

**Q3. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow: (5x4=20)**

Knowledge is acquired when we succeed in fitting a new experience in the system of concepts based upon our old experiences. Understanding comes when we liberate ourselves from the old and so make possible a direct, unmediated contact with the new, the mystery, moment by moment, of our existence. The new is the given on every level of experience – given perceptions, given emotions and thoughts, given states of unstructured awareness, given relationships with things and persons. The old is our home-made system of ideas and word patterns. It is the stock of finished articles fabricated out of the given mystery by memory and analytical reasoning, by habit and automatic associations of accepted notions. Knowledge is primarily a knowledge of these finished articles. Understanding is primarily direct awareness of the raw material.

Knowledge is always in terms of concepts and can be passed on by means of words or other symbols. Understanding is not conceptual and therefore cannot be passed on. It is an immediate experience, and immediate experience can only be talked about (very inadequately), never shared. Nobody can actually feel another's pain or grief, another's love or joy, or hunger. And similarly nobody can experience another's understanding of a given event or situation. There can, of course, be knowledge of such an understanding, and this knowledge may be passed on in speech or writing, or by means of other symbols. Such communicable knowledge is useful as a reminder that there have been specific understandings in the past, and that understanding is at all times possible. But we must always remember that knowledge of understanding is not the same thing as the understanding which is the raw material of that knowledge. It is as different from understanding as the doctor's prescription for penicillin is different from penicillin.

**Questions:**

1. How is knowledge different from understanding?
2. Explain why understanding cannot be passed on.
3. Is the knowledge of understanding possible? If it is, how may it be passed on?
4. How does the author explain that knowledge of understanding is not the same thing as the understanding?
5. How far do you agree with the author in his definitions of knowledge and understanding? Give reasons for your answer.

Q: How is knowledge different from understanding?

Knowledge is the learning of new concepts, ideas, and notions based on the previous ones.

While understanding is the learning of new things, new mysteries, and new concepts, which are completely apart from the old ones.

Q: Explain why understanding cannot be passed on.

Understanding is basically one's own perception about things, which is unique to everyone. Everyone understands any happening in his own way. It is the experience which cannot be passed on but can be shared.

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Q: Is the knowledge of understanding possible? If it is, how may it be passed on?

Yes, the knowledge of understanding is possible and it can be passed on through verbal way or writings with the help of signs and symbols.

Q: How does the author explain that knowledge of understanding is not the same thing as the understanding?

Knowledge of understanding can be based on past experiences and can be similar with that of another to some extent, But understanding is completely different from it, which is unique to everyone.

**Q5:** How far do you agree with the author in his definitions of knowledge and understanding? Give reasons for your answer!

It is agreed with <sup>the</sup> author's view of knowledge and understanding. Knowledge can be gained through anyone's old experiences, but understanding cannot be learned from anyone else's experience.

It is gained when one himself passes through the particular situation.