

Q. 3. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given at the end.

✓ Done (20)

(Civil society refers to all of the places where individuals gather together to have conversations, pursue common interests and, occasionally, try to influence public opinion or public policy. In many respects, civil society is where people spend their time when they are not at work or at home. For example, a group of people gather at a local park every Thursday afternoon for a game of football. Most of them arrive well before the game begins and stay for some time after it ends. Some of them go out for dinner or a drink after the game. In the course of their meetings they talk about a wide range of topics, including football but also extending to include issues such as work, family, relationships, community events, racial issues and politics. This kind of solidarity can be found in a variety of other places in civil society – such as sports clubs, bowling leagues, reading groups and social movements – where individuals get together to associate on the basis of some shared interest fostering more effective forms of citizenship.) Even though people may come together on the basis of an interest they all share in common, they eventually have to develop productive strategies for dealing with conflicts and differences that emerge within the association. Team-mates in a bowling league discover, on certain issues, significant differences of opinion. And yet, because they value the association and look forward to participating in its activities, they do not respond to these differences by exiting the scene. Instead, they search for the ways of interacting that will not threaten the solidarity of the group. In the process, they learn to appreciate and to tolerate social differences, a valuable skill to have in an increasingly multicultural nation.) They also develop a general sense of social trust and mutual obligation, which makes society function more efficiently (this is what political scientists and sociologists are talking about when they refer to the importance of social capital.) Gathering together in an association, people begin to think about their shared private interest as a collective public interest, and they try to make sure that this public interest is safe and secured. For example, the group that gets together for a weekly football game begins to talk about the park as an important community resource; if feel that the park is being mistreated or mismanaged, will organize a 'save the park' campaign to try to influence their local politicians and the other residents of the community.) Recently, there has been growing concern that civil society is weaker than it used to be, because people are losing interest in joining associations. As citizens become increasingly disconnected from voluntary associations, they will experience less trust and less social connection, and as a result political institutions will function less efficiently. However, some scholars opine that many people are simply choosing to participate in different kinds of associations with fewer face-to-face meetings but supplemented with 'virtual' interactions facilitated by resources.)

Q: Read the following passage and answer the questions. (CSS 2022)

1. How does the author characterize the concept of civil society?

Ans: The author characterizes the concept of civil society in such a fashion that civil society refers to a platform

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where people are acquiring same interests and shared beliefs. During their interactions, they discuss their perspectives regarding social issues and learn the skill to appreciate the difference of opinions and to resolve conflicts.

2- ~~How~~ ~~to~~ Why does civil society strive towards better socialization driven by ~~society~~ tolerance?

Civil Society strives towards better socialization because society is designed in such a way, where people hold different opinions, beliefs and cultures. Difference of opinions emerges when they associate with each other.

In this way, people tolerate other opinions with respect when they socialize in multi-cultural environment.

3- What do you understand by the term 'Social Capital' used in this passage?

The term 'Social Capital' refers to the concept of accepting other opinions with their perspective and to show tolerance. When people ~~associate~~ collaborate

each other, they form associations. During the process of socialization, they learn the skill to confront these conflicts with mutual.

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consideration in order to keep the harmony of the association.

4- Why does a civil society assume the role of a public stake holder?

Ans: Civil society assumes the role of a public stake holder because when individuals socialize with each other, they form an association. Their private interests are converted into public interest. They show mutual responsibility and concerns towards societal problems. They work as a unit for the effective functioning of the society.

5- What impact is feared by the weakening state of civil society?

People do not want to associate physically with each passing day. They prefer to engage with each other through virtual medium which is not as much effective as physical interaction. As a result of this disassociation, state's machinery pays less attention towards genuine problems of society.