

Q.2: Write a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title: (20)

If then a practical end must be assigned to a university course, I say it is that of training good members of a society. It is the art of social life, and its end is fitness for the world. It neither confines its views to particular professions on the one hand, nor creates heroes or inspires genius on the other. Works indeed of genius fall under no art; heroic minds come under no rule; a university is not a birthplace of poets or of immortal authors, of founders of schools, leaders of colonies, or conquerors of nations. It does not promise a generation of Aristotle or Newtons or Napoleons or Washingtons or Raphaels or Shakespeare though such miracles of nature it has before now contained within its precincts. Nor is it content on the other hand with forming the critic or the experimentalist, the economist or the engineer, through such too it includes within its scope. But a university training is the great ordinary means to a great ordinary end; it aims at raising the intellectual tone of society, at cultivating the public mind, at purifying the national taste, at supplying true principles to popular aspirations. It is the education which gives a man a clear conscious view of his own opinions and judgments, a truth in developing them, an eloquence in expressing them, and a force in urging them, it teaches him to see things as they are, to go right to the point, to disentangle a skein of thought, to detect what is sophistical and to - discard what is irrelevant. It prepares him to fill any post with credit, and to master any subject with facility. (John H. Newman)

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The Aim of University Education

The goal of university education, according to the author, is to introduce individuals good citizens and train them for practical life. Likewise, a university provides a broad spectrum of knowledge. However, it does not mean one will come out to be a successful leader, philosopher or scientist, as that cannot be taught. Its aim is also not to teach a particular profession, but rather, allow a person to exercise his mental ability, enable critical thinking, and development of one's own judgement. The objective is to help an individual make rational decisions, and provide a base for further learning.