

## QUESTION BANK

### Karna

#### A. Answer in brief.

- Why was Duryodhana thrilled to see the mighty newcomer Karna?  
**Ans:** Duryodhana, Arjuna's cousin was filled with envy and hatred when he witnessed Arjuna displaying superhuman skill with his weapons. It was at that time the newcomer Karna, duplicated all of Arjuna's feats with careless ease. Duryodhana was ecstatic on seeing someone who could be on par with Arjuna's unmatched skill.
- Why did Arjuna feel insulted?  
**Ans:** Arjuna was greatly insulted when Karna, in reply to Duryodhana, sought only two things from him. One was Duryodhana's love and another was single encounter with Arjuna at the war field. On hearing this, Arjuna swore to kill Karna and cursed that Karna would go to the hell appointed for intruders.

#### B. Answer in detail.

- How did Kripa's interference stop the combat between Arjuna and Karna?  
**Ans:** A heated argument ensued between Arjuna and Karna and both were getting ready to face each other in combat. Everyone, including the gods, was ready to witness the deadly combat between the two mighty warriors. Suddenly Kripa stopped them by saying that Arjuna was a descendent of the Kuru race and belonged to royalty while Karna's lineage was unknown. Arjuna, according to Kripa, would engage in single combat only with those whose antecedence was known. So Kripa wanted Karna to speak about his parentage and dynasty he was blessed with. Karna was unable to answer and that stalled the combat.
- What did Duryodhana honour Karna with? Why?  
**Ans:** Duryodhana crowned Karna the king of Anga, after performing all the necessary rites and gave him royal identity. Duryodhana wanted someone as strong as Arjuna to be on his side in a combat. He was elated to find that skill in Karna. That was the best opportunity for Duryodhana to defuse Arjuna's pride. When Kripa challenged Karna about his lineage, Duryodhana, lost no time in honouring Karna by making him the King of Anga.

#### C. Choose the correct answer.

- "I hold him worthy to rule the world". Why did Duryodhana feel this way?
- He felt this way because Karna was able to effortlessly duplicate Arjuna's feats.
  - He knew that his lineage was from a renowned royal family.
  - He became a good friend of Karna and wanted to support him.

**Ans:** a

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

- What is the use of mere talk, which is the weapon of the weak? Shoot arrows instead of words.
  - Who speaks the above line?
  - Why does he make the above remark?
  - Was he able to overpower the person?

**Ans:** a. These lines are spoken by Karna to Arjuna.

- He makes the above remark on Arjuna's swearing that he would slay Karna and send him to the hell appointed for intruders.
- No, the fight did not take place because he was questioned by Kripa about his parentage.

- And there isn't much sense in tracing great heroes and mighty rivers to their sources.
    - Who speaks the above line? To whom?
    - What message is he trying to convey?
    - Who is he supporting by making the above remark?
- Ans:** a. Duryodhana speaks the above remark to Bhima.  
b. When Bhima made fun of Karna calling him the adopted son of a charioteer, Duryodhana said that it is bravery that defines a warrior, and that it is foolish to trace the source of mighty warriors or great rivers.  
c. He was supporting Karna when Bhima laughs at him.

#### E. Answer in brief. (Think and answer)

- Was it right on Bhima's part to ridicule Karna in the open?  
Free response. **Suggested Ans:** No, Bhima should have exercised more restraint. His behaviour was very unbecoming of a warrior belonging to royal lineage. He laughed at Karna when he was bowing to his father and spoke ill of him. Bhima should not have used offensive language in public, especially about a fatherly figure.
- Who do you admire more – Arjuna or Karna? Why?

Free response

#### Answer in detail. (Think and answer)

Karna and Duryodhana became the best of friends. Do you think Duryodhana would have made Karna his friend had he not been equal to Arjuna in valour?  
Free response. **Suggested Ans:** Karna entered the arena when Duryodhana was seething with envy at the superhuman skill displayed by Arjuna and also the admiration of the crowd. Duryodhana was thrilled when he saw Karna duplicating Arjuna's feats. Duryodhana took that as the best opportunity to befriend Karna as he found a match for Arjuna in him. Duryodhana was always jealous of Arjuna's valour and wanted to somehow insult him. Karna became the instrument for Duryodhana to fulfill that wish. Karna was indebted to Duryodhana for his timely support and remained loyal to Duryodhana and the Kauravas. I feel Duryodhana's friendship was more conditional because he thought he could use Karna to outsmart Arjuna. I doubt if it would have been the same had Karna been an ordinary warrior.