

Q2: Make a precis of the following text and suggest a suitable title . (15+5=20)

The classic example of this fallacy is a scene in a British court of law. As the attorney for the defense takes the floor, his partner hands him a note: 'No case. Abuse the plaintiff's attorney.' If you can't shake the argument, abuse the person who advances it, and so discredit it through the back door. Go from facing the issue, which jurists call *ad rem*, to the man, *ad hominem*.

A story is told about Lincoln as a young lawyer. In one of his first jury cases, he showed his political shrewdness by an adroit and quite non-malicious use of *ad hominem*. His opponent was an experienced trial lawyer, who also had most of the fine legal points on his side. The day was warm and Lincoln slumped in his chair as the case went against him. When the orator took off his coat and vest, however, Lincoln sat up with a gleam in his eye. His opponent was wearing one of the new city-slicker shirts of the 1840's, which buttoned up the back.

Lincoln knew the reaction of frontiersmen, who made up the jury. When his turn came, his plea was brief: 'Gentlemen of the jury, because I have justice on my side, I am sure you will not be influenced by this gentleman's pretended knowledge of the law. Why, he doesn't even know which side of his shirt ought to be in front!'

Lincoln's *ad hominem* is said to have won the case.

This fallacy, like over-generalizing, has been around for a long time. The Sophists must have used it freely, and I suspect it goes back to the dawn of the race. The health of President Eisenhower was an important consideration in the nominations of 1956. Was he well enough to serve out another four years in the toughest job in the world? Similarly with Franklin Roosevelt in 1944. But when the enemies of Roosevelt charged that a given government policy was wrong because it originated with 'that cripple in the White House,' they were practicing a particularly vicious kind of *ad hominem*.

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

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Subject : English (Precis and Composition)

The Ad Hominem Fallacy

A classic ad hominem example is a British Court scene where an attorney's friend gives him advice to attack the opposing lawyer. Lincoln, in one of his early cases, used ad hominem against the opposing lawyer questioning his competence based on his appearance. This fallacy has existed for a long time as seen in years of 1956 and 1944. A particularly vicious form of ad hominem is seen when Roosevelt's enemies rejected a policy because of his disability.
