

QUESTION BANK

Ozymandias

A. Answer in brief.

How did the sculptor depict the expression on the king's face? (Ozymandias)

Ans: The sculptor had carved a sneer on the face of the king. The frown and wrinkled lip carved on the face tell us that he was an arrogant king and proud of what he was.

B. Answer in detail.

Summarise the poem *Ozymandias*.

Ans: The speaker happens to meet a traveller from a foreign land who talks about a crumbling statue of a king. Only the legs of the statue were standing, while the face lay half sunken in the sand. The sculptor captured the arrogance of the king when he sculpted his face which appeared to be sneering and frowning. This went well with the inscription on the pedestal that boasted his greatness. This is in stark contrast to its present state where the statue is in ruins. The decaying statue and the desert land convey a silent message of human vanity. Neither the sculptor who immortalised the king with his craft nor the great Pharaoh and his works have stood the test of time.

C. Choose the correct answer.

What is the main theme of the poem, 'Ozymandias'?

- a. It is about a powerful king, Ozymandias.
- b. It is about how powerless time and decay make everyone.
- c. It is about the destruction of a great king.

Ans: b

D. Read the lines and answer the questions.

Tell that its sculptor well those passions read

Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things

- a. What did the sculptor stamp on the sculpture?
- b. What survived and what did not?

Ans: a. The sculptor captured the king's pride and arrogance.

- b. The countenance displaying pride and arrogance was still visible on the face. What did not exist anymore were his achievements that had crumbled to dust with time.

E. Answer in detail. (Think and Answer)

Explain the point of view in the poem *Ozymandias*.

Ans: The point of view is that of the persona who talks about the distant past. He relates what he hears from a traveller about the ancient ruins of a Pharaoh of Egypt. The inscription is an ironical comment on the pride of the king. The image of the wreck among the sands is the poet's comment on the pointlessness of pride in human achievement that will be forgotten with the passing of time.