

Kathmandu

by Vikram Seth

Chapter Sketch

The chapter 'Kathmandu' is taken from the book 'Heaven Lake' written by Vikram Seth. The author has written about his visit to Kathmandu and specially about visit to Pashupatinath temple and a 'Baudhnath Stupa' a Buddhist shrine. The description about the chaos and confusing atmosphere in and around Pashupatinath temple is very vivid and interesting. Only Hindus are allowed to enter this temple. In contrast, the atmosphere at Baudhnath Stupa is very peaceful and the place is less crowded. The author has described the city Kathmandu also as a mercenary and religious place with vendors selling different items in its busy streets.

About the Characters

The Author The author is a traveller who shares his experience of visiting Kathmandu, Nepal where he saw two famous temples and was charmed by the beauty and culture of the city.

Summary of the Chapter

Author's Visit to Pashupatinath Temple

The author arrives at Kathmandu and decides to visit the famous temple of Hindus: Pashupatinath. Only Hindus are allowed to get inside the temple. There is a great chaos in and around the temple. All sorts of people like priests, hawkers, devotees and tourists are there. Cows, monkeys, pigeons and dogs also roam around the place. Everybody wants to enter the main temple. Some Western devotees are not allowed by the guards as they are not Hindus.

Belief Regarding the End of Kaliyug

The river Bagmati flows by the side of the Pashupatinath temple. There is a small shrine on the river bank which half protrudes from the stone platform. The people believe that one day, the entire shrine will come out, then the Goddess inside it will escape and would thus bring an end to the evil period of Kaliyug.

Author's Visit to the Baudhnath Stupa

The author visits another famous holy shrine: The Baudhnath stupa which is surrounded by tranquility (peaceful atmosphere) unlike the Pashupatinath temple. There is a sense of stillness. Small shops of Tibetan immigrants (people coming from Tibet) on the outer edge sell bags, Tibetan prints and silver jewellery.

Vivid Description of Kathmandu

The author explores Kathmandu and its local markets. The city is crowded and lively. There are small shrines and deities along the narrowest and busiest streets. The streets are crowded with fruit sellers, flute sellers, hawkers, etc. People play film songs loudly on the radios, car horns play and cycle bells ring. The author enjoys a lot but plans to return to his home. He goes to a Nepal Airlines office and buys a ticket for Delhi. Then, he returns to his hotel to take some rest.

Author Sees a Flute Seller

Coming back to hotel, the author sees a flute seller. Unlike other sellers he never shouts to sell his flutes. He looks to be in love with the music of the flute. His music soothes the author's ears. It reminds him of the commonality of all mankind. The author always gets attached with the music of flute. He says that every culture has its flute as there is a deep *bansuri* of Hindustani classical music, clear and breathy flutes of South America, high pitched flutes of China. So, it can be said that flute is played universally.

The phrases on the *bansuri* affect the author deeply. He is surprised as he had not noticed such details in his earlier visits.

Chapter Highlights

- 1 The author goes to Kathmandu and visits the famous Pashupatinath temple which is only for Hindu devotees.
- 2 Huge crowd of priests, hawkers, devotees, tourists, stray cows, fighting monkeys, pigeons and dogs make the atmosphere chaotic.
- 3 He visits another holy shrine-Baudhnath stupa, a Buddhist shrine. It has a calm and peaceful atmosphere unlike the Pashupatinath temple.
- 4 Tibetan immigrants sell various items there.
- 5 The author finds Kathmandu a crowded but more religious, vivid and mercenary (money oriented) city. The streets are noisy and busy with hawkers, shopkeepers, stray cows, honking sound of vehicles and tourists. He enjoys a lot being there but due to home sickness plans to return to home by air. He gets mesmerised by the melodious music of flute by flute seller. The author analyses the significance of flute in various cultures across the world.

Word Meanings

The given page nos. correspond to the pages in the prescribed textbook.

