

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?

Q No 1 #

Main goal of education should be to give generation with excellent practical skills. Degree holders with no practical knowledge even about their own domain are not needed. Those students are required who have practical skills, perform their jobs with expertise, and contribute in the economy of their country.

Q No 2 #

~~The~~ careers, student opt after ~~twelve~~ choice of careers is an important matter because ^{students} ~~they~~ are going to work ⁱⁿ with these professions for their whole life. Students when opt for careers in which they don't have interest, they do not perform well and have no expertise in their field. As a result, they can't contribute in society. So guiding students for choosing right career with them will produce experts of their fields in future.

Q No 3#

Question is answered negatively that higher education is not the guarantee for a developed society. The generation necessary thing is to measure the aptitude of students, guiding them to choose the right careers and teach them practical skills are the things that determine the future of society.

Q No 4:

The topic sentence should be:
Higher education: a privilege for deserving one.

Q No 5:

Sentence which seems a later addition is:

"No one can deny the pivotal importance of education for the progress and prosperity of nation".

As the paragraph is about ~~democratic~~ purpose of higher education so this sentence seems like a later addition.