

Q. 3 Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

(20)

In barely one generation, we've moved from exulting in the time-saving devices that have so expanded our lives, to trying to get away from them- often, in order to make more time. The more ways we have to connect, the more many of us seem desperate to unplug. Like a teenager, we appear to have gone from knowing nothing about the world to knowing too much, all but overnight.

The average person spends at least eight and a half hours a day in front of the screen. The average teenager spends or receives 75 text messages a day. Since luxury, as any economist will tell you, is a function of scarcity, the children of tomorrow will crave nothing more than freedom, if only for a short while, from all the blinking machines, streaming videos and scrolling headlines that leave them feeling empty, and too full all at once. The urgency of slowing down - to find the time and space to think - is nothing new, of course, and wiser souls have always reminded us that the more attention we pay to the moment, the less time and energy we have to place it in some larger context. Even half a century ago, Marshall McLuhan warned, "When things come at you very fast, naturally you lose touch with yourself."

Yet few of those voices can be heard these days, precisely because 'breaking news' is coming through perpetually on the news channels, and Meena is posting images of her summer vacation and the phone is ringing. We barely have enough time to see how little time we have. And the more that floods in on us, the less of ourselves we have to give to every snippet.

We have more and more ways to communicate, as Thoreau noted, but less and less to say. Partly because we are so busy communicating. And - as he might also have said - we are rushing to meet so many deadlines that we hardly register that what we need most are lifelines. So what to do? The central paradox of the machines that have made our lives so much brighter, quicker, longer and healthier is that they cannot teach us how to make the best use of them; the information revolution came without an instruction manual. All the data in the world cannot teach us how to sift through data; images don't show us how to process images. The only way to do justice to our onscreen lives is by summoning exactly the emotional and moral clarity that cannot be found on any screen.

Maybe that is why more and more people, even if they have no religious commitment, seem to be turning to yoga or meditation, or tai chi; these are not New Age fads so much as ways to connect with what could be called the wisdom of old age. A series of tests in recent years has shown that after spending time in a quiet rural setting, subjects "exhibit greater attentiveness, stronger memory and generally improved cognition. Their brains become both calmer and sharper." More than that, empathy, as well as deep thought, depends on neural processes that are "inherently slow". The very ones our high-speed lives have little time for.

QUESTIONS:

- (1) According to the author, what is likely to become a scarcity in the future?
- (2) What ability have people lost thanks to the constant inflow of data?
- (3) Why does the author say, "We have more and more ways to communicate, but less and less to say"?
- (4) Why are people taking an active interest in old-age fads?
- (5) Why is modern man unable to empathise with others?

Q. 4 Connect any FIVE of the following:

(10)

Comprehension

Topic

i) According to Arthur, luxury is a function of scarcity. He has highlighted the paradox that in spite of having bulk of electronic media ^{available}, future generation would feel empty and full at the same time. A lot of information intake through bright electronics devices, video streaming and scrolling ~~news~~ news would create scarcity of time. People would get less time to interact with themselves and pay attention to personal grooming. We are unable to figure out how less time we have to live. Technological advancement has provided us opportunities to communicate but we can't talk more due to less time. This provides an impetus to the confinement of freedom of people.

ii)

Due to constant intake of data, people have lost ability to pay attention to the moment. They are not taking into account; the present due to less availability of time and because

of this more time is consumed for planning in the larger context. People have lost ability to live in present for the reason that they are paying more attention to the future. And during this process we have also lost contact with ourselves.

iii) Author has told the aftermath of technological advancement in modern world. Although we have become successful enough to create new ways of communication with the passage of time but we have lost the essence of communication. We are always busy to meet deadlines but lifelines are ~~the~~ ones ~~as~~ that are needed the most. Machines have provided us many benefits but they don't teach us the best use of them. There are no moral or ethical boundaries ~~regarding~~ while absorbing bulk of information. nowadays.

iv) People are taking an active interest in old-age fads in order to exit the nasty age of advancement. Yoga or meditation ~~also~~ ^{has been} practiced through ages in order to have a pleasant break from busy routine. These practices are regarded as ways to connect to the wisdom of old age. In modern times, study has shown that people in a peaceful and quiet environment are more likely to have great focus, memory and cognition. This peace of mind makes the brain sharper and calmer.

v) According to author; in modern world due to technological advancement and development in ^{human} civilization, our lives have become busy. We have indulged ourselves in the activities that we don't have enough time for our psychological health. It has become difficult ~~to~~ ~~for~~ for us to pay attention to the people around us. Our feelings and emotions are deprived of empathy and deep insight. This is due to ~~the~~ ~~reason~~ the fact that the attribute of empathy is coherent to the

neural processes, which are inherently slow in humans. It flourishes with time and attention but we have embroiled ourselves in this fast-growing world to an extent that we forget to pay attention to these traits. Resultantly, a less-empathized society is established.