Word	Meaning
PAGE 127	
surroundings	the places, coordinate or objects that are around something
description	a spoken or written account of a place, person or event
sacred	holy; worthy of respect
proclaim	announce publicly; declare
entrance	entry
febrile	confusion hurried activity; complete chaos
priest	a person who has the authority to lead or perform religious ceremonies
hawker	someone who sells goods in public places
devotee	a strong believer in a particular religion or God.
roam	to move about without purpose; wander
appears	comes
bow	to bend (body or head) to show respect
saffron-clad	covered in yellowish clothes
struggle	to try very hard to do something
permission	approval to do something
convinced	to be completely certain about something
screaming	to cry out suddenly in a loud and high voice due to pain, surprise, etc.
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corpse	dead body
cremate	dispose of a dead body by burning it to ashes
offerings	something that is given to God as a part of religious worship
wilted	dried
shrine	a religious place
protrude	extend above a surface
emerges	comes out
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chase	to follow
elbowed	push or strike someone with one's elbow
contrast	in comparison
stillness	quietness
immense	huge; big
dome	a large rounded roof that is shaped like half of a ball
immigrant	a person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country.
felt	a soft, heavy cloth made by pressing together fibers of wool, cotton etc.
quietness	peace

Kathmandu (Section C)

Word	Meaning
vivid	lively
mercenary	working for money or other reward
religious	pious; godly
flower-adorned	decorated by flowers
deities	gods or Goddesses
utensils	pots
antique	a collectable object such as a piece of furniture or work of art that has a high value because of its age and quantity.
blare out	(here) played loudly
stray	having no home or having wandered away from home
questioningly	in a curious and questioning manner
vendors	sellers
wares	items that are offered for sale
indulge	to allow yourself to have or do something as a special pleasure

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mindlessly	requiring very little attention or thought
marzipan	a sweet made with grated almond
roast	to cook food over a fire
charcoal	a hard black material that is made by burning wood with small amount of air.
brazier	open stove
pavement	footpath
rubbed	applied
nauseating	sickening
consider	to think carefully
propelled	(here) to go
enthusiasm	great excitement
exhausted	tired
homesick	longing for one's family or home
attachment	(here) hook or rope
quills	the hollow sharp spines of a porcupine

Word	Meaning
porcupine	a large rodent with defensive quills on the body and tail
meditatively	thoughtfully
excessive	too much
display	show
occasionally	occurring at times
curiously	strangely
offhanded	too casual
incidental	less important
enterprise	a business
pattern	style
culture	civilisation
reed	a thin strip of wood, metal or plastic inside some musical instruments that makes a sound when you blow over it
classical	traditional
breathy	(here) played with the sound of a person's breath
corn-on-the-cob	the part of the maize plant that is shaped like a cylinder and is cooked with the sweet yellow or white grain in it.

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high-pitched	(of a sound) high
specific	special; particular
compass	(here) range
weaves	(here) creates
associations	contacts; links
drawn into	attracted
commonality	common points
mankind	human beings
motive force	the force responsible to play the flute
familiar	known
occasions	events
certainly	surely
invested	observed
significance	importance

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NCERT FOLDER

Here we have covered questions given in the NCERT textbook along with their answers.)

Thinking about the Text (Page 132)

I. Answer these questions in one or two words or in short phrases.

1 Name the two temples the author visited in Kathmandu.

Ans. Pashupatinath temple and the Baudhnath stupa.

2 The writer says, "All this I wash down with Coca Cola." What does 'all this' refer to?

Ans. A bar of marzipan and a corn-on-the-cob.

3 What does Vikram Seth compare to the quills of a porcupine?

Ans. The fifty or sixty bansuris protruding in all directions from to the pole of the flute seller.

4 Name five kinds of flutes.

Ans. The reed *neh*, the recorder, the Japanese *shakuhachi*, the deep *bansuri* of Hindustani classical music and the clear or breathy flutes of South America.

II. Answer each question in a short paragraph.

1 What difference does the author note between the flute seller and the other hawkers?

Ans. The author noticed the difference in the way the vendors were selling their respective products. The other blared out their wares while the flute seller sold the flutes in a slow, meditative and without shouting out his wares.

2 What is the belief at Pashupatinath about the end of Kaliyug?

Ans. At Pashupatinath, there is a small shrine on the bank of Bagmati river that half protrudes from the stone. The belief is that when it emerges fully, the goddess inside will escape and the evil period of Kaliyug will end on the Earth.

