

## Make a precls of the following passage:

Progress in life depends a good deal on crossing one threshold after another. Some time ago, a man watched his little nephew try to write his name. It was hard work, very hard work. The little boy had arrived at the threshold with a great effort. Today he writes his name with comparative ease. No new thresholds confront him. This is the way with all of us. As soon as we cross one threshold and conquer one difficulty, a new difficulty appears. Some people make the mistake of steering clear of thresholds. Anything that requires genuine thinking and use of energy, they avoid. They prefer to stay in a rut where thresholds are not met. Probably they have been at their job a number of years but now things are easy for them. They make no effort to seek out new obstacles to overcome. Real progress stops under such circumstances.

Some middle-aged and elderly people greatly enrich their lives by continuing to cross new thresholds. One man went into an entirely new business when he was past middle life and made a success of it. Morgan did not start to write novels until he was past sixty.

Psychologists have discovered that man can continue to learn throughout life. It is undoubtedly better to try, and fail, than not to try at all. Then one can be placed in the category of Swiss mountaineer of whom it was said, "He died climbing".

When a new difficulty rises to obstruct your path, do not complain. Accept the challenge. Determine to cross this threshold as you have crossed numerous other thresholds in your past life. In the words of the poet, do not rest but strive to pass "from dream to greater dream".

People have to overcome one obstacle after the other, in order to prosper. There are some people who avoid challenging tasks and prefer the easy ones. Perhaps, they have adapted to their circumstances and now stopped struggling; and this is the point where real progress stops. Conversely, some people continue working hard throughout their lifespan. One should face adversaries with great courage because to fail after trying is much better than not trying at all. So, one should never stop to strive for his dreams and keep moving on in life.

Words of the passage = 289  
Words of the precis = 92

Title:- Obstacle is the Way

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**Q. Write a précis of the following passage and also suggest a suitable title: (20)**

One night a holy man, Abu Ben Adhem by name, suddenly woke up from a deep dream of peace and saw in his moonlit room an angel writing something in a book of gold. He did not feel at all frightened. The peaceful face of the angel made Abu bold and he said to the angel, "What are you writing?" The angel looked up and replied in a kind and sweet tone, "I am taking down the names of those who love God." "And is my name one among them?" Asked Abu. But the angel replied, "No, it is not." "I pray thee then," said Abu, "To write me down as one who loves his fellowmen." The Angel wrote and vanished. The next night the angel came again with a great light which awaked Abu Ben Adhem: and he showed Abu the names of those who had been blessed by the love of God. And behold! The name of Abu was at-the top of the list.

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## Precis:

One night, Abu Adhem saw an angel who was writing down the names of the people who love God. On inquiry, he found that his name was not mentioned in the list, so he prayed to be listed among those who love ~~to~~ their fellows. Next night, the angel appeared with a list of people loved by God. Abu topped that list.

Words of Passage = 177

Words of Precis = 61

Title:- "God Loves Those who Love His People"

suggest a similar trip.

During my vacation last May, I had a hard time choosing a tour. Flights to Japan, Hong Kong and Australia are just too common. What I wanted was somewhere exciting and exotic, a place where I could be spared from the holiday tour crowds. I was so happy when John called up, suggesting a trip to Cherokee, a county in the state of Oklahoma. I agreed and went off with the preparation immediately.

We took a flight to Cherokee and visited a town called Qualla Boundary surrounded by magnificent mountain scenery, the town painted a paradise before us. With its Oconaluftee Indian Village reproducing tribal crafts and lifestyles of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the outdoor historical pageant *Unto These Hills* playing six times weekly in the summer nights, Qualla Boundary tries to present a brief image of the Cherokee past to the tourists.

Despite the language barrier, we managed to find our way to the souvenir shops with the help of the natives. The shops were filled with rubber tomahawks and colorful traditional war bonnets, made of dyed turkey feathers. Tepees, cone-shaped tents made from animal skin, were also pitched near the shops. "Welcome! Want to get anything?" We looked up and saw a middle-aged man smiling at us. We were very surprised by his fluent English. He introduced himself as George and we ended up chatting till lunch time when he invited us for lunch at a nearby coffee shop.

