

Q. 3. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

(20)

The third great defect of our civilization is that it does not know what to do with its knowledge. Science has given us powers fit for the gods, yet we use them like small children. For example, we do not know how to manage our machines. Machines were made to be man's servants; yet he has grown so dependent on them that they are in a fair way to become his master. Already most men spend most of their lives looking after and waiting upon machines. And the machines are very stern masters. They must be fed with coal, and given petrol to drink, and oil to wash with, and they must be kept at the right temperature. And if they do not get their meals when they expect them, they grow sulky and refuse to work, or burst with rage, and blow up, and spread ruin and destruction all around them. So we have to wait upon them very attentively and do all that we can to keep them in a good temper. Already we find it difficult either to work or play without the machines, and a time may come when they will rule us altogether, just as we rule the animals.

And this brings me to the point at which I asked, "What do we do with all the time which the machines have saved for us, and the new energy they have given us?" On the whole, it must be admitted, we do very little. For the most part we use our time and energy to make more and better machines; but more and better machines will only give us still more time and still more energy, and what are we to do with them? The answer, I think, is that we should try to become mere civilized. For the machines themselves, and the power which the machines have given us, are not civilization but aids to civilization. But you will remember that we agreed at the beginning that being civilized meant making and linking beautiful things. Thinking freely, and living rightly and maintaining justice equally between man and man. Man has a better chance today to do these things than he ever had before; he has more time, more energy, less to fear and less to fight against. If he will give his time and energy which his machines have won for him to making more beautiful things, to finding out more and more about the universe, to removing the causes of quarrels between nations, to discovering how to prevent poverty, then I think our civilization would undoubtedly be the greater, as it would be the most lasting that there has ever been.

- Questions:
1. Instead of making machines our servants the author says they have become our masters. In what sense has this come about? (4)
 2. The use of machines has brought us more leisure and more energy. But the author says that this has been a curse rather than a blessing. Why? (4)
 3. What exactly is the meaning of 'civilization'? Do you agree with the author's views? (4)
 4. 'Making more beautiful things' – what does this expression mean? Make a list of the beautiful things that you would like to make and how you would make them. (4)
 5. Mention some plans you may have to prevent poverty in the world. Who would receive your most particular attention, and why? (4)

Reading Comprehension (2018)

Q1: Instead of making machines our servants the author says they have become our masters. In what sense has this come about?

Ans: Machines were made to help human in doing work for saving time and energy. However, their overdependence on machines has made them servants rather than masters of machine. It is because, massive use of machines has kept humans engaged in maintenance and regulation of machines.

Q2: The use of machines has brought us more leisure and more energy. But the author says that this has been a curse rather than a blessing. Why?

Ans: According to the author, Leisure and energy due to use of machines is a curse because people are using this time and energy for making more machines. As a result, humans will spend their time in looking after the machines. Resultantly, humans will bypass their values and civilization which is key driver of happiness and peace.

Q3: What exactly is the meaning of 'civilization'? Do you agree with the author's views?

Ans: The making of beautiful things like ensuring freedom, guaranteeing peace, imparting justice and ascertaining equality is the real form of human civilization. In this context, we agree with the author's views as it has emphasized the consolidation of values like peace, equality, freedom and poverty eradication.

Q4: 'Making more beautiful things' - what does this expression mean? Make a list of beautiful things that you would like to make and how would you make them?

Ans: 'Making things more beautiful' means enacting civilised values like peace, justice, equality and freedom in the universe. Living peacefully with justice and equality are some of the beautiful things which need to be guaranteed. These things can be achieved through removing quarrels between nations, eradicating poverty and so on.

Qs:- Mention some plans you may have to prevent poverty in the world. Who would receive your most particular attention, and why?

Ans:- Poverty can be removed by ensuring economic equality, discouraging hoarding, imparting justice and guaranteeing peace in society. Eliminating manipulation of resources is equally important in this context. Civil society would receive our most particular attention as it is the advocate of fundamental human rights across the globe.

Q/P