3 The author has drawn powerful images and pictures. Pick out three examples each of

(i) the atmosphere of 'febrile confusion' outside the temple of Pashupatinath (for example, some people trying to get the priest's attention are elbowed aside...)

(ii) the things he sees

(iii) the sounds he hears

Ans. (i) Many worshippers trying to get the priest's attention were elbowed aside by others pushing their way to the front. On the main gate, a party of saffron-clad Westerners struggled for permission to enter as only Hindus were allowed to enter the temple. A fight broke out between two monkeys. One was chasing the other who jumped onto a *shivalinga*, then ran screaming around the temples and down to the river, the holy Bagmati.

(ii) He saw that the Baudhnath stupa had an immense white dome, which was ringed by a road. Small shops were there on the outer edge where felt bags, Tibetan prints and silver jewellery could be bought. There were no crowds there. On the busiest streets of Kathmandu, he saw fruit sellers, flute sellers, hawkers of postcards, shops selling Western cosmetics, film rolls, chocolates, copper utensils and Nepalese antiques.

(iii) The sounds he heard were film songs that were blaring out from the radios, car horns, bicycle bells and vendors shouting out their wares. He also listened to flute music, calling it the most universal and most particular of sounds.

III. Answer the following questions in not more than 100-150 words each.

1 Compare and contrast the atmosphere in and around the Baudhnath shrine with the Pashupatinath temple.

Ans. There was a stark difference between the atmosphere of Buddhist shrine and the Hindu temple. One was a true reflection of sheer silence and the other was a reflection of noise and boisterousness. The atmosphere at Pashupatinath temple was noisy, chaotic and confusing. Worshippers were trying to get the priest's attention and others were pushing their way to the front.

A few foreigners were trying to enter the temple; monkeys were fighting and adding to the noise; a corpse was being cremated on the banks of the river Bagmati; washerwomen were at their work while their children were bathing. In contrast, the Baudhnath stupa was a haven (place) of quietness in the busy streets around.

There was a sense of stillness and serenity around the Buddhist shrine. There was neither crowd nor noise. Only silence prevailed there. Hence, it can be said that the conditions at these two religious places were completely different.

2 How does the author describe Kathmandu's busiest streets?

Ans. The author has described Kathmandu vividly. He has described all its dimension. The city life, the commercial centres, the temples and all that which is a part of the city life. The city has been described as living. It has the people with their generous outpouring for the visitors. Along Kathmandu's narrowest and busiest streets, there were small shrines and flower-adorned deities. Apart from these, there were fruit sellers, flute sellers, hawkers of postcards, shops selling Western cosmetics, film rolls, chocolates, copper utensils and Nepalese antiques.

The author heard film songs that were blaring out from the radios, sounds of car horns and bicycle bells and vendors shouting out their wares. He also saw a flute seller with many flutes. He was playing a flute meditatively and was not shouting out his wares. He contrasts the serene music produced by the flute seller with the cries of the hawkers and the sound of traffic.

3 "To hear any flute is to be drawn into the commonality of all mankind." Why does the author say this?

Ans. Music, itself, is a commonality for the mankind. Music draws everyone to the fore where all the thing is considered equal, sober and serene. The one who knows and understands music, is very much sure about the way it brings all together. It doesn't matter how this music is produced but every instrument has the same way of commonality. The author considers flute music to be the most universal and most particular of all music. There is no culture that does not have its flute. The Japanese have their *Shakuhachi*, the Indians have the *bansuri*, the South Americans have the breathy flute and the Chinese have the high-pitched flutes.

Each kind of flute has a specific fingering and compass and weaves its own associations. Still, for the author, to hear any flute is to be drawn into the commonality of all mankind. In spite of their differences, every flute produces music with the help of the human breath. Similarly, in spite of the differences in caste, culture, religion and region; all human beings are the same, with the same living breath running through all of them.

Thinking about Language (Page 132)

I. Read the following sentences carefully to understand the meaning of the italicised phrases. Then match the phrasal verbs in Column A with their meanings in Column B.

- (i) A communal war *broke out* when the princess was abducted by the neighbouring prince.
- (ii) The cockpit *broke off* from the plane during the plane crash.
- (iii) The car *broke down* on the way and we were left stranded in the jungle.
- (iv) The dacoit *broke away* from the police as they took him to court.
- (v) The brothers *broke up* after the death of the father.
- (vi) The thief *broke into* our house when we were away.

