

CSS 1997

Q.1 Make a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title:

(25)

When you see a cockroach or a bed bug your first reaction is one of disgust, and 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.

Precis 1997:

— 1 — 1 — 3/5

Title: Humans and Insects

Precis:

Humans consider some insects dangerous to them, while some look ~~be~~ admirable to humans. The one he is afraid to, always trying to get rid of it. Some insects are destructive to human health and his infrastructure. Instead, they possess some benefits too. Bees sting humans and help in pollination of flowers, possessing both qualities. They are inhabitants of Earth for 400 Million years ago, and present on almost every part of the world. Insects teach human beings the lesson of discipline. It is in their instinct to do every task in a determined way. They exchange their information to their fellows through different physical gestures. (95 words)