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1 CHAPTER Environment & Ecology

Of all the topics a comprehension passage can be built on, the environment is the most common, and for a simple reason: it touches everything. At its centre lies climate change. When we burn coal, oil and gas for energy, we release greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane. These gases act like a blanket around the planet, trapping the sun's heat and slowly raising the earth's temperature. The results are already visible — glaciers melt, sea levels rise, storms grow fiercer, and rainfall becomes unpredictable. As the climate shifts faster than living things can adapt, countless species are lost, and this steady erosion of biodiversity weakens the whole web of life on which we depend.

Alongside climate change runs a wider crisis of pollution. The air of large cities is thick with tiny particles that shorten lives; rivers and lakes are poisoned by sewage, chemicals and mountains of plastic that never fully break down; and fertile soil is exhausted by overuse. The root of much of this is a 'take, make and throw away' way of living, in which resources are used once and discarded. In response, thinkers now speak of a 'circular economy', in which waste is reused, repaired and recycled so that little is truly thrown away.

The deepest tension in the subject is between economic growth and the health of the planet. Factories, roads and cities bring jobs and prosperity, but often at the cost of forests, clean air and water. Yet the two need not always be enemies. Renewable sources of energy such as solar and wind are now cheaper than ever; forests and oceans act as 'carbon sinks' that absorb some of what we emit; and wiser policy can reward those who pollute less. There is also a question of justice, for it is very often the poorest — who consume and pollute the least — who suffer the worst of floods, heat and foul air. The tools to respond already exist. What the crisis truly demands is not a new invention, but the collective will to act before the damage becomes impossible to undo.

जिन विषयों पर कॉम्प्रिहेंशन पैसेज बन सकता है, उनमें पर्यावरण सबसे आम है, और इसका कारण सरल है – यह हर चीज से जुड़ा है। इसके केंद्र में है जलवायु परिवर्तन। जब हम ऊर्जा के लिए कोयला, तेल और गैस जलाते हैं, तो कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड और मीथेन जैसी ग्रीनहाउस गैसें निकलती हैं। ये गैसें पृथ्वी के चारों ओर एक कंबल की तरह काम करती हैं और सूरज की गर्मी को रोककर धरती का तापमान धीरे-धीरे बढ़ाती हैं। इसके परिणाम अभी से दिख रहे हैं – ग्लेशियर पिघल रहे हैं, समुद्र का स्तर बढ़ रहा है, तूफान तेज हो रहे हैं और वर्षा अनिश्चित हो गई है। जब जलवायु इतनी तेजी से बदलती है कि जीव उसके अनुसार ढल नहीं पाते, तो अनेक प्रजातियाँ लुप्त हो जाती हैं, और जैव विविधता का यह क्षय जीवन के पूरे जाल को कमजोर कर देता है।

जलवायु परिवर्तन के साथ-साथ प्रदूषण का एक बड़ा संकट भी चलता है। बड़े शहरों की हवा उन सूक्ष्म कणों से भरी है जो जीवन छोटा कर देते हैं; नदियाँ और झीलें मल, रसायनों और प्लास्टिक के ढेरों से जहरीली हो चुकी हैं; और उपजाऊ मिट्टी अत्यधिक उपयोग से थक चुकी है। इसकी जड़ में है 'लो, बनाओ और फेंको' वाली जीवनशैली, जिसमें संसाधन एक बार इस्तेमाल करके फेंक दिए जाते हैं। इसके उत्तर में अब विद्वान 'चक्रीय अर्थव्यवस्था' की बात करते हैं, जिसमें कचरे को दोबारा उपयोग, मरम्मत और पुनर्चक्रण किया जाता है।

इस विषय का सबसे गहरा तनाव आर्थिक विकास और पृथ्वी के स्वास्थ्य के बीच है। कारखाने, सड़कें और शहर रोजगार और समृद्धि लाते हैं, पर अक्सर जंगलों, स्वच्छ हवा और पानी की कीमत पर। फिर भी दोनों हमेशा शत्रु नहीं हैं। सौर और पवन जैसी नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा अब पहले से सस्ती है; जंगल और महासागर 'कार्बन सिंक' की तरह काम करते हैं; और बेहतर नीति उन्हें पुरस्कृत कर सकती है जो कम प्रदूषण करते हैं। एक न्याय का प्रश्न भी है, क्योंकि अक्सर सबसे गरीब लोग – जो सबसे कम प्रदूषण करते हैं – बाढ़, गर्मी और दूषित हवा का सबसे अधिक कष्ट झेलते हैं। समाधान के साधन पहले से मौजूद हैं; संकट को केवल मिलकर कार्य करने की इच्छाशक्ति चाहिए, इससे पहले कि क्षति अपूरणीय हो जाए।

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY:-

Mitigate	To make a problem or bad effect less serious	कम करना, हल्का करना
Deplete	To use something up until little is left	समाप्त कर देना, खर्च कर देना
Degradation	The process of something being damaged or made worse	क्षरण, बिगड़ना
Pristine	Completely clean and untouched	एकदम स्वच्छ, अछूता
Adverse	Harmful or unfavourable	प्रतिकूल, हानिकारक

Resilience	The ability to recover after damage or difficulty	सहनशीलता, उबरने की क्षमता
Sustainable	Able to continue for a long time without harm	टिकाऊ, दीर्घकालिक
Emit	To give out (gas, heat, light)	उत्सर्जित करना, छोड़ना
Scarce	Available only in small amounts	दुर्लभ, कम
Fragile	Easily broken or damaged	नाजुक, भंगुर
Irreversible	Impossible to undo or reverse	अपरिवर्तनीय, न बदलने योग्य
Replenish	To fill up or restore a supply again	फिर से भरना, पुन:पूर्ति करना
Habitat	The natural home of a plant or animal	प्राकृतिक आवास
Rampant	Spreading fast and out of control	अनियंत्रित, बेलगाम
Contaminate	To make something impure or dirty	दूषित करना
Finite	Limited; having an end	सीमित, परिमित
Dwindle	To become smaller or fewer over time	घटते जाना, सिकुड़ना
Catastrophic	Causing sudden, great damage	विनाशकारी
Conserve	To protect and use carefully	संरक्षित करना, बचाना
Thrive	To grow strong and healthy	फलना-फूलना

***TECHNICAL TERMS & JARGON*:-**

Greenhouse gas	A gas (like co^2 or methane) that traps the sun's heat	ग्रीनहाउस गैस
Carbon footprint	The total amount of greenhouse gas an activity causes	कार्बन फुटप्रिंट
Biodiversity	The variety of all living things in an area	जैव विविधता
Ecosystem	A community of living things together with their surroundings	पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र
Carbon sink	A forest or ocean that absorbs and stores carbon	कार्बन सिंक
Renewable energy	Energy from sources that never run out, like sun and wind	नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा
Fossil fuel	Fuel formed underground long ago — coal, oil, gas	जीवाश्म ईंधन
Deforestation	The large-scale cutting down of forests	वनोन्मूलन
Emissions	Gases released into the air, especially harmful ones	उत्सर्जन
Ozone layer	A layer of gas that shields earth from harmful uv rays	ओजोन परत
Global warming	The gradual rise in the earth's average temperature	भूमंडलीय तापन
Climate change	A long-term change in the world's weather patterns	जलवायु परिवर्तन
Circular economy	A system that reuses and recycles so little is wasted	चक्रीय अर्थव्यवस्था
Particulate matter	Tiny solid particles in the air that harm the lungs	सूक्ष्म कण
Sustainability	Meeting today's needs without harming future generations	स्थिरता, धारणीयता
Biodegradable	Able to be broken down naturally by bacteria	जैव-निम्नीकरणीय
Conservation	The careful protection of nature and resources	संरक्षण
Depletion	The using up of a natural resource	क्षय, समाप्ति
Carbon credit	A permit allowing a set amount of emissions	कार्बन क्रेडिट
Smog	A mix of smoke and fog that pollutes city air	धुंध, स्मॉग
Acid rain	Rain made acidic by air pollution	अम्लीय वर्षा
Wetland	Water-soaked land that is rich in wildlife	आर्द्रभूमि
Desertification	Fertile land slowly turning into desert	मरुस्थलीकरण
Food chain	The order in which living things feed on one another	खाद्य श्रृंखला

Endangered species	A kind of animal or plant at risk of dying out	संकटग्रस्त प्रजाति
Afforestation	Planting trees to create a new forest	वनरोपण
Groundwater	Water stored in the soil and rock underground	भूजल
Ecological footprint	The demand a person places on nature	पारिस्थितिक पदचिह्न
Effluent	Liquid waste released into rivers or the sea	बहि:स्राव
Carbon neutral	Adding no overall carbon to the atmosphere	कार्बन तटस्थ
Greenhouse effect	The trapping of the sun's heat by gases in the air	हरितगृह प्रभाव
Sustainable development	Growth that meets today's needs without harming the future	सतत विकास
Biosphere	The part of the earth where living things exist	जीवमंडल
Pollution	The presence of harmful substances in the environment	प्रदूषण
Recycling	Treating waste so that it can be used again	पुनर्चक्रण
Ozone depletion	The thinning of the protective ozone layer	ओजोन क्षरण

PRACTICE PASSAGE - 1

A river, it is said, cannot be owned, and perhaps that is its curse. Because it belongs to everyone, it is cared for by no one. The town upstream draws off clean water for its homes and returns it as sewage; the factory on the bank treats the current as a free drain for its waste; and the city downstream, receiving what the others have spoiled, does the same to those below it. Each acts sensibly for itself, and the sum of all that private sense is a poisoned river; it is the oldest trap of anything held in common, that what everyone may use, no one will trouble to protect. No single act seems large enough to matter, and so each is repeated without shame, until the river that once carried fish carries only froth. The remedy is not mysterious. Where towns have been made to clean their water before returning it, and factories fined for what they pour, rivers have recovered within a few years. What is missing is not the method but the will — the simple insistence that whoever takes from a shared thing must return it unspoiled.

Q1. Why, according to the passage, is a river poorly cared for?

(a) It is too large to clean
(b) Because it belongs, it is cared for by no one
(c) It carries too many fish
(d) It is owned by one factory

Q2. 'A free drain for its waste' describes how the factory treats the river as -

(a) a source of clean water
(b) a home for fish
(c) a place to dump waste at no cost
(d) a tourist spot

Q3. What happens to the river by the end of the passage?

(a) it carries only froth
(b) it becomes a lake
(c) it dries up
(d) it is fenced off

Q4. Rivers have recovered where towns and factories were -

(a) left alone
(b) made to clean and were fined
(c) given more water
(d) closed down

Q5. The author says what is missing is -

(a) a new method
(b) more factories
(c) more rivers
(d) the will to act

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1. (B) The opening line explains that because a river belongs to all, no single person feels responsible for it.
Q2. (C) A 'free drain' means a costless place to discharge waste.
Q3. (A) The passage states the river 'carries only froth' once it is spoiled.
Q4. (B) Recovery followed rules: cleaning water before return and fining polluters.
Q5. (D) The closing lines say the method exists; only the will is missing.

PRACTICE PASSAGE 2

For years, solar power was dismissed as a dream for the rich — clean, certainly, but far too expensive to matter. That objection has quietly collapsed. The price of a solar panel has fallen so far and so fast that in much of the world sunlight is now the cheapest source of new electricity, cheaper even than coal. What might have taken decades to imagine happened, instead, in a single generation, as panels once built by hand in laboratories began rolling off vast factory lines by the million. The change is most striking not in wealthy cities but in villages that the electric grid never reached. A single rooftop panel can now light a home, charge a phone and run a fan where, a decade ago, there was only the kerosene lamp. Difficulties remain — the sun does not shine at night, and storing power in batteries is still costly. But the direction is no longer in doubt. The question has shifted from whether clean energy can compete to how quickly the old, dirty machinery can be retired.

Q1. Solar power was once dismissed as -

(a) dirty and unreliable
(b) a dream for the rich
(c) impossible to build
(d) harmful to health

Q2. Why has that objection 'collapsed'?

(a) panels have become very cheap
(b) the sun shines more
(c) coal ran out
(d) batteries are free

Q3. The change is most striking in —

(a) wealthy cities
(b) villages the grid never reached
(c) large factories
(d) coal mines

Q4. Which difficulty is still admitted?

(a) panels are ugly
(b) villages refuse power
(c) sunlight is harmful
(d) storing power at night is costly

Q5. The main question has now shifted to -

(a) whether clean energy can compete
(b) how to build kerosene lamps
(c) who owns the sun
(d) how fast dirty machinery can be retired

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1. (B) The first line calls it 'a dream for the rich' — clean but too costly.
Q2. (A) The price of panels fell so far that solar is now often the cheapest new power.
Q3. (B) The passage highlights off-grid villages, not rich cities.
Q4. (D) It notes the sun does not shine at night and battery storage remains expensive.
Q5. (D) The close says the real question is how quickly old, dirty power can be retired.

2 CHAPTER Science & Technology

Few forces have reshaped human life as swiftly as science and technology. Behind the daily conveniences we take for granted — the phone in the pocket, the light at the switch, the vaccine in the arm — lies a single powerful idea: the scientific method. Rather than trusting authority or habit, science asks a question, forms a possible answer or hypothesis, tests it by experiment, and keeps only what the evidence supports. It is less a fixed body of facts than a disciplined way of learning from the world, always ready to revise itself when new evidence appears.

Technology is science put to use, and its pace today is astonishing. Computing power roughly doubles every couple of years, and with it comes a wave of tools that would once have seemed like magic. Artificial intelligence now writes, translates and even diagnoses illness; the internet links billions of people; and a smartphone places a library, a bank and a marketplace in a single hand. Behind all of it runs a quiet architecture of algorithms, data and networks that most users never see.

Yet every powerful tool cuts both ways. Automation raises output but threatens the jobs it replaces; social media spreads knowledge but also rumour and hatred; and the vast collection of personal data brings convenience at the cost of privacy and the risk of constant surveillance. A 'digital divide' separates those who can reach these tools from those who cannot, widening old inequalities. History suggests a steadying truth: no technology is good or bad in itself. The printing press spread both wisdom and propaganda; the same atom lights cities and builds bombs. What finally matters is not the tool, but the purpose it is turned to and the care with which a society chooses to govern it.

बहुत कम शक्तियों ने मानव जीवन को इतनी तेजी से बदला है जितना विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी ने। जिन रोजमर्रा की सुविधाओं को हम सहज मान लेते हैं – जेब में फोन, स्विच पर रोशनी, बाँह में टीका – उनके पीछे एक शक्तिशाली विचार है: वैज्ञानिक विधि। सत्ता या आदत पर भरोसा करने के बजाय विज्ञान एक प्रश्न पूछता है, एक संभावित उत्तर या परिकल्पना बनाता है, प्रयोग से उसकी जाँच करता है, और केवल वही रखता है जिसे प्रमाण समर्थन दें। यह तथ्यों का स्थिर संग्रह कम, और संसार से सीखने का अनुशासित तरीका अधिक है, जो नए प्रमाण मिलने पर स्वयं को बदलने के लिए सदा तैयार रहता है।

प्रौद्योगिकी विज्ञान का व्यावहारिक उपयोग है, और आज इसकी गति चौंका देने वाली है। कंप्यूटिंग शक्ति लगभग हर दो वर्ष में दोगुनी हो जाती है, और उसके साथ ऐसे उपकरण आते हैं जो कभी जादू लगते। कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता अब लिखती, अनुवाद करती और बीमारी तक पहचानती है; इंटरनेट अरबों लोगों को जोड़ता है; और एक स्मार्टफोन पुस्तकालय, बैंक और बाजार को एक हाथ में रख देता है। इन सबके पीछे एल्गोरिद्म, डेटा और नेटवर्क का एक ऐसा ढाँचा चलता है जिसे अधिकांश उपयोगकर्ता कभी नहीं देखते।

फिर भी हर शक्तिशाली उपकरण के दो पहलू होते हैं। स्वचालन उत्पादन बढ़ाता है पर उन नौकरियों को ख तरे में डालता है जिन्हें वह हटाता है; सोशल मीडिया ज्ञान फैलाता है पर अफवाह और घृणा भी; और निजी डेटा का विशाल संग्रह सुविधा तो देता है पर निजता की कीमत पर। एक 'डिजिटल विभाजन' उन्हें अलग करता है जो इन उपकरणों तक पहुँच सकते हैं और जो नहीं। इतिहास एक स्थिर सत्य बताता है: कोई तकनीक अपने आप में अच्छी या बुरी नहीं होती। छापेखाने ने ज्ञान और दुष्प्रचार दोनों फैलाए; वही परमाणु शहर रोशन करता है और बम भी बनाता है। अंततः महत्व उपकरण का नहीं, बल्कि उस उद्देश्य का है जिसके लिए उसे मोड़ा जाता है।

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY:-

Obsolete	No longer used because something newer exists	अप्रचलित, पुराना
Amplify	To make larger, stronger or louder	बढ़ाना, तीव्र करना
Disrupt	To change or interrupt something completely	अस्त-व्यस्त करना, बाधित करना
Pervasive	Present everywhere; very widespread	सर्वव्यापी, व्यापक
Sophisticated	Advanced and complex in design	परिष्कृत, उन्नत
Feasible	Possible to do or achieve	व्यवहार्य, संभव

Redundant	No longer needed or useful	अनावश्यक, फालतू
Robust	Strong and unlikely to fail	मजबूत, सुदृढ़
Unprecedented	Never known or done before	अभूतपूर्व
Versatile	Able to be used in many ways	बहुउपयोगी, बहुमुखी
Intuitive	Easy to use or understand without training	सहज, आसान
Integrate	To combine parts into one whole	एकीकृत करना, जोड़ना
Enhance	To improve the quality or value of	बढ़ाना, उन्नत करना
Harness	To control and put to good use	उपयोग में लाना, नियंत्रित करना
Proliferate	To increase or spread rapidly	तेजी से फैलना
Empirical	Based on observation and experiment, not theory	अनुभवजन्य, प्रायोगिक
Breakthrough	An important sudden advance or discovery	बड़ी उपलब्धि, सफलता
Optimise	To make something as effective as possible	अनुकूलित करना, सर्वोत्तम बनाना
Emerging	Newly appearing and developing	उभरता हुआ, नया

