

## QUESTION BANK

### Invictus

#### A. Answer in brief.

What is the poet, in the poem *Invictus*, thankful for?

**Ans:** The poet is thankful for the strength and tenacity with which he could face all hardships in life. The poet suffered a lot of hardships and struggles but his soul always



remained undefeated and unconquered. He is thankful to the force that has helped him keep his head high against all odds.

**B. Answer in detail.**

How did the poet face the challenges in his life?

**Ans:** The poet had been the unfortunate victim of circumstances. Though he was heavily burdened with a lot of struggles in life, he never complained and continued living like any normal person. The difficulties beat him down like a cudgel beating a helpless person. However difficult his sufferings, the poet did not surrender or bow his head in defeat. He never 'winced or cried aloud', never complained openly about his pain nor did he allow sorrow to get the better of him. He remained unconquered.

**C. Choose the correct answer.**

*'I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul'*

What does the poet mean in these lines?

- a. Challenges make one stronger, but mentally submitting to these impediments makes a man brave.
- b. Challenges are difficult, but one's attitude to keep moving forward without submitting to fate is what matters.
- a. It is not about God and losing hope, but the actions in life that make one surrender while faced with challenges.

**Ans:** b

**D. Read the lines and answer the questions.**

*It matters not how strait the gate,*

*How charged with punishments the scroll.*

*I am the master of my fate:*

*I am the captain of my soul.*

- a. What is the poet not bothered about?
- b. What punishment does the poet anticipate?
- c. What do you understand about the attitude of the poet from the last two lines?

**Ans:** a. The poet talks about life beyond death. He is not worried about the narrow gate his soul may have to pass through after his death.

- b. He probably is talking about the punishment a person may get if they have not lead a good life on earth.
- c. The poet, in the last two lines, boldly concludes that he and only he is responsible for his destiny. No one can change or tamper with it.

**E. Answer in detail. (Think and answer)**

Why do you think the poet has chosen the theme which is about one's fight against adversity in life? Do you know anyone who is similar? Write a short sketch of such a person.

Free response *Suggested answer:*

The poet contracted tuberculosis at a very young age and his leg had to be amputated. He wrote the poem shortly after that. This poem is about the courage he showed when faced with death and ill health. It is about the way he held on to his courage and dignity totally undeterred by the cruel game played by fate in his life. This fighting spirit of his is what we see in the poem.

(Free response for the 2nd part)