

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

9th Avenue, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi – 110092

Session: 2026-2027 - Notes

Class -X

Subject - English.

Topic: Poem- Ozymandias

Answer the following questions :

Q1. Bring out the irony in the poem.

Ans. The king's message: "Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!" is an ironic statement of his pride. It is ironical because, on the one hand, he calls his work great, but all of that is now in ruins.

Q2. Overarching ambition can lead to great leaders and their downfall. Substantiate your position in favour or in opposition to this statement, with two points each.

Ans. The decaying statue in Ozymandias is a metaphor for the decay of political power. Overreaching ambition can lead to the downfall of great leaders. The broken statue itself is a metaphor of a 'here today, gone tomorrow' sentiment. The works of the greatest kings are reduced to sand. The empires have been destroyed with time.

Q3. 'Ozymandias' and 'Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments' are on Time. Compare the two sonnets in terms of the way in which Time is treated by the poets. Write your answer in about 150 words.

Ans. Both the sonnets are on 'Time'. In the poem, 'Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments', poetry is eternal. The tone of the first four lines, reflects the immense confidence of the poet: His 'powerful rhyme is compared to durable marble and solid, gilded memorials that mark the graves of princes. The sonnet is compared not only to the lasting life of stone, but also to an enduring image of the deceased. The poet asserts that his portrait of the young man, written in verse on fragile paper, will outlive even the marble memorials of princes, which will become neglected, 'unswept stone with the passage of time. In this sonnet, Shakespeare gives time a character.

In 'Ozymandias', Shelley says that how with the passage of time the works of a mighty king, the colossal structures have decayed and are now nothing more than ruins. Here also he brings out the futility of materialistic objects.

Q4. According to you what kind of a king was Ozymandias?

Ans. Ozymandias was very proud of his power and authority. He had only contempt and hatred for others. He But ravages of time spare none. He now lies shattered and buried in sand. Nothing remained of his power, considered others as insignificant. He claimed himself to be 'king of kings'. He was proud of his achievements glory and grandeur.



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Q5. What do you come to know about the sculptor from the poem?

Ans. He was a perfectionist. He was able to capture every expression of Ozymandias. The statue seems to speak. The wrinkled lip and sneer tell us about the proud and haughty attitude of Ozymandias. The emotions of the sculptor's heart and true magic of his hands are reflected in the sculpture.

Q6. Ozymandias got a colossal statue of himself made. He called himself as the greatest king. Finally what happened to him and his statue? Explain.

Ans. The statue was erected to make the people wonder and marvel at the achievements of the king and the inscription also highlighted his victories. But the statue made the onlookers feel totally opposite to what it was intended to make the people feel. Rather than making the onlooker contemplate the majesty and power of the great Ozymandias, the inscription and indeed the entire desert scene makes one contemplate the futility of life. It makes us wonder that power, name and fame all are reduced to dust after some time. Everything has eroded with time. Time is all powerful and it can destroy anything. The poem makes us realize that power, wealth and victories are all fleeting. The might and majesty of a king do not last; only great art endures.

