

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.

Answers:

1. Knowledge is a body of concepts that can be passed on/ transferred from one source to another whereas understanding is not conceptual and cannot be passed on.
2. Understanding is immediate experience, that can only be talked about which varies which varies from person to person. One person cannot feel the experience the way someone else does. Therefore, understanding cannot be passed on, though knowledge of understanding can be.
3. The knowledge of understanding is possible which can be passed on in speech or writing or symbols that can communicate some meanings.
4. Knowledge of understanding is based on past experiences that can be similar to some extent in one respect or the other for different individuals but understanding can be reckoned as a feeling which cannot be passed on though the prescription of the same can be.
5. Yes, I agree with the author's opinion on difference between knowledge of understanding and understanding because every man has a different nature: he has different capacity to absorb reality around him, he interprets the absorbed reality differently and everyone's interpretation depends on one's knowledge of word, world and subject. Therefore, one's knowledge of a phenomenon can be similar but one's understanding of that is often significantly different.

Comprehension 13: CSS 2010

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

interrogation (20)

And still it moves. The words of Galileo, murmured when the tortures of the Inquisition had driven him to recant the Truth he knew, apply in a new way to our world today. Sometimes, in the knowledge of all that has been discovered, all that has been done to make life on the planet happier and more worthy, we may be tempted to settle down to enjoy our heritage. That would, indeed, be the betrayal of our trust. These men and women of the past have given everything — comfort, time, treasure, peace of mind and body, life itself — that we might live as we do. (The challenge to each one of us is to carry on their work for the sake of future generations.) The adventurous human mind must not falter. Still must we question the old truths and work for the new ones. Still must we risk scorn, cynicism, neglect, loneliness, poverty, persecution, if need be. We must shut our ears to the easy voice which tells us that 'human nature will never alter' as an excuse for doing nothing to make life more worthy. Thus, will the course of the history of mankind go onward, and the world we know move into a new splendour for those who are yet to be.

Questions:

luxury → renounce / deny / repudiate (4 marks each)

1. What made Galileo recant the Truth he knew?
2. What is the heritage being alluded to in the first paragraph?
3. What does the 'betrayal of our trust' imply?
4. Why do we need to question the old truths and work for the new ones?
5. Explain the words or expressions as highlighted/underlined in the passage.

Answers:

1. The tortures of the infamous and barbaric Inquisition made Galileo to recant the truth, he knew.

Questions:

1. Why and how did the Reign of Terror happen?
2. In what ways does the author suggest that the American Revolution was more complete than the French Revolution?
3. Of the challenges mentioned facing the French revolutionaries, which do you think had the greatest impact on their inability to complete a successful revolution? Why?
4. Of the strengths mentioned aiding the American revolutionaries, which do you think had the greatest impact on their ability to complete a successful revolution? Why?

Answers:

1. The Reign of Terror happened after the French Revolution as the French were not united for the cause of revolution. Their infighting led to inner turmoil, civil war and culminated in the Reign of Terror.
2. The American Revolution was easier to complete due to the fact that Americans only aimed at changing the government and not the society at large. Besides, the Americans, unlike the French, were not only unified having a homogeneous national character, but also had no burden of defending their revolution from outside powers' interference which was a stumbling block in way of the French Revolution.
3. The French lacked unity and national character which led to internal infighting and unleashed the Reign of Terror which culminated in undoing the French Revolution – caused its failure.
4. The Americans were a homogeneous nation possessed of a quintessential American character and their unity led to the success of their revolution, the lack of which, on the contrary, caused the failure of the French Revolution.

Comprehension 10: CSS 2013

Q: Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. (20)

① The civilization of China - as everyone knows, is based upon the teaching of Confucius who flourished five hundred years before Christ. Like the Greeks and Romans, he did not think of human society as naturally progressive; on the contrary, he believed that in remote antiquity rulers had been wise and the people had been happy to a degree which the degenerate present could 'admire but hardly achieve. This, of course, was a delusion. But the practical result was the Confucian system, like other teachers of antiquity, aimed at creating a stable society, maintaining a certain level of excellence, but not always striving after new successes. In this he was more successful than any other man who ever lived. His personality has been stamped on the Chinese Civilization from his day to our own. During his life time, the Chinese occupied only a small part of present-day China, and were divided into a number of warring states. During the next three hundred years they established themselves throughout what is now China proper, and founded an empire exceeding in territory and population any other that existed until the last fifty years. In spite of barbarian invasions, and occasional longer or shorter periods of Chaos and Civil War, the Confucian system survived bringing with it art and literature and a civilised way of life. A system which has had this extra ordinary power of survival must have great merits, and certainly deserves our respect and consideration. It is not a religion, as we understand the word, because it is not associated with the super natural or with mystical beliefs. Its ethics, unlike those of Christianity, are not too ^{high} exalted for ordinary men to practice. In essence what Confucius teaches is something is very like the old-fashioned ideal of a 'gentleman' as it existed in the eighteenth century. One of his sayings will illustrate this: 'The true gentleman is never contentious, he courteously salutes his opponents before taking up his position, so that even when competing he remains a true gentleman.'

