

Q. 3. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given at the end.

(20)

During the past two decades, there has been a mushroom growth of universities and other degree-awarding institutions in Pakistan, which our policy makers consider a source of pride and prestige. This increase in the number of universities and the students enrolled therein has been recurrently projected as a major parameter for quantifying national development. No one can deny the pivotal importance of education for the progress and prosperity of a nation. In the contemporary world human resource has emerged as the greatest asset of unequivocal primacy, and education aims at creating and enhancing that resource. But can it be done through higher education only, or even primarily through higher education? Looking at the developed countries of the world—almost all having progressed by virtue of better human resource—one can easily explore that they don't encourage massive enrolment in universities. In other words, they don't want the domain of higher education open to every member of the population. After completing the 12-year school education (which is both compulsory and free for everyone), students are counseled and assessed for choice of further studies according to interest and aptitude. Those with true interest in academics and research, along with the requisite scholarly aptitude, are encouraged to undertake long-term academic pursuits in universities, while the rest—an overwhelming majority—opt for short-term courses leading to certificates and diplomas in colleges and training institutes. The admission criteria and fee structure of these colleges and institutes vary according to a number of factors. The latter class acquire practical skills in their chosen areas of utilitarian nature, without any undue burden of theoretical discourses. Consequently, due to these marketable skills and practical training, they easily get employed, earn for themselves and contribute to national economy. On the other hand, we produce an unskilled lot of university graduates without even a basic understanding of their subject. They consider themselves highly qualified, but have no meaningful knowledge. Hence, instead of becoming an asset, they become a social and economic liability. We need to realize that, unlike the fundamental right of basic education, higher education should be treated as a privilege of the deserving ones. This realization is imperative for enabling our universities to produce scholars, scientists and researchers as done by the developed world.

Questions:

(4 marks each)

1. What can be inferred from the passage as the main goal of education?
2. What is the benefit of guiding students in the choice of careers?
3. Is the only direct question in the paragraph answered affirmatively or negatively?
4. Which sentence do you think to be the topic sentence of this paragraph, capturing its central point?
5. Which sentence looks redundant and out of place in the context of the paragraph, seeming a later addition rather than part of the original?

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Q NO: 1

What can be inferred from the passage as main goal of education?

ANSWER:

The main goal of education is to provide a significant platform of higher qualification, which in return plays a pivotal role in progress and prosperity of a nation. As more and better skills would be acquired through Universities in the form of higher education, so it is crucial for the accomplishment of those goals.

Q NO: 2

What is the benefit of guiding students in the choice of careers?

ANSWER:

It would be very beneficial to guide students in the choice of careers because in this way we come to know about the strengths and weaknesses of individual in relevant fields. Moreover, the credibility of each student would be known and every individual can select the best for himself.

Q NO: 3

Is the only direct question in the paragraph answered affirmatively or negatively?

ANSWER:

In the paragraph, the question is answered affirmatively.

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and negatively. As in developed countries they do not encourage excessive enrollment in Universities. which is apparently a negative factor. But its connotation differs in a way - that they want only those students who know the importance of their education as well as capable for that field.

Q NO:4

Which sentence do you think be the topic sentence of the paragraph, capturing its central point?

ANSWER:

In my opinion, the central point of this passage revolves around - the idea of "pivotal importance of education" (higher education) for the progress and prosperity of nation. As education always plays a crucial role in development of nations through their qualified people. So, the credibility of capable students is important.

Q NO:5

Which sentence look redundant and out of place in the context of paragraph, seeming a later addition rather than part of the origin?

ANSWER:

The redundant idea or we can say later addition in this passage is of the contribution of those (highly qualified) students which later serve the economy of country and get employment. It emphasizes the post-effects of higher education.