***TECHNICAL TERMS & JARGON*:-**

Algorithm	A fixed set of steps a computer follows to solve a problem	एल्गोरिद्म, कलन विधि
Artificial intelligence	Machines built to imitate human thinking	कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता
Data	Facts and information stored for use	आँकड़े, डेटा
Encryption	Turning data into a secret code to keep it safe	कूटलेखन, एन्क्रिप्शन
Automation	Getting machines to do work once done by people	स्वचालन
Cybersecurity	Protecting computers and data from attack	साइबर सुरक्षा
Cloud computing	Storing and using data over the internet	क्लाउड कंप्यूटिंग
Machine learning	Computer systems that improve by learning from data	मशीन लर्निंग
Software	The programs that tell a computer what to do	सॉफ्टवेयर
Hardware	The physical parts of a computer or machine	हार्डवेयर
Network	A group of connected computers or devices	नेटवर्क
Scientific method	Testing ideas by observation and experiment	वैज्ञानिक विधि
Hypothesis	A proposed explanation that can be tested	परिकल्पना
Genome	The complete set of genes in a living thing	जीनोम, आनुवंशिक संरचना
Digital divide	The gap between those with and without technology	डिजिटल विभाजन
Robotics	The science of designing and using robots	रोबोटिक्स
Bandwidth	How much data a connection can carry at once	बैंडविड्थ
Innovation	The act of turning a new idea into real value	नवाचार
Bug	A mistake or fault in a computer program	बग, त्रुटि
Open source	Software whose code is free for anyone to use	ओपन सोर्स
Virtual reality	A computer-made world that feels real	आभासी वास्तविकता
Nanotechnology	Building things at the scale of atoms	नैनो प्रौद्योगिकी
Biotechnology	Using living cells to make useful products	जैव प्रौद्योगिकी
Database	An organised collection of stored data	डेटाबेस

Server	A central computer that supplies data to others	सर्वर
Interface	The point where a user interacts with a machine	इंटरफेस
Automation bias	Trusting a machine's answer too readily	स्वचालन पूर्वाग्रह
Data privacy	Keeping a person's information safe and controlled	डेटा गोपनीयता
Obsolescence	The state of becoming out of date	अप्रचलन
Internet of things	The linking of everyday devices to the internet	इंटरनेट ऑफ थिंग्स
Big data	Extremely large sets of data analysed for patterns	बिग डेटा, वृहत आँकड़े
Blockchain	A secure, shared digital record of transactions	ब्लॉकचेन
Quantum computing	Computing that uses the rules of quantum physics	क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग
Semiconductor	A material that partly conducts electricity, used in chips	अर्धचालक
Operating system	The software that runs a computer	प्रचालन तंत्र, ऑपरेटिंग सिस्टम
Augmented reality	Digital images laid over the real world	संवर्धित वास्तविकता

PRACTICE PASSAGE - 1

Every few months a new device promises to save us time, and in a narrow sense each one keeps its word. The washing machine did the laundry; the search engine found the fact; the messaging app delivered the note in an instant. Each of these promises, taken on its own, was perfectly true, and each machine did faithfully save the very minutes it swore it would. Yet somehow the hours these tools were meant to free up have not appeared. The reason is subtle. It has less to do with the machines themselves than with the quiet way they raise what is expected of us. A tool that makes a task easier does not simply remove the task; it also raises what is expected of us. When letters took days, a slow reply was forgiven; when messages arrive in seconds, an answer is demanded at once, and we find ourselves tied to the very device that was to set us free. The lesson is not that the tools are useless, but that convenience has a hidden price, and that time saved in one place has a way of quietly filling up in another.

Q1. In a 'narrow sense', each new device -

(a) fails at its task (b) does keep its promise
(c) wastes our money (d) breaks quickly

Q2. Why have the freed-up hours not appeared?

(a) the tools are too slow (b) people stopped working
(c) easier tasks raise what is expected of us (d) the devices are costly

Q3. When messages arrive in seconds, a reply is -

(a) demanded at once (b) forgiven if slow
(c) never expected (d) sent by letter

Q4. 'Tied to the very device that was to set us free' is an example of -

(a) a clear benefit (b) an irony
(c) a scientific law (d) a joke

Q5. The main idea is that convenience -

(a) is always harmful (b) saves no time at all
(c) should be refused (d) carries a hidden price

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (B) The passage grants that each tool does the specific job it promised.
Q2 (C) A tool that eases a task also raises expectations, so the time is not truly freed.
Q3 (A) Instant delivery makes an immediate answer expected.
Q4 (B) The tool meant to free us ends up binding us — an ironic outcome.
Q5 (D) The close states convenience has a hidden price; saved time fills up elsewhere.

PRACTICE PASSAGE 2

There is a growing unease about how much machines now decide for us. An algorithm suggests what we watch, what news we see, and increasingly whether we are offered a loan or a job. Quietly, and without anyone ever deciding to hand them such power, these unseen systems have come to shape the course of ordinary lives, sorting people into the approved and the refused. Its defenders point out, fairly, that a well-built system can be faster and less biased than a tired human clerk. But there is a catch that is easy to miss. A human decision can be questioned; one can ask the officer why, and appeal. A decision buried inside a complex program often cannot be explained even by those who built it, and so it cannot truly be challenged. The danger, then, is not that machines will think like us, but that we will accept their verdicts without the questioning we would demand of any human in the same seat. A judgement that cannot be explained should not, whoever makes it, be the final word.

Q1. What growing unease does the passage describe?

(a) machines breaking down
(b) the cost of computers
(c) how much machines decide for us
(d) the speed of the internet

Q2. What fair point do the defenders make?

(a) machines never fail
(b) a good system can be fast and less biased
(c) humans are useless
(d) algorithms are cheap

Q3. The 'catch' is that a machine decision often -

(a) is always wrong
(b) costs too much
(c) is too slow
(d) cannot be explained or challenged

Q4. The real danger, the author says, is that we will -

(a) accept verdicts without questioning them
(b) stop using machines
(c) think like computers
(d) build faster clerks

Q5. The author concludes that an unexplainable judgement -

(a) should be the final word
(b) should not be the final word
(c) is always fair
(d) is always faster

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (C) It opens with unease about how much machines now decide on our behalf.
Q2 (B) Defenders note a well-built system can be faster and less biased than a tired clerk.
Q3 (D) A decision inside a complex program may be unexplainable, so it cannot be challenged.
Q4 (A) The danger is accepting machine verdicts without the questioning we would demand of a human.
Q5 (B) The last line: such a judgement should not be the final word, whoever makes it.

3 CHAPTER Economy & Banking

An economy is, at heart, a giant system for answering one question: who gets what, and how. Households offer their labour and want goods and services in return; firms produce those goods in the hope of profit; and prices, rising and falling with supply and demand, act as signals that guide resources to where they are most wanted. When money is plentiful and people feel confident, they spend, firms grow, and jobs multiply. When confidence falls, spending shrinks, output drops, and unemployment climbs. This restless rise and fall is the natural rhythm of any market economy.

Left entirely to itself, that rhythm can turn violent, so governments and central banks try to steady it. A central bank raises or lowers interest rates — the price of borrowing money — to cool an overheating economy or to warm a cold one. This is monetary policy. The government, meanwhile, adjusts its taxes and its spending, its fiscal policy, to support demand when private spending is weak. Banks sit at the very centre of the machine, gathering the savings of many and lending them to those who wish to build, buy or invest, turning idle money into activity.

No modern economy stands alone. Through trade and finance, globalisation has tied nations so closely that a shock in one large market is felt within hours in others. Within each country, the fruits of growth are rarely shared evenly; inequality tends to widen, and a vast 'informal' workforce labours without contracts, savings or protection. The system is powerful but fragile: too much borrowing can inflate bubbles that suddenly burst, and a loss of trust can freeze lending overnight, as financial crises have repeatedly shown. Modern economics therefore walks a tightrope between goals that pull against one another — growth that lifts living standards, stability that keeps the machine from breaking down, and a basic fairness without which prosperity means very little.

अर्थव्यवस्था मूलत: एक विशाल व्यवस्था है जो एक प्रश्न का उत्तर देती है: किसे क्या मिले, और कैसे। परिवार अपना श्रम देते हैं और बदले में वस्तुएँ व सेवाएँ चाहते हैं; कंपनियाँ लाभ की आशा में वे वस्तुएँ बनाती हैं; और कीमतें, जो माँग और आपूर्ति के साथ घटती-बढ़ती हैं, संकेत का काम करती हैं जो संसाधनों को वहाँ ले जाती हैं जहाँ उनकी सबसे अधिक जरूरत है। जब धन प्रचुर हो और लोग आश्वस्त हों, तो वे खर्च करते हैं, कंपनियाँ बढ़ती हैं और रोजगार बढ़ते हैं। जब विश्वास घटता है, तो खर्च सिकुड़ता है, उत्पादन गिरता है और बेरोजगारी बढ़ती है। यह उतार-चढ़ाव हर बाजार अर्थव्यवस्था की स्वाभाविक लय है।

पूरी तरह अपने भरोसे छोड़ दी जाए तो यह लय हिंसक हो सकती है, इसलिए सरकारें और केंद्रीय बैंक इसे संतुलित रखने का प्रयास करते हैं। केंद्रीय बैंक ब्याज दर - अर्थात् धन उधार लेने की कीमत - को घटाता या बढ़ाता है ताकि गरम होती अर्थव्यवस्था को ठंडा या ठंडी को गरम किया जा सके; यह मौद्रिक नीति है। दूसरी ओर सरकार अपने कर और खर्च, अर्थात् राजकोषीय नीति, को समायोजित करती है ताकि निजी खर्च कमजोर होने पर माँग को सहारा मिले। बैंक इस मशीन के ठीक केंद्र में हैं, जो अनेक लोगों की बचत जुटाकर उन्हें उधार देते हैं जो निर्माण, खरीद या निवेश करना चाहते हैं।

कोई आधुनिक अर्थव्यवस्था अकेली नहीं है। व्यापार और वित्त के माध्यम से वैश्वीकरण ने राष्ट्रों को इतना जोड़ दिया है कि एक बड़े बाजार का झटका घंटों में दूसरों में महसूस होता है। हर देश में विकास के फल शायद ही समान रूप से बँटते हैं; असमानता बढ़ती है, और एक विशाल 'अनौपचारिक' कार्यबल बिना अनुबंध, बचत या सुरक्षा के काम करता है। यह व्यवस्था शक्तिशाली पर नाजुक है: अत्यधिक उधार ऐसे बुलबुले बना सकता है जो अचानक फूट जाते हैं, और विश्वास खोने पर उधार रातोंरात रुक सकता है। इसलिए आधुनिक अर्थशास्त्र परस्पर विरोधी लक्ष्यों के बीच रस्सी पर चलता है ख्न विकास, स्थिरता, और वह बुनियादी न्याय जिसके बिना समृद्धि का अर्थ बहुत कम है।

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY:-

Surplus	An amount left over after needs are met	अधिशेष, बचत
Deficit	A shortfall; when spending is more than income	घाटा, कमी
Volatile	Changing quickly and unpredictably	अस्थिर, अनिश्चित

Lucrative	Earning a lot of money; very profitable	लाभदायक, मुनाफे वाला
Incentive	Something that encourages a person to act	प्रोत्साहन
Prudent	Careful and sensible, especially with money	विवेकपूर्ण, सतर्क
Stagnant	Not growing or moving; still	ठहरा हुआ, गतिहीन
Curb	To control or limit something	रोकना, नियंत्रित करना
Subsidy	Money the government gives to lower a cost	सब्सिडी, अनुदान
Fluctuate	To rise and fall irregularly	घटना-बढ़ना, उतार-चढ़ाव
Accumulate	To gather or build up over time	संचित करना, इकट्ठा करना
Viable	Able to work or succeed	व्यवहार्य, टिकाऊ
Austerity	Strict cuts in public spending	मितव्ययिता, कठोर कटौती
Affluent	Having plenty of money; wealthy	संपन्न, धनी
Plummet	To fall very quickly and steeply	तेजी से गिरना
Soar	To rise very quickly and high	तेजी से बढ़ना
Stimulate	To encourage growth or activity	प्रोत्साहित करना, बढ़ावा देना
Scarcity	A shortage; not enough of something	अभाव, कमी
Frugal	Careful and thrifty with money	किफायती, मितव्ययी
Windfall	An unexpected gain of money	अप्रत्याशित लाभ

***TECHNICAL TERMS & JARGON*:-**

Inflation	A steady, general rise in the prices of things	मुद्रास्फीति
Gdp	The total value of all goods and services a country makes	सकल घरेलू उत्पाद (जीडीपी)
Interest rate	The extra amount paid for borrowing money	ब्याज दर
Recession	A period when the economy shrinks for months	मंदी
Fiscal policy	The government's plan for taxes and spending	राजकोषीय नीति
Monetary policy	A central bank's control over money and interest	मौद्रिक नीति
Liquidity	How easily an asset can be turned into cash	तरलता
Collateral	Property pledged as security for a loan	संपार्श्विक, गिरवी
Microfinance	Very small loans given to poor borrowers	सूक्ष्म वित्त
Capital	Money or assets used to produce more wealth	पूँजी
Demand and supply	The two forces that together set a price	माँग और आपूर्ति
Credit	Money borrowed now to be repaid later	ऋण, उधार
Depreciation	A fall in the value of an asset or currency	मूल्यह्रास
Globalisation	The growing links between the world's economies	वैश्वीकरण
Informal sector	Work that is unregistered and unprotected	अनौपचारिक क्षेत्र
Fiscal deficit	The gap between government spending and its income	राजकोषीय घाटा
Per capita income	The average income earned per person	प्रति व्यक्ति आय
Privatisation	Transferring a business from state to private hands	निजीकरण
Stagflation	High inflation and weak growth at the same time	मुद्रास्फीतिजनित मंदी
Budget	A government's plan of income and spending	बजट
Exchange rate	The value of one currency against another	विनिमय दर
Stock market	A market where company shares are traded	शेयर बाजार
Bond	A loan to a government or firm that pays interest	बॉन्ड
Tariff	A tax charged on imported goods	आयात शुल्क
Monopoly	Control of a whole market by a single seller	एकाधिकार

Unemployment rate	The share of willing workers without jobs	बेरोजगारी दर
Purchasing power	How much a unit of money can actually buy	क्रय शक्ति
Balance of trade	A country's exports minus its imports	व्यापार संतुलन
Black money	Income hidden from the tax authorities	काला धन
Repo rate	The rate at which the central bank lends to commercial banks	रेपो दर
Reverse repo rate	The rate at which the central bank borrows from banks	रिवर्स रेपो दर
Cash reserve ratio	The share of deposits banks must keep with the central bank	नकद आरक्षित अनुपात (CRR)
Statutory liquidity ratio	The share of deposits banks must hold in safe liquid assets	सांविधिक तरलता अनुपात (SLR)
Non-performing asset	A loan on which repayment has stopped; a bad loan	गैर-निष्पादित परिसंपत्ति (NPA)
Deflation	A general fall in prices, the opposite of inflation	अपस्फीति
Goods and services tax	A single indirect tax on the supply of goods and services	वस्तु एवं सेवा कर (GST)
Foreign direct investment	Investment made by a foreign firm or person in a country	प्रत्यक्ष विदेशी निवेश (FDI)
Central bank	The bank that controls a country's money and its banks	केंद्रीय बैंक
Bull market	A market in which prices are rising	तेजी का बाजार
Bear market	A market in which prices are falling	मंदी का बाजार
Balance of payments	The record of a country's dealings with the rest of the world	भुगतान संतुलन
Devaluation	A deliberate lowering of a currency's value	अवमूल्यन
Disinvestment	The sale by the government of its stake in a firm	विनिवेश
Direct tax	A tax paid directly on income or wealth	प्रत्यक्ष कर
Indirect tax	A tax on goods and services, paid through the price	अप्रत्यक्ष कर

PRACTICE PASSAGE - 1

Inflation is often described as a thief, and the image is a fair one, for it steals quietly and from the least protected. When prices rise steadily, each rupee buys a little less than it did, and money kept in a drawer slowly loses its worth without a single note being taken. The theft leaves no fingerprints and names no culprit, which is exactly why it is borne so quietly; a family may grow slowly poorer for years without ever being able to say who has robbed them. The rich are shielded, for their wealth sits in land, shares and gold, which tend to rise with prices. It is the poor and the salaried, whose earnings are fixed and whose savings are small, who feel the loss most sharply. A little inflation is thought to be healthy, a sign of a growing economy; but when it runs too fast, it eats away at trust itself, and people rush to spend before their money shrinks further. The task of the central bank is to keep this thief on a short leash — present, but never allowed to run wild.

Q1. Why is inflation compared to a thief?

(a) it is illegal
(b) it steals value quietly from savings
(c) it is easy to catch
(d) it helps the poor

Q2. Who is shielded from inflation?

(a) the salaried
(b) the poor
(c) the rich, whose wealth is in land and gold
(d) children

Q3. Who feels the loss most sharply?

(a) landowners
(b) the poor and the salaried
(c) shareholders
(d) bankers

Q4. A little inflation is seen as -

(a) a healthy sign of growth
(b) always dangerous
(c) proof of theft
(d) a fall in prices

Q5. The central bank's task is to -

(a) remove money
(b) keep inflation controlled, not wild
(c) raise prices fast
(d) protect only the rich

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (B) Rising prices quietly reduce what money can buy, like a thief taking value unseen.
Q2 (C) The wealthy hold assets like land and gold that rise with prices, protecting them.
Q3 (B) Those with fixed earnings and small savings suffer most.
Q4 (A) The passage says mild inflation is thought healthy, a sign of a growing economy.
Q5 (B) It must keep the 'thief' on a short leash — present but never running wild.

PRACTICE PASSAGE 2

When a factory closes, the loss reported in the news is the loss of jobs, and that is real enough. But the deeper damage spreads outward in circles that no headline records. The workers who lose their wages stop spending, and so the tea stall, the tailor and the grocer nearby lose their custom too. The wage that is no longer earned is also, at once, the wage that is no longer spent, and so the loss ripples outward from the factory gate into every shop and street that leaned upon it. Children may be taken out of school; a family's savings, built over years, drain away in months. Worst of all is what economists dryly call the loss of skill: a machinist who sits idle for two years does not simply wait, he slowly forgets, and the country loses not only his present work but his future value. This is why unemployment is treated as more than a private misfortune. It is a wound to the whole community, and a cost that is paid long after the factory gates have rusted shut.

