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## NCERT Class 9 English Solutions: Chapter 10 Kathmandu Part 1

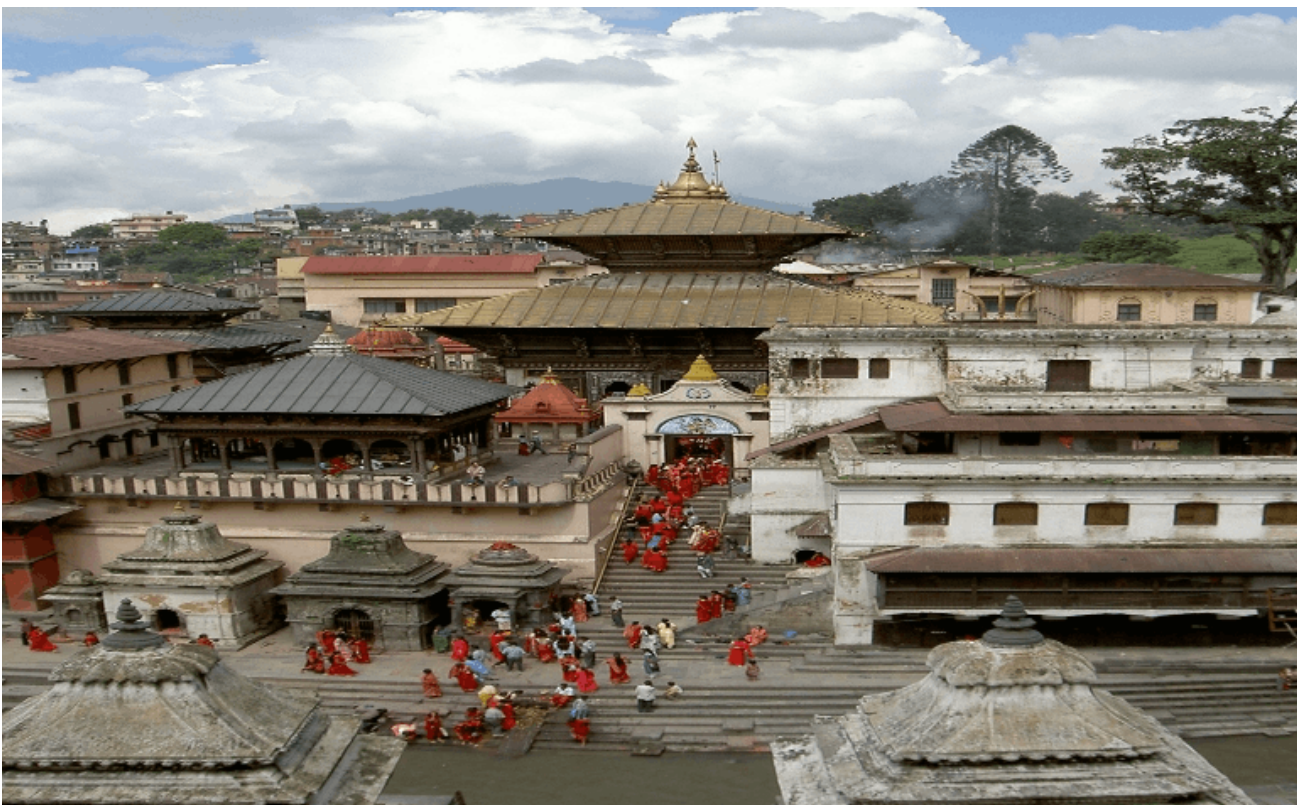
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Question 1:

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

Q. Name the two temples the author visited in Kathmandu.

A. Author visited the Pashupatinath Temple, and the Baudhnath Stupa in Kathmandu.



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

A. 'All this' refers to a bar of marzipan, a corn-on-the-cob roasted in a charcoal stove and spiced with salt, chili powder, and lemon.

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

A. Fifty or sixty bansuris protruding from around a bamboo pole are compared to the quills of a porcupine.

Q. Name five kinds of flutes.

A. The five kinds of flutes are

- Reed Neh

- Japanese Shakuhachi
- Deep Bansuris of Hindustani
- Classical Music
- Clear or Breathy Flutes of South America
- High-Pitched Chinese Flutes

Question 2:

Answer each question in a short paragraph.

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

A. The author noted the following differences:

- Every now and then, Flute seller selected a flute and played it for a few minutes with sound rising clearly above the noise of the traffic and the hawker's cries.
- Flute seller played slowly, meditatively, and without excessive display, while the hawkers shouted out their products.

Q. What is the belief at pashupatinath about the end of kaliyug?

A. At Pashupatinath, a small shrine protrudes from the stone platform on the river bank.

There is a belief that its emergence will pave the way for the goddess inside to escape, and end the evil period of Kaliyug on earth.

Q. 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 ...)

A. The author depicts the atmosphere of 'febrile confusion' outside the temple of Pashupatinath.

1. With many worshippers trying to get the priest's attention pushed by other making their way to the front.
2. A party of saffron-clad Westerners struggled to enter through the Main Gate as only Hindus were allowed to enter.
3. A fight broke out between two monkeys, with one was chasing the other. One of the monkeys jumped onto a Shivalinga and down the holy Bagmati River.

(ii) the things he sees

A.

1. He saw a Baudhnath Stupa with large white dome ringed by a road of small shops carrying felt bags, Tibetan prints, and silver jewellery but no crowds.
2. Shops along busiest streets of Kathmandu had Fruit sellers, hawkers of postcards, shops selling western cosmetics, film rolls, chocolate, copper utensils and Nepalese antiques.
3. The temple of Pashupatinath, where author had several interesting experiences.

(iii) the sounds he hears

A. The sounds he heard included film songs blaring out from the radios, noise from car horns, bicycle bells, and hawkers shouting. He listened to flute music, calling it the most universal and most particular of sounds.

Question 3:

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

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

A. The atmosphere at pashupatinath temple was one of noise, chaos and confusion.

Worshippers were trying to get the priest's attention; others were pushing their way to the Front; saffron-clad Westerners were trying to enter the temple; monkeys were fighting and Adding to the general 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 of quietness in the busy streets around". There was a sense Of stillness and serenity about the Buddhist shrine.



Q. How does the author describe Kathmandu's busiest streets?

A.

Along Kathmandu's narrowest and busiest streets:

- Author saw small shrines with flower-adorned deities.
- Fruit sellers and shops selling western cosmetics, film rolls, chocolate, copper utensils and Nepalese antiques with hawkers shouting out their wares.

- He saw a flute seller with many bansuris. He contrasts the serene music produced by the flute seller with the cries of the hawkers.

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

A. The author describes flute music as "the most universal and most particular" of all music. Which according to him means that every culture has its own flute or some other unique breath instrument. However, 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, region, all human beings are the same, united with the same living breath running through all of them.