Task 1: Before reading the article, match the words with their meanings or look them up and write short definitions in your own words.

1. **virtuoso** 2. **custodian** 3. **legacy** 4. **to mesmerise** 5. **profound** 6. **lineage** 7. **pivotal** 8. **turmoil** 9. **connoisseur** 10. **discerning**	A. A person who has expert knowledge and refined taste, especially in the arts B. Extremely skilled, particularly in performing music or another art form C. Deep, intense, or showing great depth of thought, feeling, or meaning D. A person or institution responsible for protecting, preserving, or taking care of something valuable E. A state of great disturbance, confusion, or emotional upheaval F. Showing good judgment, insight, and the ability to notice subtle differences in quality G. Something handed down from the past, such as traditions, achievements, or values H. A family line or direct descent from ancestors I. To completely capture someone's attention or fascination J. Of crucial importance in relation to the development or success of something

Task 2: Answer the following questions briefly:

What role does music play in your life or in the culture you grew up in?

Are musical traditions usually passed down in families in your culture? Why / why not?

What do you already know about Indian classical music or Indian musical instruments (if anything)?

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Task 3: Look at the picture, read the brief guide on the ***Santoor*** and answer the questions below:

The **Santoor** is a traditional stringed instrument from the Indian subcontinent, especially associated with Kashmir. It has around 100 strings and is played by striking the strings with small wooden mallets.



Look at the picture and answer:

What adjectives would you use to describe the instrument and the kind of music it might produce?

How do you imagine its sound differs from Western string instruments?

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Task 4: a) Read the article once and choose the best summary.

A. A technical explanation of how the Santoor is constructed and played
B. A personal and cultural portrait of a musician whose life, identity, and work are deeply connected to tradition, place, and spirituality
C. A critical comparison between Indian and Western classical music
D. A report on current music festivals in Delhi and Kashmir

Explain your choice in **1–2 sentences**.

b) Read the article again and answer the questions in complete sentences.

1. How did Abhay Rustum Sopori's early exposure to music shape his development as a musician?

2. What spiritual and philosophical meanings are associated with the Santoor according to the text?

3. Why does Delhi play such an important role in Abhay's personal and artistic identity?

4. What aims and values underpin the work of the SaMaPa Academy?

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5. How does Abhay Sopori view the relationship between music and healing, especially in times of social or political unrest?

Task 5: a) The article contains several words and expressions that are **culture-specific** or typical of **Indian English usage**. Look up the culture-loaded terms, using the resources published on Google Classroom and explain:

- their meaning
- their cultural significance (where relevant)

Term / Expression	Meaning	Cultural / contextual significance
Gharana		
Sufiana Gharana		
Pandit / ji (as used in names)		
Yantra		
Shaivism		
Pukka Dilli Wala		
NCR		

Consider: Which of these terms would be difficult to translate directly into another variety of English? Why?

b) The article includes translated quotations from **Urdu/Hindi poetry**, which carry strong emotional and cultural meanings. Consider the following quote by Ghalib:

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"The heart is not made of stone or brick; why shouldn't it fill with pain?
We'll cry a thousand times, why should we not, if we're hurt?"

Answer the questions below:

What emotions and values are expressed in this quote?

Why do you think Abhay Sopori chose this particular quote to describe his relationship with his audience and his art?

In your opinion, does this view of emotional openness resonate with your own cultural context? Why / why not?

Task 6: Answer **one** of the following questions in writing (150–200 words):

Option A:
How does this article illustrate Indian English as a distinct variety of English (lexis, references, style, worldview)?

Option B:
In what ways does the text show how English can carry local identities, philosophies, and cultural meanings rather than being culturally "neutral"?

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