

Q. No. 6 ✓ Make a précis of the following passage and assign a suitable title:

For the first thing which a scholar should bear in mind is that a book ought not to be read for mere amusement. Half-educated persons read for amusement and are not to be blamed for it; they are incapable of appreciating the deeper qualities that belong to a really great literature. But a young man who has passed through a course of university training should discipline himself at an early age never to read for mere amusement. And once the habit of the discipline has been formed, he will even find it impossible to read for mere amusement. (He will then impatiently throw down any book from which he cannot obtain intellectual food, any book which does not make an appeal to the higher emotions and to the intellect.) But on the other hand, the habit of reading for amusement becomes with thousands of people exactly the same kind of habit as wine-drinking or opium-smoking; it is like a narcotic, something that helps to pass the time, something that keeps up a perpetual condition of dreaming, something that eventually results in destroying all capacity for thought, giving exercise only to the surface parts of the mind, and leaving the deeper springs of feeling and the higher faculties of perception unemployed.

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Precis:

Reading a book for mere amusement does not suit a scholar but only a person incapacitated to comprehend an extraordinary literature. Early training to discipline oneself not to read for mere amusement makes one aware of the literature that suits his taste and rejects that which he finds unappealing. Conversely, reading for mere amusement is like drugs which keep one stupefied and diminish one's ability of deep understanding.

(Word Count: 68)

Title:

"Reading for amusement: gateway to intellectual destruction"