A	B
(i) break out	(a) to come apart due to force
(ii) break off	(b) end a relationship
(iii) break down	(c) break and enter illegally; unlawful trespassing
(iv) break away (from someone)	(d) to start suddenly, (usually a fight, a war or a disease)
(v) break up	(e) to escape from someone's grip
(vi) break into	(f) stop working

Ans. (i) (d), (ii) (a), (iii) (f), (iv) (e), (v) (b), (vi) (b)

II. 1 Use the suffixes *_ion* or *_tion* to form nouns from the following verbs. Make the necessary changes in the spellings of the words.

Example proclaim—proclamation

cremate _____ act _____ exhaust _____
 invent _____ tempt _____ immigrate _____
 direct _____ meditate _____ imagine _____
 dislocate _____ associate _____ dedicate _____

Ans. cremate : cremation act : action exhaust : exhaustion
 invent : invention tempt : temptation immigrate : immigration
 direct : direction meditate : meditation imagine : imagination
 dislocate : dislocation associate : association dedicate : dedication

2 Now fill in the blanks with suitable words from the ones that you have formed.

- (i) Mass literacy was possible only after the _____ of the printing machine.
- (ii) Ramesh is unable to tackle the situation as he lacks _____.
- (iii) I could not resist the _____ to open the letter.

(iv) Hardwork and _____ are the main keys to success.

(v) The children were almost fainting with _____ after being made to stand in the sun.

Ans. (i) Mass literacy was possible only after the invention of the printing machine.

(ii) Ramesh is unable to tackle the situation as he lacks imagination.

(iii) I could not resist the temptation to open the letter.

(iv) Hardwork and dedication are the main keys to success.

(v) The children were almost fainting with exhaustion after being made to stand in the sun.

III. Punctuation

Use capital letter, full stops, question marks, commas and inverted commas wherever necessary in the following paragraph.

An arrogant lion was wandering through the jungle one day he asked the tiger who is stronger than you you O lion replied the tiger who is more fierce than a leopard asked the lion you sir replied the leopard he marched upto an elephant and asked the same question the elephant picked him up in his trunk swung him in the air and threw him down look said the lion there is no need to get mad just because you don't know the answer.

Ans. An arrogant lion was wandering through the jungle one day. He asked the tiger, "Who is stronger than you?" "You, O lion!" replied the tiger. "Who is more fierce than a leopard?" asked the lion. "You, sir," replied the leopard. He marched upto an elephant and asked the same question. The elephant picked him up in his trunk, swung him in the air and threw him down. "Look," said the lion, "There is no need to get mad just because you don't know the answer".

Exam Practice

Extract Based Questions

[4 Marks each]

Read the following extracts carefully and choose the correct option.

1 At Pashupatinath (outside which a sign proclaims 'Entrance for the Hindus only') there is an atmosphere of 'febrile confusion'. Priests, hawkers, devotees, tourists, cows, monkeys, pigeons and dogs roam through the grounds. We offer a few flowers.

- (i) What is written on a sign outside Pashupatinath temple in Kathmandu?
 - (a) Remove shoes
 - (b) Stand in line
 - (c) No offerings
 - (d) Only for Hindus
- (ii) What type of atmosphere prevails in and around the temple?
 - (a) Excitement
 - (b) Spiritual calm
 - (c) Utter chaos
 - (d) Too much noise
- (iii) Who all roam through the grounds near Pashupatinath temple?
 - (a) Priests and devotees
 - (b) Tourists and hawkers
 - (c) Animals like cows and monkeys
 - (d) All of the above
- (iv) Find a word from the extract which means 'Announces'.
 - (a) Febrile
 - (b) Offer
 - (c) Proclaim
 - (d) Roam

- Ans.** (i) (d) Only for Hindus
(ii) (c) Utter chaos
(iii) (d) All of the above
(iv) (c) Proclaim

2 A princess of the Nepalese royal house appears; everyone bows and makes way. By the main gate, a party of saffron-clad Westerners struggle for permission to enter.