Q1. The 'deeper damage' of a factory closing is that -

(a) the loss spreads to nearby businesses too
(b) only owners suffer
(c) prices rise
(d) the news ignores it

Q2. What may happen to a family's savings?

(a) they grow
(b) they drain away in months
(c) they are taxed
(d) they are hidden

Q3. The 'loss of skill' means an idle worker -

(a) slowly forgets his craft
(b) earns more
(c) changes jobs easily
(d) trains others

Q4. Unemployment is treated as more than a private misfortune because it -

(a) is illegal
(b) raises wages
(c) wounds the whole community
(d) helps grocers

Q5. The tone of the passage is best described as -

(a) cheerful
(b) indifferent
(c) mocking
(d) serious and concerned

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (A) Lost wages mean less spending, hurting the tea stall, tailor and grocer nearby.
Q2 (B) The passage says savings built over years can drain away in months.
Q3 (A) A machinist idle for years forgets, losing his future value.
Q4 (C) Its costs ripple through the community, not just the individual.
Q5 (D) The passage soberly weighs the wide, lasting harm of unemployment.

4 CHAPTER Polity & Governance

A constitution is the rulebook of a nation — the document that decides who holds power, how they come to hold it, and what limits they must respect. In a democracy, that power is said to flow from the people themselves, who choose their representatives through elections held at regular intervals. The genius of the design is that no single person or group is allowed to hold all the power at once. Instead it is divided: a legislature makes the laws, an executive carries them out, and an independent judiciary interprets them and decides when they have been broken.

At the heart of a free society sit the fundamental rights of its citizens — the right to speak and write freely, to follow any faith or none, to gather, and to be treated equally before the law. These rights matter most precisely when they are inconvenient to those in power, and so the courts exist to defend them, if need be against the government itself. A related idea, the rule of law, insists that everyone, however high, stands beneath the law rather than above it. Power, in a healthy state, is not a personal possession but a public trust.

Yet a fine constitution on paper guarantees nothing. It comes alive only through institutions that actually function and citizens who actually take part. A free press, an active civil society and honest officials are the machinery that keeps the promise. Where they weaken, the promise hollows out: corruption drains public money, weak enforcement lets the powerful escape, and public apathy leaves the field to the few. Populism poses a subtler danger, flattering the majority while trampling the minority whom the constitution was written to protect. Good governance, in the end, is not a monument built once and admired forever. It is a daily practice — decisions taken in the open, leaders answerable for what they do, and a public that refuses to let power forget who it belongs to.

संविधान किसी राष्ट्र की नियम-पुस्तिका है ख़ वह दस्तावेज जो तय करता है कि सत्ता किसके पास हो, वह कैसे मिले, और उस पर क्या सीमाएँ हों। लोकतंत्र में यह सत्ता स्वयं जनता से निकलती मानी जाती है, जो नियमित अंतराल पर होने वाले चुनावों के जरिए अपने प्रतिनिधि चुनती है। इस व्यवस्था की विशेषता यह है कि किसी एक व्यक्ति या समूह को एक साथ सारी शक्ति नहीं दी जाती। इसे बाँट दिया जाता है: विधायिका कानून बनाती है, कार्यपालिका उन्हें लागू करती है, और एक स्वतंत्र न्यायपालिका उनकी व्याख्या करती है और तय करती है कि उनका उल्लंघन कब हुआ।

स्वतंत्र समाज के केंद्र में नागरिकों के मौलिक अधिकार होते हैं - स्वतंत्र रूप से बोलने और लिखने का, किसी भी धर्म को मानने या न मानने का, एकत्र होने का, और कानून के समक्ष समान व्यवहार पाने का अधिकार। ये अधिकार तभी सबसे अधिक महत्व रखते हैं जब वे सत्ताधारियों के लिए असुविधाजनक हों, इसलिए न्यायालय इनकी रक्षा के लिए हैं, चाहे जरूरत पड़ने पर सरकार के विरुद्ध ही क्यों न हो। इससे जुड़ा विचार, विधि का शासन, यह कहता है कि हर कोई, चाहे कितना ही ऊँचा हो, कानून के ऊपर नहीं बल्कि उसके नीचे है।

फिर भी कागज पर लिखा उत्तम संविधान अपने आप कुछ सुनिश्चित नहीं करता। वह तभी जीवित होता है जब संस्थाएँ सचमुच काम करें और नागरिक सचमुच भाग लें। स्वतंत्र प्रेस, सक्रिय नागरिक समाज और ईमानदार अधिकारी वह तंत्र हैं जो इस वचन को निभाते हैं। जहाँ ये कमजोर होते हैं, वहाँ वचन खोखला हो जाता है: भ्रष्टाचार जनता का धन सोख लेता है, कमजोर प्रवर्तन शक्तिशालियों को बचने देता है, और जन-उदासीनता मैदान थोड़े-से लोगों के लिए छोड़ देती है। जनवाद (पॉपुलिज्म) एक सूक्ष्म खतरा है, जो बहुमत को खुश करता है पर उस अल्पसंख्यक को कुचलता है जिसकी रक्षा के लिए संविधान लिखा गया था। अच्छा शासन कोई एक बार बना स्मारक नहीं, बल्कि एक दैनिक अभ्यास है।

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY:-

Sovereign	Having supreme power and full independence	संप्रभु, सर्वोच्च
Accountable	Required to explain and answer for one's actions	जवाबदेह, उत्तरदायी
Legitimate	Allowed by law; rightful and valid	वैध, न्यायसंगत
Impartial	Not favouring any side; fair	निष्पक्ष
Arbitrary	Based on personal whim rather than reason or rule	मनमाना, स्वेच्छाचारी
Uphold	To support and keep in force	बनाए रखना, समर्थन करना

Enact	To make something into a law	अधिनियमित करना, कानून बनाना
Transparent	Open and easy to see through; not hidden	पारदर्शी
Coerce	To force someone by threat or pressure	बाध्य करना, दबाव डालना
Mandate	The authority given by voters to act	जनादेश, अधिकार
Dissent	Open disagreement with an official view	असहमति, विरोध
Tyranny	Cruel and unjust use of absolute power	अत्याचार, निरंकुशता
Advocate	To speak or argue in favour of something	पक्ष लेना, वकालत करना
Partisan	Strongly supporting one party or side	पक्षपाती, दलगत
Repeal	To officially cancel a law	निरस्त करना, रद्द करना
Ratify	To give formal approval to	अनुमोदन करना, पुष्टि करना
Nepotism	Unfair favour shown to one's relatives	भाई-भतीजावाद
Consensus	General agreement among a group	सर्वसम्मति, आम सहमति
Autonomous	Self-governing; independent	स्वायत्त, स्वशासी

TECHNICAL TERMS & JARGON:-

Constitution	The supreme law that governs a country	संविधान
Legislature	The body that makes the laws	विधायिका
Executive	The branch that carries out and enforces laws	कार्यपालिका
Judiciary	The system of courts that interprets law	न्यायपालिका
Fundamental rights	The basic freedoms guaranteed to all citizens	मौलिक अधिकार
Federalism	A system sharing power between centre and states	संघवाद
Separation of powers	Dividing government into independent branches	शक्तियों का पृथक्करण
Democracy	A system of rule by the people through voting	लोकतंत्र
Amendment	A formal change made to a law or constitution	संशोधन
Rule of law	The principle that all are equally bound by law	विधि का शासन
Suffrage	The right to vote in elections	मताधिकार
Bureaucracy	The body of appointed government officials	नौकरशाही
Secularism	The state treating all religions equally	धर्मनिरपेक्षता
Electorate	All the people entitled to vote	मतदाता समूह
Judicial review	Courts checking whether laws are valid	न्यायिक समीक्षा
Majoritarianism	Rule by the majority without protecting minorities	बहुसंख्यकवाद
Welfare state	A state that provides for its citizens' basic needs	कल्याणकारी राज्य
Coalition	An alliance of parties formed to govern together	गठबंधन
Referendum	A direct public vote on a single question	जनमत संग्रह
Ombudsman	An official appointed to check misuse of power	लोकपाल
Veto	The power to reject a proposed decision	निषेधाधिकार
Impeachment	A formal charge to remove a high official	महाभियोग
Civil liberties	The basic personal freedoms of a citizen	नागरिक स्वतंत्रताएँ
Manifesto	A party's public statement of its aims	घोषणापत्र

Constituency	The area represented by one elected member	निर्वाचन क्षेत्र
Proportional representation	Seats shared in line with votes won	आनुपातिक प्रतिनिधित्व
Quorum	The least members needed for a valid meeting	गणपूर्ति
Plebiscite	A direct vote of the whole people	जनमत
Autonomy	The right of a region to govern itself	स्वायत्तता
Public opinion	The shared views of the people	जनमत, लोकमत
Preamble	The opening statement of a constitution's aims	प्रस्तावना
Directive principles	Guidelines to the state for making its policy	नीति निदेशक तत्व
Fundamental duties	The basic duties expected of every citizen	मौलिक कर्तव्य
Ordinance	A law issued by the executive when the legislature is not sitting	अध्यादेश
Bicameral	Having two houses of legislature	द्विसदनीय
Cabinet	The group of senior ministers who run the government	मंत्रिमंडल
Writ	A formal court order that protects a right	रिट, न्यायादेश

PRACTICE PASSAGE - 1

The right to free speech is easy to praise and hard to keep, for it is tested not by the words we like but by the words we cannot stand. Anyone will defend a pleasant opinion; the real question is whether a society can tolerate the speech that offends it, short of the point where words become a genuine call to violence. It costs us nothing to grant freedom to the ideas we happen to share; the only test that means anything is whether we will grant it as readily to the ideas we find foolish or wrong. History gives a clear warning. Wherever a government has been allowed to silence its critics — always, at first, for the noblest reasons, to keep order or protect feelings — the power has never stopped at the target for which it was granted. The same law written to silence a hateful voice is soon turned upon an inconvenient one. This is why the wisest constitutions guard speech so jealously, and why they place the burden not on the speaker to justify his words, but on the state to justify any attempt to silence them.

Q1. Free speech is truly tested by -

(a) the words we like
(b) the words we cannot stand
(c) pleasant opinions
(d) official speeches

Q2. Governments usually begin silencing critics -

(a) openly and cruelly
(b) for the noblest reasons
(c) to raise money
(d) by accident

Q3. What warning does history give?

(a) the power never stops at its first target
(b) critics are always wrong
(c) speech is harmless
(d) order is impossible

Q4. Where is the only limit on speech placed?

(a) at offensive words
(b) at unpleasant opinions
(c) at criticism of leaders
(d) at a genuine call to violence

Q5. Wise constitutions place the burden on -

(a) the speaker to justify his words
(b) the state to justify silencing them
(c) the courts to stay silent
(d) the people to agree

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (B) The passage says the test is tolerating offensive speech, not agreeable speech.
Q2 (B) Such power is first taken 'for the noblest reasons', like keeping order.
Q3 (A) A law made to silence one voice is soon turned on inconvenient ones.
Q4 (D) The passage allows limits only where words become a real call to violence.
Q5 (B) The state, not the speaker, must justify any attempt to silence speech.

PRACTICE PASSAGE 2

Corruption is often imagined as a few greedy officials taking bribes, but its true cost is far larger and falls, as usual, on those least able to bear it. When a road is built with stolen funds, it is laid thin and cracks within a season; when a post is sold rather than earned, the buyer must recover his price, and does so at the public's expense. Each small theft may seem victimless, yet together they drain the schools, hospitals and clean water that a budget was meant to provide. What is stolen is never merely money on a page; it is the classroom that was never built, the medicine that never arrived, the clean water that never reached the village. The deepest damage, however, is not to any single project but to trust. Where people believe that honesty is punished and cunning rewarded, the honest grow weary and the system rots from within. The cure is rarely a single grand law. It is the slow, unglamorous work of open accounts, free scrutiny, and the steady certainty that the powerful, too, will be caught.

Q1. The 'true cost' of corruption falls mainly on -

(a) those least able to bear it
(b) greedy officials
(c) the wealthy
(d) foreign countries

Q2. A road built with stolen funds -

(a) cracks within a season
(b) lasts longer
(c) is never built
(d) is free

Q3. When a post is 'sold rather than earned', the buyer -

(a) works for free
(b) recovers his price at the public's expense
(c) refuses the job
(d) trains others

Q4. The deepest damage of corruption is to -

(a) trust
(b) roads
(c) foreign trade
(d) the weather

Q5. The cure, the author says, is -

(a) one grand law
(b) open accounts and steady scrutiny
(c) harsher speeches
(d) ignoring the problem

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (A) The passage stresses the cost falls on the poor and vulnerable.
Q2 (A) Stolen funds mean a thin road that cracks quickly.
Q3 (B) The buyer recoups his payment by exploiting the public.
Q4 (A) Beyond any project, corruption destroys public trust.
Q5 (B) It is the slow work of transparency, scrutiny and certain accountability.

5 CHAPTER Society & Social Issues

Every society is bound together by an invisible web of shared rules, roles and relationships. These give life its order and meaning — but no society is free of strain. Wealth divides the rich from the poor; discrimination sorts people unfairly by gender, caste, religion or race; and the rush of people into fast-growing cities crowds millions into places that cannot yet house or serve them. Underneath these divisions lie two great resources, education and health, which are shared so unevenly that they largely decide who will rise in life and who will be left behind.

Societies do change, but the change tends to come slowly and often painfully — through reform passed into law, through protest that forces attention, or through the quiet shifting of attitudes across generations. As a society modernises, its old certainties loosen. Families grow smaller and scatter across cities and countries; women enter workplaces and roles once closed to them; and customs long taken for granted are suddenly open to question. Some mourn what is being lost, while others celebrate new freedoms — and both feelings are usually present at once.

The hardest truth about social change is that law can only do part of the work. A law can forbid an injustice, but it cannot by itself remove the prejudice in a mind or the habit in a community. That deeper change is cultural, and it is slow: it means replacing suspicion with empathy, and exclusion with a genuine sense that every member belongs. Technology now adds its own twist, connecting people across the world while sometimes isolating them from the neighbour next door. In the end, a society is best judged not by the wealth of its richest or the height of its towers, but by the dignity and security it is willing to guarantee to its weakest members.

हर समाज साझा नियमों, भूमिकाओं और संबंधों के एक अदृश्य जाल से बँधा होता है। ये जीवन को व्यवस्था और अर्थ देते हैं - पर कोई समाज तनाव से मुक्त नहीं। धन अमीर को गरीब से अलग करता है; भेदभाव लोगों को लिंग, जाति, धर्म या नस्ल के आधार पर अन्यायपूर्वक बाँटता है; और तेजी से बढ़ते शहरों की ओर लोगों की भीड़ लाखों को ऐसी जगहों में ठूँस देती है जो अभी उन्हें आवास या सेवाएँ नहीं दे सकतीं। इन विभाजनों के नीचे दो बड़े संसाधन हैं - शिक्षा और स्वास्थ्य - जो इतने असमान रूप से बँटे हैं कि काफी हद तक तय कर देते हैं कि जीवन में कौन ऊपर उठेगा और कौन पीछे छूट जाएगा।

समाज बदलते तो हैं, पर यह बदलाव प्रायः धीरे और कष्ट के साथ आता है - कानून बने सुधार से, ध्यान खींचते आंदोलन से, या पीढ़ियों में दृष्टिकोण के शांत परिवर्तन से। जैसे-जैसे समाज आधुनिक होता है, उसकी पुरानी निश्चितताएँ ढीली पड़ती हैं। परिवार छोटे होकर शहरों और देशों में बिखर जाते हैं; स्त्रियाँ उन कार्यों और भूमिकाओं में प्रवेश करती हैं जो कभी उनके लिए बंद थीं; और लंबे समय से मानी गई प्रथाएँ अचानक प्रश्न के घेरे में आ जाती हैं। कुछ उस क्षति का शोक मनाते हैं, तो कुछ नई स्वतंत्रताओं का उत्सव - और अक्सर दोनों भाव एक साथ मौजूद रहते हैं।

सामाजिक परिवर्तन का सबसे कठिन सत्य यह है कि कानून केवल आधा काम कर सकता है। क ानून किसी अन्याय को रोक सकता है, पर वह अकेले किसी मन के पूर्वाग्रह या किसी समुदाय की आदत को नहीं मिटा सकता। वह गहरा परिवर्तन सांस्कृतिक होता है और धीमा भी: इसका अर्थ है संदेह के स्थान पर सहानुभूति, और बहिष्कार के स्थान पर यह सच्चा भाव कि हर सदस्य इसका अंग है। प्रौद्योगिकी अब अपना मोड़ जोड़ती है, जो दुनिया भर के लोगों को जोड़ती है पर कभी-कभी पड़ोसी से ही दूर कर देती है। अंततः किसी समाज को उसके सबसे धनी लोगों की संपत्ति या ऊँची इमारतों से नहीं, बल्कि उस सम्मान और सुरक्षा से आँका जाता है जो वह अपने सबसे कमजोर सदस्यों को देने को तैयार है।

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY:-

Prevalent	Common; widespread at a particular time	प्रचलित, व्यापक
Marginalised	Pushed to the edges of society and ignored	हाशिए पर धकेला गया, उपेक्षित
Inclusive	Open and welcoming to every kind of person	समावेशी
Stigma	Strong social disapproval attached to something	कलंक, बदनामी
Disparity	A great and unfair difference between things	असमानता, विषमता

