

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

(P.T.O.)

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.

QUESTION: 2

Achieving Happiness through Hope

The author is of the view that misery is not eternal. It can be overcome by humans. The author disagrees with fatalists' view that hardships are part of human existence. The reasons for the unhappiness of humans are known. In the past, humans were unhappy due to relentless nature and aggressive behaviour of fellow humans. However, humans are capable to eradicate unhappiness from their lives. They are unhappy because they hold on to certain beliefs which cause unhappiness. To them, hope is an irrational and despair is a rational thing to live with. For hope, energy and intelligence are inevitable. Those who lack them are in despair.

words required:
105