging. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the editor of a national daily expressing your views on the topic. You are Radhika/Naresh.

II.D. The best way to get new talent would be reviving of Talent Resource Development Officer's (TRDO) Wing. However, **it** is important that such a wing be developed for all the sports so that players from lesser known states, who would otherwise be ignored **at** the expense of those from the dominant teams of the zone, receive precious openings. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the Head of the institution asking for the relevant details. You are Radhika/Naresh.

II E. Recently you read a report in the newspaper about presence of alcohol in a Gandhidhambased energy drink. This was despite the fact that Gujarat was a dry state. Gujarat.. Write a debate in 150-200 words expressing your views for/against the topic, 'Forcing people to follow rules and regulations pushes them towards crime'.

II.F Students leave their prestigious seats (ITT, TIM, ATIMS) and pursue higher level courses abroad. Government spends a lot of money on these students and all this money goes waste when students opt for courses in foreign countries. Write a debate in 150-200 words expressing your views for/against this topic.

II.G Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) blacklisted at least 32 products from various prominent brands. Though this sudden crackdown by FSSAI is highly commendable, you feel **it** is also leading to a lot of waste of money and resources. **If** FSSAI had made **it** compulsory to check the products periodically, such a situation would never have come up. Write an article in 150-200 words expressing your views on this issue. You are Radhika/Naresh.