

PART-II

Q. 2 Make a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title.

(15+5=20)

Sociologists recognize that social stratification is a society-wide system that makes inequalities apparent. While there are always inequalities between individuals, sociologists are interested in larger social patterns. Stratification is not about individual inequalities, but about systematic inequalities based on group membership, classes, and the like. No individual, rich or poor, can be blamed for social inequalities. A person's social standing is affected by the structure of society. Although individuals may support or fight inequalities, social stratification is created and supported by society as a whole.

Factors that define stratification vary in different societies. In most societies, stratification is an economic system, based on wealth, the net value of money and assets a person has, and income, a person's wages or investment dividends. While people are regularly categorized based on how rich or poor they are, other important factors influence social standing. For example, in some cultures, wisdom and charisma are valued, and people who have them are revered more than those who don't. In some cultures, the elderly are esteemed; in others, the elderly are disparaged or overlooked. Societies' cultural beliefs often reinforce the inequalities of stratification.

One key determinant of social standing is the social standing of one's parents. Parents tend to pass their social position on to their children. People inherit not only social standing but also the cultural norms that accompany a certain lifestyle. They share these with a network of friends and family members. Social standing becomes a comfort zone, a familiar lifestyle, and an identity.

Other determinants are found in a society's occupational structure. Teachers, for example, often have high levels of education but receive relatively low pay. Many believe that teaching is a noble profession, so teachers should do their jobs for love of their profession and the good of their students, not for money. Yet no successful executive or entrepreneur would embrace that attitude in the business world, where profits are valued as a driving force. Cultural attitudes and beliefs like these support and perpetuate social inequalities.

My father was back in work within days of his return home. He had a spell in the shipyard, where the last of the great Belfast liners, the CANBERRA, was under construction, and then moved to an electronics firm in the east of the city. (These were the days when computers were the size of small houses and were built by sheet metal workers). A short time after he started in this job, one of his colleagues was sacked for taking off time to get married. The workforce went on strike to get the colleague reinstated. The dispute, dubbed the Honeymoon Strike, made the Belfast papers. My mother told me not long ago that she and my father, with four young sons, were hit so hard by that strike, that for years afterwards they were financially speaking, running to stand still. I don't know how the strike ended, but whether or not the colleague got his old job back, he was soon in another, better one. I remember visiting him and his wife when I was still quite young, in their new bungalow in Belfast northern suburbs. I believe they left Belfast soon after the Troubles began.

My father then was thirty-seven, the age I am today. My Hither and I are father and son, which is to say we are close without knowing very much about one another. We talk about events, rather than emotions. We keep from each other certain of our hopes and fears and doubts. I have never for instance asked my father whether he has dwelt on the direction his life might have taken if at certain moments he had made certain other choices. Whatever, he found himself, with a million and a half of his fellows, living in what was in all but name a civil war. As a grown up I try often to imagine what it must be like to be faced with such a situation. What, in the previous course of your life, prepares you for arriving, as my father did, at the scene of a bomb blast close to your brother's place of work and seeing what you suppose, from the colour of the hair, to be your brother lying in the road, only to find that you are cradling the remains of a woman?

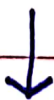
Questions:

1. From your reading of the passage what do you infer about the nature of the "Troubles" the writer mentions. (4)
2. What according to the writer were the working conditions in the Electronics firm where his father worked? (4)
3. Why was his father's colleague sacked? (4)
4. How does the writer show that as father and son they do not know much about each other? (4)
5. Explain these words/phrases in the passage: (4)
Made the Belfast papers, had a spell, dubbed, was sacked, hit hard.

"Class Division in a Society"

Sociologists believe that class division is the part of a society. However, they prefer to study it on the macro level. The economic status of a person depends on the formation of the society. Similarly, class division is promoted by the society itself. Basically, it depends on the financial status of an individual. But, in some traditions the division is on the basis of rationality and intellectualism.

Likewise, in other traditions old age people are respected. Moreover, the social standing of a person is determined by the hereditary transfer of status from their elders. Furthermore, the notion of status irrespective of economic factor is denounced by business men.



Q2 According to the writer his father worked in an electronic firm. The working conditions over there were not favourable. He said that his family was affected by the strike at that time. In fact, the economic implications were felt for many years. Therefore, the writer portrayed a negative position of the firm.

Q3 As per the writer his father worked in an electronic firm. During his appointment one of his colleague was fired from the job because he took a leave to get married.

Q4) The writer asserted that he was not close to his father. He said that he was not attached to his father emotionally. Their communication was based on other topics except love and affection. They preferred hiding their feelings from one another. Hence, the writer and his father did not had a healthy relation.

Q5 1) Made the Belfast papers: The strike called upon by the employees was reported in the news paper

2) Had a spell: The writer father worked in the ship yard



- 3) Dubbed as: The topic of the news was the honey moon strike
- 4) Was Socked: Was forced
- 5) Hit hard: affected by

Q.1) According to the writer his family faced many troubles through the life. In fact, the death of his uncle in a bomb blast and economic instability were the main problems faced. Basically, he had a troubled past full of miseries. In conclusion, he saw many ups and downs in his life.