Solutions of Comprehension Questions Asked in Previous CSS Papers (2015-1986)

CSS 2015

Q3. Read the following text carefully and answer the questions below: **(20)**

Experience has quite definitely shown that some reasons for holding a belief are much more likely to be justified by the event than others. It might naturally be supposed, for instance, that the best of all reasons for a belief was a strong conviction of certainty accompanying the belief. Experience, however, shows that this is not so, and that as a matter of fact, conviction by itself is more likely to mislead than it is to guarantee truth. On the other hand, lack of assurance and persistent hesitation to come to any belief whatever are an equally poor guarantee that the few beliefs which are arrived at are sound. Experience also shows that assertion, however long continued, although it is unfortunately with many people an effective enough means of inducing belief, is not in any way a ground for holding it.

The method which has proved effective, as a matter of actual fact, in providing a firm foundation for belief wherever it has been capable of application, is what is usually called the scientific method. I firmly believe that the scientific method, although slow and never claiming to lead to complete truth, is the only method which in the long run will give satisfactory foundations for beliefs. It consists in demanding facts as the only basis for conclusions, and in consistently and continuously testing any conclusions which may have been reached, against the test of new facts and, wherever possible, by the crucial test of experiment. It consists also in full publication of the evidence on which conclusions are based, so that other workers may be assisted in new researchers, or enabled to develop their own interpretations and arrive at possibly very different conclusions.

There are, however, all sorts of occasions on which the scientific method is not applicable. That method involves slow testing, frequent suspension of judgment, restricted conclusions. The exigencies of everyday life, on the other hand, often make it necessary to act on a hasty balancing of admittedly incomplete evidence, to take immediate action, and to draw conclusions in advance of the evidence. It is also true that such action will always be necessary, and necessary in respect of ever larger issues; and this in spite of the fact that one of the most important trends of civilization is to remove sphere after sphere of life out of the domain of such intuitive judgment into the domain of rigid calculation based on science. It is here that belief plays its most important role. When we cannot be certain, we must proceed in part by faith—faith not only in the validity of our own capacity of making judgments, but also in the existence of certain other realities, pre-eminently moral and spiritual realities. It has been said that faith consists in acting always on the nobler hypothesis; and though this definition is a trifle rhetorical, it embodies a seed of real truth.

Questions:

a. Give the meaning of the underlined phrases as they are used in the passage?
b. What justification does the author claim for his belief in the scientific method?
c. Do you gather from the passage that conclusions reached by the scientific method should be considered final? Give reasons for your answer?
d. In what circumstances, according to the author, is it necessary to abandon the scientific method?
e. How does the basis of "intuitive judgment" differ from that of scientific decision?

Comprehension 2015

1) The author gave the justification for his belief in scientific method, as it is tested by experiments. These experiments The results derived by these experiments are then proved by facts and evidences to reach the conclusion. Lastly, the conclusions are published to help other researchers.

2) No, it is not gathered ~~by~~ from the passage that conclusions reached by scientific method should be considered final. Because, some scientific methods require persistent long-lasting efforts to reach the conclusion, which is difficult. And, the conclusion may be questionable, as it can be proved wrong through experiment done by another researcher.

3) Circumstances in which scientific method can be abandoned are the lack of solid evidences, faulty conclusions, ~~or~~ authentic facts, and lack of judgement. Some methods involve slow testing which requires a long time to complete.

4) Intuitive judgement derives its bases from spiritual and moral realities of life. It is based on faith of one's own judgement rather than on facts and evidences. While, scientific decisions are based on recurrent experiments, facts, and conclusions presented with evidences.