

PRÉCIS EXERCISE 5

Q: Write a précis of the following passage in about 100 words and suggest the title: (20+5)

The attention we give to terrorism often seems disproportionate to its real importance. Terrorism incidents make superb copy for journalists, but kill and maim fewer people than road accidents. Nor is terrorism politically effective. Empires rise and fall according to the real determinants of politics—namely overwhelming force or strong popular support—not according to a bit of mayhem caused by isolated fanatics whom one would take seriously enough to vote for it. Indeed, the very variety of incidents that might be described as "terrorism" has been such as to lead critics to suggest that no single subject for investigation exists at all. Might we not regard terrorism as a kind of minor blotch on the skin of an industrial civilization whose very heart is filled with violent dreams and aspirations. Who would call in the dermatologist when the heart itself is sick.

But popular opinion takes terrorism very seriously indeed and popular opinion is probably right. For the significance of terrorism lies not only in the grotesque nastiness of terroristic outrages but also in the moral claims they imply. Terrorism is the most dramatic exemplification of the moral fault of blind willfulness. Terrorism is a solipsistic denial of the obligation of self-control we all must recognize when we live in civilized communities.

Certainly the sovereign high road to misunderstanding terrorism is the pseudo-scientific project of attempting to discover its causes. Terrorists themselves talk of the frustrations which have supposedly necessitated their actions but to transform these facile justifications into scientific hypotheses is to succumb to the terrorists own fantasies. To kill and maim people is a choice people make, and glib invocations of necessity are baseless. Other people living in the same situation see no such necessity at all. Hence there are no "causes" of terrorism; only decision to terrorize. It is a moral phenomenon and only a moral discussion can be adequate to it.

(CSS 1980)

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Terrorism - a moral discussion

Our attention to terrorism is not proportionate. Incidents ~~occurs~~ ^{are considered} ~~occurs~~ ^{considers} a result of terrorism and it leads the critics to suggest that there is no reason for investigation. Industrial civilization makes life civilized but ~~is~~ terrorism is a kind of black spot on it. People usually ~~take~~ ^{take} terrorism very seriously and ~~consider~~ ^{consider} it a moral fault of blind willfulness. People of civilized community must realize that terrorism is against the inability of self control. It is baseless to find the causes of terrorism as there are no scientific justifications of it. It is only a moral phenomenon and ~~that~~ ~~can~~ moral discussion is enough for it. (102 words)

Start of the precis needs improvement. Subject verb disagreement found.