

CSS 2007

Q1. Make a précis of the given passage and suggest a suitable heading. (20+5=25)

The author of a work of imagination is trying to affect us wholly, as human beings, whether he knows it or not; and we are affected by it, as human beings, whether we intend to be or not. I suppose that everything we eat has some effect upon us than merely the pleasure of taste and mastication; it affects us during the process of assimilation and digestion; and I believe that exactly the same is true of anything we read.

The fact that what we read does not concern merely something called our literary taste, but that it affects directly, though only amongst many other influences, the whole of what we are, is best elicited, I think, by a conscientious examination of the history of our individual literary education. Consider the adolescent reading of any person with some literary sensibility. Everyone, I believe, who is at all sensible to the seductions of poetry, can remember some moment in youth when he or she was completely carried away by the work of one poet. Very likely he was carried away by several poets, one after the other. The reason for this passing infatuation is not merely that our sensibility to poetry is keener in adolescence than in maturity. What happens is a kind of inundation, or invasion of the undeveloped personality, the empty (swept and garnished) room, by the stronger personality of the poet. The same thing may happen at a later age to persons who have not done much reading. One author takes complete possession of us for a time; then another, and finally they begin to affect each other in our mind. We weigh one against another; we see that each has qualities absent from others, and qualities incompatible with the qualities of others: we begin to be, in fact, critical: and it is our growing critical power which protects us from excessive possession by anyone literary personality. The good critic, and we should all, try to be a critic, and not leave criticism to the fellows who write reviews in the papers- is the man who, to a keen and abiding sensibility, joins wide and increasingly discriminating. Wide reading is not valuable as a kind of hoarding, and the accumulation of knowledge or what sometimes is meant by the term 'a well-stocked mind.' It is valuable because in the process of being affected by one powerful personality after another, we cease to be dominated by anyone, or by any small number. The very different views of life, cohabiting in our minds, affect each

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other, and our own personality asserts itself and gives each a place in some arrangement peculiar to our self.

**Precis:**

Total words = 513

Approx. words of precis = 171

### Rough draft

- Everything influences human mind who read by him
- It is not the literary taste but the literary education which shapes mind
- In younger age, he is effected by just one poet and later on, by a numerous poets.
- Effect is due to the strong personality of poet effects man's weak mind.
- Then, he begins to criticise him which comes from wide reading.

### Precis:

The work of imagination always affects the man, just like eating does affect <sup>body</sup> ~~on~~ human ~~mind~~. This is what reading does to a human mind. This does not depend on one's literary taste but the literary education which shapes the mind. While reading poetry,

his mind is completely influenced by one poet and then followed by another one. This is the depiction of unstructured personality influenced by the poet's charismatic personality. Then, comparison among different poets start in his mind, which shows that everyone possess different qualities from one another. This makes the best critic <sup>who is not</sup> ~~not to be~~ over-influenced by anyone.

The quality of good critic is that he owns the ~~q~~ characteristic of wide reading. It is a keen reading which does not let his mind dominated by anyone. He knows that how much space to be given to a certain idea required for him. (150 words).

Title:

- Quality Reading makes quality men
- Mature readers