

"THE GREATEST civilization before ours was the Greek. They, too, lived in a dangerous world. They were a little highly civilized people, surrounded by barbarous and always threatened by the greatest Asian Power, Persia. In the end, they succumbed, but the reason they did was not the enemies outside were so strong, but that their spiritual strength had given way. While they had it, they kept Greece unconquered. Basic to all Greek achievements was freedom. The Athenians were the only free people in the world. In the great empires of antiquity-Egypt, Babylon, Assyria, and Persia - splendid though they were with riches and immense power, freedom was unknown. The idea of it was born in Greece and with it Greece was able to prevail against all the manpower and wealth arrayed against her. At Marathon and at Salamis overwhelming numbers of Persians were defeated by small Greek forces. It was proved there that one free man was superior to many submissively obedient subjects of a tyrant. And Athens, where freedom was the dearest possession, was the leader in those amazing victories.

Greece rose to the very height, not because she was big, she was very small; not because she was rich, she was very poor, not even because she was wonderfully gifted. So doubtless were others in the great empires of the ancient world who have gone their way leaving little for us. She rose because there was in the Greeks the greatest spirit that moves in humanity, the spirit that sets men free".

(253 words)

Greek Civilization.

Greeks were highly civilized, despite being surrounded by threats and dangers. She stayed unconquered, until its people had spiritual strength. Freedom was their biggest achievement and its idea was also born there. This proved in many (ways)* wars, where one free Greek man was superior to obedient army. Greece was small and poor but was wonderfully gifted. As she rose due to Greek spirit of humanity and setting men free, a spirit that moves in mankind which is (humān) freedom.

(Words 80)

Comprehension Practice (Past Paper 2023)

Comprehension Practice [Past Paper 2023]

Ans 1: Majority of people have always lived simply, and most of humanity still struggles on a daily basis to eke out a meager existence under dire circumstances. In industrialized countries people have luxury of more goods and services than they need to survive. On basis of material wealth North Americans and Europeans should be happiest people on earth, but according to Happy Planet Index 2012, they are not. This shows there is no relation between material wealth and happiness.

Ans 2: Voluntary Simplicity began as experimental lifestyle and evolved into a revolution, which spread through books, magazines, communities of like-minded, internet etc. Voluntary Simplicity movement sought to reduce consumption of goods and (services) energy. According to author Voluntary means free and conscious choice to make appropriate changes to enrich life spiritually. Simplicity refers to lack of clutter, or eliminating all those things, habits and ideas that take control over our lives and cause distraction. To practice voluntary Simplicity one must differentiate between what one wants. The beauty of voluntary simplicity is that it is philosophy and not dogma. How one goes about depends on individual's character, culture and climate.

Ans 3: The growing consumerism of modern society is feared due to its growing environmental consequences.

Ans 4: There are many influences which makes it difficult for people to reduce their consumption patterns, as in a consumer society where advertising bombards us with messages that without this, that, and the other product, we are unsuccessful, undesirable, and unimportant, being clear on what you really need and resisting what you don't can be an ongoing struggle.

Ans 5: The challenges of voluntary simplicity in an economy are more as the living with less is erroneously equated with poverty and social inferiority. Whereas the rewards include less consumption, and more resources for future generation. More time for yourself and your loved ones by less activity. Less stress and more relaxation and better health. Less worry and more enjoyment and more fulfillment in life.