"Sometimes, I've to work from morning to sunset during the tour season. Anyway, this is still better off than being a woodcutter ..." Remembrance weighed heavy on George's mind and he went on to tell us that he used to cut firewood for a living but could hardly make ends meet. We learnt from him that the Cherokees do not depend solely on trade for survival. During the tour off-peak period, the tribe would have to try out other means for income. One of the successful ways is the "Bingo Weekend". On the Friday afternoons of the Bingo weekends, a large bingo hall was opened, attracting huge crowds of people to the various kinds of games like the Super Jackpot and the Warrior Game Special. According to George, these forms of entertainment fetch them great returns.

Our final stop in Qualla Boundary was at the museum where arts, ranging from the simple hand-woven oak baskets to wood and stone carvings of wolves, ravens and other symbols of Cherokee cosmology are displayed.

Back at home, I really missed the place and I would of course look forward to the next trip to another exotic place.

Last May, when I was having difficulty in choosing an exotic place for vacation, John showed up and suggested to go to Cherokee. Following his suggestion, we visited Qualla Boundary, a mountaneous area in Cherokee, which represented its history through tribal crafts. There, we visited a souvenir shop where a middle-aged man, George, warmly welcomed us. We had a good chat with him and he also invited us for lunch in a nearby coffee shop. George told us that he used to cut firewood for income. He also informed us that the natives do not depend on trade alone for survival and go for other means when tourists are less; among them, Bingo weekend help to earn a good amount. Lastly, we visited a museum in Qualla Boundary where art, in different forms, was displayed. Afterwards, I missed the place with a hope to visit another such place later.

(149 words)

Title:- A visit to Qualla Boundary

### **EXERCISE 3**

There is a famous speech recorded of an old Norseman, thoroughly characteristic of the Teuton. "I believe



neither in idols nor demons," said he, "I put my sole trust in my own strength of body and soul." The ancient crest of a pickaxe with the motto of "Either I will find a way or make one," was an expression of the same sturdy independence which to this day distinguishes the descendants of the Norsemen. Indeed nothing could be more characteristic of the Scandinavian mythology, than that it had a god with a hammer. A man's character is seen in small matters, and from even so slight a test as the mode in which a man wields a hammer, his energy may in some measure be inferred. Thus an eminent Frenchman hits off in a single phrase the characteristic quality of the inhabitants of a particular district in which a friend of his proposed to settle and buy land. "Beware," said he, "of making a purchase there ; I know the men of that department ; the pupils who come from it to our veterinary school at Paris do not strike hard upon the anvil ; they want energy ; and you will not get a satisfactory return on any capital you may invest there." A fine and just appreciation of character, indicating the thoughtful observer ; and strikingly illustrative of the fact that it is the energy of the individual men that gives strength to a State, and confers a value even upon the very soil which they cultivate.

The cultivation of this quality is of the greatest importance ; resolute determination in the pursuit of worthy objects being the foundation of all true greatness of character. Energy enables a man to force his way through irksome drudgery and dry details, and carries him onward and upward in every station in life. It accomplishes more than genius, with not one-half the disappointment and peril. It is not eminent talent that is required to ensure success in any pursuit, so much as purpose, —not merely the power to achieve, but the will to labour energetically and perseveringly. Hence energy of will may be defined to be the very central power of character in a man—in a word, it is the Man himself. It gives impulse to his every action, and soul to every effort. Thus hope is based on it,—and it is hope that gives the real perfume to life.

