

PRÉCIS

Central Superior Services Examination (CSS) 1972

Passage.

Up to a point the Second German War resembled the first. Each began with a German bid for power which almost succeeded in spite of the opposition of France and Great Britain. In each the United States came to the rescue after year of neutrality. Each ended with a German defeat. But the differences were easier to see than the resemblances. The powers were differently grouped: Italy and Japan were on the German side, Russia was neutral until the Germans attacked across what had been, to begin with, Poland and Baltic States. The second war lasted even longer than the other. It pressed harder on the civilian population. After a period of restraint, perhaps, intended to conciliate American opinion, both sides dropped bombs from the air, without respect for the nature of the targets, wherever the officers concerned expected to cause the greatest effect. In Great Britain 60,000 civilians were killed. Though the Island was not invaded, the population was more directly involved than it was in any former war. Children and others were evacuated from towns into the country. Food supplies ran so short that, at the worst, even potatoes were rationed. Of all the states opposed to Germany, Great Britain was the only one which fought throughout the war. The resources of the nation were concentrated in the war effort more completely than those of any other nation on either side. Labour for women as well as men, became compulsory. Nevertheless, once the war reached its full severity in the west, eight months after it was declared, there was less disunion between classes and interests than in any other five years within living memory. Fighting spread all over the world. The Pacific was as vital a theatre as Europe. Scientists, especially Physicists, made revolutionary discoveries during the war, not only in the fields of weapons and defense against them, but in supply, transport, and control in action. Strange to say the fight services suffered fewer casualties than in 1914-18: 300,000 of the armed forces and 35,000 of the navy were killed. There was nothing like the trench warfare of former war, though there was almost every other sort of warfare, from mechanized war of movement in the North African desert to hand to hand jungle fighting in Burma. Both sides experimented and built up stocks for gas warfare and biological warfare, but neither side used them. (George Clark: English History: a survey)

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Final Draft

The German Wars

Both the German Wars were similar as they were against France and Great Britain; US stayed neutral in the beginning, and Germany got defeated in the end. But the differences were comparatively more prominent. Powers were oddly divided, it was longer, and had affected more civilians. Both the groups adopted harsh ways, in order to cause bigger destruction. Great Britain was affected to the point of collapse, yet lasted till the very end. War had taken the entire world in loop. In between, several discoveries were made, especially in the field of physics. In comparison to the first war, armed forces suffered less casualties. Despite the advanced

(cont) machinery, it was melting like first
war. Both sides had piled up
news weeklies, but did not care

them. (126 words)

Suitable Titles

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

4

First and foremost among the blessings of civilisation are order and safety. If today I have a quarrel with another man, I do not get beaten merely because I am physically weaker and he can knock me down. I go to law, and the law will decide as fairly as it can between the two of us. Thus in disputes between man and man right has taken the place of might. Moreover, the law protects me from robbery and violence. Nobody may come and break into my house, steal my goods or run off with my children. Of course there are burglars but they are very rare, and the law punishes them whenever it catches them.

It is difficult for us to realise how much this safety means. Without safety those higher activities of mankind which make up civilisation could not go on. The inventor could not invent, the scientists find out or the artist make beautiful things. Hence order and safety, although they are not themselves civilisation, are things without which civilisation would be impossible. They are as necessary to our civilisation as the air we breathe; and we have grown so used to them that we do not notice them any more than we notice the air.

For all that, they are both new things and rare things. Except for a short period under the Roman Empire, there have been order and safety in Europe only during the last two hundred years, and even during that time there had been two revolutions and a great many wars. Thus it is a great achievement of our civilisation that today civilised men should in their ordinary daily lives be practically free from the fear of violence.

Questions

1. What are the blessings of civilisation? How do we enjoy them?
2. What conditions are necessary for a civilisation to be possible?
3. What is the great achievement of our civilisation?

Reading Comprehension:

Qw01:

Ans: ~~The~~ blessings of civilizations are law, order and safety. We unknowingly enjoy them in many ways; like, we live a secure life, we are not suffering because of physical weakness. We do not live under the fear of being robbed. These are all the blessings of civilizations that we enjoy.

Qw02:

~~Ans: Proper implies~~

Ans: Safety and order are necessary for a civilization to be possible. They ensure the higher activities that are required to make up civilization. Safe environment helps the inventor to invent, Scientists to discover and artists to make beautiful things. Hence, safety and order are as necessary to civilizations, as oxygen is to human.

History

Q no 3:

Ans: The greatest achievement of our civilizations is that today men are free from the fear of violence, and are able to live their lives securely.