



EXAM-DAY · 90-MIN REVISION CARD

The Last Lesson

*Print this · Fold it · Carry to the exam-hall gate · Revise once · Then walk in.***FORMULAS & KEY RESULTS**

AUTHOR: Alphonse Daudet (1840-1897), French naturalist short-story writer

TEXT: 'The Last Lesson' — opening prose, NCERT Flamingo (Class 12 English Core)

SETTING: A village school in ALSACE, north-eastern France, 1870

HISTORICAL TRIGGER: Franco-Prussian War (1870-71) → Treaty of Frankfurt → Alsace + Lorraine ceded to Prussia

POLITICAL ORDER: 'An order has come from Berlin' — German must replace French in Alsatian schools

NARRATOR: Franz — a young boy, first-person, child's-eye view

PROTAGONIST: M. Hamel — village schoolmaster of forty years

KEY PHRASE 1: French is 'the most beautiful language in the world — the clearest, the most logical'

KEY PHRASE 2: 'When a people are enslaved, as long as they hold fast to their language, it is as if they had the key to their prison'

KEY PHRASE 3: 'Vive la France!' — written on the blackboard in M. Hamel's largest hand

CORE THEMES: linguistic chauvinism · value of mother tongue · regret · dignity of a teacher · social cost of subjugation

TOP 5 PYQ PATTERNS**1 Linguistic chauvinism — theme question***5 marks · 95% of years*

Define · anchor in Alsace-1870 · cite 'key to prison' + 'Vive la France' + villagers + Franz's arc · conclude on Daudet's restraint.

2 Franz's reluctance + transformation*3 marks · 90% of years*

Two-three concrete reasons for reluctance · the schoolroom turning point · Franz's regret + new comprehension.

3 M. Hamel — teacher and patriot*5 marks · 85% of years*

Open with the strict teacher · 40 years of vocation · final-day pedagogy · patriot through language · close on blackboard.

4 Significance of the village elders*3 marks · 80% of years*

Old Hauser with his primer · postmaster + ex-mayor · silent honouring · making political violence visible · students see what is being lost.

5 Extract-based comprehension (one of M. Hamel's speeches)*4 marks · 75% of years*

Identify speaker + occasion · paraphrase meaning · explain theme connection · cite one device (irony / symbol / repetition).

90-MIN REVISION FLOW**0-15 min**

Re-read the NCERT text. Underline every utterance of M. Hamel that names language, country, or learning.

15-30 min

Memorise the 3 KEY PHRASES verbatim. They are the spine of every theme answer.

30-45 min

Write Franz's full arc in 8 bullets — from reluctance to reverence. This is the spine of every Franz answer.

45-60 min

Practice the 5-mark linguistic-chauvinism answer using the topper template. Time yourself: 8-10 minutes max.

60-75 min

Drill 5 PYQ extract-based questions. Aim for: identify speaker + paraphrase + theme + device, in 4 sentences.

75-90 min

Self-check: can you explain why M. Hamel scolds the PARENTS (not just himself) for the children not learning French? If yes, you are ready.

Confidence, not anxiety. You've practised this all year. Trust your steps. Don't change strategy on exam morning. Helpline: +91 70330 05444 · readyforboards.com