

Q. 3. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given at the end.

(20)

Civil society refers to all of the places where individuals gather together to have conversations, pursue common interests and, occasionally, try to influence public opinion or public policy. In many respects, civil society is where people spend their time when they are not at work or at home. For example, a group of people gather at a local park every Thursday afternoon for a game of football. Most of them arrive well before the game begins and stay for some time after it ends. Some of them go out for dinner or a drink after the game. In the course of their meetings they talk about a wide range of topics, including football but also extending to include issues such as work, family, relationships, community events, racial issues and politics. This kind of solidarity can be found in a variety of other places in civil society – such as sports clubs, bowling leagues, reading groups and social movements – where individuals get together to associate on the basis of some shared interest fostering more effective forms of citizenship. Even though people may come together on the basis of an interest they all share in common, they eventually have to develop productive strategies for dealing with conflicts and differences that emerge within the association. Team mates in a bowling league discover, on certain issues, significant differences of opinion. And yet, because they value the association and look forward to participating in its activities, they do not respond to these differences by exiting the scene. Instead, they search for the ways of interacting that will not threaten the solidarity of the group. In the process, they learn to appreciate and to tolerate social differences, a valuable skill to have in an increasingly multicultural nation. They also develop a general sense of social trust and mutual obligation, which makes society function more efficiently (this is what political scientists and sociologists are talking about when they refer to the importance of social capital). Gathering together in an association, people begin to think about their shared private interest as a collective public interest, and they try to make sure that this public interest is safe and secured. For example, the group that gets together for a weekly football game begins to talk about the park as an important community resource; if feel that the park is being mistreated or mismanaged, will organize a ‘save the park’ campaign to try to influence their local politicians and the other residents of the community. Recently, there has been growing concern that civil society is weaker than it used to be, because people are losing interest in joining associations. As citizens become increasingly disconnected from voluntary associations, they will experience less trust and less social connection, and as a result political institutions will function less efficiently. However, some scholars opine that many people are simply choosing to participate in different kinds of associations with fewer face-to-face meetings but supplemented with ‘virtual’ interactions facilitated by resources.

ENGLISH (PRECIS & COMPOSITION)

Questions:

(4 marks each)

1. How does the author characterize the concept of civil society?
2. Why does civil society strive towards better socialization driven by tolerance?
3. What do you understand by the term 'Social Capital' used in this passage?
4. Why does a civil society assume the role of a public stake holder?
5. What impact is feared by the weakening state of civil society?

Passage Comprehension 2020

Q. No: 1 & Ans:

The author characterizes the concept of civil society in such a way that it is a place where people gather to share common interest, and to influence public opinion. In other terms, it is society where individual meet others in their free time. However, people usually discuss many important things before or after a certain event. In the gathering, they discuss many topics such as work, family, relationship, politics, racial issues and community events.

Q. No: 2

The civil society strive towards better socialization driven by tolerance because they donot want to affect the solidarity of the society. They try to tolerate the social differences, which is vitally important for the development of a multicultural nation.

Q. No: 3

The term social capital refers to the proper functioning of the society based on social trust and mutual obligations.

Q. No: 4

The civil society assume the form of a public stakeholder because they consider the private interest as collective public interest. Where civil society tries to protect the interest of the public. However, when they feel that the public interest is at risk, they begin to campaign against it, by convincing the local politician and comm. of

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The weakening state of civil society leads toward trust deficit and less social connection. Resultantly, the political institutions of the society get negatively affected. However, some people don't want to participate in face-to-face meetings, rather they prefer online meetings.