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There is indeed, something inexpressibly pleasing in the annual renovation of the world and the new display of the treasures of nature. The darkness and cold of winter with the naked deformity of every object, on which we turn our eyes, make us rejoice at the succeeding season, as well for what we have escaped, as for what we may enjoy. Every budding flower, which a warm situation brings early to our view, is considered by us a messenger to notify the approach of more joyous days.

The spring affords to a mind free from the disturbance of cares or passions almost everything that our present state makes us capable of enjoying. The Variegated Verdure of the fields and woods, the succession of grateful Odors, the Voice of pleasure pouring out its notes on every side, with the gladness apparently conceived by every animal from the growth of food and the clemency of the weather, throw over the whole earth an air of gaiety, significantly expressed by Smile of nature.  
(Samuel John Son)

### Questions

- (a) Give meanings of the underlined expressions in the passage in your own words. (10)
- (b) Say how an early budding flower becomes a messenger of happy days? (3)
- (c) Who, according to the writer, can make the best of the spring season? (3)
- (d) Why are all animals glad at the approach of spring? (3)
- (e) Suggest a title for the passage. (1)

(d)                      Words                      Meaning

Inexpressibly pleasing      So pleasing that it cannot be expressed in words.

Succeeding	Next
Rejoice	Feel happy
Clemency	Mercy
Gaiety	Happiness

(b) Early Budding Flower becomes a messenger of happy days as that which is a hot situation brings early to our view, is considered by us a messenger to notify the approach of more joyous days.

(c) According to the writer, can make the best of the spring season because mind free from the disturbance of cares, enjoying the present movement and clemency or mercy of weather.

(d) All animals glad at the approach of spring because smile of nature such as every animal, from the growth of food and the kindness of the weather earth an air of gaiety.

(e) Blessing of the spring.

Civil society refers to all of the places where individuals gather together to have conversations, pursue common interests and, occasionally, try to influence public opinion or public policy. In many respects, civil society is where people spend their time when they are not at work or at home. For example, a group of people gather at a local park every Thursday afternoon for a game of football. Most of them arrive well before the game begins and stay for some time after it ends. Some of them go out for dinner or a drink after the game. In the course of their meetings they talk about a wide range of topics, including football but also extending to include issues such as work, family, relationships, community events, racial issues and politics. This kind of solidarity can be found in a variety of other places in civil society — such as sports clubs, bowling leagues, reading groups and social movements — where individuals get together to associate on the basis of some shared interest fostering more effective forms of citizenship. Even though people may come together on the basis of an interest they all share in common, they eventually have to develop productive strategies for dealing with conflicts and differences that emerge within the association. Team mates in a bowling league discover,

on certain issues, significant differences of opinion.' And yet, because they value the association and look forward to participating in its activities, they do not respond to these differences by exiting the scene. Instead, they search for the ways of interacting that will not threaten the solidarity of the group'. In the process, they learn to appreciate and to tolerate social differences, a valuable skill to have in an increasingly multicultural nation. They also develop a general sense of social trust and mutual obligation, which makes society function more efficiently (this is what political scientists and sociologists are talking about when they refer to the importance of social capital). 'Gathering together in an association, people begin to think about their shared private interest as a collective public interest, and they try to make sure that this public interest is safe and secured. For example, the group that gets together for a weekly football game begins to talk about the park as an important community resource; if feel that the park is being mistreated or mismanaged, will organize a 'save the park' campaign to try to influence their local politicians and the other residents of the community.' Recently, there has been growing concern that civil society is weaker than it used to be, because people are losing interest in joining association. As citizens become increasingly disconnected from voluntary associations, they will experience less trust and less social connection, and as a result political institutions will function less efficiently. However, some scholars opine that many people are simply choosing to participate in different kinds of associations with fewer face-to-face meetings but supplemented with 'virtual' interactions facilitated by resources.

### **Questions**

1. How does the author characterize the concept of civil society? (4)
2. Why does civil society strive towards better socialization driven by tolerance? (4)
3. What do you understand by the term 'Social Capital' used in this passage? (4)
4. Why does a civil society assume the role of a public stakeholder? (4)
5. What impact is feared by the weakening state of civil society?(4)

① According to the author the concept of civil society is that civil society refers to all of the places where individuals gather to have conversation, pursue interests and struggle to influence public policy.

2. The civil society strive towards better socialization driven by tolerance is that people come together on the basis of an interest, and develop productive strategies for dealing with conflicts and differences that emerge within the association.

3. The term social capital used in this process, they learn to award and to tolerate social differences, A valuable skill to have in an increasingly multicultural nation. They also develop mutual obligation and social trust.

4. A civil society assume the role of a public stakeholder is that gathering together in an association, people think about shared private interest, collective public interest and the struggle to make certain that public interest is safe and secured.

5. The impact is feared by the weakening state of civil society is that recently civil society is weaker than it used to be, because people are losing interest in joining association. As citizen disconnected from voluntary associations, less social connection and functionless political institutions.