

MCQs for The Last Lesson

1. The author of "The Last Lesson" is:
 - A. Louis Fischer
 - B. Christopher Silvester
 - C. Alphonse Daudet
 - D. William Douglas
2. Alphonse Daudet was a writer of which nationality and profession?
 - A. German novelist and essayist
 - B. French novelist and short-story writer
 - C. Polish poet and novelist
 - D. Austrian playwright and journalist
3. The story "The Last Lesson" is set in the days of which war?
 - A. The World War I
 - B. The Franco-Prussian War (1870-1871)
 - C. The Napoleonic Wars
 - D. The German Civil War
4. France was defeated by which power in the war mentioned in the story?
 - A. Austria
 - B. Poland
 - C. Russia
 - D. Prussia
5. Which leader led Prussia during the war when France was defeated?
 - A. Bismarck
 - B. Hitler
 - C. Kaiser Wilhelm
 - D. Napoleon
6. Which two French districts had passed into Prussian hands according to the story?
 - A. Paris and Marseilles
 - B. Alsace and Lorraine
 - C. Lyon and Nice
 - D. Bordeaux and Toulouse
7. Franz was in "great dread of a scolding" because M. Hamel was going to question the students on which topic?
 - A. Verbs
 - B. Nouns
 - C. Adjectives
 - D. Participles
8. For a moment, Franz thought of running away and spending the day out of doors because:
 - A. He was busy helping his parents.
 - B. It was so warm, so bright!

C. He was waiting for his friends.
D. He had lost his books.

9. In the open field back of the sawmill, Franz observed the Prussian soldiers doing what?
A. Resting
B. Drilling
C. Preparing food
D. Guarding the gates

10. What structure had been the source of "all our bad news" for the last two years?
A. The church tower
B. The school building
C. The bulletin-board at the town hall
D. The post office

11. Which piece of bad news was NOT specifically mentioned as coming from the bulletin-board?
A. The lost battles
B. The orders of the commanding officer
C. The draft
D. The new rule about German language

12. Who called out to Franz as he hurried past the town hall?
A. The former mayor
B. The former postmaster
C. The blacksmith, Wachter
D. Old Hauser

13. What did the blacksmith Wachter advise Franz?
A. That he should study harder.
B. Not to hurry, as he had plenty of time.
C. That the school was closed.
D. To go home immediately.

14. What did Franz think the blacksmith Wachter was doing when he called out to him?
A. Offering help
B. Making fun of him
C. Warning him about M. Hamel
D. Asking him to deliver a message

15. What was the "great bustle" of the school usually caused by?
A. The sound of teachers shouting.
B. Lessons repeated in unison.
C. Students running in the hallways.
D. The church bells ringing.

16. How quiet was the school on the day of the last lesson?
A. As quiet as a festival.
B. As quiet as Sunday morning.
C. As quiet as the forest.
D. As quiet as a library.

17. When M. Hamel told Franz to go to his place quickly, his tone was described as:

- A. Angry and harsh
- B. Sad and solemn
- C. Very kindly
- D. Scolding

18. M. Hamel's fine embroidered clothes were usually reserved for which occasions?

- A. Birthdays and anniversaries.
- B. Inspection and prize days.
- C. Weddings and festivals.
- D. Sundays and holidays.

19. What was the "thing that surprised" Franz most about the classroom?

- A. The stillness of the room.
- B. The kind words of M. Hamel.
- C. The village people sitting on the back benches.
- D. The new books on the desk.

20. Which village elder was sitting in the back with his "three-cornered hat"?

- A. The former mayor
- B. Old Hauser
- C. The former postmaster
- D. The blacksmith

21. What did Old Hauser have open on his knees that was "thumbed at the edges"?

- A. A grammar book
- B. A history of the saints
- C. An old primer
- D. A map

22. What was the "thunderclap" that shocked Franz?

- A. The sound of Prussian trumpets.
- B. M. Hamel's announcement of the last lesson.
- C. The loud rapping of the ruler.
- D. The church clock striking twelve.

23. What did Franz realise was put up at the town-hall?

- A. The news of the lost battle.
- B. The order from Berlin regarding the German language.
- C. The notice for new military recruitment.
- D. The announcement of M. Hamel's retirement.

24. When Franz realised he would never learn French any more, what did his previously disliked books suddenly become?

- A. A treasure
- B. Old friends
- C. Heavy luggage
- D. New challenges

25. The village people were sitting in the back of the room to thank M. Hamel for how many years of faithful service?

- A. Fifty years
- B. Forty years
- C. Thirty years
- D. Twenty years

26. When it was Franz's turn to recite the participle rule, what happened?

- A. He said it clearly and loudly.
- B. He got mixed up on the first words.
- C. He recited it with confidence.
- D. He refused to speak.