## Title:- Energy - The Basic Requirement

The Norsemen believed that trusting one's own abilities is much better than believing on the supernatural forces. Similarly, some ancients viewed that one has to either find a way out or create one by themselves. The Scandinavians, who had a god with a hammer, believed that small deeds evaluate a person's character, just like wielding of a hammer which measures every bit of energy in a person. The French had a similar view, who never prefer to buy a land <sup>somewhere</sup> where people have lesser energies. Hence, people everywhere recognize the importance of energy in strengthening oneself and the state. Energy gives man a strong will to strive for <sup>the</sup> important things and drives him through all hardships in life. So, one of the greatest traits of a person is his energy, which is not only his ability to excel, but it is determination to work enthusiastically. Thus, energy ~~is~~ is as important as the man himself because it gives hope for every ~~and~~ action and hope ~~is~~ gives the true essence to life.

words of passage = 527

words of precis = 171

Q.3. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given at the end. (20)

In its response to 9/11, America has shown itself to be not only a hyperpower but increasingly assertive and ready to use its dominance as a hyperpower. After declaring a War on Terrorism, America has led two conventional wars, in Afghanistan and Iraq, demonstrating its overwhelmingly awesome military might. But these campaigns reveal something more: America's willingness to have recourse to arms as appropriate and legitimate means to secure its interests and bolster its security. It has set forth a new doctrine: the right of pre-emptive strike when it considers its security, and therefore its national interests, to be at risk. The essence of this doctrine is the real meaning of hyperpower.

Prime Minister Tony Blair has consistently argued that the only option in the face of hyperpower is to offer wise counsel. But increasingly this is a course that governments and people across the world have refused. The mobilisation for war against Iraq split the United Nations and provoked the largest anti-war demonstrations the world has ever seen. And through it all, America maintained its determination to wage war alone if necessary and not to be counselled by the concerns of supposedly allied governments when they faithfully represented the wishes of their electorates. Rather than engaging in debate, the American government expressed its exasperation. The influential new breed of neoconservative radio and television hosts went much further. They acted as ringmasters for outpourings of public scorn that saw French fries renamed 'freedom fries' and moves to boycott French and German produce across America. If one sound-bite can capture a mood, then perhaps it would be Fox News' Bill O'Reilly. At the height of the tension over a second Security Council resolution to legitimate war in Iraq, Mr O'Reilly told his viewers that the bottom line was security, the security of his family, and in that matter 'There's no moral equivalence between the US and Belgium'. It is, in effect, the ethos of hyperpower articulated and made manifest in the public domain of 24-hour talk. And America's willingness to prosecute war has raised innumerable questions about how it engages with other countries. Afghanistan has seen the removal of the Taliban. But there are no official statistics on the number of innocent civilians dead and injured to achieve that security objective. The people of Afghanistan have witnessed a descent into the chaos that preceded the arrival of the Taliban, a country administered not by a new era of democracy under the tutelage of the hyperpower, but merely by the return of the warlords. Beyond Kabul, much of the country remains too insecure for any meaningful efforts at reconstruction and there is enormous difficulty in bringing relief aid to the rural population.

Questions: (4 marks each)

1. Why does the doctrine of power set by neo-imperial America deny space to counselling?
2. What is the essence of 'moral equivalence' whereas War has no moral justification?
3. Why do countries occupied and under the tutelage of hyperpower have no peace?
4. Arguably Europe and hyperpower US are at cross purposes over the concept of war. Are they? Why?
5. What Tony Blair meant by 'wise counsel', and did it prevail?

1) The doctrine of power set by neo-imperial America denies space to counselling because it allows America, the hyperpower, to wage war for its national interest and security. America is ready to independently engage in war, <sup>if necessary,</sup> ~~it~~ instead of engaging in debates.

2) There are no moralities involved in the war. and the hyperpowers unjustly use their power to suppress the weaker nations in the name of national security so, 'moral equivalence' does not exist in case of wars and national interests.

3) The countries occupied under the tutelage of hyperpower have no peace because the hyperpowers engage in wars there resulting in the death of <sup>and injuries to</sup> many innocent people, ultimately causing unrest and chaos ~~for~~ ~~th~~ in the country.

4) Yes, Europe and hyperpower US are at cross purposes over the concept of war ~~to~~ as Europeans believe on the concept of 'wise counsel' or having dialogues but Americans are open to show their ~~military~~ military strength even if no other country supports it.

5) By wise council, Tony Blair meant to wisely deal with global chaos that results ~~by~~ due to hegemonic designs of hyperpower by peaceful negotiations and dialogues but it did not prevail as many countries disagreed with this ~~concept~~ idea.