

**Q2. Read the following passage and answer the questions given at the end, in YOUR OWN WORDS. (20)**

We look before and after, wrote Shelley, and pine for what is not. It is said that this is what distinguishes us from the animals and that they, unlike us, live always for and in the movement and have neither hopes nor regrets. Whether it is so or not I do not know yet it is undoubtedly one of our distinguishing mental attributes: we are actually conscious of our life in time and not merely of our life at the moment of experiencing it. And as a result we find many grounds for melancholy and foreboding. Some of us prostrate ourselves on the road way in Trafalgar Square or in front of the American Embassy because we are fearful that our lives, or more disinterestedly those of our descendants will be cut short by nuclear war. If only as squirrels or butterflies are supposed to do, we could let the future look after itself and be content to enjoy the pleasures of the morning breakfast, the brisk walk to the office through autumnal mist or winter fog, the mid-day sunshine that sometimes floods through windows, the warm, peaceful winter evenings by the fireside at home. Yet all occasions for contentment are so often spoiled for us, to a greater or lesser degree by our individual temperaments, by this strange human capacity for foreboding and regret - regret for things which we cannot undo and foreboding for things which may never happen at all. Indeed were it not for the fact that over breaking through our human obsessions with the tragedy of time, so enabling us to enjoy at any rate some fleeting moments untroubled by vain yearning or apprehension, our life would not be intolerable at all. As it is, we contrive, everyone of us, to spoil it to a remarkable degree.

29818 - Aqsa Irfan - 044

QNO:02

Answer the given questions.

1.

What is the difference between our life and the life of an animal?

Answer:

The difference between our life and the life of an animal is that we as a human are always worried about the future and have regrets for the past. While animals do not have such hopes or regrets as they are always in search of their basic requirement i.e food and have no other desire unlike humans. So, it is the mental attributes that distinguish humans from animals.

2.

What is the result of human anxiety?

Answer:

The result of human anxiety is that due to hopes and regrets, man always fears to take steps in life. He is always afraid of

the future and mostly expects bad things to happen. This attitude then prevents him to enjoy the happy moments of his life.

3.

How does the writer compare man to the butterflies and squirrels?

Answer:

The writer tells about the butterflies and squirrels that they are not worried about the future and enjoy the beautiful present. They enjoy food and the changing seasons. But man, unlike butterflies and squirrels, is always anxious about his future and due to this anxiety, spoils the precious moments of his life with his own hands.

4.

How does anxiety about future disturb our daily life?

Answer:

We waste our time regretting on the things that happened in our past and that we cannot

change and starving for the things that cannot happen. Due to this anxiety, we cannot enjoy even our breaks. We do not take interest in our work. We do not enjoy the peaceful summer and winter evenings. The anxiety destroys our daily routine.

5.

How can we make our life tolerable?

Answer:

One can make one's life tolerable by not focusing on the unhappened things that can either turn out to be good. Instead of regretting on the things that cannot be changed, one should enjoy life no matter how hard it proves to be. Everyone, in this age, is anxious about their future, we can be the ones who enjoy their life at any cost.

## EXERCISE 4

You hear every day greater number of foolish people speaking about liberty; as if it were such an honourable thing. ~~So far from being that,~~ it is, on the whole ~~and in broadest sense,~~ dishonourable and an attitude of the lower creatures. No human being, however great and powerful, was ever so free as a fish. There is always something that he must not do, while the fish may do whatever it likes. All the kingdoms of the world put together are not half so large as the sea, and all the rail roads and wheels that ever were, or will be -invented, are not so easy as fins. You will find, on fairly thinking of it, that it is his restraint which is more, it is restraint which is honourable even in the lower animals. A butterfly is more free than a bee, but you honour the bee more just because it is subject to certain laws which fit it for

Restraint: An Honourable Act  
liberty is dishonourable and an act of lower creatures. Unlike small creatures, human is bound by some laws from which he cannot refrain. The world for humans is not so easy to live in and has some rules. The one who acts upon these rules and does not cross his limits is always considered honourable than the one who considers himself free in his actions.

Total words = 185

Words in Precise = 65

## EXERCISE 6

Almost every country in the world believes that it has some special dispensation from Providence, that it is of the chosen people, or race and that others, whether they are good or bad, are somewhat inferior creatures. It is extraordinary how this kind of feeling persists in all nations of the East as well as of the West without exception. The nations of the East are strangely entrenched in their own ideas and convictions and sometimes in their own sense of superiority about certain matters. Anyhow, in the course of the last two or three hundred years, they have received many knocks on the head and they have been humiliated, they have been debased and they have been exploited. And so, in spite of their feeling that they were superior in many ways, they were forced to admit that they could be knocked about and exploited. To some extent this brought a sense of realism to them. There was also an attempt to escape from reality by saying that it was sad that we were not so advanced in material or technical things but that these were after all superficial. Nevertheless we were superior in essential things, in spiritual things, in moral values. I have no doubt that spiritual things and moral values are ultimately more important than other things but the way one finds escape in the thought that one is

spiritually superior simply because one is inferior in material and physical sense, is surprising. It does not follow by any means. It is an escape from facing up the causes of one's degradation.



## Degradation of the East

Every country considers itself superior and the other inferior. This feeling exists in both the East and the West. Although countries in the East have perceptions about themselves of being superior yet they had been exploited in the past. ~~They~~ Despite being aware of this reality, they give lame reasons of being far behind from <sup>the</sup> West in the modern world. They still consider themselves superior as they excel in spirituality and morality.

and are not ready to admit the  
real cause of their degradation.

Total Words = 265

Words in Precis = 84