

## PASSAGE 2

When you see a cockroach or a bed bug your first reaction is one of disgust, and that is immediately followed by a desire to exterminate the offensive creature. Later, in the garden, you see a butterfly or a dragonfly, and you are filled with admiration as its beauty and grace.

Man's feelings towards insects are ambivalent. He realizes that some of them, for example flies and cockroaches are threats to health. Mosquitoes and tsetse flies have in the past sapped the vitality of entire tribes or nations. Other insects are destructive and cause enormous losses. Such are locusts, which can wipe out whole areas of crops in minutes; and termites, whose often insidious ravages, unless checked at an early stage, can end in the destruction of entire rows of houses.

Yet men's ways of living may undergo radical changes if certain species of insects were to become extinct. Bees, for example, pollinate the flowers of many plants which are food sources. In the past, honey was the only sweetening agent known to man in

some remote parts of the world. Ants, although they bite and contaminate man's food, are useful scavengers which consume waste material that would otherwise pollute the environment.

Entomologists who have studied insect fossils believe them to have inhabited the earth for nearly 400 million years. Insects live in large numbers almost everywhere in the world, from the hottest deserts and the deepest caves to the peaks of high mountains and even the snows of the polar caps.

Some insect communities are complex in organization, prompting men to believe that they possess an ordered intelligence. But such organized behaviour is clearly not due to developed brains. If we have to compare them to humans, bee and ant groups behave like extreme totalitarian societies. Each bee or ant seems to have a determined role to play instinctively and does so, without deviation.

The word "instinct" is often applied to insect behaviour. But some insect behaviour appears so clever that one tends to think that some sort of intelligence is at work. For example, the worker bee, upon returning to the hive after having found a new source of nectar, communicates his discovery by a kind of dance which tells other worker bees the direction and distance away of the nectar.

(383 words)

Solution

# Precis:

Human behavior is of mixed instincts on seeing insects. The human behavior towards different insects is indecisive. He categorised some insects as dangerous for health as some insects have caused serious health setbacks for tribes and nations. Still the ways of human behavior to live can undergo significant changes. Many insects are beneficial for plants and human beings in different ways. Some of the insects work in organized pattern that even man tends to believe that they have intellectual abilities. Some insects are so clever that human beings tend to think that there is a kind of intelligence involved.

original word count-

383

Precis word count

99

## Topics Suggested:

- 1) Ambivalent behavior of human being towards insect-
- 2) Human behavior towards insects.