Empower	To give someone power and control over their life	सशक्त करना
Plight	A difficult and unfortunate situation	दुर्दशा, विपत्ति
Prejudice	An unfair opinion formed before knowing the facts	पूर्वाग्रह
Alienation	A feeling of not belonging or being cut off	अलगाव, बेगानापन
Uplift	To raise to a better condition	उत्थान करना, ऊपर उठाना
Vulnerable	Easily harmed or hurt; needing protection	असुरक्षित, संवेदनशील
Grievance	A real or imagined cause for complaint	शिकायत, गिला
Equitable	Fair and just to everyone	न्यायसंगत, समान
Oppress	To keep down by unjust and harsh treatment	दमन करना, उत्पीड़न करना
Destitute	Without money, food or a home; very poor	निराश्रित, बेसहारा
Emancipate	To set free from restraint or bondage	मुक्त करना
Conform	To behave the way most others do	अनुरूप होना, ढल जाना
Upheaval	A great and sudden change or disturbance	उथल-पुथल
Cohesion	The state of sticking or holding together	एकजुटता, संसक्ति
Deprived	Lacking the basic things needed for life	वंचित

***TECHNICAL TERMS & JARGON*:-**

Urbanisation	The movement of people into growing cities	शहरीकरण
Inequality	The unequal sharing of wealth or opportunity	असमानता
Discrimination	Treating a group unfairly because of who they are	भेदभाव
Demography	The statistical study of human populations	जनसांख्यिकी
Migration	People moving from one place to settle in another	प्रवास
Social mobility	The ability to move up or down social classes	सामाजिक गतिशीलता
Gender equality	Equal rights and status for all genders	लैंगिक समानता
Welfare	Help given by the state to those in need	कल्याण, जन-सहायता
Literacy	The ability to read and write	साक्षरता
Stereotype	A fixed, oversimplified idea about a group	रूढ़िबद्ध धारणा
Caste	A hereditary class into which one is born	जाति
Poverty line	The income level below which one is counted poor	गरीबी रेखा
Patriarchy	A social system dominated by men	पितृसत्ता
Social stratification	The ranking of society into layers	सामाजिक स्तरीकरण
Secularism	Keeping religion separate from the state	धर्मनिरपेक्षता
Empowerment	Giving people control over their own lives	सशक्तीकरण
Nuclear family	A household of just parents and their children	एकल परिवार
Affirmative action	Policy that favours disadvantaged groups	सकारात्मक कार्रवाई, आरक्षण नीति
Social capital	The value of a person's networks and mutual trust	सामाजिक पूँजी
Gentrification	Poorer residents pushed out as an area grows richer	कुलीनीकरण
Communalism	Hostility organised along religious lines	सांप्रदायिकता
Dowry	Property demanded from a bride's family at marriage	दहेज
Child labour	Employing children below the legal age	बाल श्रम
Gender gap	The difference in status between men and women	लैंगिक अंतर
Social exclusion	Shutting a group out of ordinary life	सामाजिक बहिष्कार

Civil society	Citizen groups that act outside the state	नागरिक समाज
Digital divide	The gap between those with and without technology	डिजिटल विभाजन
Assimilation	The absorption of a group into a wider culture	आत्मसातीकरण
Urban sprawl	The uncontrolled spread of a city outward	शहरी प्रसार
Social justice	Fair shares of rights and resources for all	सामाजिक न्याय
Sex ratio	The number of females per thousand males	लिंगानुपात
Census	The official counting of a country's population	जनगणना
Human rights	The basic rights that belong to every person	मानवाधिकार
Non-governmental organisation	A private body working for a social cause	गैर-सरकारी संगठन (NGO)
Feminism	The movement for equal rights for women	नारीवाद
Standard of living	The level of comfort and wealth a person enjoys	जीवन स्तर

PRACTICE PASSAGE - 1

When people speak of educating girls, they often speak only of fairness, as though it were a debt owed to one half of the population. It is that, but it is also far more, for the education of a girl reaches outward in a way that few other investments do. A girl who stays in school marries later and by choice; she has fewer and healthier children; and because a mother is usually a child's first teacher, her learning passes silently to the next generation. She earns, and what she earns tends to return to her family rather than to be spent on herself. The benefit, in other words, never stops with her alone; it flows onward to her children, her family and her neighbours, multiplying quietly with every extra year she stays at her desk. Studies across many poor countries point, again and again, to the same quiet finding: that few things lift a village faster than its daughters' schooling. To keep a girl from the classroom, then, is not to fail one child. It is to dim a light that would have reached an entire household, and the household after that.

Q1. Educating girls is described as more than fairness because it -

(a) costs nothing
(b) reaches outward to whole families
(c) is required by law
(d) pleases teachers

Q2. A girl who stays in school tends to -

(a) marry earlier
(b) marry later and by choice
(c) leave her family
(d) earn nothing

Q3. Why does a mother's learning reach the next generation?

(a) she teaches in schools
(b) a mother is a child's first teacher
(c) she writes books
(d) the state requires it

Q4. What tends to happen to what a woman earns?

(a) it is wasted
(b) it returns to her family
(c) it is taxed away
(d) it is hidden

Q5. To keep a girl from school is, the author says, to -

(a) save money
(b) dim a light that would reach a whole household
(c) help her family
(d) protect her

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (B) The passage argues a girl's education benefits her family and the next generation.
Q2 (B) The text says she marries later and by choice, with fewer, healthier children.
Q3 (B) Because a mother is usually the child's first teacher, her learning passes on.
Q4 (B) Her earnings tend to return to the family rather than be spent on herself.
Q5 (B) It harms not one child but an entire household and beyond.

PRACTICE PASSAGE 2

The village empties and the city swells; this is the great movement of our age. Every year, millions leave the fields for the promise of the town — for work, for wages, for a life less bound by weather and custom. Much of that promise is real. Cities do offer higher pay, schools, hospitals and a freedom the village rarely allows. For a great many, the move is a genuine step upward, and the city does make good on at least a part of what it first seemed to promise. But the newcomer often finds a harder bargain than he expected. He arrives to a room shared with strangers, work that is uncertain, and a loneliness that the crowded street somehow deepens rather than eases. The ties of the village — the neighbour who helped at harvest, the elder who settled a quarrel — do not exist here, and nothing has yet grown to replace them. The challenge for the modern city is not to stop this movement, which cannot be stopped, but to make itself a place where the newcomer can belong, and not merely survive.

Q1. 'The great movement of our age' refers to -

(a) people leaving cities
(b) the fall of wages
(c) the growth of farms
(d) people moving from village to city

Q2. Why do millions leave the fields?

(a) for weather and custom
(b) to avoid schools
(c) to farm better
(d) for work, wages and a freer life

Q3. What harder bargain does the newcomer often find?

(a) free housing
(b) uncertain work and loneliness
(c) too many friends
(d) easy wealth

Q4. Which village ties are said to be missing in the city?

(a) the helpful neighbour and the elder
(b) the landlord and the tax man
(c) the factory and the road
(d) the school and hospital

Q5. The challenge for the city is to -

(a) stop the movement
(b) help the newcomer belong, not merely survive
(c) empty itself
(d) send people back

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (D) The passage describes migration from the countryside to swelling cities.
Q2 (D) They leave for work, wages and a life less bound by weather and custom.
Q3 (B) He finds shared rooms, uncertain work and a deepened loneliness.
Q4 (A) The passage names the neighbour who helped at harvest and the elder who settled quarrels.
Q5 (B) The close says the city must let newcomers belong, not just survive.

6 CHAPTER Health & Medicine

Health is far more than the absence of disease; it is a balance between body, mind and the world we live in. For most of human history, the great killers were infectious diseases — spread by tiny organisms such as bacteria and viruses — which swept through crowded, unclean settlements and took the young first. The turning point was not a single miracle drug but a set of quieter advances: clean drinking water, the safe disposal of waste, vaccines that trained the body to defend itself, and antibiotics that could kill bacteria once an illness had begun.

As those old enemies were pushed back, a new pattern took their place. Today the heaviest burden in much of the world comes from chronic, lifestyle-linked conditions — diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure and obesity — which build up slowly over years and are driven by poor diet, too little movement and constant stress. Against such diseases, prevention matters more than cure. A balanced diet, regular exercise, clean surroundings and enough sleep protect a population more cheaply and more surely than the finest hospital. Mental health, long hidden by shame and neglect, is now understood to be inseparable from physical health, for a troubled mind wears down the body just as surely as any germ.

Yet good health is never shared equally. Its deepest causes are social — income, education, housing and clean water — which is why the poor fall ill more often and recover less. Medicine advances at astonishing speed, with gene therapies, precise new drugs and vaccines designed in months rather than years. But the oldest lessons still hold firmest. Most illness can be prevented, early detection saves lives, and the true health of a society is measured less by the brilliance of its rare cures than by the plain, reliable care it makes available to every one of its members.

स्वास्थ्य केवल रोग की अनुपस्थिति से कहीं अधिक है; यह शरीर, मन और हमारे परिवेश के बीच का संतुलन है। मानव इतिहास के अधिकांश समय में सबसे बड़े हत्यारे संक्रामक रोग थे - जो जीवाणु और विषाणु जैसे सूक्ष्म जीवों से फैलते हैं - और भीड़भरी, अस्वच्छ बस्तियों में फैलकर सबसे पहले बच्चों को ले जाते थे। मोड़ किसी एक चमत्कारी दवा से नहीं, बल्कि कुछ शांत प्रगतियों से आया: स्वच्छ पेयजल, कचरे का सुरक्षित निपटान, वे टीके जो शरीर को स्वयं की रक्षा करना सिखाते हैं, और वे एंटीबायोटिक जो रोग शुरू होने पर जीवाणुओं को मार सकते हैं।

जैसे-जैसे ये पुराने शत्रु पीछे धकेले गए, उनकी जगह एक नया प्रतिमान आ गया। आज दुनिया के बड़े हिस्से में सबसे भारी बोझ जीवनशैली से जुड़े दीर्घकालिक रोगों से आता है - मधुमेह, हृदय रोग, उच्च रक्तचाप और मोटापा - जो वर्षों में धीरे-धीरे बनते हैं और खराब आहार, कम गतिविधि और लगातार तनाव से बढ़ते हैं। ऐसे रोगों के विरुद्ध इलाज से अधिक रोकथाम महत्वपूर्ण है। संतुलित आहार, नियमित व्यायाम, स्वच्छ परिवेश और पर्याप्त नींद किसी भी बड़े अस्पताल की तुलना में सस्ते और अधिक निश्चित रूप से जनसंख्या की रक्षा करते हैं। मानसिक स्वास्थ्य, जो लंबे समय तक शर्म और उपेक्षा में छिपा रहा, अब शारीरिक स्वास्थ्य से अभिन्न माना जाता है।

फिर भी अच्छा स्वास्थ्य कभी समान रूप से नहीं बँटता। इसके सबसे गहरे कारण सामाजिक हैं ख़ आय, शिक्षा, आवास और स्वच्छ जल - इसीलिए गरीब अधिक बार बीमार पड़ते हैं और कम उबरते हैं। चिकित्सा आश्चर्यजनक गति से आगे बढ़ रही है, जीन चिकित्सा, नई सटीक दवाओं और महीनों में बने टीकों के साथ। पर सबसे पुराने पाठ ही सबसे दृढ़ हैं। अधिकांश रोग रोके जा सकते हैं, शीघ्र पहचान जीवन बचाती है, और किसी समाज का सच्चा स्वास्थ्य उसके दुर्लभ इलाजों की चमक से नहीं, बल्कि उस साधारण, भरोसेमंद देखभाल से आँका जाता है जो वह अपने हर सदस्य को देता है।

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY:-

Chronic	Lasting for a long time; slow to heal	दीर्घकालिक, पुराना
Acute	Severe and sudden, but usually short	तीव्र, अत्यधिक
Immune	Protected against a particular disease	प्रतिरक्षित, रोगमुक्त
Symptom	A sign that shows a person is ill	लक्षण
Remedy	A medicine or treatment that cures	उपचार, इलाज

Susceptible	Easily affected or likely to catch something	संवेदनशील, ग्रहणशील
Contagious	Spreading from one person to another by contact	संक्रामक, छूत का
Fatigue	Extreme tiredness or exhaustion	थकान
Alleviate	To make pain or a problem less severe	कम करना, राहत देना
Prevalent	Common and widespread	प्रचलित, व्यापक
Holistic	Treating the whole person, not just the illness	समग्र, सर्वांगीण
Deficiency	A shortage of something the body needs	कमी, अभाव
Sedentary	Involving much sitting; not active	गतिहीन, बैठे रहने वाला
Robust	Strong and healthy	हृष्ट-पुष्ट, मजबूत
Ailment	A minor illness	रोग, बीमारी
Recuperate	To recover after illness	स्वस्थ होना, उबरना
Hygiene	Cleanliness that keeps disease away	स्वच्छता
Onset	The beginning of a disease or condition	प्रारंभ, शुरुआत

***TECHNICAL TERMS & JARGON*:-**

Immunity	The body's natural defence against disease	प्रतिरक्षा
Antibiotic	A drug that kills or stops bacteria	प्रतिजैविक, एंटीबायोटिक
Vaccine	A substance that trains the body to fight a disease	टीका, वैक्सीन
Pathogen	Any tiny organism that causes disease	रोगजनक
Epidemic	A disease spreading fast through a community	महामारी
Pandemic	An epidemic that spreads across the world	विश्वमारी
Chronic disease	A long-lasting illness like diabetes	दीर्घकालिक रोग
Nutrition	The nourishment the body gets from food	पोषण
Metabolism	The chemical processes that keep the body alive	चयापचय
Antibody	A protein the body makes to fight infection	प्रतिरक्षी
Diagnosis	The identifying of a disease from its signs	निदान
Prognosis	The likely future course of a disease	रोग-निदान, पूर्वानुमान
Sanitation	Clean disposal of waste to protect health	स्वच्छता, सफाई व्यवस्था
Communicable disease	A disease that spreads between people	संचारी रोग
Immunisation	Making a person immune, usually by vaccine	टीकाकरण
Obesity	Having too much body fat, harming health	मोटापा
Public health	Protecting the health of a whole population	सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य
Quarantine	Keeping the sick apart to stop a spread	संगरोध, क्वारंटीन
Mental health	A person's emotional and psychological well-being	मानसिक स्वास्थ्य
Malnutrition	Poor health caused by a bad or lacking diet	कुपोषण
Preventive care	Care that stops disease before it begins	निवारक देखभाल
Vector-borne disease	A disease carried by insects like mosquitoes	रोगवाहक जनित रोग
Antibiotic resistance	Germs surviving the drugs meant to kill them	प्रतिजैविक प्रतिरोध
Incubation period	The gap between infection and first symptoms	उद्भवन काल

Non-communicable disease	A disease that does not spread between people	असंचारी रोग
Endemic	A disease regularly found in a particular area	स्थानिक रोग
Antigen	A substance that triggers the body's immune response	प्रतिजन
Mortality rate	The number of deaths in a population over time	मृत्यु दर
Therapy	Treatment meant to heal a disorder	चिकित्सा, उपचार
World health organization	The un body that guides global health	विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन

PRACTICE PASSAGE - 1

Modern medicine has grown so skilled at curing that we have half-forgotten the older art of not falling ill. A hospital can now repair a heart that a lifetime of bad habits has ruined, and this is a marvel; but it is a costly and painful marvel, and it arrives late. The surgeon's skill is real and deserves our thanks, yet it is summoned only once the damage is done, when a little plain care taken years earlier might have spared the patient the whole ordeal. The plain truth, dull beside the drama of surgery, is that most of the diseases that fill our wards were preventable. They were built slowly, over years, out of too much sugar and salt, too little movement, tobacco, and sleep too often sacrificed. A brisk walk is cheaper than a bypass, and a good diet cheaper than a lifetime of pills. None of this is glamorous, and perhaps that is why it is so easily ignored. Yet a society that spends fortunes to cure what it could have prevented has, in a sense, mistaken the repair shop for the road.

Q1. What older art have we 'half-forgotten'?

(a) the art of surgery (b) the art of not falling ill
(c) the art of medicine (d) the art of cooking

Q2. Repairing a ruined heart is called a marvel that is -

(a) cheap and early (b) useless
(c) simple and quick (d) costly, painful and late

Q3. Most diseases that fill the wards were -

(a) incurable (b) sudden
(c) imaginary (d) preventable

Q4. Which comparison does the author make?

(a) a bypass is cheaper than a walk (b) a walk is cheaper than a bypass
(c) pills are cheaper than diet (d) surgery is free

Q5. 'Mistaken the repair shop for the road' means valuing -

(a) prevention over cure (b) cure over prevention
(c) hospitals over homes (d) doctors over patients

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (B) The passage opens by contrasting curing with the older art of prevention.
Q2 (D) It calls the cure a costly, painful marvel that arrives late.
Q3 (D) The 'plain truth' is that most such diseases were preventable.
Q4 (B) 'A brisk walk is cheaper than a bypass.'
Q5 (B) It criticises spending on cure while neglecting the prevention that comes first.

PRACTICE PASSAGE 2

For a broken leg we feel only sympathy, but for a troubled mind we have long reserved a curious blend of fear and blame. This double standard is one of the cruellest and least sensible in all of medicine. We would never dream of blaming a man for his broken leg, or telling him briskly to walk it off, and yet with an illness of the mind we do very nearly that. A person suffering from depression or anxiety is ill in a way as real as any fever, yet is often told, in effect, to simply try harder — advice no one would dare give to a patient with a broken bone. The result is a silence that makes everything worse. Ashamed to speak, the sufferer hides the illness until it deepens, and help that might have come early comes late or not at all. The change now slowly under way is a simple but powerful one: to treat the mind as part of the body, to speak of its troubles without shame, and to offer them the same plain care and patience we have always offered a wound that we can see.

Q1. How do we usually treat a person with a broken leg?

(a) with blame (b) with sympathy
(c) with silence (d) with fear

Q2. The 'double standard' is that mental illness meets -

(a) fear and blame (b) full understanding
(c) quick cure (d) no reaction

Q3. Telling a depressed person to 'try harder' is like -

(a) helping a broken bone (b) advising a broken bone to heal itself
(c) giving medicine (d) offering rest

Q4. What does the resulting silence cause?

(a) faster recovery (b) less shame
(c) the illness to deepen (d) better care

Q5. The change now under way is to -

(a) hide mental illness (b) treat the mind as part of the body
(c) ignore the body (d) blame the sufferer

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (B) The passage contrasts sympathy for a broken leg with blame for mental illness.
Q2 (A) A troubled mind meets fear and blame, unlike a visible injury.
Q3 (B) Such advice would never be given to a broken-bone patient — the point of the comparison.
Q4 (C) Shame keeps the sufferer silent, so the illness deepens and help comes late.
Q5 (B) The close urges treating the mind as part of the body, without shame.

