

Q.3. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

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 no body 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 pencitid is different from penicillin.

### Questions:

- (i) How is knowledge different from understanding?
- (ii) Explain why understanding cannot be passed on.
- (iii) Is the knowledge of understanding possible? If it is, how may it be passed on?
- (iv) How does the author explain that knowledge of understanding is not the same thing as the understanding?
- (v) How far do you agree with the author in his definitions of knowledge and understanding? Give reasons for your answer.

## Comprehension

i-Answer: The knowledge is different from understanding such that knowledge is gaining a new experience with the help of existing ideas and thoughts. It can also be communicated either verbally or non-verbally. On other hand, knowledge understanding is entirely direct new idea perceived by mind without any existing conceptual framework. Unlike knowledge, it cannot be communicated to others just like feelings.

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ii-Answer Understanding cannot be passed on, because it is an abrupt experience like feelings. It cannot be shared or communicated; however, it can only talk about it. As nobody can feel emotions of other, one's understanding cannot be experienced by other in the same way.

iii-Answer ~~The under~~ The knowledge of understanding is possible. But it is not the same as the knowledge itself and it is entirely different. It can be passed on either verbally, orally or non-verbally. This communication of the knowledge of understanding indicates the existence of understanding all the times and in the past as well.

iv. Answer

The author explains that knowledge & understanding is different from the understanding such that knowledge & the understanding provides the essential conceptual framework of understanding. However, understanding is gained directly through insights without any existing conceptual framework.

conceptual framework

(v) Answer

I agree with the author's definition of knowledge and understanding to greater extent. Firstly, author aptly implies that knowledge is gained with the help of existing concepts, but understanding is entirely novice, which does not exist priorly. Rather, it is understanding that gives birth to the knowledge. Similarly, understanding is ~~an~~ one's own distinct direct experience and the same experience cannot be communicated ~~as~~ like knowledge.