

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

Knowledge is acquired when we succeed in fitting a new experience in the system of concepts based upon our old experiences. Understanding comes when we liberate ourselves from the old and so make possible a direct, unmediated contact with the new, the mystery, moment by moment, of our existence. The new is the given on every level of experience - given perceptions, given emotions and thoughts, given states of unstructured awareness, given relationships with things and persons. The old is our home-made system of ideas and word patterns. It is the stock of finished articles fabricated out of the given mystery by memory and analytical reasoning, by habit and automatic associations of accepted notions. Knowledge is primarily a knowledge of these finished articles. Understanding is primarily direct awareness of the raw material. Knowledge is always in terms of concepts and can be passed on by means of words or other symbols. Understanding is not conceptual and therefore cannot be passed on. It is an immediate experience, and immediate experience can only be talked about (very inadequately), never shared. Nobody can actually feel another's pain or grief, another's love or joy, or hunger. And similarly, nobody can experience another's understanding of a given event or situation. There can, of course, be knowledge of such an understanding, and this knowledge may be passed on in speech or writing, or by means of other symbols. Such communicable knowledge is useful as a reminder that there have been specific understandings in the past, and that understanding is at all times possible. But we must always remember that knowledge of understanding is not the same thing as the understanding which is the raw material of that knowledge. It is as different from understanding as the doctor's prescription for penicillin is different from penicillin.

**Questions:**

1. How is knowledge different from understanding?

(4 marks each)

2. Explain why understanding cannot be passed on.
3. Is the knowledge of understanding possible? If it is, how may it be passed on?
4. How does the author explain that knowledge of understanding is not the same thing as the understanding?
5. How far do you agree with the author in his definitions of knowledge and understanding? Give reasons for your answer.

**Question no 1 (Answer):** Knowledge is different from understanding because the former is acquired with the help of archaic experiences, while the <sup>latter</sup> is gained without the aid of available or already existing knowledge. <sup>The</sup> former is the awareness of already solved mysteries, but the latter is the comprehension of crude matter. Knowledge is conceptual, while understanding is not. Therefore, the former can be passed, while the latter is deprived of being passed on.

Avoid cutting.

**Question no 2 (Answer):** Understanding cannot be passed on because it is not a concept. On the other hand, Knowledge is conceptual and, therefore, it can be passed through various means. That is why understanding is deprived <sup>of</sup> the quality of being passed on.

**Question no 3 (Answer):** Yes, the knowledge of understanding is possible. It can be passed on. One can be aware of circumstances through which a person is going on. A person may be experiencing, for instance, pain, grief, etc., and another <sup>person</sup> may know about it, but that person cannot understand or feel these emotions. Knowledge of understanding can be passed on through words or various kinds of symbols.

**Question no 4 (Answer):** The author has explained his/her stance of knowledge of understanding not being the same thing as the understanding by giving <sup>an</sup> example of the doctor's prescription of penicillin. The doctor has the knowledge of penicillin being a pain killer, which itself is an understanding ~~is~~ such a ~~matter~~, and not a knowledge because it is not a concept and cannot be passed. But, through the doctor's knowledge it can be passed on by prescribing it to a patient. In this manner, it can be said that knowledge of understanding is different than understanding.

Question no 5 (Answer): Yes, I agree with the <sup>author's</sup> definition of and difference between knowledge and understanding because the former is purely objective, while the <sup>latter</sup> is subjective and differs from person to person. The understanding of two or more persons and their agreement leads to the creation of knowledge. Understanding, on the other hand, is one's point of view about something which may differ from another person's opinion about that thing. ✓

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