

## Comprehension 2: CSS 2021

Q. Read the following passage and answer the questions given at the end. (20)

Prime Minister Tony Blair has consistently argued that the only option in the face of hyperpower is to offer wise counsel. But increasingly this is a course that governments and people across the world have refused. The mobilization for war against Iraq split the United Nations and provoked the largest anti-war demonstrations the world has ever seen. And through it all, America maintained its determination to wage war alone if necessary and not to be counselled by the concerns of supposedly allied governments when they faithfully represented the wishes of their electorates. Rather than engaging in debate, the American government expressed its exasperation. The influential new breed of neoconservative radio and television hosts went much further. They acted as ringmasters for outpourings of public scorn that saw French fries renamed 'freedom fries' and moves to boycott French and German produce across America. If one soundbite can capture a mood, then perhaps it would be Fox News' Bill O'Reilly. At the height of the tension over a second Security Council resolution to legitimate war in Iraq, Mr. O'Reilly told his viewers that the bottom line was security, the security of his family, and in that matter 'There's no moral equivalence between the US and Belgium'. It is, in effect, the ethos of hyperpower articulated and made manifest in the public domain of 24-hour talk. And America's willingness to prosecute war has raised innumerable questions about how it engages with other countries. Afghanistan has seen the removal of the Taliban. But there are no official statistics on the number of innocent civilians dead and injured to achieve that security objective. The people of Afghanistan have witnessed a descent into the chaos that preceded the arrival of the Taliban, a country administered not by a new era of democracy under the tutelage of the hyperpower, but merely by the return of the warlords. Beyond Kabul, much of the country remains too insecure for any meaningful efforts at reconstruction and there is enormous difficulty in bringing relief aid to the rural population.

### Questions:

(4 Marks each)

1. Why does the doctrine of power set by neo-imperial America deny space to counselling?
2. What is the essence of 'moral equivalence' whereas War has no moral justification?
3. Why do countries occupied and under the tutelage of hyperpower have no peace?



4. Arguably Europe and hyperpower US are at cross purposes over the concept of war. Are they? Why?
5. What Tony Blair's meant by 'wise counsel', and did it prevail?

# 2021 - Reading Comprehension

- S1 - Wise Council refusal by hyper
- S2 - UN split and Anti-war Dem
- S3 - America Determination
- S4 - America's Anger
- S5 - Media Anchor's useless justification of war on the pretext of security
- S6 - America and Afghanistan
- S7 - Afghanistan Vulnerability

Q01 The doctrine of power set by neo-imperial America denies space to counselling for two reasons. Firstly, it does not want any hurdle in way of achieving its objectives and securing its national interest. Secondly, it avoided the counselling to prevent the act of violence to be declared as "illegitimate" by the wise counsel.

Q02 Undoubtedly, war has no moral justification but anchors like Mr. Bill O'Reilly tried to convince their viewers that "there is no moral equivalence" in case of security threat and war can be used as preemptive measure to deter security threats.

Q03 The countries occupied by the hyperpower have no peace because of undemocratic administration. In Afghanistan, for instance, the Taliban regime replaced by the warlords. The warlords are not aware about locals' problems and failed to provide them security, relief and stable



democratic government.

Q04 Yes, Europe and <sup>the</sup> US are at cross purposes over the concept of war because many European countries viewing war as the tactics employed by the US to maintain the global hegemony. Due to this invasion in Iraq by the US, has received criticism by France, Germany and many other European countries.

Q05 Tony Blair with 'wise counsel' aimed to restrain the hegemony and dominance established by the hyperpower. But this idea didn't work as the US participated in invasion in Iraq and didn't engage in debate of wise counselling.



## SOLVED COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS FROM PREVIOUS PAPERS

### Comprehension 1: CSS 2022

**Q:** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: (20)

Civil society refers to all of the places where individuals gather together to have conversations, peruse 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 works, 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.

#### Questions:

(4 Marks Each)

1. How does the author characterize the concepts of civil society?
2. Why does civil society strive towards better socialization drives 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 stake holder?
5. What impact is feared by the weakening state of civil society?



Q1 The author characterizes the civil society as an association where people having common interest, interact and discuss a variety of topics ranging from personal to societal level. They meet ~~and~~ spend ~~time with each other~~ <sup>time</sup> together at public places and build relations with each other.

Q2 The civil society promotes unity and inclusivity among the members which drives by tolerance. The association of people sharing common interest show propensity to deal with conflict arise out of their interaction in pleasant manner. Therefore, they develop tolerance and appreciate <sup>each</sup> others views to maintain harmony. In other words, they respond others tactfully rather than reacting emotionally. Thereby, civil society strives better socialization drives by tolerance.

Q3 Social Capital is the realization of responsibility by each member of association, to ~~maintain~~ respect other's opinions and maintain harmony in the society.

Q4 The civil society assume the role of a public stake holder because each member in association ~~considers~~ <sup>focuses</sup> on the "collective interest" of a society due to sharing common interest. If they perceive any social issue like water logging, park maintenance, ~~water~~ scarcity etc, they show alacrity to solve them with cooperation of politicians. Thereby, they work out on issues where they have a stake as a whole and ensure smooth functioning of society. Q5 The lack of social trust, people participation and avoiding in-person interactions are some factors that ~~are~~ threatening civil society.