

instinctively oppose any real remedy for social evils, they know that every unwanted child is a potential insurgent. All three can appeal to a Quasi-Religious prejudice, resting apparently on the ancient theory of natural rights which were supposed to include the right of unlimited procreation. This objection is now chiefly urged by celibate or childless priests; but it is held with such fanatical vehemence that the fear of losing the votes which they control is a welcome excuse for the baser sort of politicians to shelve the subject as inopportune. The socialist calculation is probably erroneous; for experience has shown that it is aspiration, not desperation, that makes revolutions.

**Q.3.** Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Use your own language. (5x4 = 20)

Human Beings feel afraid of death just as children feel afraid of darkness; and just as children's fear of darkness is increased by the stories which they have heard about ghosts and thieves, human beings' fear of death is increased by the stories which they have heard about the agony of the dying man. If a human being regards death as a kind of punishment for the sins he has committed and if he looks upon death as a means of making an entry into another world, he is certainly taking a religious and sacred view of death. But if a human being looks upon death as a law of nature and then feels afraid of it, his attitude is one of cowardice. However, even in religious meditation about death there is something a mixture of folly and superstition. Monks have written books in which they have described the painful experience which they underwent by inflicting physical tortures upon themselves as a form of self-purification. Such books may lead one to think that, if the pain of even a finger being squeezed or pressed is unbearable, the pains of death must be indescribably agonizing. Such books thus increase a Man's fear of death.

## ENGLISH (Précis & Composition)

Seneca, a Roman Philosopher, expressed the view that the circumstances and ceremonies of death frighten people more than death itself would do. A dying man is heard uttering groans; his body is seen undergoing convulsions; his face appears to be absolutely bloodless and pale; at his death his friends begin to weep and his relations put on mourning clothes; various rituals are performed. All these facts make death appear more horrible than it would be otherwise.

### Questions:

- (1) What is the difference between human beings' fear of death and children's fear of darkness?
- (2) What is a religious and sacred view of death?
- (3) What are the painful experiences described by the Monks in their books? 2/2
- (4) What are the views of Seneca about death?
- (5) What are the facts that make death appear more horrible than it would be otherwise?

**Q.4.** Write a comprehensive note (250 – 300 words) on any ONE of the following: **(20)**

- (i) Self done is Well done.



## CSS 2012 Reading Comprehension

i The difference between human beings' fear of death and children's fear of darkness is <sup>based on</sup> the stories that they usually heard. The stories about ghosts increase the children's fear of darkness, while the stories about pain of death and dying man increase human beings' fear of death.

ii Considering death as a punishment for the sins and an entry point to another world is a religious and sacred view of death.

There should be at least two sentences in the answer.

iii Experiencing physical tortures for self-purification by oneself are the painful experiences described by the Monks in their books. Moreover, they also explained that if the pain of wounded finger is unbearable, <sup>h</sup>How can one endure the agony of death.

iv Seneca was of the opinion that ceremonies of death **make people more afraid** than the death itself. Seneca further gave examples



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of rituals and ceremonies that are usually performed on the occasion of death.

✓ Agony of dying man, his bloodless pale face, and weeping of his friends and family are the facts that make death appear more horrible than it would be otherwise.

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Try to use your own vocabulary as much as possible.