

English Comprehension & Précis

Saniya Khan
(127)

Part - II

Q2

Make précis of the following...

Précis

Physical and moral courage are necessary for any general. These qualities are praised even by the greatest writers such as Voltaire. In comparison, health is an other important but relative quality in a general. The question of age, however, is perplexing to many as it is often contemplated that at what age a general becomes less dangerous to the enemy. It is debated that many young men such as Alexander, Napoleon and the like have earned highest prizes of war. On the other hand some, like Julius Caesar, began their military career at an older age.

Nevertheless, it is impossible to give exact values of comparison of the judgements of young military commanders to mature ones because of the vitality of minds; a mature commander can still take better decisions if his mind has the capacity to absorb new ideas. Similarly, a sharp young commander can beat an old one. It is a good step in the right direction to lower the ages of generals.

Title: Characteristics of Military Generals: the Age Factor.

Q 3

Read the passage.....?

QUESTIONS

(1)

Humans have complicated their lives by disregarding simplicity and adopting modern technological revolution. They let machines

do much of their work for example calculators are used instead of brain for calculations, computers ^{are} used for storing knowledge instead of human memory, and this has not alleviated human suffering but added to it in form of depression and anxiety.

(2)

The writer has given a reference to the 'wisdom of our ancestors'. He gives five examples to imply it one of which is school education delivered to children in the modern times. The Victorian ages were wiser times as they developed children's critical thinking whereas the modern times facilitate rote learning and brainwashing, limiting the extent of children to examinations only.

(3)

'The new Tower of Babel' is a reference to the Americans

who are the chief architects of the world. They have constructed this new world on the basis of their norms and values, regarding English language to be a tool of communication for the whole world. They also hold the power of nuclear weapons and their misinterpretation of an ill-constructed message can start a war.

(4)

Psychologists and sociologists preach the message of opening up our feelings. But the author is of the view that the convention of hiding one's worries from their family is not necessarily a harmful thing. It shows that sometimes, it is not feasible to involve the whole family in small worries that parents can otherwise solve themselves.

(5)

The writer implies that we should exercise our reasoning powers and measure of choice with the rate of change of adaptation.

When things around us change, we should reflect on those changes, long and carefully and also reflect on independence of thought. Humans have souls which is why they should spend time on internal reflection and recognize themselves from within.

Q4

Correct any five of the following

- a) He had hardly reached the station when it began to rain.
- c) We had left before the police arrived.
- d) I have been preparing for CSS exams since last October.
- e) If only I could go back in time!

f) My mother forbade me from smoking.

Q5(A)

Punctuate

Robert Whiting, an elderly U.S. gentleman of 83, arrived in Paris by plane. At French Customs, he took a few minutes to locate his passport in his carry-on. "You have been to France before, Monsieur?" the Customs officer asked sarcastically. Mr. Whiting admitted that he had been to France previously.

"Then you should know enough to have your passport ready."

"The American said, "The last time I was here, I didn't have to show it." "Impossible Americans! always have to show their passports on arrival in France," sneered the Customs officer.

The American senior gave the

French man a long, hard look. Then he quietly explained, "Well, when I came ashore at Omaha Beach, at 4:40 am, on D-Day in 1944, to help liberate your country, I couldn't find a single Frenchman to show a passport to..." You could have heard a pin drop.

Q5(B) Prepositions

- 1) A drowning man catches at a straw
- 3) He felt no qualms about borrowing money from his friends.
- 4) Cyber-attacks are much easier to carry out than to defend against
- 5) The man was blind in his left eye.
- 6) Despite being fined, he was sentenced to ~~to~~^a term of imprisonment
- 8) Mr. Hawking was walking through a wood on a rainy day.

Q 6(A)

Idioms

- 1) **Cold Shoulder**: He gave me the cold shoulder when I demanded help from him.
- 2) **Scape goat**: He was made a scape goat after the wrongful incident.
- 3) **Green Thumb**: My mother has a green thumb as she is well versed in gardening.
- 4) **Out of the Blue**: The news of her success came out of the blue.
- 5) **Black and blue**: The rough fighting made the boy black and blue all over.



Q6(B)

Indirect / Direct Speech

Sir Hassan Ali Gondal and Sir Shahab met one day. Sir Gondal asked Sir Shahab when his Sir Gondal greeted Sir Shahab and asked when his essay book will be ready. To this Sir Shahab replied speculatively that it will be available by the end of November. Sir Gondal proceeded to ask what was special about his book as there is already a market full of essay stuff. Sir Shahab explained that he only speaks about the international standards followed in essay writing that he was taught at Christ Church University during his one year teachers training course. He further explained that his book followed the same standards and that it includes different

practice activities rather than ready-made content for cramming. Sir Gondal mused that if it is so, then it will clear most of the ^{mis}conceptions about essay writing.

Q7

Translation

Millions of Pakistani youth fall in the category of Generation - Z. It is the generation born after the 2000s and today it has reached the ages of 23 and 24. This generation is considered to be the most physically weak and inept, and mentally ill in the history of mankind.

This generation was born in the age where technological use was at its peak. This generation has grown up on technology. Internet, mobile phones, tablets, T.V channels, and social media were in its grip. It was brought up by

social media, and not by the wisdom of elders. All over the world, it has one problem; lack of patience and abundance of anger. They are physically extremely unhealthy. And in the history of mankind, this generation is taking the most time to stand on its feet.

