



মণিপুরৰ শিক্ষা বিভাগ (সংস্কৃত)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)
Government of Manipur

CLASS X
ENGLISH LITERATURE READER
CHAPTER 3 - THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE
LORD ALFRED TENNYSON

SOLUTIONS

TEXTUAL EXERCISES

A. Choose the correct answer from the alternatives given:

I. The battlefield has been called ‘the valley of Death’ because

- a) it was the name of the place.
- b) the British soldiers were determined to kill the Russians.
- c) many of the British soldiers died.
- d) many of the Russians died.

Answer: (c) many of the British soldiers died.

II. Was there a man dismayed?

Not tho’ the soldier knew.

The soldiers were not dismayed because

- a) they did not know the danger.
- b) they were brave and dutiful.
- c) they knew the Russians were weak.
- d) they were ignorant and stupid.

Answer: (b) they were brave and dutiful.

III. When the Russian cannons began to fire the British soldiers

- a) charged on.
- b) retreated.
- c) halted their charge.
- d) began to tremble in fear.

Answer: (a) charged on.

IV. O the wild charge they made.

The charge made by the Light Brigade has been called ‘wild’ because

- a) the Russian soldiers were wild.
- b) the British soldiers were wild.
- c) the horses were wild.
- d) it was a thoughtless command resulting in many deaths.

Answer: (d) it was a thoughtless command resulting in many deaths.



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B. Answer the following questions in a sentence each:

- I. “someone had blundered”
What does this line mean?**

Ans: This line means that the commander had given the wrong command to the Light Brigade to charge forward against the Russian gunners.

- II. “Charge for the guns!” He said. Identify the ‘he’ here?**

Ans: The ‘he’ here refers to the commander of the Light Brigade.

- III. ‘Theirs not to reply’,
Why were the soldiers not to reply?**

Ans: The spirit of a true soldier in the battlefield was not to answer back, but to do and die out in the field. Since they were disciplined and responsible soldiers, they did not reply.

- IV. What did the soldiers of the Light Brigade do with their sabres?**

Ans: The Light Brigade soldiers attacked the enemies with their sabres.

- V. ‘Not the six hundred.’
Why did not all six hundred ride back?**

Ans: Not all the six hundred rode back as many of the soldiers might have been killed or injured. Some of them might have been imprisoned as captives.

C. Answer the following questions briefly.

- I. What was the command given by the commander?**

Ans: The command was to step forward and charge against the well set, well equipped and outnumbered Russian cavalry.

- II. Why is the valley described as ‘Valley of Death’?**

Ans: The valley is described as the ‘Valley of Death’ because it is a battlefield of the battle of Balaclava where many soldiers are going to meet their end.



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III. “Someone had blundered.”

How did the soldiers react when they felt that the commander had blundered?

Ans: The soldiers obeyed the command of the commander although they felt that he had blundered.

They did not question the wrong order and took it as a duty and to lay down their lives if needed.

IV. How were the Russian cannons positioned?

Ans: The Russian cannons were well positioned. They surrounded the six hundred British soldiers from the right, left, behind and front.

They also fired simultaneously with a thundering sound. But the British were attacked by their shots and shells.

**V. “Into the jaws of Death,
Into the mouth of Hell”
Explain the Imagery.**

Ans: The poet is using scary images in the couplet, the soldiers marching towards the valley of death will meet death as if they are struggling in the mouth of some ferocious brute.

As they are entering the mouth of hell, they are riding amidst the guns and cannons.

VI. How did the soldiers charge?

Ans: The six hundred British soldiers bravely and boldly charged towards the Russian gunners. They had sundered and shattered their enemy by flashing their sabres. They ‘plunged in the battery-smoke’, broke the enemy’s line and killed some of them at the cost of their lives.

VII. “All the world wondered”

Why does the poet say so?

Ans: The British soldiers knew that the commander had given amateurish and wrong command. They obediently complied the order because it is their duty to show desperate heroism and hope. So, the world wondered in the incredible display of their courage and discipline in cases of complete inefficiency and waste. Consequently, the poet said so.



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VIII. What was the impact of the Light Brigade's charge on the enemy?

Ans: The six hundred British soldiers who were less in number and less equipped moved towards the artillery of the enemy through the dense smoke of shelling. They fought bravely with their sabres against the enemy gunners. Their attacks were so fierce that the enemies were torn apart to death.

**IX. They that had fought so well.
What happened to those soldiers?**

Ans: The six hundred British soldiers had fought very courageously and bravely but most of them seriously got injured and some had fallen dead too. They came back from the mouth of hell and through the jaws of death in retreat.

**X. "They that had fought so well
Came thro' the jaws of Death
Back from the mouth of Hell"
Explain.**

Ans: The soldiers of the Light Brigade faced heavy casualties under the rain of Russian gunners and cannons. After seeing that, the remaining soldiers retreated from the offensive battlefield.

**XI. "When can their glory fade?"
Why does the poet ask so?**

Ans: The poet reminds the reader throughout the poem of the tremendous difficulties, faced by those at war. They ride without a question in the enemy area knowing that the outcome could be certainly death. Their sacrifice is symbolic of all those who dedicate their lives for the country. So, the poet asks so.

**XII. "Honour the Light Brigade"
Why does the poet ask the people to honour the Light Brigade?**

Ans: The rare acts of gallantry shown by the Light Brigade make people to remember for all times to come. They have shown their bravery, fearlessness, dutifulness and sacrificial spirit for the sake of their motherland. They should be given laurels and regards. That is why the poet asks all the people of the world to honour the Light Brigade.