

**Q.2: Make a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title.**

Lincoln's speeches make him known by his words as readers of history know him by his deeds. In popularly-governed countries the great statesman is a necessity an orator though his eminence as a speaker may be no true measure of his power and fame; for wisdom, courage and tact bear little direct relation to the gift for speech. But whether that gift be present in greater or less degree, the character and ideas of a statement are best studied through his own words. This is particularly true of Lincoln because he was not what may be called a professional orator. There have been famous orators whose speeches we may read for the beauty of their language or for the wealth of ideas they contain, with comparatively little regard to the circumstances that led to their being delivered. Lincoln is not one of these. His speeches need to be studied in close relation to the occasions which called them forth. They are not philosophical discourses or brilliant displays of rhetoric. They are a part of his life. They are expression of his convictions. They drive their weight and dignity from the fact that they deal with grave and urgent questions and express the spirit in which he approached those questions. Few great characters stand out so clearly revealed by their words, whether spoken or written, as he does. 228 words

## Precis

Lincoln's speeches are a contributor to his fame. A leader's power is independent of his spoken abilities and his thoughts are reflected by his words. Orators' speeches are read for their linguistic beauty and intellectual quality, independent of their context. Lincoln's speeches are to be observed with reference to their context. His speeches lack linguistic embellishment, but describe his life and ambitions, and address important questions. Lincoln's words contributed a great deal in his world-wide fame.

Title:

Lincoln : A Remarkable Speaker

Word Count:

Original Passage : 228

Precis Passage : 76