

### Comprehension 5: CSS 2018, 1983

Q. Read the following passage carefully & answer the questions that follow: (20)

The third great defect of our civilization is that it does not know what to do with its knowledge. Science has given us powers fit for the gods, yet we use them like small children. For example, we do not know how to manage our machines. Machines were made to be man's servants; yet he has grown so dependent on them that they are in a fair way to become his master. Already most men spend most of their lives looking after and waiting upon machines. And the machines are very storm master. They must be fed with coal, and given petrol to drink, and oil to wash with, and they must be kept at the right temperature. And if they do not get their meals when they expect them, they grow sulky and refuse to work, or bust with rage, and blow up, and spread ruin and destruction all around them. So, we have to wait upon them very attentively and do all that we can to keep them in a good temper. Already we find it difficult either to work or play without the machines, and a time may come when they will rule you altogether, just as we rule the animals.

And this brings me to the point at which I asked, "What do we do with all the time which the machines have saved for us, and the new energy they have given us?" On the whole, it must be admitted, we do very little. For the most part we use our time and energy to make more and better machines; but more and better machines will only give us till more time and still more energy, and what are we do with them? The answer, I think, that we should try to become mere civilized. For machines themselves, and the power which the machines have given us, are not civilization but aids to civilization. But you will remember that we agreed at the beginning that being civilized meant making and linking beautiful things. Thinking freely, and living rightly and maintaining justice equally between man and man. Man has a better chance to do these things than he ever had before; he has more time, more energy, less to fear and less to fight against. If he will give his time and energy which his machines have won for him to making more beautiful things, to finding out more and more about the universe, to removing the causes of quarrels between nations, to discovering how to prevent poverty, then I think or civilization would undoubtedly be the greater, as it would be the most lasting that there has ever been.

#### Questions:

(4 marks each)

1. Instead of making machines our servants the author says they have become our masters. In what sense has this come about?
2. The use of machines has brought us more leisure and more energy. But the author says that this has been a curse rather than a blessing. Why?
3. What exactly is the meaning of 'civilization'? Do you agree with the author's views?
4. 'Making more beautiful things' - What does this expression mean? Make a list of the beautiful things that you would like to make and how you would make them?
5. Mention some plans you may have to prevent poverty in the world. Who would receive your most particular attention, and why?

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### Question 1:

The dependence of a man on machines has made machines our masters instead of servants. He has to wait for machine to do work. He has to provide coal, petrol, oil and temperature as their meals. Otherwise, they refuse to work and spread ruin. So, machines act like masters.

### Question 2:

The use of machines has brought us more leisure and more energy, but it has been a curse for man. Because it takes our time and energy to make machines more better and useful. They can work only if man give time to them, otherwise they can refuse to work.

### Question 3:

Civilization means creating and thinking beautiful things. It is related to thinking independently, living life more accurately in a right way, and giving

equal right to everyone. So, it is agreeable to author as civilization is all about connecting good things.

#### Question 4:

The expression 'making more beautiful things' means man can make things more beautiful by power and energy stored through machines. It can be no fear, and less chance to fight against, and finding more about universe, and bringing peace among nations. I would like to make all these good things through economy and education.

#### Question 5:

Prevention of poverty in the world can be made by distributing resources and doing justice equally to social sector. Proper planned economy can also help to reduce poverty. All policy makers would adopt these strategies to prevent poverty.