

Comprehension

Answer - 1

Machines were invented to serve man but man has become excessively dependent on them. People spend much of their time maintaining machines, feeding them coal, petrol, oil and keeping at the right temperature. If machines are not properly cared of, they stop working thus, instead of being masters, humans have become servants to machines.

Answer - 2

According to the author, machines have saved our time and given us energy, but we are not using this time wisely. In this time we are making more and better machines which gives us more time and energy. Since we are not devoting this time in creativity and justice, the gift of machines is becoming curse instead of blessing.

Answer-3

According to the author, civilization means thinking freely, living rightly and maintaining justice equally among the people. Yes, I agree with the author's view civilization is not just material development but it is measured with knowledge and creativity.

Answer-4

"Making beautiful things" refers to beautiful ideas and values which will promote peace, just legal systems which will leads to the social justice and institutions which eliminate poverty. The beautiful things, I would like to make are legal system to provide equal rights and educational institutions for knowledge and creativity.

Answer-5

To eliminate poverty in the world like to provide free and equal education for all. And I would like to focus more on learning skills and erasing corruption so that everyone can get fair chance in society. I would give particular attention to underprivileged people because they are most vulnerable.

The third great defect of our civilization is that it does not know what to do with its knowledge. Science has given us powers fit for the gods, yet we use them like small children. For example, we do not know how to manage our machines. Machines were made to be man's servants; yet he has grown so dependent on them that they are in a fair way to become his master. Already most men spend most of their lives looking after and waiting upon machines. And the machines are very stern masters. They must be fed with coal, and given petrol to drink, and oil to wash with, and they must be kept at the right temperature. And if they do not get their meals when they expect them, they grow sulky and refuse to work, or burst with rage, and blow up, and spread ruin and destruction all around them. So we have to wait upon them very attentively and do all that we can to keep them in a good temper. Already we find it difficult either to work or play without the machines, and a time may come when they will rule us altogether, just as we rule the animals.

And this brings me to the point at which I asked, "What do we do with all the time which the machines have saved for us, and the new energy they have given us?" On the whole, it must be admitted, we do very little. For the most part we use our time and energy to make more and better machines; but more and better machines will only give us still more time and still more energy, and what are we to do with them? The answer, I think, is that we should try to become more civilized. For the machines themselves, and the power which the machines have given us, are not civilization but aids to civilization. But you will remember that we agreed at the beginning that being civilized meant making and linking beautiful things. Thinking freely, and living rightly and maintaining justice equally between man and man. Man has a better chance today to do these things than he ever had before; he has more time, more energy, less to fear and less to fight against. If he will give his time and energy which his machines have won for him to making more beautiful things, to finding out more and more about the universe, to removing the causes of quarrels between nations, to discovering how to prevent poverty, then I think our civilization would undoubtedly be the greater, as it would be the most lasting that there has ever been.

- Questions:**
1. Instead of making machines our servants the author says they have become our masters. In what sense has this come about? (4)
 2. The use of machines has brought us more leisure and more energy. But the author says that this has been a curse rather than a blessing. Why? (4)
 3. What exactly is the meaning of 'civilization'? Do you agree with the author's views? (4)
 4. 'Making more beautiful things' – what does this expression mean? Make a list of the beautiful things that you would like to make and how you would make them. (4)
 5. Mention some plans you may have to prevent poverty in the world. Who would receive your most particular attention, and why? (4)