



ENGLISH LITERATURE
LESSON 1 – THE LAST LESSON
ALPHONSE DAUDET

SOLUTIONS

**A. From your reading of the text write the correct answer from those given :
(Multiple Choice Questions)**

Q1. There was a crowd in front of the bulletin board because it had the notice that.

- a) M. Hamel had been transferred.
- b) The French lost a battle.
- c) French was no longer to be taught
- d) Everyone from the village was to attend school

Ans: c) French was no longer to be taught

Q2. When the writer entered his class

- a) M. Hamel rebuked him for coming late.
- b) M. Hamel asked him to take his seat.
- c) The people made fun of him.
- d) The village elders told him to sit down at his place.

Ans: b) M. Hamel asked him to take his seat.

Q3. M. Hamel had put his formal Sunday clothes because

- a) He wanted to honour his last French lesson.
- b) It was a special Sunday class.
- c) He would not be coming anymore.
- d) The Germans had asked him to do so.

Ans: a) He wanted to honour his last French lesson.

B. Complete the following statements :

- i) The writer was reluctant to attend class because M. Hamel had said he would question on participles and he did not know the first word about them.
- ii) In the last two years all the bad news had come from there- the lost battle, the draft, the orders of the commanding officer.
- iii) Watcher, the blacksmith asked the writer not to go fast because he will get to school in plenty of time
- iv) In the classroom what surprised the writer most was to see on the back benches that were always empty, the village people, old Hauser, the former mayor, the former postmaster, and several others besides.



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- v) When the writer tried to recite the rules of participle he got messed up on the first few word.

C. Answer the following in a sentence each

Q1. Where had the crowd gathered?

Ans: The crowd had gathered in front of the bulletin board.

Q2. How did the writer feel when he enters the class?

Ans: He felt shy and frightened when he entered the class.

Q3. How did the writer feel when he sat down at his seat?

Ans: When he sat down at his seat, he felt surprised.

Q4. How did the writer feel about his books when he realized that it was to be the last lesson?

Ans: He began to love his books like old friends that he would never give up.

Q5. According to M. Hamel, which was the most beautiful language ?

Ans: French language

Q6. What did M. Hamel write on the board?

Ans: He wrote "*VIVE LA FRANCE!*"

Answer the following question briefly

Q1. Why did little Franz think of running away from school and spending the day out of doors?

Ans: Little Franz was very late for school that day. And he was in a great dread of scolding especially because M. Hamel would question the students on participles and he did not know the first word about them. Moreover, the sight of the bright day, the chirping birds and that of the drilling Prussian soldiers were more tempting than the rule for participles Hence he thought so.

Q2. Why had a crowd gathered near the town hall ?

Ans: For the last two years, the people received all their sad news like the news of the lost battles, the draft, the orders of the commanding officer through the bulletin board. That day they had another shocking news which was an order from Berlin to teach only German in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine. Hence there was a crowd gathered near the town hall.

Q3. "you will get to school in plenty of time!"

What did the blacksmith mean by it?

Ans: The blacksmith knew that they were having their last lesson on French language as the order from Berlin had come. So he told Franz not to worry for being late because it would be M. Hamel's last day and he would not scold.



Q4. How did Franz hope to escape the teacher's notice as he went in late?

Ans: As he was already late, Franz hoped to enter the class under the great commotion and bustle of the students. But that day everything was as quiet as Sunday morning

Q5. What unusual things did Franz see in the classroom?

Or

What three things in school surprise little Franz that day?

Ans: He saw M. Hamel in his best clothes, he found everything at school as quiet as Sunday morning and saw the villagers sitting in the back of the room.

Q6. Why were the village people sitting in the classroom?

Ans: The village people were sitting in the back of the room because it was their way of thanking M. Hamel for his forty years of faithful service in the school. At the same time, they were sitting there to show their respect for the country that was theirs no more.

Q7. 'What a thunderclap these words were to me!'

What words were a thunder clap ? Why?

Ans: The words were- 'The order has come from Berlin to teach only German in the school of Alsace and Lorraine. This is your last French lesson'.

The words were like a thunderclap because he suddenly became self-conscious. He now knew that he could hardly write the French language and that he could never learn it anymore. The thought that he must stop there struck him.

Q8. Why did M. Hamel not scold Franz for his inability to recite correctly the rules for his participles?

Ans: M. Hamel did not scold Franz because that was the last day of M. Hamel in school, when he was going to teach last French lesson. Franz's inability to recite the rules was his own fault for which M Hamel said that he must feel bad enough.

Q9. '... it is as if they had the key to their prison'.

What is the prison referred to here?

Ans: The Prison referred to the imposition of German language on the French people. Prussia had defeated France and captured Alsace and Lorraine. M. Hamel had been ordered to leave the school.

Q10. Why did the pupils want to laugh and cry at the same time?

Ans: They wanted to laugh because the way old Hauser was reading the primer was funny but at the same time they wanted to cry because their native language was being snatched away from them.



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Answer the following question in about 80 words each:

Q1. In what way was the day of the last lesson different from other day? Write it.

Ans: It was different from other days because it was the last day of their French language, as the order had come from Berlin to teach only German in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine. And that would be the last French lesson. M. Hamel did not scold Franz on that day and spoke quietly. The village people were sitting quietly on the back benches. All the people looked sad. At last M. Hamel wrote 'Vive La France!' before dismissing his class.

Q2. How did Franz find the last lesson on Grammar? Why did he find everything the teacher said so easy?

Ans: Little Franz was surprised to see how well he understood the last lesson in Grammar. All that M. Hamel taught seem so easy to him. He felt that he has never listened so carefully and that the teacher had never explained everything with so much patience. He thought that M. Hamel wanted to give all he knew before going away and to put it all into their heads at one stroke.

Q3. What are the feelings Franz had on learning that M. Hamel will be giving his last lesson?

Ans: The feeling that it would be their last French lesson in the school made little Franz quite sentimental. At first, all his books were a nuisance to him. But after learning the order from Berlin, he began to love his books like his old friends that he would never give up. Moreover, the idea that M. Hamel was going away and that he would never see him again made him forget all about his rules and crankiness.

Q4. 'What would I not have given to be able to say that dreadful rule for the participle all through, very loud and clear, and without one mistake?' Why did Franz feel so?

Ans: Franz learnt that it was M. Hamel's last lesson on French language. He hardly knows how to write. He felt sorry for not learning his lessons and for not going to school when he had all the time. So he wanted to have a chance to learn his lessons with all by heart. But when it was his turn to recite, he got mixed up on the first words and stood there holding on to his desk, his heart was beating and he didn't dare to look up as he was afraid that M. Hamel might scold him.

Q5. Why did M. Hamel write 'Vive La France!'

Before dismissing his class?

Or, How did M. Hamel behave at the end of the last lesson?

Ans: An order from Berlin had come saying that German is to be taught in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine. M. Hamel was taking his last lesson on French language. A man who had served faithfully for forty years was to leave the next day.

M. Hamel had put on his best dress as a mark of respect to the class. He showed his love and respect for the country and the language. He felt bad, the people of Alsace always ignored learning French despite being a Frenchman.

So, in the end of the lesson, that is just before dismissing his class, M. Hamel wrote 'Vive La France!' because of his love for the country, the language and his sense of patriotism. The line means 'Long Live France'.

