

most important of all the oracles, that at the Delphi, delivered the messages with the intervention of Apollo, while the oldest that of Dodona, functioned with the assistance of Zeus.

**Q.3. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given at the end. (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 they 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 association. 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.

**Questions:**

(4 marks each)

1. How does the author characterize the concept of civil society?
2. Why does civil society strive towards better socialization driven by tolerance?
3. What do you understand by the term 'Social Capital' used in this passage?
4. Why does a civil society assume the role of a public stakeholder?
5. What impact is feared by the weakening state of civil society?

**Q.4. Correct only FIVE of the following:**

- (i) I must walk two miles to school every morning when I was a child.
- (ii) After the storm, we had got to pick up some fallen branches.
- (iii) ~~Guitar~~ is most popular instrument among teen-age boys, but not girls.
- (iv) You are not well and I wish you feel better soon.

Q1 The author characterise the concept of civil society as an effective form of citizenship. He described the civil society is a group of people who come together to pursue common goals. They meet each other in their leisure time and discuss a variety of topics ranging from personal and professional to national and global level. They generally meet at public places such as parks, sports club and restaurants. This interaction creates unity among them. Every individual affects the other behavior and eventually shapes the public opinion. Therefore, the civil society is an effective form of association.

Q2. A civil society strives towards better socialisation which is driven by tolerance because of individuals alacrity to interact and engage effectively with each other. When there are two or more people in a group, it is normal to have conflicts. In a civil society people come together by the shared goals and interest. So whenever, there is any kind of disagreement, they would likely to tackle it with patience and positivity. Because they want to participate in the activities of the society. They find alternative strategies to deal with conflicts, criticism and attack. Therefore, civil society is pivotal in promoting socialisation.

3) Social Capital refers to the spirit of collectiveness that individuals develop gradually in the civil society. When the individuals meet and interact with each other, they find their own interests are aligned with those of others. It makes them realize mutual responsibility and strengthen social trust. This ensures harmonious functioning of society, as the individuals start safeguarding the public interests as their own. That is why, sociologists and political scientists highlighted the importance of social capital.

4) A civil society assumes the role of a public stakeholder due to its influence on the community and political institutions. Given that the civil society facilitates the discussion of a variety of topics among members, it attracts their attention towards subjects of the public welfare. The members observe and discuss the surrounding issues and take initiatives for their improvement. They may start 'Save the Park' campaign to stop mismanagement of community resources and influence the political leadership. Thereby, they ~~become~~ the civil society act as a public stakeholder with all its members having stake in a public welfare.

5) The weakening state of civil society is found to affect social connection and reduce institutional efficiency. In this digital age, people prefer to engage on social media platforms.

rather than joining union. This may widen the social distance and erode social trust and mutual cooperation. Furthermore, the weaken civil society will also not influence the public welfare institutions to deliver services properly. In short, virtual interactions<sup>will</sup> replace in-person meetings and society well-being will be compromised.

"Please give tips to gain at least 15/20 marks in a reading comprehension!"