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ENGLISH (Precis & Composition) Paper 2011.

Q.1 (a) Synonyms.

- (i) chronicle - Account of events
- (ii) flume - Narrow gorge with a stream running through it.
- (vii) misopedia - Family history
- (viii) menage - golden years
- (iii) epitaph - Editorial

Q.1 (b) Antonyms

- (x) brace - prop
- (xiii) conscientious - profligate
- (xiv) diplomatic - prudent
- (xv) hypocrisy - uprightness
- (xvi) onerous - fluent

Q.2 Precis

Title : The Price of Pleasure Seeking

The most common psychological cause of unhappiness is prioritizing those satisfactions which a person was deprived of in his youth. It makes one's life miserable and unidirectional. If left unchecked, this leads to a suicidal state where he only seeks pleasures and distractions in all the wrong ways and loses interest in life afterwards. It is difficult to make such people believe otherwise as most of them take great pride in it. This ingenuinity of their happiness makes other people skeptical of them.

Q.3 Reading Comprehension

(i) How is knowledge different from understanding?

Although knowledge and understanding are sometimes used interchangeably, but they are essentially different. Knowledge is a wider concept which inculcates experiences, old ideas, word patterns, which serve as raw material for analytical reasoning. Understanding, however, is a refined form of previous knowledge which opens new gates of awareness and innovation.

(ii) Explain why understanding cannot be passed on?

Unlike knowledge, understanding cannot be passed on as it requires personal understanding which is unique to every individual. Moreover, understanding is a hands-on phenomenon which can only be discussed and not passed on or shared.

(iii) Is the knowledge of understanding possible?

Yes, the knowledge of understanding is very much possible. As understanding is an immediate experience which can't be passed on but it can surely be written down or told others. This creates communicable knowledge which can be passed to other generations to help them understand the importance and possibility of such knowledge.

(iv) How does the author explain that knowledge of understanding is not the same thing as understanding?

The author says that 'knowledge of understanding' is different from 'understanding' itself. Understanding develops from raw material of knowledge, which essentially means the interpretation and analysis of data on a personal basis. In contrast, 'knowledge of understanding' is written or verbal manifestation of those experiences of understanding knowledge. The author compares this to understanding doctor's prescription of medicine and the medicine itself.

(v) How far do you agree with the author in his definitions of knowledge and understanding? Give reasons for your answer:

I completely agree with the author in his definitions of knowledge and understanding. The author remarkably captures the essence of both these concepts in a precise manner. He clearly elucidates the importance of both concepts while describing the thin line between them.

Q.5 Pairs of words.

(i) capital : lack of financial capital was the main hindrance in his entrepreneurial venture.

capitol : The attack on capitol building marks a dark day in US history.

(iv) degree : Unlike previous times, attainment of an academic degree does not necessarily guarantee a job.

decree : The president decreed on raising import tariffs.

(iii) Envelop : He enveloped the cat in the box.

Envelope : Ali needed fancy envelopes to put all his eidi.

(vi) Species : Human species is the most complicated in all of Animal kingdom.

Specie : A significant specie of spiders live in the desert.

(v) Wet : To much of his mother's disappointment, Khizer brought soaking wet umbrella into the lounge.

Whet : The delicious smell of food whetted everyone's appetite at the dinner table.

Q.6 Correct the following.

(iii) Not only was he a thief, but also a murderer.

(v) It ~~is~~ ^{seems} unlikely that he wins the race.

(vii) I hope, by the time I get there, it would stop raining.

(viii) They prevented the driver from driving.

(ii) You have got too short time for that.