

Q.2: Make a précis of the following passage in your own words reducing it to one third of its length (about 105 words). No credit will be given for exact reproduction of sentences from the given passage. Provide a relevant title. (20)

Neither misery nor folly seems to me any part of the inevitable lot of man. And I am convinced that intelligence, patience, and eloquence can, sooner or later, lead the human race out of its self-imposed tortures provided it does not exterminate itself meanwhile. On the basis of this belief, I have had always a certain degree of optimism, although, as I have grown older, the optimism has grown more sober and the happy issue more distant. But I remain completely incapable of agreeing with those who accept fatalistically the view that man is born to trouble. The causes of unhappiness in the past and, in the present are not difficult to ascertain. There have been poverty, pestilence, and famine, which were due to man's inadequate mastery of nature. There have been wars, oppressions and tortures which have

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been due to men's hostility to their fellow men. And there have been morbid miseries fostered by gloomy creeds, which have led men into profound inner discords that made all outward prosperity of no avail. All these are unnecessary. In regard to all of them, means are known by which they can be overcome. In the modern world, if communities are unhappy, it is because they choose to be so. Or, to speak more precisely, because they have ignorances, habits, beliefs, and passions, which are dearer to them than happiness or even life. I find many men in our dangerous age who seem to be in love with misery and death, and who grow angry when hopes are suggested to them. They think that hope is irrational and that, in sitting down to lazy despair, they are merely facing facts. I cannot agree with these men. To preserve hope in our world makes calls upon our intelligence and our energy. In those who despair it is very frequently the energy that is lacking.

## Precis

### Intelligence and Energy: Prerequisites for attaining Hope

Intelligence and energy are not part of humans. Humans can overcome difficulties by rational thinking and patience. It is not true that they are bound to face hardships in life. They themselves are responsible for all the unpleasant circumstances and problems. However, those problems can be resolved.

In the present era, humans are unhappy either out of their free will or due to certain traits which are dearer to them than happiness.

There are many people who are more inclined to despair than hope. They consider hope irrational belief and despair: an established fact. Therefore, intelligence and energy are important to inculcate hope in disappointed people.

Acrostic word count: 107 (given)