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7 CHAPTER Geography & Agriculture

Geography shapes the fate of nations more quietly, and more completely, than we usually notice. Mountains and rivers decide where borders fall; rainfall decides where crops will grow; and the scattering of soil, minerals and water across the land decides where great cities rise and where deserts spread. The subject has two halves that meet at every point. Physical geography studies the earth itself — its landforms, its climate, its oceans and rivers — while human geography studies how people settle upon that stage, how they farm it, trade across it and move over it in search of a better life.

Upon this physical stage, agriculture feeds the world. For most farmers, everything still turns on three things: the arrival of the monsoon, the depth of fertile soil, and, increasingly, irrigation to carry water where the rain will not reach. Yet the land is under growing strain. Overuse exhausts the soil; groundwater is pumped out far faster than it can refill; and a warming climate makes the rains later, shorter and harder to predict. Natural disasters — a flood, a drought, an earthquake — can wipe out years of patient progress in a single day.

Modern farming has answered by raising yields, through better seeds, chemical fertilisers and machines, but often at a heavy cost to the very soil and water it depends on. The defining challenge of the century is therefore a hard one: to feed a still-growing population from a fixed and shrinking store of land and fresh water — to grow more while using less, and to do so without wearing out the ground on which all food, and all civilisation, finally rests.

भूगोल राष्ट्रों का भाग्य हमारी सोच से कहीं अधिक चुपचाप और पूर्ण रूप से गढ़ता है। पर्वत और नदियाँ तय करती हैं कि सीमाएँ कहाँ पड़ें; वर्षा तय करती है कि फसलें कहाँ उगेंगी; और मिट्टी, खनिज तथा जल का बिखराव तय करता है कि बड़े शहर कहाँ बसेंगे और रेगिस्तान कहाँ फैलेंगे। इस विषय के दो भाग हैं जो हर बिंदु पर मिलते हैं। भौतिक भूगोल पृथ्वी का अध्ययन करता है – उसके भू-आकार, जलवायु, महासागर और नदियाँ – जबकि मानव भूगोल यह अध्ययन करता है कि लोग उस मंच पर कैसे बसते, खेती करते, व्यापार करते और बेहतर जीवन की तलाश में चलते हैं।

इसी भौतिक मंच पर कृषि संसार का पेट भरती है। अधिकांश किसानों के लिए सब कुछ अब भी तीन बातों पर टिका है: मानसून का आना, उपजाऊ मिट्टी की गहराई, और बढ़ते हुए रूप में सिंचाई, जो जल वहाँ पहुँचाती है जहाँ वर्षा नहीं पहुँचती। फिर भी भूमि पर दबाव बढ़ रहा है। अत्यधिक उपयोग मिट्टी को थका देता है; भूजल उससे कहीं तेजी से खींचा जाता है जितना वह पुन: भर सकता है; और गरम होती जलवायु वर्षा को विलंबित, छोटा और अनिश्चित बना देती है। प्राकृतिक आपदाएँ – बाढ़, सूखा, भूकंप – वर्षों की प्रगति को एक ही दिन में मिटा सकती हैं।

आधुनिक खेती ने बेहतर बीजों, रासायनिक उर्वरकों और मशीनों से पैदावार बढ़ाकर उत्तर दिया है, पर अक्सर उसी मिट्टी और जल की भारी कीमत पर जिन पर वह निर्भर है। इसलिए इस सदी की सबसे बड़ी चुनौती कठिन है: भूमि और स्वच्छ जल के सीमित और घटते भंडार से लगातार बढ़ती जनसंख्या का पेट भरना – कम में अधिक उगाना, और वह भी उस जमीन को थकाए बिना जिस पर अंतत: सारा भोजन और सारी सभ्यता टिकी है।

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY:-

Arid	Very dry, with little rain	शुष्क, सूखा
Fertile	Able to produce good crops	उपजाऊ
Terrain	The physical features of a stretch of land	भूभाग, इलाका
Temperate	Having a mild climate, neither very hot nor cold	शीतोष्ण, समशीतोष्ण
Rugged	Rough and uneven, with rocks and hills	ऊबड़-खाबड़, बीहड़
Erode	To wear away slowly, as soil by water or wind	अपरदन होना, कटना
Cultivate	To prepare land and grow crops on it	खेती करना, उगाना
Barren	Unable to produce plants or crops	बंजर, ऊसर
Irrigate	To supply land with water for farming	सिंचाई करना
Deplete	To use up until little remains	समाप्त करना, खत्म करना

Torrential	(Of rain) falling heavily and fast	मूसलाधार
Fallow	(Of land) left unplanted to recover	परती, बिना बोया
Perennial	Lasting or flowing through the whole year	बारहमासी, सदाबहार
Desolate	Empty, bare and lifeless	उजाड़, वीरान
Dense	Thickly crowded or packed together	सघन, घना
Famine	An extreme and widespread shortage of food	अकाल, दुर्भिक्ष
Harvest	To gather a ripened crop	फसल काटना

***TECHNICAL TERMS & JARGON*:-**

Monsoon	The seasonal wind that brings heavy rain	मानसून
Irrigation	The artificial watering of farmland	सिंचाई
Groundwater	Water stored in the soil and rock underground	भूजल
Fertile soil	Soil that is rich in the nutrients plants need	उपजाऊ मिट्टी
Yield	The crop output produced per unit of land	उपज
Erosion	The wearing away of soil by wind or water	अपरदन, कटाव
Fertiliser	A substance added to soil to feed crops	उर्वरक, खाद
Drought	A long period with too little rain	सूखा, अनावृष्टि
Cash crop	A crop grown chiefly to be sold for money	नकदी फसल
Topography	The shape and features of the land surface	स्थलाकृति
Aquifer	An underground layer of water-bearing rock	जलभृत
Arable land	Land that is suitable for growing crops	कृषि योग्य भूमि
Precipitation	Water that falls as rain, snow or hail	वर्षण
Desertification	The turning of fertile land into desert	मरुस्थलीकरण
Food security	Reliable access to enough safe food for all	खाद्य सुरक्षा
Crop rotation	Growing different crops in turn to keep soil healthy	फसल चक्र
Watershed	An area of land that drains into one river	जलसंभर, जल विभाजक
Subsistence farming	Farming only to feed one's own family	निर्वाह कृषि
Green revolution	The sharp rise in yields from modern farming	हरित क्रांति
Delta	The fertile fan of land where a river meets the sea	डेल्टा, नदीमुख
Water table	The upper level below which the ground is soaked	भूजल स्तर
Tributary	A smaller river that flows into a larger one	सहायक नदी
Plateau	A large area of high, flat land	पठार
Glacier	A slow-moving mass of ice on land	हिमनद, ग्लेशियर
Salinity	The amount of salt in soil or water	लवणता, खारापन
Latitude	Distance north or south of the equator	अक्षांश
Longitude	Distance measured east or west of the prime meridian	देशांतर
Equator	The imaginary line around the middle of the earth	भूमध्य रेखा
Altitude	The height of a place above sea level	ऊँचाई, तुंगता
Humidity	The amount of water vapour in the air	आर्द्रता
Organic farming	Farming without chemical fertilisers or pesticides	जैविक खेती
Tectonic plate	A large moving section of the earth's crust	विवर्तनिक प्लेट

PRACTICE PASSAGE - 1

Beneath the dry fields of much of the country lies a hidden reserve that has quietly kept farming alive: the aquifer, a layer of water-bearing rock that stores rain filtered slowly downward over centuries. For decades it seemed inexhaustible. Cheap electric pumps and ever-deeper borewells let farmers draw upon it freely, and harvests rose even as the rains themselves grew less reliable. But an aquifer is a bank account, not a spring; it can be overdrawn. In district after district the water table has fallen year by year, forcing wells deeper and pumps more powerful, until the poorest farmers, unable to afford the descent, are left with dry bores and cracked, useless land. The bitter irony is that the remedy was known all along. Where villages have caught the rain, revived their old ponds, and agreed to share what lies below rather than race one another to the bottom, the water table has slowly begun to climb once more. The ground, it turns out, will refill — but only for those with the patience to let it.

Q1. The passage is mainly about -

(a) the overuse and slow recovery of groundwater
(b) the invention of electric pumps
(c) the history of Indian farming
(d) the price of borewells

Q2. Why are the poorest farmers the worst affected?

(a) they refuse to use pumps
(b) they own no land
(c) they cannot afford ever-deeper wells
(d) they get too much rain

Q3. In the passage, the word 'aquifer' refers to -

(a) a type of electric pump
(b) a layer of water-bearing rock underground
(c) a large surface pond
(d) a season of heavy rain

Q4. 'An aquifer is a bank account, not a spring' suggests that it -

(a) never runs out
(b) can be overdrawn and must be refilled
(c) produces its own water
(d) belongs to the bank

Q5. The tone of the final two sentences is best described as -

(a) angry and hopeless
(b) cautiously hopeful
(c) light and joking
(d) cold and factual

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (A) The passage traces how the aquifer was overdrawn and how it can recover — the central theme.
Q2 (C) As the water table falls, only those who can afford deeper wells cope; the poor are left with dry bores.
Q3 (B) The passage defines the aquifer as 'a layer of water-bearing rock that stores rain'.
Q4 (B) The metaphor warns that, like a bank account, an aquifer can be drained beyond what is put back.
Q5 (B) The ending notes that the water table 'has begun to climb once more' — a guarded hopefulness.

PRACTICE PASSAGE 2

There is a quiet crisis spreading through some of the world's most productive farmland, and its cause is the very water meant to save it. In dry regions, farmers irrigate heavily to coax crops from thirsty soil; but all irrigation water carries a little dissolved salt, and when that water evaporates under a hot sun, the salt is left behind. The water rises into the air and drifts away, but the salt it carried has nowhere else to go, and so, grain by grain, it stays and slowly gathers. Season after season it gathers in the upper soil, a process known as salinisation, until at last the ground turns white and hard and will grow almost nothing. Land that fed families for generations can be ruined within a few decades in this way. The cruelty of it is that the early signs are easy to miss, and the damage is slow, silent and, once advanced, very difficult to reverse. Yet it is not inevitable. Careful drainage, less wasteful watering, and salt-tolerant crops can hold the process back. The lesson is an old one in a new form: that a remedy applied without care can, in time, become the very disease.

Q1. What is the 'quiet crisis' described in the passage?

(a) a shortage of farmers
(b) a fall in crop prices
(c) the ruin of farmland by salt
(d) the spread of new crops

Q2. How does salt build up in the soil?

(a) it is added as fertiliser
(b) irrigation water evaporates and leaves salt behind
(c) it blows in from the sea
(d) crops release it

Q3. The word 'salinisation' in the passage means the -

(a) removal of salt from soil
(b) gathering of salt in the soil
(c) watering of dry land
(d) growing of crops

Q4. Why is the crisis especially dangerous?

(a) its early signs are easy to miss
(b) it happens overnight
(c) it only affects poor soil
(d) it is easily reversed

Q5. 'A remedy applied without care can become the very disease' means that —

(a) irrigation is always harmful
(b) a cure used carelessly may cause harm
(c) salt is good for crops
(d) farmers should stop watering

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (C) The passage is about salt slowly ruining irrigated farmland.
Q2 (B) Irrigation water carries salt; when it evaporates, the salt is left in the soil.
Q3 (B) The passage names salinisation as the process by which salt gathers in the upper soil.
Q4 (A) The damage is slow and silent, its early signs easy to miss and hard to reverse once advanced.
Q5 (B) Irrigation, meant to help, causes ruin when used without care — the remedy becomes the disease.

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9 CHAPTER Psychology & Behaviour

Psychology & Behaviour History is not a dry list of dates but the long, tangled story of how human societies have risen, clashed and remade themselves. Great civilisations — the Indus, the Egyptian, the Greek — built cities, wrote laws and traded across continents, only to fade as climates shifted, empires overreached, or fresh powers arose to replace them. In India, dynasty followed dynasty, leaving behind temples, forts and manuscripts, until colonial rule reshaped the whole subcontinent and a long, mass freedom struggle at last won it back. One truth about the subject is easy to forget: history is never simply what happened. It is always pieced together, from inscriptions, coins, ruins and records, by someone — and so the very same event may be told in sharply different ways.

Culture is history's living residue, the part of the past that never quite becomes past. It survives in the languages we speak, the festivals we keep, and the art, music and craft handed down from one generation to the next. Heritage sites preserve this memory in stone, while oral traditions carry it in song and story where nothing was ever written down.

To study the past, then, is not mere curiosity; it is how a people comes to understand its own present. The borders, the beliefs, the old grievances that shape today were all forged somewhere back there, and cannot be understood without it. Colonial rule, for one, cast long shadows — in languages, in drawn lines, in inequalities that outlasted the empires that made them. History, at its best, both warns and inspires, reminding each generation that the achievements of civilisation are hard-won, easily lost, and never to be taken for granted.

इतिहास तिथियों की कोई सूखी सूची नहीं, बल्कि यह लंबी और उलझी हुई कथा है कि मानव समाज कैसे उठे, टकराए और स्वयं को नया रूप देते रहे। महान सभ्यताएँ – सिंधु, मिस्र, यूनान – नगर बसातीं, कानून लिखतीं और महाद्वीपों में व्यापार करतीं, पर जलवायु के बदलने, साम्राज्यों के अति-विस्तार, या नई शक्तियों के उदय से मिट जातीं। भारत में एक के बाद एक राजवंश आए, जो मंदिर, किले और पांडुलिपियाँ छोड़ गए, फिर औपनिवेशिक शासन ने पूरे उपमहाद्वीप को बदल दिया और एक लंबे जन-स्वतंत्रता संग्राम ने अंततः उसे वापस जीता। एक सत्य भूलना आसान है: इतिहास कभी केवल वह नहीं होता जो घटा। वह हमेशा किसी के द्वारा – शिलालेखों, सिक्कों, खंडहरों और अभिलेखों से – जोड़कर बनाया जाता है, इसलिए वही घटना बहुत अलग ढंग से कही जा सकती है।

संस्कृति इतिहास की जीवित तलछट है, अतीत का वह अंश जो कभी पूरी तरह अतीत नहीं बनता। यह हमारी भाषाओं, हमारे त्योहारों, और एक पीढ़ी से दूसरी को सौंपी गई कला, संगीत तथा शिल्प में जीवित रहती है। विरासत स्थल इस स्मृति को पत्थर में सँजोते हैं, जबकि मौखिक परंपराएँ उसे गीत और कहानी में ले चलती हैं, जहाँ कभी कुछ लिखा ही नहीं गया।

इसलिए अतीत का अध्ययन केवल जिज्ञासा नहीं; यह वह तरीका है जिससे कोई जाति अपने वर्तमान को समझती है। आज को गढ़ने वाली सीमाएँ, आस्थाएँ और पुराने विवाद कहीं पीछे ही रचे गए थे, और उनके बिना समझे नहीं जा सकते। औपनिवेशिक शासन ने लंबी छायाएँ छोड़ीं – भाषाओं में, खींची गई रेखाओं में, और उन असमानताओं में जो उन्हें बनाने वाले साम्राज्यों से भी अधिक जीवित रहीं। इतिहास, अपने श्रेष्ठ रूप में, चेतावनी भी देता है और प्रेरणा भी।

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY:-

Ancient	Belonging to the very distant past	प्राचीन, पुरातन
Colonial	Relating to rule by a foreign empire	औपनिवेशिक
Indigenous	Native; originating naturally in a place	स्वदेशी, मूल निवासी
Prosperous	Successful and flourishing	समृद्ध, संपन्न
Decline	A gradual fall into a weaker state	पतन, ह्रास
Legacy	Something handed down from the past	विरासत, धरोहर
Revive	To bring back into use or life	पुनर्जीवित करना
Commemorate	To honour the memory of a person or event	स्मरण करना, मनाना

Turbulent	Full of conflict and disorder	अशांत, उथल-पुथल भरा
Enduring	Lasting for a very long time	चिरस्थायी, टिकाऊ
Plunder	To rob a place of goods by force	लूटना
Assimilate	To absorb and blend into a wider group	आत्मसात करना, घुल-मिल जाना
Reign	The period during which a ruler rules	शासनकाल
Prevalent	Widespread at a given time	प्रचलित, व्याप्त
Subjugate	To bring firmly under control	अधीन करना, दबाना
Uprising	A revolt against those in power	विद्रोह, बगावत
Venerable	Commanding respect through age or dignity	आदरणीय, पूज्य
Posterity	All the generations yet to come	भावी पीढ़ी

***TECHNICAL TERMS & JARGON*:-**

Civilisation	An advanced and organised human society	सभ्यता
Dynasty	A line of rulers from a single family	राजवंश
Archaeology	The study of the past through physical remains	पुरातत्व
Heritage	The culture and traditions inherited from the past	विरासत
Colonialism	The control of one land by a foreign power	उपनिवेशवाद
Nationalism	Strong devotion to one's own nation	राष्ट्रवाद
Chronicle	A written record of events in order of time	इतिवृत्त, वृत्तांत
Monument	A structure built to preserve memory	स्मारक
Manuscript	A document written by hand	पांडुलिपि, हस्तलिपि
Excavation	The digging up of buried remains	उत्खनन, खुदाई
Empire	Many peoples and lands under one ruler	साम्राज्य
Renaissance	A great revival of art and learning	पुनर्जागरण
Inscription	Words carved into stone or metal	शिलालेख, अभिलेख
Antiquity	The ancient past, long ago	पुरातनता, प्राचीन काल
Historiography	The writing and study of history itself	इतिहास-लेखन
Revolution	A sudden, complete overturning of an order	क्रांति
Feudalism	A land-for-service social order of the past	सामंतवाद
Partition	The dividing of a land into separate parts	विभाजन
Artefact	An object made by humans, of historical interest	कलाकृति, पुरावशेष
Imperialism	A policy of extending power over other lands	साम्राज्यवाद
Primary source	First-hand evidence from the time of an event	प्राथमिक स्रोत
Epigraphy	The study of ancient inscriptions	पुरालेखशास्त्र
Dynastic rule	Hereditary rule passed within a family	वंशानुगत शासन
Anachronism	Something placed in the wrong period of time	कालदोष
Colonisation	The settling and controlling of a region	उपनिवेशीकरण
Emancipation	The act of setting a people free	मुक्ति, स्वतंत्रता
Prehistoric	Of the time before written records	प्रागैतिहासिक
Medieval	Belonging to the middle ages	मध्यकालीन
Numismatics	The study of coins and currency	मुद्राशास्त्र
Archive	A store of old historical records	अभिलेखागार
Conquest	The taking of a place or people by force	विजय, दिग्विजय

PRACTICE PASSAGE - 1

It is often said that history is written by the victors, and the saying carries a hard truth. When a war ends or a kingdom falls, it is the winners who build the monuments, keep the records and compose the official chronicle; the defeated are left with silence, or with a story that survives only in whispers. What we solemnly call the record of the past is, far more often than we care to admit, only the surviving half of an old and bitter quarrel. This is why a careful reader of history learns to ask not merely what happened, but who is telling it, and what they might wish us to believe. A single rebellion may appear in one account as a heroic struggle for freedom and, in another, as mere lawless disorder — and both accounts may have been written in perfect sincerity. The past does not come to us clean. It arrives already shaped by the hopes, fears and interests of those who recorded it. To read history well, then, is not to memorise one version but to hold several at once, and to listen, always, for the voices that the record has left out.

