

Q3. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow: (5x4=20)

Knowledge is acquired when we succeed in fitting a new experience in the system of concepts based upon our old experiences. Understanding comes when we liberate ourselves from the old and so make possible a direct, unmediated contact with the new, the mystery, moment by moment, of our existence. The new is the given on every level of experience – given perceptions, given emotions and thoughts, given states of unstructured awareness, given relationships with things and persons. The old is our home-made system of ideas and word patterns. It is the stock of finished articles fabricated out of the given mystery by memory and analytical reasoning, by habit and automatic associations of accepted notions. Knowledge is primarily a knowledge of these finished articles. Understanding is primarily direct awareness of the raw material.

Knowledge is always in terms of concepts and can be passed on by means of words or other symbols. Understanding is not conceptual and therefore cannot be passed on. It is an immediate experience, and immediate experience can only be talked about (very inadequately), never shared. Nobody can actually feel another's pain or grief, another's love or joy, or hunger. And similarly nobody can experience another's understanding of a given event or situation. There can, of course, be knowledge of such an understanding, and this knowledge may be passed on in speech or writing, or by means of other symbols. Such communicable knowledge is useful as a reminder that there have been specific understandings in the past, and that understanding is at all times possible. But we must always remember that knowledge of understanding is not the same thing as the understanding which is the raw material of that knowledge. It is as different from understanding as the doctor's prescription for penicillin is different from penicillin.

Questions:

1. How is knowledge different from understanding?
2. Explain why understanding cannot be passed on.
3. Is the knowledge of understanding possible? If it is, how may it be passed on?
4. How does the author explain that knowledge of understanding is not the same thing as the understanding?
5. How far do you agree with the author in his definitions of knowledge and understanding? Give reasons for your answer.

Q: How is knowledge different from understanding?

Ans: Knowledge is conceptual body. It can be passed from one source to another. It can be passed by means of words or other symbols. Understanding is not a conceptual body. It cannot be passed from one source to another.

Q: Explain why understanding cannot be passed on.

Ans: Understanding is an immediate experience, and immediate experience can only be talked about. It can never be shared. It cannot be passed in form of words or symbols.

Q: Is the knowledge of understanding possible? If it is, how may it be passed on?

Ans: Knowledge of understanding is based on past experiences. It can be passed in form of symbols, and maybe similar for different individuals. But, knowledge of understanding is different from understanding which cannot be passed from one source

Q: How far do you agree with the author's in his definition of knowledge and understanding? Give reasons for your answer.

Ans: I agree with his definition of knowledge and understanding because the perception level of every individual is different. Everyone has a different capacity for acquiring concepts and interprets their thoughts differently from others. Knowledge depends on individual capabilities and level of understanding.