**WHERE THE MIND IS WITHOUT FEAR**

**Summary**

The poet prays to God for a free country that is fearless, united, truthful, wise and where the people walk with their heads held high. In such a world, knowledge will be free, and it will not be broken down by narrow-mindedness.

**Understanding the Text**

1. **Choose the correct option:**
   1. **The line ‘mind is without fear and the head is held high’ means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**  
      **a. to be fearless and to have self respect**  
      b. to minds one’s own business  
      c. to live without care  
      d. to have high ideals
   2. **The words ‘narrow domestic walls’ mean \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**  
      a. houses with tiny walls  
      **b. ideas that divide people and separate them from one another**  
      c. a house with many walls  
      d. painted walls
   3. **Where knowledge is free’ means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**  
      **a. a place where everyone can get knowledge, irrespective of his/her race, caste or colour**  
      b. a place where education is free  
      c. a place where knowledgeable people live  
      d. a place where one can learn a lot
2. **Answer these questions:** 
   1. **How do narrow domestic walls break up the world into fragments?**

**Ans**: Narrow domestic walls make people biased against each other and cause disunity. People remain within their walls and interaction between people is completely stopped. This further leads to lack of communication and misunderstandings between people.

* 1. **What does the poet want his countrymen to strive for?**

**Ans**: The poet wants his countrymen to ceaselessly strive for perfection.

* 1. **What does the poet mean by ‘let my country awake’?**

**Ans**: He means that his country should have a new morning where it wakes up as a free nation that is unfettered by the chains of ignorance, narrow domestic walls, dead thinking and lack of reason.

* 1. **What is the ‘heaven of freedom’ like?**

**Ans**: The heaven of freedom will be a free country where people are united, striving for excellence and living happy, progressive lives.

1. **Answer these questions with reference to the context:**
   1. ***Where the world has not been broken up into fragments  
      By narrow domestic walls***  
      **a. What kind of fragments does the poet refer to?  
      b. What are the walls referred to by the poet?  
      c. Why are the walls called ‘narrow’?  
      d. By whom is the world ‘broken’?**

**Ans**:

**a.** The poet refers to fragments of a country where people different ideologies are separated from each other.  
**b.** The walls of prejudice and hatred are being referred to by the poet.  
**c.** They are narrow because they exclude others and do not see beyond their immediate surroundings.  
**d.** The world is broken up by divisive and outdated ideas and beliefs.

* 1. ***Where the mind is led forward by thee***  
     **a. Who does ‘thee’ refer to?  
     b. Where is the mind to be led?  
     c. Why has the word ‘forward’ been used?**

**Ans**:

**a.** The ‘thee’ refers to God.  
**b.** The mind is to be led into the heaven of freedom.  
**c.** The word ‘forward’ has been used because the only way ahead is to move forward, with progressive ideals and modern thinking.

* 1. ***Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection***  
     **a. Why is the word ‘tireless’ used in this line?  
     b. Whose tireless striving is referred to here?  
     c. What kind of perfection could the poet be referring to?  
     d. Which figure of speech has been used in this line?**

**Ans**:

**a.** The word ‘tireless’ has been used to show that it is a long, continuous process that takes great effort.  
**b.** The tireless striving of the people of the country is being referred to here.  
**c.** The poet refers to perfection in all areas of personal, social and political life.  
**d.** Personification.

1. **Think and answer:**
   1. **How can the country get rid of narrow domestic walls?**

**Ans**: The country can get rid of narrow domestic walls by tolerance and love.

* 1. **Why are habits referred to as being ‘dead’?**

**Ans**: Certain habits pull people backwards instead of aiding them in achieving glory. Such habits do not allow the people to progress; hence they are called ‘dead habits’.