

PRECIS EXERCISE 5

... many times over
(CSS 1977)

Q.2:

Make a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title.

The present-day industrial establishment is a great distance removed from that of the last century or even of twenty-five years ago. This improvement has been the result of a variety of forces.— government standards and factory inspection: general technological and architectural advance by substituting machine power for heavy or repetitive manual, labour, the need to compete for a labour force: and union intervention to improve working conditions in addition to wages and hours.)

However, except where the improvement contributed to increased productivity, the effort to make more pleasant has had to support a large burden of proof. It was permissible to seek the elimination of hazardous, unsanitary, unhealthful, or otherwise objectionable conditions of work. The speedup might be resisted to a point. But the test was not what was agreeable but what was unhealthful or, at a minimum, excessively fatiguing. The trend toward increased leisure is not reprehensible, but we resist vigorously the notion that a man should work less hard on the job. Here older attitudes are involved. We are gravely suspicious of any tendency to expand less than

the maximum effort, for this has long been a prime economic virtue.

In strict logic there is as much to be said for making work pleasant and agreeable as for shortening Hours. On the whole it is probably as important for a wage-earner to have pleasant, working conditions as a pleasant home. To a degree, he can escape the latter but not the former—though no doubt the line between an agreeable tempo and what is flagrant feather-bedding is difficult to draw.

Moreover, it is a commonplace of the industrial scene that the dreariest and most burdensome tasks, requiring as they do a minimum of thought and skill frequently have the largest number of takers. The solution to this problem lies, as we shall see presently, in driving up the supply of crude manpower at the bottom of the ladder. Nonetheless the basic point remains, the case for more leisure is not stronger on purely prima facie grounds than the case for making labour-time itself more agreeable. The test, it is worth repeating, is not the effect on productivity. It is not seriously argued that the shorter work week increases productivity—those men produce more in fewer Hours than they would in more. Rather it is whether fewer Hours are always to be preferred to more but pleasant ones.

398

(CSS 1976)

PLEASANT TIME VS. LESS WORKING TIME

The factories have greatly improved due to the raised standards by government and factory inspection. This resulted in better working conditions by introducing machines in place of labourer and efforts to improve working hours and wages. ~~The~~ Its purpose was to ~~improve~~ enhance productivity and create an enjoyable environment. For this purpose, all unpleasant elements were removed from environment. However, working hard on job is important rather than enjoying it because having more benefits with less effort is doubtful. ^{logically} ~~the~~ pleasant working environment seems important for workers as they cannot avoid it; however, it is difficult to clearly differentiate between having pleasant environment or undeserving benefits. Practically, difficult tasks require larger work force. Thus, ^{the number of} labourer must be increased to produce more work in less time. Therefore, reducing work time is more productive than having pleasureable time.

words of passage = 398

words of précis = 138

Q. No. 8: PMS Punjab 2022

Q. No. 8: Make a precis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title. (20 Marks)

John Lock reflects the new situation in England more than ever when he goes on to

argue that the reason men come together to live in society, with laws, is for the preservation of their property. Since men are driven into society, it follows that the power of that society 'can never be suffered to extend further than the common good'. And this common good can only be determined by standing laws, statutes, that all are aware of and agree to, and not by extemporary degrees of say, and absolute sovereign. Moreover, these laws must be administered 'by indifferent and upright judges'. Only in this way can the people (and rulers) know where they are in an important amendment to the idea of absolute monarchy. Lock said that the king can never suspend the law. Finally Lock gave voice to the main anxiety of the rising commercial classes in England (a fear of something which they saw happening in France). In state intervention trade, that no power can take from a man his property without his consent. 'A soldier may be commanded by a superior in all things, save the disposal of his property'. In the same way a man has property in his own person, meaning that a man's labor is his property too. The most important consequence of this, Lock says is that people can be taxed only with their consent. (We recognize this now in the doctrine 'No taxation without representation').

244

A LAWFUL SOCIETY: IMPORTANT FOR PROTECTION

One of the earlier philosophers believed that a lawful society is formed by people to protect their property. Laws in society are made for collective welfare. Judges are responsible to ensure just enforcement of the laws. This restricts the kings to have control over the laws, unlike in absolute monarchy. Another concern for people was the interference of state in trade. This interference is restricted by making laws which ensure that no property can be taken away or taxed without the will of its owner.

(85 words)