

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

**(20)**

The New Year is the time for resolution. Mentally, at least most of us could compile formidable lists of 'do's and 'don't's'. The same old favorites recur year in and year out with the children, do a thousand and one job about the house, be nice to people we don't like, drive carefully, and take the dog for a walk every day. Past experience has taught us that certain accomplishments are beyond attainment. If we remain deep rooted liars, it is only because we have so often experienced the frustration that results from failure. (Most of us fail in our efforts at self-improvement because our schemes are too ambitious and we never have time to carry them out) (We also make the fundamental error of announcing our resolution to everybody so that we look even more foolish when we slip back into our bad old ways) Aware of these pitfalls, this year I attempted to keep my resolution to myself. I limited myself to two modest ambitions, to do physical exercise every morning and to read more in the evening. (An overnight party on New Year's Eve provided me with a good excuse for not carrying out either of these new resolutions on the first day of the year, but on the second, I applied myself assiduously to the task.) The daily exercise lasted only eleven minutes and I proposed to do them early in the morning before anyone had got up. The self-discipline required to drag myself out of bed eleven minutes earlier than usual was considerable. Nevertheless, I managed to creep down into the living room for two days before anyone found me out. After jumping about in the carpet and twisted the human frame into uncomfortable positions. I sat down at the breakfast table in an exhausted condition. It was this that betrayed me. The next morning the whole family trooped into watch the performance. That was really unsettling but I fended off the taunts and jibes of the family good humoredly and soon everybody got used to the idea. However, my enthusiasm waned, the time I spent at exercises gradually diminished. Little by little the eleven minutes fell to zero. By January 10th I was back to where I had started from. I argued that if I spent less time exhausting myself at exercises in the morning. I would keep my mind fresh for reading when I got home from work. Resisting the hypnotizing effect of television, I sat in my room for a few evenings with my eyes glued to a book. One night, however, feeling cold and lonely, I went downstairs and sat in front of the television pretending to read. That proved to be my undoing, for I soon got back to the old bad habit of dozing off in front of the screen. I still haven't given up my resolution to do more reading. In fact, I have just bought a book entitled 'How to Read a Thousand Words a Minute'. Perhaps it will solve my problem, but I just have not had time to read it.

**Questions:**

1. Why most of us fail in our efforts for self-improvement? (5)
2. Why is it a basic mistake to announce our resolution to everybody? (5)
3. Why did the writer not carry out his resolution on New Year's Day? (5)
4. Find out the words in the above passage which convey the similar meaning to the following:  
(a) intimidating (b) peril (c) dwindle (d) repel e) barb (5)

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# Comprehension

1. The reason most of us fail in our efforts for self-improvement is that our schemes are too ambitious and we never have time to carry them out.

2. Announcing our resolution to everybody makes us look foolish when we slip back into our bad old ways.

3. The writer could not carry out his resolution on New Year's Day because he had attended an overnight party.

4.

(a) Intimidating = formidable

(b) Peril =

(c) Dwindle = Waned, diminished

(d) Repl = Fended off

(e) Barb

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**Q. Write a précis of the following passage and also suggest a suitable title: (20)**

Parents are the blessings of God. Both father and mother play indispensable role in the bringing up of a child. In my opinion both parents should have the following important characteristics for the better development of their toddler.

The most imperative feature is education which is a fundamental requisite for an efficient growth of a child. For instance, if a mother is qualified she will teach her child good manners; make him or her obedient, disciplined and respectful child. The educated parents make their children responsible and dutiful. The whole credit of success of a child goes to his teachings by his parents. Most of the successful and prosperous persons attribute their accomplishment of certain goals to their education given by their parents.

The qualified parents develop in their children, responsibility of duties, devotion towards work, loyalty with homeland and a dynamic personality. Since the parents have spent all of their time money and have paid full attention in thriving of their children ; therefore, it is utmost duty of children that they should be obedient to them and when they are in the phase of adolescence and youth their parents may be feeble and weak so they should help them in their daily activities and similarly if either of their parent suffers from an illness, their children should consult with doctor for their health problems, and to render them with medications and supervise them. If any one of them ceases then they should arrange funeral of the body according to his religion or will.

In short, no one can substitute the parents, their love and affection, softness and kindness.

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## Precis

Parents: Blessings of God  
Blessings as they are, parents play a vital role in raising their child. They must provide early education to their children, for they inculcate in their children mannerism and a sense of responsibility. Parents sow the seed of success in their child. Moreover, they shape the overall personality of children by endowing them with soft skills. It is a duty of every child to be devoted and helpful to his parents when they turn weak and provide medical assistance as and when necessary. In case of their demise, children should give them funeral as per their will. Love of parents is irreplaceable.

Original Word Count: 269

Precis Word Count: 102