Q1. The main point of the passage is that history -

(a) is always completely accurate
(b) is written only by the defeated
(c) should not be studied
(d) is shaped by those who record it

Q2. What are the defeated usually left with?

(a) the official records
(b) silence, or a story told in whispers
(c) the monuments
(d) the final victory

Q3. In the passage, the word 'chronicle' means a -

(a) a written record of events in order
(b) a monument of stone
(c) a kind of war
(d) a heroic rebel

Q4. A single rebellion, the author says, may be told as -

(a) only a heroic struggle
(b) either heroism or lawless disorder
(c) a dull list of dates
(d) an ancient myth

Q5. To 'read history well', one should -

(a) memorise a single version
(b) ignore all records
(c) trust only the victors
(d) hold several versions and note what is missing

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (D) The passage argues the past reaches us already shaped by its recorders — the central idea.
Q2 (B) The winners keep the records; the defeated are left with silence or faint stories.
Q3 (A) A chronicle is defined by context as the written, ordered record kept by the victors.
Q4 (B) The same event can appear as heroic freedom or lawless disorder, depending on the teller.
Q5 (D) The close advises holding several accounts at once and listening for omitted voices.

PRACTICE PASSAGE 2

On the edge of many an Indian town stands a fort or a stepwell of great antiquity, and its usual fate is a quiet, unremarked decay. Goats graze in its courtyards; children play cricket against its carved walls; and slowly, stone by stone, a building that took a lifetime to raise crumbles for want of a little care. The neglect is rarely deliberate. It is simply that a living community has pressing needs — water, work, schools — and an old ruin, however beautiful, wins no argument against them. Beauty, after all, does not feed a hungry family or find a young man work, and so the old walls lose, quietly and year after year, to more urgent claims. Yet something is lost in this indifference that cannot be bought back at any price. A monument is not merely old stone; it is the memory of a people made visible, a link between those who came before and those not yet born. When it falls, the link is broken, and a town that forgets its past has, in a sense, mislaid a part of itself. To preserve such places is not nostalgia. It is the simple refusal to let memory die untended.

Q1. What is the 'usual fate' of these old forts and stepwells?

(a) careful restoration
(b) quiet, unremarked decay
(c) use as museums
(d) total destruction by war

Q2. Why does the neglect happen, according to the author?

(a) people hate old buildings
(b) a living community has more pressing needs
(c) the law forbids repair
(d) the buildings are ugly

Q3. In the passage, 'antiquity' refers to something's —

(a) great age
(b) great beauty
(c) great size
(d) great cost

Q4. A monument, the author argues, is -

(a) the memory of a people made visible
(b) merely old stone
(c) a waste of space
(d) a modern invention

Q5. The author believes that preserving such places is -

(a) mere nostalgia
(b) a refusal to let memory die
(c) a waste of money
(d) unimportant

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (B) The passage says their usual fate is quiet, unremarked decay from neglect.
Q2 (B) Neglect is not deliberate; pressing needs like water and work take priority over ruins.
Q3 (A) 'Of great antiquity' means very old; antiquity here signals great age.
Q4 (A) The passage insists a monument is a people's memory made visible, not just stone.
Q5 (B) The close states preservation is not nostalgia but a refusal to let memory die untended.

TOPPERS' WISDOM
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9 CHAPTER Psychology & Behaviour

Why do people act as they do? Psychology sets out to answer that question by studying the mind and behaviour with the tools of science rather than mere opinion. A great deal of what drives us, it finds, is hidden even from ourselves: habits worn deep by repetition, biases that quietly bend our judgement, and emotions that colour every choice we believe we have made by reason alone. We are pulled partly by reward and partly by meaning; we learn by copying others, by trial and error, and by the steady shaping force of praise and blame. Even memory, we now know, is no faithful recording but is rebuilt a little each time we recall it — which is why honest witnesses disagree, and why the past itself seems to change as we age.

Who we finally become is shaped by both nature and nurture — the genes we inherit and the world that raises us — and psychologists have long argued over how much weight to give each. We are, besides, deeply social creatures: we conform to the group, defer to authority, and behave quite differently in a crowd than we would alone.

Stress, the science shows, is not simply an enemy. In brief bursts it sharpens us; only when it becomes constant does it wear the body and mind down, and mental health is now understood to be inseparable from physical health. Modern psychology studies well-being as closely as illness — asking what makes some people resilient, what deepens attention, and what turns effort into growth. Its central lesson is a humbling one. The self we imagine to be rational, free and firmly in control is, in plain truth, a creature of habit, emotion and circumstance far more than we like to admit.

लोग जैसा करते हैं वैसा क्यों करते हैं? मनोविज्ञान इस प्रश्न का उत्तर केवल राय से नहीं, बल्कि विज्ञान के साधनों से मन और व्यवहार का अध्ययन करके देना चाहता है। वह पाता है कि हमें चलाने वाली बहुत-सी बातें स्वयं हमसे भी छिपी होती हैं: दोहराव से गहरी पड़ी आदतें, वे पूर्वाग्रह जो चुपचाप हमारे निर्णय को मोड़ देते हैं, और वे भावनाएँ जो हर उस चुनाव को रंग देती हैं जिसे हम केवल तर्क से किया मानते हैं। हम आंशिक रूप से पुरस्कार से और आंशिक रूप से अर्थ से खिंचते हैं; हम दूसरों की नकल से, प्रयास और भूल से, तथा प्रशंसा और निंदा की शक्ति से सीखते हैं। अब हम जानते हैं कि स्मृति भी कोई विश्वसनीय अभिलेख नहीं, बल्कि हर बार याद करते समय थोड़ी-थोड़ी पुनर्निर्मित होती है - इसीलिए ईमानदार गवाह भी असहमत होते हैं।

हम अंततः जो बनते हैं वह प्रकृति और परवरिश दोनों से गढ़ा जाता है - विरासत में मिले जीन और वह संसार जो हमें पालता है - और मनोवैज्ञानिक लंबे समय से बहस करते रहे हैं कि किसे कितना महत्व दें। इसके अलावा हम गहरे सामाजिक प्राणी हैं: हम समूह के अनुरूप ढलते हैं, सत्ता के आगे झुकते हैं, और भीड़ में अकेले से भिन्न व्यवहार करते हैं।

तनाव, विज्ञान दिखाता है, केवल शत्रु नहीं है। थोड़ी देर के लिए वह हमें तेज करता है; केवल जब वह निरंतर हो जाए तभी शरीर और मन को घिसता है, और मानसिक स्वास्थ्य अब शारीरिक स्वास्थ्य से अभिन्न माना जाता है। आधुनिक मनोविज्ञान रोग की तरह ही कल्याण का भी अध्ययन करता है। इसका केंद्रीय पाठ विनम्र करने वाला है: जिस स्व को हम तर्कसंगत, स्वतंत्र और पूरी तरह नियंत्रण में मानते हैं, वह वास्तव में आदत, भावना और परिस्थिति का प्राणी है, जितना हम स्वीकार करना चाहते हैं उससे कहीं अधिक।

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY:-

Motivation	The inner force that drives us to act	अभिप्रेरणा, प्रेरणा
Bias	An unfair leaning that distorts judgement	पूर्वाग्रह, झुकाव
Resilient	Able to recover quickly from hardship	लचीला, सहनशील
Impulsive	Acting suddenly, without thinking	आवेगी, उतावला
Introspection	The examining of one's own thoughts	आत्मनिरीक्षण
Disposition	A person's natural qualities of mind	स्वभाव, प्रवृत्ति
Reinforce	To strengthen a behaviour by reward	पुष्ट करना, दृढ़ करना
Subconscious	The part of the mind below awareness	अवचेतन

Inherent	Existing as a natural, inborn part	अंतर्निहित, सहज
Deliberate	Done on purpose, after thought	सोच-समझकर किया गया
Innate	Present from birth; not learned	जन्मजात, नैसर्गिक
Temperament	A person's usual emotional nature	मिजाज, स्वभाव
Compulsive	Hard to control or resist	बाध्यकारी, विवश करने वाला
Aversion	A strong feeling of dislike	विमुखता, अरुचि
Suppress	To hold back a thought or feeling	दबाना, रोकना
Elicit	To draw out a reaction or answer	उत्पन्न करना, निकालना

***TECHNICAL TERMS & JARGON*:-**

Cognition	The mental process of gaining knowledge	संज्ञान, बोध
Conditioning	Learning to link one thing with another	अनुकूलन
Reinforcement	A reward or result that shapes behaviour	प्रबलन
Cognitive bias	A systematic error in the way we think	संज्ञानात्मक पूर्वाग्रह
Perception	The interpreting of what the senses take in	प्रत्यक्षण, बोध
Memory	The storing and recalling of information	स्मृति
Stimulus	Anything that provokes a reaction	उद्दीपन, प्रेरक
Neuroplasticity	The brain's power to rewire itself	तंत्रिका-लचीलापन
Stress response	The body's reaction to a threat	तनाव-प्रतिक्रिया
Behaviourism	The study of observable behaviour	व्यवहारवाद
Emotional intelligence	The skill of managing one's emotions	भावनात्मक बुद्धि
Attention span	The length of time one can stay focused	ध्यान अवधि
Habit loop	The cue–routine–reward cycle of a habit	आदत चक्र
Nature vs nurture	The debate of genes against upbringing	प्रकृति बनाम परवरिश
Conformity	Matching one's behaviour to a group	अनुरूपता
Cognitive dissonance	The discomfort of holding clashing beliefs	संज्ञानात्मक असंगति
Resilience	The capacity to recover from stress	अनुकूलन-क्षमता, लचीलापन
Placebo	A harmless dummy treatment that yet works	प्लेसीबो, छद्म औषधि
Phobia	An intense, irrational fear	भय-ग्रंथि, फोबिया
Self-esteem	A person's sense of their own worth	आत्म-सम्मान
Empathy	The sharing of another's feelings	सहानुभूति
Intrinsic motivation	Doing a thing for its own sake	आंतरिक अभिप्रेरणा
Catharsis	The release of built-up emotion	भावविरेचन, रेचन
Perception bias	A slanted way of seeing things	बोध-पूर्वाग्रह
Instinct	An inborn tendency to behave a certain way	सहजवृत्ति, अंत:प्रेरणा
Motive	The reason behind an action	उद्देश्य, हेतु
Unconscious	The part of the mind we are not aware of	अचेतन
Intelligence quotient	A score meant to measure intelligence	बुद्धि-लब्धि (IQ)
Personality	The set of traits that make a person distinct	व्यक्तित्व
Anxiety	A feeling of worry, nervousness or unease	चिंता, व्यग्रता
Introvert	A person who prefers solitude to socialising	अंतर्मुखी
Extrovert	An outgoing, socially confident person	बहिर्मुखी

PRACTICE PASSAGE - 1

We like to imagine that we form our opinions by weighing the evidence, but the mind is quietly at work against us. Once a belief has taken hold, we begin, without noticing, to seek out whatever supports it and to brush aside whatever does not. A person convinced that a certain remedy works will remember the times it seemed to help and quietly forget the times it did not; a reader certain of his politics will find the newspaper that agrees with him wise, and the one that disagrees foolish. We do not do this on purpose, and that is the trouble; the sifting goes on in silence and feels, from within, entirely fair and reasonable. Psychologists call this tendency confirmation bias, and no one is wholly free of it. It feels, from the inside, exactly like clear thinking. That is what makes it so dangerous. The remedy is not to pretend we are perfectly rational, which we are not, but to build the habit of actively seeking the evidence that might prove us wrong — and of trusting a conclusion a little more once it has survived that harder test.

Q1. The passage is chiefly about -

(a) how to read a newspaper
(b) a hidden flaw in how we form opinions
(c) the benefits of remedies
(d) the study of politics

Q2. A person who believes a remedy works will tend to -

(a) remember its failures
(b) remember its successes and forget its failures
(c) stop using it
(d) test it fairly

Q3. In the passage, 'confirmation bias' names the tendency to -

(a) change one's beliefs often
(b) favour evidence that supports what we already believe
(c) think perfectly rationally
(d) distrust all newspapers

Q4. Why is this tendency called 'so dangerous'?

(a) it is rare
(b) it feels exactly like clear thinking
(c) it is easy to see
(d) it harms no one

Q5. The remedy the author suggests is to —

(a) pretend we are fully rational
(b) seek out evidence that might prove us wrong
(c) trust our first opinion
(d) avoid all evidence

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (B) It describes confirmation bias, a flaw in how we reach and hold opinions.
Q2 (B) The example shows we recall supporting cases and forget the rest.
Q3 (B) Confirmation bias is defined as seeking support for a held belief and dismissing the rest.
Q4 (B) From the inside it feels like clear thinking, which hides it from us — hence its danger.
Q5 (B) The close urges actively seeking disconfirming evidence and trusting conclusions that survive it.

PRACTICE PASSAGE 2

In a well-known kind of medical experiment, some patients are given a real drug and others a mere sugar pill, made to look identical but containing nothing of any medical value. Strangely, a good number of those who receive the sugar pill get better all the same. They have been given nothing that could act upon their illness in any way, and yet their pain eases and their symptoms fade, purely, it appears, because they believe that help has arrived. This is the placebo effect, and far from being a trick or an error, it is one of the most revealing facts in all of medicine. It shows that the mind is not a bystander to the body's health but a genuine participant in it: belief alone, the simple expectation of relief, can ease real pain and quicken real recovery. The effect has its limits, of course — no expectation will mend a broken bone or cure an infection. But it stands as firm evidence for something older healers always suspected and modern medicine is only now measuring: that how a patient thinks and feels is not separate from how a patient heals.

Q1. What is a 'sugar pill' in the experiment described?

(a) a powerful new drug
(b) a dummy pill with no medical value
(c) a vitamin supplement
(d) a painkiller

Q2. The word 'placebo' in the passage refers to -

(a) a real, active drug
(b) a harmless dummy treatment that still helps
(c) a type of infection
(d) a broken bone

Q3. What does the placebo effect reveal about the mind?

(a) it has no effect on the body
(b) it takes real part in the body's healing
(c) it always cures disease
(d) it causes illness

Q4. What limit of the effect is admitted?

(a) it cures everything
(b) it cannot mend a broken bone or cure infection
(c) it works only on the young
(d) it never works

Q5. The main idea of the passage is that -

(a) medicine is a trick
(b) how a patient thinks affects how they heal
(c) sugar pills are dangerous
(d) belief cures all disease

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (B) It is described as a pill made to look real but containing nothing of medical value.
Q2 (B) The placebo is the sugar pill — a harmless dummy treatment that nonetheless produces improvement.
Q3 (B) The passage says it shows the mind is a genuine participant in the body's health.
Q4 (B) The author grants that no expectation will heal a broken bone or an infection.
Q5 (B) The close states that a patient's thoughts and feelings are not separate from their healing.

TOPPERS' WISDOM
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10 CHAPTER Education & Learning

Education is the great inheritance a society hands to its young — the passing on of its knowledge, its skills and its values from one generation to the next. For most of human history it was the privilege of a fortunate few; only in our own age has it come to be seen as the right of all, and as the single strongest ladder by which a person may climb out of poverty. Yet what education should actually do, and how, remains sharply contested. The older idea prized memory and obedience, treating the child's mind as an empty vessel to be filled. The newer view sees the learner as active, and education not as filling but as drawing out — the awakening of curiosity, judgement, and the power to think for oneself.

Access to schooling has widened enormously, and that is a real triumph; but quality has lagged badly behind. In many places children sit in classrooms for years and still cannot read a simple paragraph or work a simple sum, and the gap falls hardest, as always, on the poor, the rural and the girl child.

Technology now promises to personalise learning and carry it to the remotest village, and its promise is real. But a glowing screen is no substitute for a good teacher, and the same digital tools can widen the very gaps they were meant to close. Through all these debates one truth holds firm. The deepest purpose of education was never merely to produce workers for an economy. It is to form citizens — people able to reason, to question what they are told, and to go on learning long after the last classroom has been left behind. Learning, rightly understood, is not the task of a childhood but the work of a whole life.