27. M. Hamel said that the "great trouble with Alsace" was that she puts off learning till:

- A. Next week
- B. Tomorrow
- C. The weekend
- D. The next lesson

28. Why did M. Hamel say the conquerors would have the right to mock them?

- A. Because they came late to school.
- B. Because they were proud of their language.
- C. Because they could neither speak nor write their own language.
- D. Because they protested the order.

29. M. Hamel said that the parents were not anxious enough for their children to learn because they preferred them to work on a farm or at the mills to earn what?

- A. Respect
- B. A little more money
- C. Experience
- D. A good reputation

30. M. Hamel admitted that he was also to blame because he often sent students to do what instead of learning their lessons?

- A. Clean the classroom
- B. Run errands in the village
- C. Water his flowers
- D. Help his sister pack

31. M. Hamel described the French language as the most beautiful, clearest, and the most:

- A. Traditional
- B. Logical
- C. Difficult
- D. Widespread

32. According to M. Hamel, when a people are enslaved, as long as they hold fast to their language, it is as if they had:

- A. A powerful army
- B. A new master
- C. The key to their prison
- D. A hidden treasure

33. What made the grammar lesson seem "so easy" to Franz that day?

- A. He had studied the previous night.
- B. M. Hamel was extremely patient and Franz listened carefully.
- C. The lesson was on a simple topic.
- D. The book was newly reprinted.

34. M. Hamel seemed to want to give them all he knew and "put it all into our heads" in what manner?

- A. By giving extra homework.
- B. Through a series of tests.
- C. At one stroke.
- D. By scolding them.

35. What phrase was written on the new copies M. Hamel gave out for the writing lesson?

- A. Vive La France
- B. German, Prussia
- C. France, Alsace
- D. Freedom, Logic

36. While everyone was writing, what was the "only sound" in the school-room?

- A. The cooing of the pigeons.
- B. The rapping of the ruler.
- C. The scratching of the pens over the paper.
- D. The sound of packing trunks.

37. Franz's thought, "Will they make them sing in German, even the pigeons?" suggests:

- A. The complete extent of the Prussian imposition.
- B. Franz's great fear of birds.
- C. M. Hamel's cruelty.
- D. The beauty of the German language.

38. What sound signaled the end of the last lesson?

- A. The sound of M. Hamel's sister packing their trunks.
- B. The church-clock striking twelve and the Angelus.
- C. The Prussian soldiers starting their drill.
- D. The pigeons flying away.

39. When M. Hamel stood up, very pale, Franz noted, "I never saw him look so tall." This expression means that M. Hamel:

- A. Had grown physically taller.
- B. Seemed very confident/dignified.
- C. Stood on a chair.
- D. Was stretching after sitting.

40. What were the last words M. Hamel wrote on the blackboard before dismissing the school?

- A. Go to your place quickly.
- B. School is dismissed—you may go.
- C. Vive La France!
- D. Guard your language.

Answer Key

1. C) Alphonse Daudet
2. B) French novelist and short-story writer
3. B) The Franco-Prussian War (1870-1871)
4. D) Prussia
5. A) Bismarck
6. B) Alsace and Lorraine
7. D) Participles
8. B) It was so warm, so bright!
9. B) Drilling
10. C) The bulletin-board at the town hall
11. D) The new rule about German language
12. C) The blacksmith, Wachter
13. B) Not to hurry, as he had plenty of time.
14. B) Making fun of him
15. B) Lessons repeated in unison
16. B) As quiet as Sunday morning.
17. C) Very kindly
18. B) Inspection and prize days.
19. C) The village people sitting on the back benches.
20. B) Old Hauser
21. C) An old primer
22. B) M. Hamel's announcement of the last lesson.
23. B) The order from Berlin regarding the German language.
24. B) Old friends
25. B) Forty years
26. B) He got mixed up on the first words.
27. B) Tomorrow
28. C) Because they could neither speak nor write their own language.
29. B) A little more money
30. C) Water his flowers
31. B) Logical
32. C) The key to their prison
33. B) M. Hamel was extremely patient and Franz listened carefully.
34. C) At one stroke.
35. C) France, Alsace
36. C) The scratching of the pens over the paper.
37. A) The complete extent of the Prussian imposition.
38. B) The church-clock striking twelve and the Angelus.
39. B) Seemed very confident/dignified.
40. C) Vive La France!