- (i) How is royalty treated in Nepal?
 - (a) No attention
 - (b) Treated as commoners
 - (c) With great regards and attention
 - (d) None of the above
- (ii) Who struggle for the permission to enter the temple?
 - (a) Some bishops
 - (b) Saffron clad Westerners
 - (c) Tourists
 - (d) Some children

(iii) Which word in the passage will mean the same as to make forceful efforts to get free of restraint?

- (a) Clad
- (b) Struggle
- (c) Permission
- (d) Appears

(iv) Who came to visit the famous Pashupatinath temple?

- (a) A Minister
- (b) Governor
- (c) Princess of Nepalese royal family
- (d) King of Nepal

Ans. (i) (c) With great regards and attention

(ii) (b) Saffron clad Westerners

(iii) (b) Permission

(iv) (c) Princess of Nepalese royal family

3 A small shrine half protrudes from the stone platform on the river bank. When it emerges fully, the goddess inside will escape, and the evil period of the Kaliyug will end on earth.

(i) Where is the small shrine situated?

- (a) Inside the temple
- (b) Near temple
- (c) On the bank of river Bagmati
- (d) None of the above

(ii) When will the evil period of Kaliyug end?

- (a) By end of the century
- (b) When shrine goes inside the river
- (c) When shrine emerges fully from water
- (d) No one knows

(iii) Find a word from the extract which means 'thrust forward'.

- (a) Bend
- (b) Bow down
- (c) Protrude
- (d) Emerges

(iv) Where does holy Bagmati river flow?

- (a) Just below the Pashupatinath temple
- (b) In the middle of the temple
- (c) A little away from the temple
- (d) It is not there

Ans. (i) (c) On the bank of river Bagmati

(ii) (c) When shrine emerges fully from water

(iii) (c) Protrude

(iv) (a) Just below the Pashupatinath temple

4 Small shops stand on its outer edge: many of these are owned by Tibetan immigrants; felt bags, Tibetan prints and silver jewellery can be bought here.

- (i) Where do the small shops stand?
 - (a) Near the Pashupatinath temple
 - (b) Near Buddhist Stupa
 - (c) In the heart of city
 - (d) On the border of India
- (ii) Who own these small shops ?
 - (a) Nepalese shopkeepers
 - (b) Tibetan immigrants
 - (c) Indians
 - (d) No specific person
- (iii) What all is being sold in these small shops?
 - (a) Silver jewellery
 - (b) Felt bags
 - (c) Tibetan prints
 - (d) All of these
- (iv) Find a word which is opposite of 'citizen'.
 - (a) Tibetan
 - (b) Outer
 - (c) Immigrant
 - (d) Protrude

Ans. (i) (b) Near Buddhist Stupa
 (ii) (b) Tibetan immigrants
 (iii) (d) All of these
 (iv) (c) Immigrant

5 Kathmandu is vivid, mercenary, religious, with small shrines to flower-adorned deities along the narrowest and busiest streets; with fruit sellers, flute sellers, hawkers of postcards; shops selling Western cosmetics, film rolls and chocolate; or copper utensils and Nepalese antiques.

- (i) According to author which adjectives describe Kathmandu?
 - (a) Vivid or varied
 - (b) Mercenary
 - (c) Religious
 - (d) All of these
- (ii) What are sold in the markets of 'Kathmandu'?
 - (a) Western cosmetics and copper utensils
 - (b) Nepalese antiques
 - (c) Electronic items
 - (d) All of these
- (iii) What can be the similar meaning word from the extract for 'Gods'?
 - (a) Shrines
 - (b) Mercenary
 - (c) Deities
 - (d) Hawkers
- (iv) What impression do we get about Kathmandu from this extract?
 - (a) Religious
 - (b) Peaceful
 - (c) Commercial
 - (d) Both 'a' and 'c'

Ans. (i) (d) All of these
 (ii) (d) All of these
 (iii) (c) Deities
 (iv) (d) Both 'a' and 'c'

6 But I am too exhausted and homesick; today is the last day of August. Go home. I tell myself: move directly towards home. I enter a Nepal Airlines office and buy a ticket for tomorrow's flight.