शिक्षा वह महान विरासत है जो समाज अपने युवाओं को सौंपता है – अपने ज्ञान, अपने कौशल और अपने मूल्यों का एक पीढ़ी से दूसरी तक हस्तांतरण। मानव इतिहास के अधिकांश समय यह कुछ भाग्यशाली लोगों का विशेषाधिकार रही; केवल हमारे युग में यह सबका अधिकार मानी गई, और वह सबसे मजबूत सीढ़ी जिससे कोई व्यक्ति गरीबी से ऊपर उठ सकता है। फिर भी शिक्षा को वास्तव में क्या करना चाहिए, और कैसे, यह अब भी विवादास्पद है। पुराना विचार स्मृति और आज्ञाकारिता को महत्व देता था, बालक के मन को एक खाली पात्र मानकर जिसे भरना है। नया दृष्टिकोण सीखने वाले को सक्रिय मानता है, और शिक्षा को भरना नहीं बल्कि निकालना – जिज्ञासा, विवेक और स्वयं सोचने की शक्ति का जागरण।

विद्यालय तक पहुँच बहुत बढ़ी है, और यह सच्ची उपलब्धि है; पर गुणवत्ता बुरी तरह पीछे रह गई है। कई जगह बच्चे वर्षों कक्षा में बैठते हैं और फिर भी एक साधारण अनुच्छेद नहीं पढ़ पाते या एक साधारण जोड़ नहीं कर पाते, और यह खाई सबसे अधिक गरीब, ग्रामीण और बालिकाओं पर पड़ती है।

प्रौद्योगिकी अब सीखने को वैयक्तिक बनाने और सुदूर गाँव तक पहुँचाने का वादा करती है, और यह वादा सच्चा है। पर एक चमकती स्क्रीन अच्छे शिक्षक का विकल्प नहीं, और वही डिजिटल साधन उन्हीं खाइयों को चौड़ा कर सकते हैं जिन्हें पाटना था। इन सब बहसों के बीच एक सत्य दृढ़ रहता है। शिक्षा का सबसे गहरा उद्देश्य कभी केवल अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए मजदूर तैयार करना नहीं था। यह नागरिक गढ़ना है – ऐसे लोग जो तर्क कर सकें, जो कहा जाए उस पर प्रश्न कर सकें, और अंतिम कक्षा छूट जाने के बाद भी सीखते रहें।

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY:-

Rote	Mere repetition, without understanding	रटंत, यंत्रवत दोहराव
Foster	To encourage the growth of something	बढ़ावा देना, पोषित करना
Competent	Having the skill to do something well	सक्षम, योग्य
Inculcate	To fix an idea in the mind by teaching	मन में बैठाना, संस्कार डालना
Literate	Able to read and write	साक्षर
Inquisitive	Eager to learn; curious	जिज्ञासु
Comprehend	To understand fully	समझना, बोध होना
Enlighten	To give knowledge or understanding to	ज्ञान देना, प्रबुद्ध करना
Diligent	Hardworking and careful	परिश्रमी, मेहनती

Retain	To keep in the memory	स्मरण रखना, धारण करना
Articulate	Able to express ideas clearly	सुव्यक्त, स्पष्टवक्ता
Nurture	To care for and help develop	पालन-पोषण करना, संवारना
Contested	Argued about; disputed	विवादित
Innate	Inborn; existing from birth	जन्मजात
Perceptive	Quick to notice and understand	सूक्ष्मदर्शी, समझदार
Proficient	Skilled and well-practised	प्रवीण, निपुण
Grasp	To understand something firmly	पकड़ना, समझ लेना

***TECHNICAL TERMS & JARGON*:-**

Pedagogy	The art and science of teaching	शिक्षण-कला, शिक्षाशास्त्र
Curriculum	The planned course of study in a school	पाठ्यक्रम
Literacy	The ability to read and write	साक्षरता
Numeracy	The ability to work with numbers	संख्यात्मकता, अंकज्ञान
Rote learning	Learning by repetition without understanding	रटकर सीखना
Critical thinking	Careful, reasoned analysis of ideas	आलोचनात्मक चिंतन
Assessment	The measuring of what a learner has learnt	मूल्यांकन
Vocational training	Teaching the skills for a particular trade	व्यावसायिक प्रशिक्षण
Inclusive education	Schooling that serves every kind of learner	समावेशी शिक्षा
E-learning	Learning delivered through digital technology	ई-अधिगम, ऑनलाइन शिक्षा
Aptitude	A natural capacity to learn a thing	अभिक्षमता
Enrolment	The act of registering as a student	नामांकन
Dropout rate	The share of students who leave school early	अपव्यय दर, ड्रॉपआउट दर
Cognition	The mental process of learning and knowing	संज्ञान
Experiential learning	Learning by direct, hands-on experience	अनुभवजन्य अधिगम
Formative assessment	Ongoing checks made during learning	रचनात्मक मूल्यांकन
Lifelong learning	Continued learning throughout one's life	आजीवन अधिगम
Cognitive development	The growth of a child's thinking ability	संज्ञानात्मक विकास
Blended learning	Mixing online study with classroom study	मिश्रित अधिगम
Holistic education	The developing of the whole person	समग्र शिक्षा
Gross enrolment ratio	Total enrolment as a share of the age group	सकल नामांकन अनुपात
Learning outcome	What a learner should be able to do	अधिगम प्रतिफल
Mother tongue	The first language a child learns at home	मातृभाषा
Scaffolding	The support a teacher gives while a skill is learnt	अधिगम-सहारा
Compulsory education	Schooling required by law up to an age	अनिवार्य शिक्षा
Differentiated instruction	Teaching pitched to each learner's level	विभेदित शिक्षण
Syllabus	The list of topics to be studied in a course	पाठ्यविवरण, सिलेबस
Summative assessment	A final test of what has been learnt	योगात्मक मूल्यांकन
Distance learning	Study carried out away from a school or college	दूरस्थ शिक्षा
Co-curricular	Activities that go alongside the main studies	सह-पाठ्यक्रम
Higher education	Education beyond school, as at a university	उच्च शिक्षा

PRACTICE PASSAGE - 1

A child who has learnt the multiplication tables by heart can answer 'seven eights' in an instant, and we are pleased. But ask that same child why seven eights should come to fifty-six, or set the sum in a shape he has not seen before, and the fluent answer often dries up at once. This is the difference between rote learning and real understanding, and it is easy to mistake the first for the second. Repetition can fix a fact in the memory, and there is a place for that; some things must simply be known. But a fact held by rote alone sits in the mind like a stone, unconnected to anything, useless the moment the question is turned around. Understanding is different in kind. It links the new to the known, so that a learner who has grasped why a rule holds can rebuild it when he has forgotten it, and apply it where he has never seen it before. The aim of good teaching is not to fill the memory but to build those living connections.

Q1. The passage draws a contrast between -

(a) rote learning and real understanding (b) teachers and students
(c) reading and writing (d) school and home

Q2. What happens when the sum is set 'in a shape he has not seen before'?

(a) the child answers faster (b) the fluent answer often dries up
(c) the child refuses (d) the answer is always right

Q3. In the passage, 'rote' learning means learning by -

(a) understanding the reasons (b) asking questions
(c) repetition without understanding (d) direct experience

Q4. A fact held by rote alone is compared to -

(a) a living connection (b) a strong ladder
(c) a bright light (d) a stone in the mind

Q5. The aim of good teaching, the author says, is to -

(a) fill the memory with facts (b) build living connections between ideas
(c) speed up answers (d) test the tables

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (A) Its whole point is the difference between memorised facts and genuine understanding.
Q2 (B) A rote answer fails when the question is turned around into an unfamiliar form.
Q3 (C) Rote is contrasted with understanding — it is repetition that fixes a fact but not its meaning.
Q4 (D) The passage likens such a fact to 'a stone' — inert and unconnected.
Q5 (B) The close states the aim is not to fill memory but to build living connections.

PRACTICE PASSAGE 2

For many years the great goal in education was simply to get children into school, and by that measure the world has succeeded beyond all expectation; classrooms that once stood empty are now full. Getting the world's children through the school gates was a genuine and hard-won achievement, and for a while it was simply assumed that learning would follow of its own accord once they were inside. But a hard and uncomfortable truth has surfaced behind this triumph. Attendance is not the same as learning. Surveys across many poor regions have found children who have sat in school for four or five years and yet cannot read a simple sentence or do basic arithmetic — a gap so wide that experts have begun to call it not a lack of schooling but a lack of true literacy. The reasons are many: classes too large, teachers too few or too often absent, and a syllabus that races ahead of the children who cannot keep up. The remedy is not more buildings but better teaching — the patient, unglamorous work of making sure that a child in a classroom is actually learning, and not merely present.

Q1. The 'hard and uncomfortable truth' in the passage is that -

(a) schools are empty (b) attendance is not the same as learning
(c) children dislike school (d) there are too few schools

Q2. What have surveys in poor regions found?

(a) all children read well (b) teachers who never leave
(c) schools with no children (d) children who cannot read after years in school

Q3. In the passage, 'literacy' refers to the ability to -

(a) attend school
(b) read and do basic arithmetic
(c) build classrooms
(d) train teachers

Q4. Which is named as a reason for the gap?

(a) classes that are too small
(b) teachers too few or too often absent
(c) too much money
(d) too few subjects

Q5. The remedy, the author argues, is -

(a) more buildings
(b) longer holidays
(c) fewer children
(d) better teaching

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (B) The passage stresses that filling classrooms did not guarantee that learning followed.
Q2 (D) Surveys found children unable to read a simple sentence after four or five years in school.
Q3 (B) Here true literacy means being able to read a sentence and do basic sums.
Q4 (B) The passage lists large classes, absent teachers and a racing syllabus as causes.
Q5 (D) The close says the answer is not more buildings but better, patient teaching.

TOPPERS' WISDOM
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11 CHAPTER Ethics & Philosophy

Philosophy begins in wonder, and in one simple, stubborn question: how ought we to live? Its most practical branch, ethics, narrows this to a sharper edge — what makes an action right, and what makes it wrong? Over the centuries, thinkers have answered in strikingly different ways. Some hold that the goodness of an act lies wholly in its consequences, in producing the greatest happiness for the greatest number. Others insist that certain duties bind us whatever the result — do not lie, do not harm, keep your word — and that a good end can never justify a wicked means. Still others look away from acts altogether and toward character, locating goodness in the slow, patient cultivation of virtues such as honesty, courage and compassion.

These are not idle puzzles for the seminar room. Every genuinely hard choice — in medicine, in business, in public life — is at bottom an ethical one, a weighing of goods that pull against each other, which is why fields from science to law have grown their own branches of applied ethics. A law may be perfectly legal and yet deeply unjust, and conscience sometimes calls us to question the very rules we were handed.

Philosophy reaches wider still, into questions that have no easy floor beneath them: what can we truly know, whether our choices are free or determined in advance, and what, if anything, gives a human life its meaning. On such matters it rarely hands down final answers, and those who come to it expecting certainty are usually disappointed. Its gift is of another kind — the lifelong habit of examining one's own beliefs rather than merely inheriting them, and the rare humility to see how much of what we hold as certain rests, in the end, on foundations we have never once thought to question.

दर्शन विस्मय से आरंभ होता है, और एक सरल, हठी प्रश्न से: हमें कैसे जीना चाहिए? इसकी सबसे व्यावहारिक शाखा, नैतिकता, इसे और तीखा कर देती है - कोई कार्य सही किससे होता है, और गलत किससे? सदियों में विचारकों ने बहुत भिन्न उत्तर दिए हैं। कुछ मानते हैं कि किसी कार्य की भलाई पूरी तरह उसके परिणामों में है - अधिकतम लोगों के लिए अधिकतम सुख उत्पन्न करने में। अन्य कहते हैं कि कुछ कर्तव्य हमें परिणाम चाहे जो हो, बाँधते हैं - झूठ मत बोलो, हानि मत पहुँचाओ, वचन निभाओ - और अच्छा लक्ष्य कभी बुरे साधन को उचित नहीं ठहरा सकता। कुछ और कर्मों से हटकर चरित्र की ओर देखते हैं, और भलाई को ईमानदारी, साहस और करुणा जैसे गुणों के धीमे विकास में पाते हैं।

ये संगोष्ठी-कक्ष की व्यर्थ पहेलियाँ नहीं हैं। हर सचमुच कठिन चुनाव - चिकित्सा में, व्यापार में, सार्वजनिक जीवन में - मूल रूप से एक नैतिक चुनाव है, परस्पर विरोधी भलाइयों को तौलना, इसीलिए विज्ञान से लेकर कानून तक ने अपनी-अपनी व्यावहारिक नैतिकता विकसित की है। कोई कानून पूरी तरह वैध हो सकता है और फिर भी गहरे रूप से अन्यायपूर्ण, और अंतरात्मा कभी-कभी हमें उन्हीं नियमों पर प्रश्न करने को कहती है जो हमें सौंपे गए।

दर्शन और भी दूर तक जाता है, उन प्रश्नों में जिनके नीचे कोई सरल धरातल नहीं: हम सचमुच क्या जान सकते हैं, हमारे चुनाव स्वतंत्र हैं या पहले से निर्धारित, और मानव जीवन को अर्थ, यदि कुछ देता है, तो क्या। ऐसे विषयों पर वह शायद ही अंतिम उत्तर देता है। इसका उपहार दूसरे प्रकार का है - अपनी मान्यताओं को केवल विरासत में लेने के बजाय उनकी जाँच करने की आजीवन आदत, और यह देखने की विरल विनम्रता कि जिसे हम निश्चित मानते हैं उसका कितना भाग उन नींवों पर टिका है जिन पर हमने कभी प्रश्न ही नहीं किया।

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY:-

Integrity	The quality of being honest and whole in morals	सत्यनिष्ठा, ईमानदारी
Rational	Based on clear reasoning	तर्कसंगत, विवेकपूर्ण
Scrutiny	Close and careful examination	गहन जाँच, परीक्षण
Subjective	Depending on personal feeling or view	व्यक्तिपरक, आत्मनिष्ठ
Objective	Not influenced by personal feelings	वस्तुनिष्ठ, निष्पक्ष
Coherent	Logical and consistent	संगत, तर्कसंगत
Inherent	Existing as a natural, essential part	अंतर्निहित, स्वाभाविक

Justify	To show that something is right or reasonable	औचित्य सिद्ध करना
Contemplate	To think about deeply and at length	गहन चिंतन करना
Prudent	Wise and careful in conduct	विवेकी, दूरदर्शी
Dogmatic	Asserting opinions as if they were certain fact	हठधर्मी, कट्टर
Ambiguous	Open to more than one meaning	अस्पष्ट, द्वयर्थक
Discern	To perceive or judge something clearly	विवेक करना, पहचानना
Sceptical	Inclined to doubt what is claimed	संशयी, संदेहशील
Earnest	Sincere and serious in intention	सच्चा, गंभीर

***TECHNICAL TERMS & JARGON*:-**

Ethics	The study of right and wrong conduct	नीतिशास्त्र, आचारशास्त्र
Morality	Principles of good and bad behaviour	नैतिकता
Virtue	A settled trait of good character	सद्गुण
Utilitarianism	The view that the greatest good for the greatest number is right	उपयोगितावाद
Logic	The principles of correct reasoning	तर्कशास्त्र
Reason	The human power of logical thought	तर्क, विवेक
Dilemma	A conflict between two duties or goods	धर्मसंकट
Metaphysics	The study of the ultimate nature of reality	तत्वमीमांसा
Epistemology	The study of knowledge and how we know	ज्ञानमीमांसा
Free will	The power to choose one's own actions	स्वतंत्र इच्छा
Determinism	The view that all events are already caused	नियतिवाद, निश्चयवाद
Relativism	The view that truth varies by point of view	सापेक्षवाद
Paradox	A statement that seems self-contradictory yet true	विरोधाभास
Conscience	The inner sense of right and wrong	अंतरात्मा, विवेक
Deontology	Ethics grounded in duty and rules	कर्तव्यवाद
Altruism	Unselfish regard for others	परोपकारिता
Existentialism	The search for meaning in a free, uncertain life	अस्तित्ववाद
Empiricism	The view that knowledge comes from experience	अनुभववाद
Rationalism	The view that knowledge comes from reason	बुद्धिवाद, विवेकवाद
Hedonism	The pursuit of pleasure as the highest good	सुखवाद
Scepticism	The questioning of accepted certainties	संशयवाद
Moral relativism	The view that morality differs by culture	नैतिक सापेक्षवाद
Stoicism	Calm endurance and control of one's desires	स्थितप्रज्ञता, स्टोइकवाद
Nihilism	The belief that life has no inherent meaning	शून्यवाद
Fallacy	A mistake in reasoning	तर्कदोष, भ्रांति
Syllogism	An argument with two premises and a conclusion	न्याय-वाक्य, अनुमान
Pragmatism	Judging ideas by their practical results	व्यवहारवाद
Idealism	The view that reality is essentially mental	आदर्शवाद
Materialism	The view that only matter truly exists	भौतिकवाद

PRACTICE PASSAGE - 1

Imagine a runaway trolley speeding toward five people tied to the track, who will surely die unless it is stopped. You stand beside a lever; pull it, and the trolley switches to a side track where it will kill only one. Do you pull it? Most people say yes without much hesitation: one death is a smaller evil than five. But now change a single detail. The only way to stop the trolley is to push a large stranger off a bridge into its path, killing him to save the five. The arithmetic is identical — one life for five — yet almost everyone now refuses. This famous puzzle exposes a deep crack in how we judge right and wrong. By the cold logic of consequences, the two cases are the same; but something in us insists that actively pushing a man to his death is different from merely diverting a danger. Philosophers have argued over it for decades without full agreement. Its value is not that it yields an answer, but that it forces us to see how tangled, and how little understood, our own moral instincts really are.

Q1. In the first case, what do most people choose to do?

(a) pull the lever to save five
(b) refuse to act
(c) free the one person
(d) push a stranger

Q2. Why do people refuse in the second case?

(a) pushing a man feels different from diverting a danger
(b) the maths is different
(c) five lives are less important
(d) the trolley cannot be stopped

Q3. The word 'arithmetic' here refers to the -

(a) speed of the trolley
(b) counting of lives lost and saved
(c) design of the track
(d) weight of the stranger

Q4. The puzzle mainly exposes -

(a) a flaw in trolleys
(b) a crack in how we judge right and wrong
(c) the danger of bridges
(d) the need for levers

Q5. The author says the puzzle's value is that it -

(a) gives a clear answer
(b) forces us to see how tangled our instincts are
(c) proves consequences do not matter
(d) settles the debate

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (A) Most pull the lever, judging one death a smaller evil than five.
Q2 (A) Though the arithmetic is identical, actively pushing a man feels morally different.
Q3 (B) 'The arithmetic is identical — one life for five' means the counting of lives.
Q4 (B) It reveals a deep inconsistency in our moral judgements.
Q5 (B) Its worth is not an answer but making us see how little we understand our own instincts.

