

Q. 3. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

(20)

The New Year is the time for resolution. Mentally, at least most of us could compile formidable lists of 'do's and 'don't's'. The same old favorites recur year in and year out with the children, do a thousand and one job about the house, be nice to people we don't like, drive carefully, and take the dog for a walk every day. Past experience has taught us that certain accomplishments are beyond attainment. If we remain deep rooted liars, it is only because we have so often experienced the frustration that results from failure.

Most of us fail in our efforts at self-improvement because our schemes are too ambitious and we never have time to carry them out. We also make the fundamental error of announcing our resolution to everybody so that we look even more foolish when we slip back into our bad old ways. Aware of these pitfalls, this year I attempted to keep my resolution to myself. I limited myself to two modest ambitions, to do physical exercise every morning and to read more in the evening. An overnight party on New Year's Eve provided me with a good excuse for not carrying out either of these new resolutions on the first day of the year, but on the second, I applied myself assiduously to the task.

The daily exercise lasted only eleven minutes and I proposed to do them early in the morning before anyone had got up. The self-discipline required to drag myself out of bed eleven minutes earlier than usual was considerable. Nevertheless, I managed to creep down into the living room for two days before anyone found me out. After jumping about in the carpet and twisted the human frame into uncomfortable positions. I sat down at the breakfast table in an exhausted condition. It was this that betrayed me. The next morning the whole family trooped into watch the performance. That was really unsettling but I fended off the taunts and jibes of the family good humoredly and soon everybody got used to the idea. However, my enthusiasm waned, the time I spent at exercises gradually diminished. Little by little the eleven minutes fell to zero. By January 10th I was back to where I had started from. I argued that if I spent less time exhausting myself at exercises in the morning. I would keep my mind fresh for reading when I got home from work. Resisting the hypnotizing effect of television, I sat in my room for a few evenings with my eyes glued to a book. One night, however, feeling cold and lonely, I went downstairs and sat in front of the television pretending to read. That proved to be my undoing, for I soon got back to the old bad habit of dozing off in front of the screen. I still haven't given up my resolution to do more reading. In fact, I have just bought a book entitled 'How to Read a Thousand Words a Minute'. Perhaps it will solve my problem, but I just have not had time to read it.

Questions: 1. Why most of us fail in our efforts for self-improvement? **(5)**

2. Why is it a basic mistake to announce our resolution to everybody? **(5)**

3. Why did the writer not carry out his resolution on New Year's Day? **(5)**

4. Find out the words in the above passage which convey the similar meaning to the following:

(1) intimidating (2) peril (3) dwindle (4) repel (5) barb **(5)**

Comprehension Passage (2016-CSS)

Q#1

Most of us fail in our efforts for self-improvement, because we plan in a broader way and make high ambitions. But we have no enough time to carry out these plans. And when we just waste our time in planning and not implementing, it results in our ultimate failure in improving our lazy habits.

Q#2

When we started planning our ambitions, we make a fundamental mistake of announcing it to every one around us. Then people start observing us and trooped in to watch the performance. But, later on, when we aren't able to perform any task then this foolish error became a regret, when we look-back in our past/old days.

Q#3

The writer was ambitious to do physical exercise every morning before anyone had got up. And she planned to read more. But on her first day, she got her self engaged in New Year's Eve party. She got herself busy in preparations and celebrations of New Year's Party. Thus the writer find a genius excuse to not to pursue her ambition on the first day.

Q#4

Intimidating

formidable

Peril

Pitfalls

Dwindle

waned.

Repel

Slip back to old days

Barb

The third great defect of our civilization is that it does not know what to do with its knowledge. Science has given us powers fit for the gods, yet we use them like small children. For example, we do not know how to manage our machines. Machines were made to be man's servants; yet he has grown so dependent on them that they are in a fair way to become his master. Already most men spend most of their lives looking after and waiting upon machines. And the machines are very stern masters. They must be fed with coal, and given petrol to drink, and oil to wash with, and they must be kept at the right temperature. And if they do not get their meals when they expect them, they grow sulky and refuse to work, or burst with rage, and blow up, and spread ruin and destruction all around them. So we have to wait upon them very attentively and do all that we can to keep them in a good temper. Already we find it difficult either to work or play without the machines, and a time may come when they will rule us altogether, just as we rule the animals.

And this brings me to the point at which I asked, "What do we do with all the time which the machines have saved for us, and the new energy they have given us?" On the whole, it must be admitted, we do very little. For the most part we use our time and energy to make more and better machines; but more and better machines will only give us still more time and still more energy, and what are we to do with them? The answer, I think, is that we should try to become more civilized. For the machines themselves, and the power which the machines have given us, are not civilization but aids to civilization. But you will remember that we agreed at the beginning that being civilized meant making and linking beautiful things. Thinking freely, and living rightly and maintaining justice equally between man and man. Man has a better chance today to do these things than he ever had before; he has more time, more energy, less to fear and less to fight against. If he will give his time and energy which his machines have won for him to making more beautiful things, to finding out more and more about the universe, to removing the causes of quarrels between nations, to discovering how to prevent poverty, then I think our civilization would undoubtedly be the greater, as it would be the most lasting that there has ever been.

- Questions:**
1. Instead of making machines our servants the author says they have become our masters. In what sense has this come about? **(4)**
 2. The use of machines has brought us more leisure and more energy. But the author says that this has been a curse rather than a blessing. Why? **(4)**
 3. What exactly is the meaning of 'civilization'? Do you agree with the author's views? **(4)**
 4. 'Making more beautiful things' – what does this expression mean? Make a list of the beautiful things that you would like to make and how you would make them. **(4)**
 5. Mention some plans you may have to prevent poverty in the world. Who would receive your most particular attention, and why? **(4)**

Comprehension 2018

Q#1

Machines were designed to facilitate humans, but they have made men their servants. We do not know how to handle them. If we don't take a proper care of them, they would refuse to work. Men has to spend more of his time looking after the machines and has to wait for the machines to do work.

Q#2

Men designed machines for his ease, but he is now dependent on machines. We do only a little by ourselves. The over dependence on machines has reduced men's capability to do more beautiful things. In this way, it is a curse and not a blessing.

Q#3

Civilization means the process by which a society an advance stage of development by using his knowledge. Yes, I am agree with the author, as we don't know the exact usage of our knowledge. We don't know how to implement our skills and knowledge for civilization. we deal science as a children.

Q#4

In my opinion, beautiful things refer to things that look attractive and give benefits in some fashion. I would like to make an automatic sensor machine for measuring thrust of plants, ~~a machine~~ for

Q#5

To reduce the poverty rate in the world, my plans would be

- 1 - Reducing corruption worldwide
- 2 - Producing employment opportunities
- 3 - Giving merit a priority
- 4 - Making an efficient taxation system

By following these steps, poverty can be rooted out to some extent.