- (i) Who is 'I' referred to here is this extract?
 - (a) A priest
 - (b) A tourist
 - (c) Author Vikram Seth
 - (d) A Tibetan shopkeeper
- (ii) Why does the author want to return home?
 - (a) Feeling homesick
 - (b) Had fallen ill
 - (c) Does not like the place
 - (d) Very bored
- (iii) Why does he go to Nepal Airlines office?
 - (a) To get a job
 - (b) To buy a ticket
 - (c) To inquire about flights
 - (d) To meet a friend
- (iv) What will be the antonym of 'Exhausted'?
 - (a) Homesick
 - (b) Tired
 - (c) Energetic
 - (d) Joyful

Ans. (i) (c) Author Vikram Seth
 (ii) (a) Feeling homesick
 (iii) (b) To buy a ticket
 (iv) (c) Energetic

7 Yet to hear any flute is, it seems to me, to be drawn into the commonality of all mankind, to be moved by music closest in its phrases and sentences to the human voice. Its motive force too is living breath.

- (i) What is the motive force behind the music of a flute?
 - (a) Power
 - (b) Hands
 - (c) Living breath
 - (d) Ears
- (ii) How does hearing of flute affect the author?
 - (a) Feels excited
 - (b) goes in trance
 - (c) He feels mesmerised
 - (d) Feels bored
- (iii) Which word will be antonym of 'dissimilarity' in this extract?
 - (a) Impression
 - (b) Moved
 - (c) Commonality
 - (d) Diversity
- (iv) What has been described in the extract?
 - (a) Kathmandu
 - (b) Temples
 - (c) Flute music and its effect
 - (d) Commercial sector of Kathmandu

Ans. (i) (c) Living breath
 (ii) (c) He feels mesmerised
 (iii) (c) Commonality
 (iv) (c) Flute music and its effect

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

[2 Marks each]

- 1 Why are the devotees involved in a kind of mad race at Pashupatinath temple?
Ans. The devotees are involved in a kind of mad race at Pashupatinath temple in order to get the priest's attention. They want the priest to give their offerings to the God. Pushing, elbowing and shoving were the common practice there.
- 2 What happens when a Nepalese princess comes to the temple?
Ans. The family is worth respecting if it is royal. In the course of time, whenever someone from the royal family appears, respect is shown. When a Nepalese Princess comes to the temple, everyone bows and make way for her in order to show respect.
- 3 What do the people do near the river Bagmati?
Ans. A river is the life line of a place. One can see many activities going on at the bank of the river. The same was there at the bank of the Bagmati. People are indulged in various activities like cremating a corpse, washing clothes, bathing and throwing old offerings of flowers.
- 4 What make Buddhist shrine Baudhnath stupa important?
Ans. The Buddhist shrine Baudhnath stupa at Kathmandu has a sense of calmness. The shrine is important because it is a symbol of peace and serenity for the people of Kathmandu. There is no crowd, no jostling and no noise at all. It is totally in contrast to the Pashupatinath temple.
- 5 What did the Tibetan immigrants do near the Baudhnath stupa?
Ans. Whenever the immigrants settle at a place then they start doing activities of trade and commerce so that their living can be earned. The Tibetan immigrants sold felt bags, Tibetan prints, silver jewellery etc. near the 'Baudhnath stupa'.
- 6 In the chapter 'Kathmandu' what do you mean by "The flute seller occasionally makes a sale, but in a curiously offhanded way as if it were incidental to his enterprise"?
Ans. Music has been described as serene and sober by the author. He knows that music is much important than the sale of a flute for the flute seller. The flute seller keeps on playing his flute and he is so engrossed in it that when he makes a sale, it appears to be a minor thing to him.
- 7 What was the author's reaction to the flute seller?
Ans. The author was enchanted by the melodious tune of the flute seller playing the flute and could not move from the square. The author believed that the flute seller had his own way of making sales and he was not much affected by it. The author was very much attracted towards him.
- 8 How does the author pass his time in Kathmandu?
Ans. The author visits the famous temples and market places in Kathmandu. He observes the lives of people and also sleeps for hours. He was busy with the soothing music of the flute.
He ate the local street food sold in the market place. He also read a few magazines available there. This is how, he passed his time there.

