

urged by celibate or childless priests; but it is held with such fanatical vehemence that the fear of losing the votes which they control is a welcome excuse for the baser sort of politicians to shelve the subject as inopportune. The socialist calculation is probably erroneous; for experience has shown that it is aspiration, not desperation, that makes revolutions.

Q.3. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Use your own language. (5x4 = 20)

Human Beings feel afraid of death just as children feel afraid of darkness; and just as children's fear of darkness is increased by the stories which they have heard about ghosts and thieves, human beings' fear of death is increased by the stories which they have heard about the agony of the dying man. If a human being regards death as a kind of punishment for the sins he has committed and if he looks upon death as a means of making an entry into another world, he is certainly taking a religious and sacred view of death. But if a human being looks upon death as a law of nature and then feels afraid of it, his attitude is one of cowardice. However, even in religious meditation about death there is something a mixture of folly and superstition. Monks have written books in which they have described the painful experience which they underwent by inflicting physical tortures upon themselves as a form of self-purification. Such books may lead one to think that, if the pain of even a finger being squeezed or pressed is unbearable, the pains of death must be indescribably agonizing. Such books thus increase a Man's fear of death.

ENGLISH (Précis & Composition)

Seneca, a Roman Philosopher, expressed the view that the circumstances and ceremonies of death frighten people more than death itself would do. A dying man is heard uttering groans; his body is seen undergoing convulsions; his face appears to be absolutely bloodless and pale; at his death his friends begin to weep and his relations put on mourning clothes; various rituals are performed. All these facts make death appear more horrible than it would be otherwise.

Questions:

- (1) What is the difference between human beings' fear of death and children's fear of darkness?
- (2) What is a religious and sacred view of death?
- (3) What are the painful experiences described by the Monks in their books?
- (4) What are the views of Seneca about death?
- (5) What are the facts that make death appear more horrible than it would be otherwise?

Q.4. Write a comprehensive note (250 – 300 words) on any ONE of the following: (20)

- (i) Self done is Well done.
- (ii) *The Bough that bears most bend most.*
- (iii) Nearer the *Church*, farther from God.
- (iv) Rich men have no *fault*.
- (v) Cut your coat according to your cloth.

Q.5. Use **ONLY FIVE** of the following in sentences which illustrate their meaning: Extra attempt shall not be considered. (05)

- (i) Wool gathering (ii) Under the harrow (iii) Cold comfort

Comprehension (2012)

Q1) The difference between human beings' fear of death and children's fear of darkness is a change of story. Children are afraid of darkness because they hear stories about ghosts and thieves which usually show up in darkness. Contrarily, humans are afraid of death because of hearing different stories about the pain a man suffers while dying.

Q2) The religious and sacred view of death takes on a different meaning. Unlike other causes of death, the religious view regards death as a kind of punishment for the sins a person commits during his lifetime. Moreover, it also means that a person enters from one world to another after his death.

Q3) In their books, monks have described the painful experience of self-purification. For self-purification monks used to inflict physical pain upon themselves. Such books may generate a thought of death. People cannot help but assume that if physical pain is in one part of the body is so excruciating, then death would be ~~at~~ more worse. Resultant fear of death among people increases.

Q4) According to Seneca, death itself is not as scary as the ceremonies of death. A person's body is seen undergoing convulsions and his body looks bloodless. Moreover, grief and mourning clothes make death more scary. Seneca believed that death itself is not scary as it has been portrayed by people through rituals and grief.

Q5) There are many factors which make death appear as horrible. The stories about the agony a dying man faces ~~but~~ makes death look horrendous. Furthermore, religious reasons of death and considering the law of nature to be the cause of death make people afraid. Most importantly, the ceremonies, rituals revolving around burial of a dead man scares people as well.