



# English Language Zone

JSC, SSC & HSC English

592 North Shahjahanpur, Dhaka. 01772828790

## MODEL QUESTION 10

Unit: 7, lesson: 1

Read the following passage and answer the questions following it

The pioneer of Bangladeshi modern art Zainul Abedin is widely acclaimed for his Bengal 'Famine Sketches'. Through a series of sketches, Zainul not only documented the harsh famine of 1940 but also showed its sinister face through the skeletal figures of the people destined to die of starvation in a man-made plight. He depicted these extremely shocking pictures with human compassion. He made his own ink by burning charcoal and using cheap ordinary packing paper for sketching. He produced a series of brush and ink drawings, which later became iconic images of human sufferings.

Zainul developed a knack for drawing and painting when he was a high school student. After completing high school, he got admission to the Government School of Art, Calcutta (now Kolkata). He graduated with the first position in first class in 1938. He was appointed teacher of the Art School while he was still a student there. He also attended the Slade School of Arts, London in 1951-52.

Zainul Abedin is considered the founding father of Bangladeshi art. He was an artist of outstanding talent and earned international reputation. For his artistic and visionary qualities, he is referred to as *Shilpacharya* meaning 'great teacher of art' in Bangladesh. He was the first Principal of the first art school in Dhaka in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). He organized the *Nabanna* (harvest) exhibition in 1969. In the exhibition, a 65-foot long scroll portraying the rural East Pakistan in phases from abundance to poverty. This intensified the already heightened non-cooperation movement against the Pakistan regime. The exhibition was symbolic of the artists' protest and a milestone in demanding cultural and political freedom. Zainul's dynamic style of work is evident in a 30 foot long scroll painting called *Manpura*, which was done to commemorate the death of hundreds and thousands of people in the devastating cyclone of 1970.

He designed the pages of Constitution of Bangladesh. He founded the Folk Art Museum at Sonargoan, and also Zainul Abedin *Shangrahasala*, a gallery of his own works in Mymensing in 1975.

The river Brahmaputra plays a predominant role in his paintings and a source of inspiration all through his career. Much of his childhood was spent near the scenic beauty of the river Brahmaputra. A series of water colours that Zainul did as his tribute to the river earned him the Governor's Gold Medal in an all-India exhibition in 1938. This was the first time when he came into spotlight and this award gave him the confidence to create his own visual style.

1. Choose the correct answer from the alternatives.

1x7=7

- (a) The word 'starvation' refers to \_\_\_\_\_  
(i) poverty            (ii) feast            (iii) fast            (iv) impoverish
- (b) The word 'compassion' refers to \_\_\_\_\_  
i) disfavor            ii) cruelty            iii) unkind            iv) clemency
- (c) The word 'predominant' refers to \_\_\_\_\_

- i) master      ii) descended      iii) decreasing      iv) omnipotent
- (d) Zainul Abedin was appointed as a teacher of the Art School\_\_\_\_\_.
- (i) after completing high school      (ii) after completing graduate  
(iii) after completing post graduate      (iv) while he was a student
- (e) Which of the following statement is true?
- i) Manpura is the name of an Island      ii) Zainul Abedin was the founder of Pakistan art  
iii) Navanna is a painting of rural scenery      iv) none of them
- (f) Zainul Abedin was the first principal of the first Art School in \_\_\_\_\_.
- i) West Pakistan ii) East Pakistan. iii) India      iv) Bangladesh
- (g) The river Brahmaputra had an \_\_\_\_\_ on Zainul Abedin.
- i) education      ii) ignorance      iii) influence      iv) role
- (h) The word “**confidence**” is a/an \_\_\_\_\_
- i) noun      ii) adjective      iii) adverb      iv) verb
- (i) The word “**iconic**” is a/an \_\_\_\_\_
- i) noun      ii) adjective      iii) adverb      iv) verb
- (j) Zainul Abedin put up the grim picture of famine through sketching \_\_\_\_\_
- i. skinned-boned human figures    ii. the dying people    iii. the sickly human figures    iv. the unfed people
- (k) To which state affairs did Zainul Abedin contribute?
- i. He designed the pages of Constitution of Bangladesh.    ii. He set up the Folk Art Museum.  
iii. He established an Art Gallery in Mymensing.    iv. He organized Nabanna Exhibition.
- (l) (Which of the following facts indicates his gratitude to someone or something ?
- i. He drew famine sketches      ii. He portrayed abundance to poverty  
iii. He gave tribute to a river      iv. All the answers are correct
- (m) He is greatly \_\_\_\_\_ for his "**Famine Sketches**".
- i. jeered      ii. denounced      iii. applauded      iv. damned
- (n) \_\_\_\_\_ intensified the already heightened non-cooperation movement against the Pakistan regime.
- i. Nabanna (harvest) exhibition    ii. 65-foot long scroll    iii. Manpura    iv. Cyclone of 1970



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- (o) The word "knack" means \_\_\_\_\_
- i. skillfulness      ii. inability      iii. ineptitude      iv. lack
- (p) What does the word 'acclaimed' mean?
- i. proclaimed      ii. approved      iii. renowned      iv. recognized
- (q) Which of the following information is true about famine?
- i. it was a man-made plight      ii. it led many people to die  
iii. people died of hunger      iv. all the answers are correct
- (r) What does the phrase 'Famine Sketches' mean?
- i. artwork on famine drawn by pencil      ii. artwork on famine  
iii. artwork on famine drawn in pencil      iv. all the answers are correct
- (s) What does the phrase 'destined to' mean in the above passage?
- i. desired      ii. fated      iii. due to      iv. destroy
- (t) 'Shilpacharya' means \_\_\_\_\_
- i. great teacher of music      ii. great teacher of dance      iii. great teacher of art      iv. great teacher of jokes
- (u) What does the word 'sinister' mean?
- i. Auspicious      ii. Inauspicious      iii. Serious      iv. Peculiar

2. Answer the following questions.

2x5=10

- a) Who is ZAinul Abedin? Give a short description about him.
- b) What intensified the non-cooperation movement against Pakistan regime?
- c) What did he found in Shonargaon and why?
- d) Why and when did he draw Manpura?
- e) Why is he widely acclaimed?

Partha Pratim Majumder is the first Bangladeshi to take up mime as a profession. He performed in a number of television shows in Bangladesh and gained popularity. In his mime, Majumder depicted the day-to-day life of the people. There was sadness, tears as well as happiness and laughter. Majumder's turning point of life came in 1979, when he was asked to give a solo performance in Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The then French ambassador Loic Moreau happened to be among the audience. Mr. Moreau noticed the talent in Majumder. In 1981, the French Government offered him a scholarship so that he

could get professional training in mime. This was the first time that a student was granted a French scholarship in mime. Majumder started his training under the legendary maestro, Etienne Decroux. Through Decroux, he met another celebrated mime artist named Marcel Marceau. Marceau has transformed modern mime by taking it to an unimaginable height.

3. Fill in the blanks with suitable words.

1 × 5 = 5

Majumder's father (a)\_\_\_\_\_ him to appreciate different forms of art. He was the first Bangladeshi who (b)\_\_\_\_\_ mime as a profession. He is not popular in Bangladesh but in (c)\_\_\_\_\_ countries. He was the first student who got (d)\_\_\_\_\_ in mime from French Government. He started his training (e)\_\_\_\_\_ famous trainees.