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

[8 Marks each]

- 1 Is it good to pollute holy rivers in the name of faith and religion? Comment with reference to Bagmati river in Kathmandu?
Ans. We all know that rivers are the life line of any population. Every civilisation has emerged from the blessings of the river. Every human activity is dependent on these rivers directly or indirectly. Holy rivers are directly attached to humans and their emotions as they pay their respect to them. But, now-a-days holy rivers are more polluted than other rivers. People cremate the corpse on their banks and bath in them to attain 'Moksha'. Devotees throw flowers and other things to show their respect towards them without thinking of effects. This is such a serious condition and we aren't considering it worth. We must understand the drastic effect of polluting a river which is providing us all the necessary things.
In the lesson, the author describes the same condition of Bagmati river near Pashupatinath temple.

The activities mentioned above have polluted Bagmati river in the name of faith and religion. But, people must be made aware to keep these rivers safe from pollution. The authorities and society must also take some hard steps to make them safer and unpolluted. Throwing flowers, cremation of corpse, bathing of animals should be totally banned. Following these steps we can make our holy rivers safe and pollution free.

- 2** The flute-seller impresses the author a lot. What do you think about a talent like him? Is it fruitful for a talent to sell his wares in the market or should he be given better opportunities? How would you help such a talent?

Ans. Heading towards his hotel, the author hears the melodious sound of flute and is surprised to see the amazing talent of flute-seller. But, it is painful to see

a talent like him being wasted in the market. He has to sell flutes in the market to earn money. We have heard that talent never goes waste but without providing better opportunities. We cannot save and explore these talents in the world. Someone, who could have adorned the stage better in the world, is busy earning a meagre living. The society is unable to recognise the potential that is lying within him. He must be encouraged, given recognition and supported by the society so that his talent can be justified. With his talent, he can be a contributor to the society as well.

The flute seller is not an expert seller but a talented musician so if I get a chance to meet such a talent, I would try my level best to show his talent outside the world. With the help of media, I would try to give him a platform to explore his talent. So that the money, fame and praise, he deserves, could be showered on him.

Self Assessment

Extract Based Questions

Read the following extracts carefully and choose the correct option.

- 1 At the Baudhnath stupa, the Buddhist shrine of Kathmandu, there is, in contrast, a sense of stillness. Its immense white dome is ringed by a road.
- (i) How is Buddhist shrine different from Pashupatinath temple?
 - (a) It is very noisy
 - (b) Full of greenery
 - (c) Very calm atmosphere
 - (d) Totally commercialised place
 - (ii) What does the Buddhist shrine contain?
 - (a) Many small domes
 - (b) Big white dome
 - (c) Open vast area
 - (d) Big auditorium
 - (iii) Which word in the passage can be synonym of 'huge'?
 - (a) Contrast
 - (b) Stillness
 - (c) Immense
 - (d) Ringed
 - (iv) Where are the two religious shrines situated?
 - (a) India
 - (b) Tibet
 - (c) Kathmandu
 - (d) China
- 2 I find it difficult to tear myself away from the square. Flute music always does this to me: it is at once the most universal and most particular of sounds. There is no culture that does not have its flute.
- (i) Why does the author find it difficult to move from the square?
 - (a) Shopping
 - (b) Praying
 - (c) Impact of flute music
 - (d) Enjoying the nature
 - (ii) What does the author comment about flute?
 - (a) Soothing music
 - (b) Contains most universal sound
 - (c) Very irritating sound
 - (d) Does not want to listen to flute
 - (iii) Which word in the passage can be linked with 'special'?
 - (a) Universal
 - (b) Common
 - (c) Particular
 - (d) Difficult
 - (iv) What does flute music do to the author?
 - (a) He gets bored
 - (b) He gets irritated
 - (c) He gets lost in this music
 - (d) Wants to listen more and more

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

- 3 Why do the Westerners quarrel with the policeman at Pashupatinath temple?
- 4 Give a short description of Kathmandu according to the author.
- 5 What are the things that the author bought from the local market of Kathmandu?
- 6 Name the flutes as described by the author in the chapter 'Kathmandu'.

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

- 7 Compare the bazaar of Kathmandu to the market of your city. What is the significance of a bazaar in our society?
- 8 Temples or holy shrines are over crowded and poorly maintained now a days which leads a great confusion and accidents. What should the authorities do to maintain and control the crowd at religious shrines?