Controversial.

Questions:

(4 marks each)

1. Why do you think the author calls Confucius' belief about the progress of human society as a delusion?
2. How did Confucius' thought affect China to develop into a stable and 'Proper' China?
3. Why does the author think that Confucian system deserves respect and admiration?
4. Why does the author call Confucian system a purely ethical system and not a religion?
5. Briefly argue whether you agree or disagree to Confucius' ideal of a gentleman.

Answers:

1. Confucius beliefs as delusion: firstly because of Confucius

the air which is required by the lower wing to lift up the helicopter more easily. However, when the wing is pulled forwards, it destroys the wing pressure ~~and~~ resulting in no motion of the helicopter.

Comprehension CSS 2010

① What made Galileo recant the truth he knew?

Ans:- The quest for interrogating the truth made him to renounce the truth. This direct question on the validity of the truth made the world to apply ~~it~~ ^{this concept} in a new way today.

② What is the heritage of being alluded to in the first paragraph?

Ans:- The knowledge and the truth which have been discovered in the world were about the concept of happiness, enjoyment, and luxurious lifestyle of human heritage. This concept of truth has been alluded in the first paragraph.

③ What does the 'betrayal of our trust' imply?

Ans:- The pursuit of happiness and luxurious lifestyle which has been portrayed by the truth discovered on the planet is considered the 'betrayal of our trust'. This concept lacked the ~~int~~ ^{int} inquisition of truth through different angles.

④ Why do we need to question the old truths and work for the new ones?

Ans:- The adventurist nature of human existence must find the truth in a new ways. It must question the old truths and work for the new ones.

This is because, in order to make one life worthy, then we must interrogate the validity of truth; not in terms of happiness, but in the exploration of finding the truth in poverty, loneliness, and persecution etc. Therefore, if the humans ought to scorn the truth.

⑤ Explain the words or expressions as highlighted & underlined in the passages:

① Inquisition: - Inquisition is the interrogation of something. In the context of ~~pass~~ given passage, it is the way of exploring the validity of the truth.

② The Planet: - The underlined word in the passage means that the pursuit of knowledge and truth in the ~~world~~ planet has been confined to happiness only.

③ Cynicism: - Cynicism is a way to question the truth and mock or make doubt of something which is ~~seemed~~ to be meaningless.

④ Those who are yet to be: - The underlined phrase means that the course of history will repeat itself when the new generation will come and again adopt the luxurious ~~living~~ and easy lifestyle.

CSS: 2013.

① Why do you think the author calls Confucius' belief about the progress of human society as a delusion?

Ans:- ~~The~~ The author denies the Confucius belief ^{critic} that human societies made progress only that human societies made progress because their rules were wise and people were happily living with each other.

Confucius views the societies cannot naturally progress. This fact is called as a delusion by the author. The author called this fact a delusion because it is evident that societies made progress in the dictatorial regimes as well. These regimes made Chinese civilization today a globally powerful country.

② How did Confucius' thought affect China to develop into a stable and 'proper' China?

Ans:- Confucius wanted to maintain a stable and an excellent Chinese society. During his lifetime, some hundred years ago, China was only a small part. ~~later~~ with the passage of time, it gradually multiplied itself into warring states, and now it an Empire exceeding territorial boundaries and a stable and 'proper' China.

③ Why does the author think that Confucian system deserves respect and admiration?

Ans:- The author believes that the Confucian system deserves respect and admiration. This is because, despite of the foreign barbaric invasions and internal outbreak of civil war, the Chinese civilization under Confucian system had survived. This makes his system admirable.

④ Why does the author call Confucian system a purely ethical system and not a religion?

Ans:- Confucian system was purely based on ethics and not religion. This is because unlike the Christianity, which is based on strict

practices, Confucian's ethical system was very very easy to practical practice for an ordinary man.

⑤ Briefly argue whether you agree or disagree to Confucius' ideal of a gentleman.

Ans:- Yes, it totally agree with the Confucius ideal of a gentleman. This is quite relevant in modern diplomatic negotiations where leaders ~~desp~~ despite being opponents, maintain the courageous attitude. This is how a true gentleman can be formed who is not controversial ~~with~~ even while dealing with his opponents.