

Comprehension 1: CSS 2022

Q: Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: (20)

Civil society refers to all of the places where individuals gather together to have conversations, peruse 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 works, 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.

Questions:

(4 Marks Each)

1. How does the author characterize the concepts of civil society?
2. Why does civil society strive towards better socialization drives 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?

Comprehension - 2022 (CSS).

Answer no. 1:

According to the author, a civil society is a ^{place} spot where people of a specific community gather, and engage themselves in a productive discussion regarding their community and their surroundings. Furthermore, a civil society is a location where people spend their leisure time. This assembly of people allows them to look into the social ills in a collective way. Moreover, it also gives them a platform to discuss possible solutions of any prevalent social problem.

Limit your answers to 5-7 lines.

Answer no. 2:

The civil society strives towards ^{better} socialization drives through instilling a sense of tolerance in its participants. This is so, as humans are inherently inclined towards conflict and disagreements. This is the basic nature of human beings. However, when they interact in a social group, such as a civil society, they tend to neglect

Has this been said in the passage? Answer should be contextual to the passage.

their personal disputes to focus on the betterment of the community. This develops a sense of mutual trust and cooperation between them.

Answer no. 3:

~~According to the scholars of political science and sociology,~~ when people of a community closely interact with each other in a civil society, they develop traits of liberalism and responsibility. The people of a civil group inclusively identify the factors threatening their shared political, social as well as broader community interests. To counter these problems, they initiate movements that influence the public policy makers. In this way, a society functions effectively.

Answer no. 4:

A community is actually a collection of individuals that live together in the form of a group in a specific place at a specific time. If the society where these individuals live is not functioning properly, this will have a disastrous effect on each and

every individual. Thus, when these individuals come together in the form of a civil society, they develop consensus on some particular social aspects that need to be reformed. In this way, they assume the role of a public stakeholder.

Answer no. 5:

The weakening of a civil society will negatively ^{and} affect the social cohesion of the community. Moreover, the weakening will reduce the level of trust and mutual coordination among the members of the society. In addition to this, there are several political repercussions as well. As the people will disengage themselves from the group, the initiatives launched previously to influence policy makers will no longer remain vigorous. This will have profound ramifications on the overall performance of the society.