

**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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## Reading Comprehension

Q:1. What can be inferred from the passage as the main goal of education?

Ans. The main goal of education inferred from the passage is "creating and enhancing the asset of human resource." Human resource is considered as the greatest aim and goal of education, while education is important for the progress and prosperity of a nation. So, the main goal of education is the plus of human resource.

Q:2. What is the benefit of guiding students in the choice of careers?

Ans: There are many benefits of guiding students in the choice of careers. Some benefits of career counseling includes the field of study in which they are interested, the student will pursue higher education and become an asset for the country, and the students who do not want long-term academics pursuits move towards short-term courses, get employed easily and contribute to national economy. So, the student's career counseling is the need of the hour.

Q:3 Is the only direct question in the paragraph answered affirmatively or negatively?

Ans. The only direct question in the paragraph answered affirmatively or negatively, is the criticism on the higher education and universities. The higher education and universities need to produce scholars, scientists, and researchers instead of producing socio-economic liabilities of unskilled and incompetent university graduates.

Q:4 Which sentence do you think to be the topic sentence of this paragraph, capturing its central point?

- In my point of view, the topic sentence of this paragraph is "The aim of education: comparison of higher education in Pakistan <sup>and</sup> in the developed world." The central point of the topic sentence is that the main goal of education is creating human resource. In Pakistan, higher education is accessible to everyone, while the developed world treated it as the privilege of the deserving ones. That is why human resource is a liability for Pakistan and an asset for the developed world.

Q: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?

Ans. The sentence looks redundant and out of place in the context of the paragraph is, "In other words, they don't want the domain of higher education open to every member of the population." Because the same idea of "discourage massive enrolment in universities" is discussed before this sentence. So, this sentence looks redundant and out of place in the context of the paragraph.