

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

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Session: 2026- 2027

NOTES

Class - VIII

Subject - English

Topic - UP FROM SLAVERY

Q1. Answer the following questions briefly-

1. When the narrator saw the Hampton Institute for the first time, it seemed to him to be the largest and most beautiful building he had ever seen. The sight of it seemed to give him a new life. He felt as if he had reached the 'promised land'.
2. The narrator resolved to let no obstacle prevent him from putting forth the highest effort to fit himself to accomplish the greatest good in the world.
3. When the narrator appeared before the head teacher, he had long been without proper food, a bath and change of clothing. Consequently, he did not make a favourable impression on her.
4. According to the narrator, cleaning the recitation-room to the satisfaction of the head teacher was the best college examination he had ever passed.
5. Miss Mary F. Mackie, the head teacher, proved to be one of the narrator's strongest and most helpful friends.

Q2. RTC-

1. (a) The narrator and author, Booker T. Washington, is the speaker of these words.

(b) He had reached the Hampton Institute. He called it the 'promised land' because through the Institute, he hoped to get an education that would change his life for the better.

(c) The term 'promised land' means a happy place or condition that someone wants to reach, a place where one's hopes or dreams can come true. It refers to the land that was given to Abraham and his descendants according to the promise God made in the Bible.
2.
(a) Miss Mary F. Mackie, the head teacher, said this.

(b) Yes, he was.

(c) Mrs Ruffner had taught the narrator how to sweep, and that experience had helped him to clean the room properly.

Q3. Answer the following questions in detail-

1. The narrator was a man of great perseverance. When the head teacher told him to sweep the recitation-room, he did not get disheartened or discouraged. Instead, he was happy that he had got a chance to prove himself. He was determined to make the most of the opportunity. He had already learnt how to sweep thoroughly from Mrs Ruffner. So, he was prepared to do a good job and impress the head teacher.

The narrator swept the recitation-room three times and dusted it four times. This included all the woodwork around the walls, every bench, table and desk. Moreover, every piece of furniture had to be moved and every closet and corner in the room had to be cleaned. The fact that the narrator did all this without complaining shows how dedicated and determined he was to make a favourable impression on the head teacher.

2. When the narrator entered the Hampton Institute, the first person he met was Miss Mary F. Mackie, the head teacher. She gave him the assignment of cleaning the recitation-room. The narrator happily took it up as a college examination that he had to pass.

The narrator cleaned every inch of the room, including every piece of furniture, multiple times. When the room was thoroughly cleaned, the head teacher inspected the work and had no option but to pass her student. It was a tough college examination for the narrator, and the head teacher's grudging approval meant that he had passed it. It was special for the narrator too. According to him, he passed several examinations since then but felt that this was the best one he had ever passed.