

SOLVED COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS FROM PREVIOUS PAPERS

Comprehension 1: CSS 2022

- Q: Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: (20)
- (1) Civil society refers to all of the places where individuals gather together to have conversations, peruse 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 works, 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. (2) 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. (3) 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). (4) 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. (5) Recently, there has been growing concern that civil society is weaker than it used to be, because people are losing interest in joining associations. 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. (6)

(4 Marks Each)

Questions:

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

Comprehension 2022

1. How does the author characterize the concepts of civil society?

The author characterizes the concept of civil society as a social gathering where people get together to discuss about their interests, problems or spend quality time with each other. The writer gives numerous examples like gathering for a football match, going out for dinner, talking about issues regarding family, work, community and politics. Thus, a civil society is an embodiment of unity and solidarity among people.

2. Why does civil society strive towards better socialization driven by tolerance?

A civil society with better socialization helps to attain high levels of tolerance among its individuals. When people get together to discuss about a common interest, it is natural that they may have different opinion or strategy regarding it.

This difference of opinion may lead to conflicts.

But rather than creating issue or proving which is better or exiting the conversation, they tolerate and listen to each other. It is due to the mutual respect they have for association. People would search for ways that does not cause harm to solidarity and give solutions for interacting. In this way, they learn to appreciate and tolerate social difference among themselves.

3. What do you understand by the term 'Social Capital'?

Social capital refers to the values and norms that a society possesses to bring harmony and unity among its individuals. A civil society promotes the sense of social trust, mutual obligation, tolerance, harmony, solidarity among its people that helps them to deal with their common problems and yield productive output for society's betterment.

This set of values is referred as Social Capital by different political scientists and sociologists.

4. Why does the civil society assume the role of a Public State holder?

When people of a civil society gather with each other, there is a mutual sharing of problems, ~~concerns~~, challenges and issues that people are facing. Ultimately the solutions and remedies are also discussed to get rid of those problems.

Hence, this art and practice of ensuring public interest paves the path for a civil society to become a public state holder.

Q. What impact is feared by the weakening state of civil society?

If civil societies get weakened, it may have a negative impact on citizens and public. If people are not interested in ^{joining} and participating in associations, it will result in loss of social trust and bonding among individuals. It would ultimately result in the less efficiency of public institutions. Hence an optimistic and welfare society ceases to exist and social disorientation and loneliness would take place among people.

of Counsayers and Oracles in Ancient Greece

Précis 2: CSS 2021

Q. 2. Write a précis of the following and suggest a suitable title:

Nizar Hassan was born in 1960 and raised in the village of Mashhad, near Nazareth

(20)

where he has lived with his family. He studied anthropology at Haifa University and after graduating worked in TV. Starting in 1990, he turned to cinema. In 1994, he produced *Independence*, in which he pokes his Palestinian interlocutors about what they think of the bizarre Israeli notion of their "independence". They have stolen another people's homeland and call the act "independence"! Hassan dwells on that absurdity.

As the world's attention was captured by the news of Israel planning to "annex" yet a bit more of Palestine and add it to what they have already stolen, I received an email from Nizar Hassan, the pre-eminent Palestinian documentary filmmaker. He wrote to me about his latest film, *My Grandfather's Path*, and included a link to the director's cut. It was a blessing. They say choose your enemies carefully for you would end up like them. The same goes for those opposing Zionist settler colonialists. If you are too incensed and angered by their daily dose of claptrap, the vulgarity of their armed robbery of Palestine, you would soon become like them and forget yourself and what beautiful ideas, ideals, and aspirations once animated your highest dreams. Never fall into that trap. For decades, aspects of Palestinian and world cinema, art, poetry, fiction, and drama have done for me precisely that: saved me from that trap. They have constantly reminded me what all our politics are about – a moment of poetic salvation from it all.

Nizar Hassan's new documentary is one such work – in a moment of dejection over Israel's encroachment on Palestinian rights and the world's complicity, it has put Palestine in perspective. The film is mercifully long, beautifully paced and patient, a masterfully crafted work of art – a Palestinian's epic ode to his homeland. A shorter version of *My Grandfather's Path* has been broadcast on Al Jazeera Arabic in three parts, but it must be seen in its entirety, in one go. It is a pilgrimage that must not be interrupted.

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Precis 2021

Title: Nizar Hussain - a Palestinian Patriot

Nizar Hussain, a Palestinian filmmaker, ~~was~~^a well known filmmaker since he produced two very great films that depicted the Palestine-Israel conflict. Through his films that were ^{named} 'Independence' and 'My Grand father's Path', he addressed the Palestinian nation to abstain from adopting the habits of their oppressors that were Zionists. The author reminds the ~~importance~~ importance of Palestinian art and cinema. His documentary is worth watching and depicts a clear Palestinian perspective.

Paragraph words \approx 350

Precis word count \approx 70