

SOLVED COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS FROM PREVIOUS PAPERS

Comprehension 1: CSS 2022

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

Civil society refers to all of the places where individuals gather together to have conversations, peruse common interests and, occasionally, try to influence public opinion or public policy. In many respects, civil society is where people spend their time when they are not at work or at home. For example, a group of people gather at a local park every Thursday afternoon for a game of football. Most of them arrive well before the game begins and stay for some time after it ends. Some of them go out for dinner or a drink after the game. In the course of their meetings, they talk about a wide range of topics, including football but also extending to include issues such as works, family, relationships, community events, racial issues and politics. This kind of solidarity can be found in a variety of other places in civil society – such as sports clubs, bowling leagues, reading groups and social movements – where individuals get together to associate on the basis of some shared interest fostering more effective forms of citizenship. Even though people may come together on the basis of an interest they all share in common, they eventually have to develop productive strategies for dealing with conflicts and differences that emerge within the association. Team mates in a bowling league discover, on certain issues, significant differences of opinion. And yet, because they value the association and look forward to participating in its activities, they do not respond to these differences by exiting the scene. Instead, they search for the ways of interacting that will not threaten the solidarity of the group. In the process, they learn to appreciate and to tolerate social differences, a valuable skill to have in an increasingly multicultural nation. They also develop a general sense of social trust and mutual obligation, which makes society function more efficiently (this is what political scientists and sociologists are talking about when they refer to the importance of social capital). Gathering together in an association, people begin to think about their shared private interest as a collective public interest, and they try to make sure that this public interest is safe and secured. For example, the group that gets together for a weekly football game begins to talk about the park as an important community resource; if feel that the park is being mistreated for mismanaged, will organize a 'save the park' campaign to try to influence their local politicians and the other residents of the community. Recently, there has been growing concern that civil society is weaker than it used to be, because people are losing interest in joining associations. As citizens become increasingly disconnected from voluntary function less efficiently. However, some scholars opine that many people are simply choosing to participate in different kinds of association with fewer face-to-face meetings but supplemented with 'virtual' interactions facilitated by resources.

Questions:

(4 Marks Each)

1. How does the author characterize the concepts of civil society?
2. Why does civil society strive towards better socialization drives by tolerance?
3. What do you understand by the term 'Social Capital' used in this passage?
4. Why does a civil society assume the role of a public stake holder?
5. What impact is feared by the weakening state of civil society?

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Question 1:

The author says that civil society refers to the place where the public of the society gather to communicate with each other and share their common interests. Such places may include a park, a ground, or any club etc.

Question 2:

Civil Society strive towards better socialization driven by tolerance, because the people of the society gather at the same place without concerning their social differences. They share their common interest and communicate for the sake of society. So, it helps them to tolerate social differences.

Question 3:

The term 'Social Capital' in the passage, refers to the development of trust between the members of social groups

and so that, they work together more effectively and it helps for the welfare and progress of the society.

Question 4:

A civil society assumes the role of a public state holder because the gathering of people is resulted in the sharing of common interest. So, they work on those issues which are discussed in the gathering. In this way, civil society plays the role of a public state holder who works for the prosperity of the public and solves their issues through policy making.

Question 5:

The weakening of civil society fears many impacts such as people losing their interest of face-to-face meetings and depend upon virtual interaction. In this way, they cannot develop strong

trust between them which means
that they do not address public
issues properly.
