

Q.1. Make a precis of the following passage; also suggest a suitable title. (15+5 = 20)

I've always wondered why we stopped reading newspapers at breakfast. Growing up, my father would spread the morning paper across the kitchen table like a ritual, the smell of coffee mixing with the rustle of pages. He'd read bits aloud to my mother, sometimes a political scandal, sometimes just a funny story about a cat stuck in a tree. My mother would respond from the stove, stirring oatmeal, and somehow these fragments became our family's way of understanding the world. That was thirty years ago. Today, I watch my own children at breakfast, each hunched over a glowing screen, scrolling through feeds I can't even name. They're probably consuming more information in ten minutes than my father read in his entire newspaper, but something feels fundamentally different. The information flows past them like water, none of it sticking, none of it creating conversation.

There's something about the physical act of reading that we've lost. When my father folded back a page to show my mother a photograph, when he'd tap an article with his finger and say, "Now this is interesting," he was curating the news for us. He was deciding what mattered in our house, what deserved discussion, what connected to our lives. The newspaper forced a kind of patience, and you couldn't skip ahead to see how a story ended, couldn't swipe away from something uncomfortable.

I tried bringing a newspaper to breakfast last week, spreading it out just like my father used to do. My kids looked at me like I'd brought a typewriter to the table. "Why don't you just read it on your phone, Mom?" my daughter asked, genuinely puzzled. I couldn't explain that it wasn't about the information itself, but about the ritual, the shared focus, the way physical objects can anchor us to moments and to each other in ways that screens somehow can't. Maybe every generation mourns something. Maybe my father's parents wondered why he didn't gather around the radio anymore.

Q.2. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. (20)

In the summer of 1928, Alexander Fleming, a Scottish bacteriologist working at St. Mary's Hospital in London, was preparing to go on vacation. Before leaving, he was cleaning up his cluttered laboratory, which was filled with petri dishes containing various bacterial cultures he had been studying. Fleming was known among his colleagues for being somewhat disorganized, often leaving experiments scattered around his workspace for weeks at a time. Upon returning from his holiday, Fleming noticed something unusual in one of the dishes he had left behind. The dish contained *Staphylococcus* bacteria, but there was a peculiar clear area around a blue-green mold that had somehow contaminated the culture. Most scientists would have simply discarded the contaminated dish as ruined, but Fleming's curiosity was piqued. He observed that wherever the mold had grown, the surrounding bacteria had been killed or prevented from growing.

Fleming realized he had stumbled upon something potentially significant. He carefully isolated the mold and identified it as belonging to the genus *Penicillium*. Through further experimentation, he discovered that this mold produced a substance that was remarkably effective against many types of harmful bacteria, yet seemed relatively harmless to human tissue. He named this substance penicillin, after the mold that produced it. However, Fleming faced a significant challenge. While he could demonstrate penicillin's antibacterial properties in laboratory conditions, he lacked the biochemical expertise and resources needed to purify and mass-produce the substance for medical use. His initial attempts to extract and concentrate penicillin were largely unsuccessful, and the medical community showed little immediate interest in his findings. Fleming published his research in 1929, but it attracted minimal attention from other scientists.

It wasn't until the early 1940s, more than a decade later, that Howard Florey and Ernst Boris Chain at Oxford University recognized the potential of Fleming's discovery. With World War II creating an urgent need for effective treatments for infected wounds, they developed methods to mass-produce penicillin. By 1943, penicillin was being manufactured on a large scale and saving countless lives on the battlefield and in hospitals worldwide. Fleming's accidental discovery had finally become one of medicine's greatest breakthroughs.

Questions:

1. What does Fleming's discovery suggest about the role of observation in scientific breakthroughs?
2. Why did it take more than ten years for penicillin to become widely available as medicine?
3. How did Fleming's supposedly "disorganized" laboratory habits contribute to his famous discovery?
4. What role did World War II play in the development of penicillin as a medicine?

Q3. Choose the word that is most similar to the word in bold. (10)

Q. No. 1

Precis

The author has amazed about no more reading of newspaper at breakfast. He has urged that his father used to read newspaper across the breakfast table and discussed the issues of the world with family. Currently, children have more access to information by the help of digitization. Although, the true test of reading is missing. Moreover, the narrator tried to re-start reading newspaper like his father across the breakfast table but the daughter questioned the traditional way of reading newspaper. The writer could not express himself that true reading of newspaper involves physical existence of the paper rather than digitization.

Total words in Precis = 280
Summarized in = 100

Passage

(1)

Fleming's discovery suggests several things about the role of observation in scientific breakthroughs.

Observation plays an essential role in the scientific culture. It is the first step towards discovery.

For instance, if Fleming had not taken interest in one of dishes contamination, he would have not discovered the Penicillin.

In this regard, observation plays vital role in the scientific culture.

(2)

When Fleming discovered the Penicillin, the scientific community did not take interest. Even Fleming published his research in 1929, although the medical community showed little interest. This was how after a decade Oxford university recognized

the discovery of Fleming when the injured individuals during the world War-II needed Penicillin in medicine. Thus, lack of medical community's interest resulted in delay of the availability of medicine.

(3)

Fleming was famous for disorganization of laboratory - research things such as dishes. This disorganized habit of keeping things led to the discovery of Penicillin. When Fleming returned from vacation, he noticed the contamination of one of the dishes. He took interest and discovered the Penicillin. Therefore, disorganized habit led to success of the Fleming in the field of discoveries.

(4)

Penicillin was not available in medicine until world War-II. The world War-II contributed to the medicine production of Penicillin. Because Penicillin became essential to cure the wounded people. Thus, world War-II fostered the demand of penicillin.