PRACTICE PASSAGE 2

Few ideas divide thinkers as sharply as the question of free will. When you choose tea over coffee, or tell the truth when a lie would serve you better, it feels beyond doubt that you could have chosen otherwise — that the decision was truly yours. Yet there is a troubling argument on the other side. Every choice you make is produced by your brain, and your brain is a physical thing, shaped by genes you did not pick and experiences you did not arrange, obeying the same laws of cause and effect as everything else in nature. If that is so, some philosophers argue, then your sense of free choice may be an illusion, and every act, however free it feels, was in truth determined long before you were aware of deciding. This position is called determinism, and its implications are unsettling, for our whole practice of praise, blame and punishment seems to rest on the belief that people could have acted differently. Most of us live as though we are free, and perhaps we must; but the argument is far harder to dismiss than it first appears.

Q1. When you make a choice, what does it feel like?

(a) that you could have chosen otherwise
(b) that you had no say
(c) that others decided for you
(d) that choice is impossible

Q2. What is the 'troubling argument on the other side'?

(a) choices are made by chance
(b) the brain obeys cause and effect like all nature
(c) free will is obvious
(d) the future is unknown

Q3. The word 'determinism' in the passage names the view that -

(a) all acts are freely chosen
(b) every act is already caused in advance
(c) nothing can be known
(d) morality is a myth

Q4. Why are its implications 'unsettling'?

(a) they make choice easy
(b) they prove free will
(c) praise, blame and punishment assume we could act differently
(d) they end all debate

Q5. The author's final view of the argument is that it is —

(a) easily dismissed
(b) of no importance
(c) clearly false
(d) harder to dismiss than it first appears

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (A) The passage says it feels beyond doubt that the decision was truly yours.
Q2 (B) It argues the brain is physical and law-bound, so choice may be pre-caused.
Q3 (B) Determinism is defined as the view that every act was determined beforehand.
Q4 (C) Our practice of praise and blame rests on the belief that people could have acted otherwise.
Q5 (D) The close says the argument is far harder to dismiss than it first seems.

TOPPERS' WISDOM
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12 CHAPTER Business & Management

Business is the engine that turns ideas into goods, and human effort into a livelihood. At its simplest it begins with an entrepreneur — someone who spots a need others have missed, gathers the money, people and materials to meet it, shoulders the risk of failure, and offers the world something it is willing to pay for. Around this small, brave act has grown the vast and intricate machinery of management: the art of coordinating people, money and time toward a shared goal. A capable manager plans, organises, motivates and measures; a true leader does all that and something more, setting a direction and winning others willingly to it.

Markets are a stern teacher. They reward those who create real value and punish those who waste it — though never quite fairly, and rarely at once. Competition drives firms to improve, to innovate and to cut their costs, which benefits us all; yet the same relentless pursuit of profit, if left wholly unchecked, can tempt a company to cut dangerous corners as well.

The modern firm therefore lives in a constant tension between two masters: the shareholders who demand returns, and the wider society whose trust it must keep. To make money and to deserve it are not always the same thing, and the duty a company owes beyond its own profit is now discussed under the name of corporate social responsibility. Reputation, once an afterthought, has become as valuable as any factory or patent. Enterprises rise and fall with bewildering speed, but the underlying skills endure and can be learnt: to see an opportunity where others see none, to organise willing people around it, and to adapt, always, a little faster than the world is changing around you.

व्यवसाय वह इंजन है जो विचारों को वस्तुओं में और मानव-श्रम को जीविका में बदलता है। सरलतम रूप में यह एक उद्यमी से आरंभ होता है - वह जो किसी ऐसी जरूरत को पहचानता है जिसे औरों ने अनदेखा किया, उसे पूरा करने के लिए धन, लोग और सामग्री जुटाता है, असफलता का जोखिम उठाता है, और संसार को कुछ ऐसा देता है जिसके लिए वह भुगतान को तैयार हो। इस छोटे, साहसी कार्य के चारों ओर प्रबंधन की विशाल मशीनरी विकसित हुई है: लोगों, धन और समय को एक साझा लक्ष्य की ओर समन्वित करने की कला। एक कुशल प्रबंधक योजना बनाता, संगठित करता, प्रेरित करता और मापता है; एक सच्चा नेता यह सब करता है और कुछ अधिक भी - दिशा तय करता और औरों को स्वेच्छा से साथ जोड़ता है।

बाजार कठोर शिक्षक हैं। वे उन्हें पुरस्कृत करते हैं जो वास्तविक मूल्य बनाते हैं और उन्हें दंड देते हैं जो उसे बर्बाद करते हैं - यद्यपि कभी पूरी तरह निष्पक्षता से नहीं, और शायद ही तुरंत। प्रतिस्पर्धा कंपनियों को सुधार, नवाचार और लागत घटाने को बाध्य करती है, जिससे सबका लाभ होता है; फिर भी लाभ की वही निरंतर दौड़, यदि पूरी तरह अनियंत्रित छोड़ दी जाए, किसी कंपनी को खतरनाक रास्ते अपनाने के लिए भी लुभा सकती है।

इसलिए आधुनिक कंपनी दो स्वामियों के बीच निरंतर तनाव में रहती है: वे शेयरधारक जो प्रतिफल माँगते हैं, और वह व्यापक समाज जिसका विश्वास उसे बनाए रखना है। धन कमाना और उसका पात्र होना सदा एक ही बात नहीं, और अपने लाभ से परे कंपनी का जो कर्तव्य है उसे अब कॉर्पोरेट सामाजिक उत्तरदायित्व कहा जाता है। प्रतिष्ठा, जो कभी गौण थी, अब किसी कारखाने या पेटेंट जितनी मूल्यवान हो गई है।

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY:-

Venture	A new business involving risk	उद्यम, जोखिमपूर्ण कार्य
Lucrative	Producing a large profit	लाभदायक, मुनाफे वाला
Strategy	A careful plan to achieve a goal	रणनीति, कार्यनीति
Delegate	To give a task or power to another	सौंपना, प्रत्यायोजित करना
Incentive	A reward that motivates action	प्रोत्साहन, प्रलोभन
Viable	Capable of working successfully	व्यवहार्य, टिकाऊ
Streamline	To make a process simpler and more efficient	सुव्यवस्थित करना
Diversify	To spread into varied products or areas	विविधीकरण करना
Leverage	To use something to greatest advantage	लाभ के लिए उपयोग करना

Resilient	Able to recover from setbacks	लचीला, सहनशील
Collaborate	To work jointly with others	सहयोग करना
Pragmatic	Dealing with things in a practical way	व्यावहारिक
Acumen	Keen skill in judgement, esp. Business	सूझबूझ, कुशाग्रता
Solvent	Able to pay one's debts	शोधक्षम, ऋण चुकाने योग्य
Consolidate	To combine and make stronger	सुदृढ़ करना, एकीकृत करना
Forecast	To predict a future trend	पूर्वानुमान करना
Frugal	Careful and sparing with money	किफायती, मितव्ययी
Shrewd	Sharp and clever in practical matters	चतुर, दूरदर्शी

***TECHNICAL TERMS & JARGON*:-**

Entrepreneur	A person who starts and runs a new business	उद्यमी
Stakeholder	Anyone with an interest in a firm's success	हितधारक
Revenue	The income a business earns from sales	राजस्व, आय
Profit margin	Profit shown as a share of revenue	लाभ मार्जिन
Market share	A firm's portion of total sales in a market	बाजार हिस्सेदारी
Supply chain	The network that makes and delivers a product	आपूर्ति श्रृंखला
Branding	The building of a product's identity	ब्रांडिंग
Productivity	The output produced per unit of input	उत्पादकता
Startup	A young, fast-growing new company	स्टार्टअप, नवोद्यम
Merger	The joining of two firms into one	विलय
Competitive advantage	An edge that lets a firm beat rivals	प्रतिस्पर्धी लाभ
Corporate governance	The rules for how a company is run	कॉर्पोरेट अभिशासन
Monopoly	Control of an entire market by one seller	एकाधिकार
Overheads	The fixed, ongoing costs of running a business	स्थायी व्यय, ऊपरी लागत
Innovation	The turning of a new idea into value	नवाचार
Corporate social responsibility	A firm's duty toward society	कॉर्पोरेट सामाजिक उत्तरदायित्व
Cash flow	The money moving into and out of a business	नकदी प्रवाह
Insolvency	The state of being unable to pay debts	दिवालियापन
Return on investment	The gain earned relative to the cost	निवेश पर प्रतिफल
Market segmentation	Dividing buyers into distinct groups	बाजार विभाजन
Niche market	A small, specialised part of a market	विशिष्ट बाजार, आला बाजार
Break-even point	Where total revenue just equals total cost	लाभ-अलाभ बिंदु
Liability	A debt or legal obligation of a firm	देयता, दायित्व
Scalability	The ability to grow without breaking down	मापनीयता, विस्तार-क्षमता
Asset	Anything of value that a firm owns	परिसंपत्ति, संपत्ति
Equity	The owners' share in a company	इक्विटी, स्वामित्व अंश
Dividend	A share of profit paid to shareholders	लाभांश
Initial public offering	A company's first sale of shares to the public	आरंभिक सार्वजनिक निर्गम (IPO)
Venture capital	Money invested in risky new firms	उद्यम पूँजी
Oligopoly	A market controlled by a few large sellers	अल्पाधिकार

PRACTICE PASSAGE - 1

We celebrate the successful entrepreneur as a kind of hero, and rightly so, but we tell only the last chapter of the story. Behind almost every founder who built something lasting lie a string of earlier failures that no one remembers. We see only the summit and forget the long, stumbling climb, though it was the climb itself, and never the view, that slowly made the climber. The venture that ran out of money, the clever product no one wanted to buy, the partnership that broke apart — these are not the opposite of success but very often the road to it. In a healthy business culture, failure is not a mark of shame but a tuition fee, the price paid for a lesson that could be learnt no other way. This is why the fear of failing is so quietly destructive: it stops people from ever beginning. The founder who has failed twice and tried again has learnt what the cautious onlooker never will. A society that punishes honest failure too harshly does not, as it imagines, protect itself from waste. It merely ensures that fewer people will ever dare to build anything at all.

Q1. What part of the entrepreneur's story do we usually tell?

(a) the early failures
(b) the partnership quarrels
(c) the whole journey
(d) only the last, successful chapter

Q2. How does the author describe earlier failures?

(a) the opposite of success
(b) very often the road to success
(c) a permanent disgrace
(d) a waste of time

Q3. In the passage, the word 'venture' refers to -

(a) a clever onlooker
(b) a risky business undertaking
(c) a tuition fee
(d) a lasting success

Q4. Failure is compared to a -

(a) tuition fee
(b) mark of shame
(c) broken partnership
(d) clever product

Q5. A society that punishes honest failure too harshly -

(a) protects itself from waste
(b) produces more founders
(c) ensures fewer people dare to build
(d) becomes wealthier

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (D) The passage opens by contrasting the private misfortune of the past with today's shared shocks.
Q2 (B) It is defined as connecting the world's economies through trade, travel and communication.
Q3 (B) Benefits listed include cheaper goods, spreading ideas and poverty reduced.
Q4 (A) Deep interdependence means no nation, however powerful, can stand alone.
Q5 (C) The close states problems are global while politics remains national, and the two clash.

PRACTICE PASSAGE 2

For a long time the purpose of a company was thought to be settled and simple: to make as much money as possible for those who owned it. Anything else was a distraction. That comfortable certainty is now under serious question. A firm does not operate in a vacuum; it draws workers from a community, resources from the earth, and custom from the public, and each of these is a stakeholder in what it does, with an interest that a narrow focus on profit can quietly harm. A factory may enrich its shareholders for a decade while poisoning the river its neighbours drink from — a gain on the balance sheet bought with a loss that never appears there. The newer view, gathered under the phrase corporate social responsibility, holds that a business must answer not only to its owners but to all whom it affects. Critics call this soft-headed and warn it will blunt the drive that makes firms efficient. Its defenders reply that a company which destroys the society around it is, in the long run, sawing off the branch on which it sits.

Q1. What was long thought to be a company's purpose?

(a) to protect the river
(b) to make as much money as possible for owners
(c) to employ everyone
(d) to obey the public

Q2. In the passage, a 'stakeholder' is anyone who -

(a) owns the company alone
(b) has an interest in what the firm does
(c) competes with the firm
(d) dislikes business

Q3. The factory example shows a gain -

(a) that helps everyone
(b) bought with a loss that never appears on the balance sheet
(c) with no cost at all
(d) that ruins the shareholders

Q4. What do critics say about corporate social responsibility?

(a) it makes firms richer
(b) it is soft-headed and blunts efficiency
(c) it is legally required
(d) it destroys society

Q5. Its defenders argue that harming society is like -

(a) watering a plant
(b) sawing off the branch one sits on
(c) building a factory
(d) paying a fee

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (A) The old view held the sole purpose was maximising profit for owners.
Q2 (B) Workers, the community and the public are named as stakeholders with an interest.
Q3 (B) Enriching shareholders while poisoning the river is a gain bought with an unrecorded loss.
Q4 (B) Critics call it soft-headed and warn it will blunt the drive that makes firms efficient.
Q5 (A) Defenders say such a firm is, in the long run, sawing off the branch it sits on.

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13 CHAPTER

Law & Business

The law is the set of rules a society agrees to live by, and justice is the ideal those rules are meant to serve. In most modern states the two are kept in motion by a clear division of labour: an elected legislature makes the laws, an executive applies them, and courts interpret them and settle the disputes that arise. When a quarrel breaks out, it is decided not by force or by wealth but by procedure — evidence is gathered and weighed, both sides are heard, and a judge reaches a verdict according to the law and the facts before him.

Two great principles hold the whole structure up. The first is that everyone stands equal before the law, the powerful no less bound by it than the humble. The second is that a person is presumed innocent until proven guilty, so that the burden of proof rests on the accuser and not on the accused. Law itself divides broadly into two streams — criminal law, which punishes offences against society as a whole, and civil law, which resolves disputes between private parties.

Yet law and justice, though they travel together, are not the same. A law can be perfectly legal and still be deeply unjust, and history is full of wicked laws overturned at last by those brave enough to defy them. There is, too, the hard problem of access: justice delayed is justice denied, and the poor often cannot afford the lawyers and the long waiting that the wealthy can absorb without pain. Above it all stands one fragile, precious idea — the rule of law, the insistence that power itself, the government's power most of all, must bow to the law rather than stand above it. It is the thin thread on which every free society finally hangs.

कानून वे नियम हैं जिन पर चलने को समाज सहमत होता है, और न्याय वह आदर्श है जिसकी सेवा वे नियम करते हैं। अधिकांश आधुनिक राज्यों में दोनों को श्रम-विभाजन से गतिमान रखा जाता है: एक निर्वाचित विधायिका कानून बनाती है, कार्यपालिका उन्हें लागू करती है, और न्यायालय उनकी व्याख्या करते तथा उठे विवादों को निपटाते हैं। जब झगड़ा उठता है, तो उसका निर्णय बल या धन से नहीं बल्कि प्रक्रिया से होता है – साक्ष्य जुटाया और तौला जाता है, दोनों पक्ष सुने जाते हैं, और न्यायाधीश कानून तथा तथ्यों के अनुसार निर्णय पर पहुँचता है।

दो महान सिद्धांत पूरे ढाँचे को थामे रखते हैं। पहला यह कि कानून के समक्ष सब समान हैं, शक्तिशाली भी उतने ही बँधे जितने साधारण जन। दूसरा यह कि व्यक्ति तब तक निर्दोष माना जाता है जब तक दोष सिद्ध न हो, ताकि प्रमाण का भार अभियुक्त पर नहीं बल्कि अभियोक्ता पर हो। कानून स्वयं मोटे तौर पर दो धाराओं में बँटता है – आपराधिक कानून, जो समाज के विरुद्ध अपराधों को दंडित करता है, और दीवानी कानून, जो निजी पक्षों के बीच विवाद सुलझाता है।

फिर भी कानून और न्याय, साथ चलते हुए भी, एक नहीं हैं। कोई कानून पूरी तरह वैध हो सकता है और फिर भी गहरे रूप से अन्यायपूर्ण, और इतिहास ऐसे बुरे कानूनों से भरा है जो अंततः उन साहसियों द्वारा पलटे गए जिन्होंने उन्हें चुनौती दी। एक कठिन समस्या पहुँच की भी है: न्याय में देरी न्याय से वंचित करना है, और गरीब अक्सर वे वकील और लंबा इंतजार नहीं जुटा पाते जिन्हें धनी सह लेते हैं। इन सबके ऊपर एक नाजुक, अनमोल विचार खड़ा है – विधि का शासन, यह आग्रह कि शक्ति स्वयं, विशेषकर सरकार की शक्ति, कानून के ऊपर नहीं बल्कि उसके अधीन हो।

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY:-

Litigation	The process of taking a dispute to court	मुकदमेबाजी, वाद
Acquit	To declare a person not guilty	दोषमुक्त करना, बरी करना
Liable	Legally responsible for something	उत्तरदायी, जिम्मेदार
Testimony	Evidence given by a witness in court	गवाही, साक्ष्य
Impartial	Not favouring either side; fair	निष्पक्ष
Breach	The breaking of a law or agreement	उल्लंघन, भंग
Redress	A remedy or setting right of a wrong	निवारण, प्रतिकार
Uphold	To keep a law or decision in force	बनाए रखना, समर्थन करना

Coerce	To force someone by threat or pressure	बाध्य करना, दबाव डालना
Grievance	A formal complaint about a wrong	शिकायत, परिवेदना
Sanction	A penalty for breaking a rule	दंड, प्रतिबंध
Waive	To give up a right or claim	अधित्याग करना, छोड़ देना
Indict	To formally charge with a crime	अभियोग लगाना
Pardon	The official forgiving of an offence	क्षमादान
Exonerate	To clear of blame or guilt	निर्दोष ठहराना, बरी करना

***TECHNICAL TERMS & JARGON*:-**

Judiciary	The whole system of law courts	न्यायपालिका
Plaintiff	The party who brings a case to court	वादी
Defendant	The party accused or sued in a case	प्रतिवादी, अभियुक्त
Verdict	A court's formal decision	निर्णय
Bail	Release before trial in return for security	जमानत
Precedent	A ruling that guides later, similar cases	पूर्वनिर्णय, नजीर
Jurisdiction	The authority of a court to hear a case	अधिकार क्षेत्र
Criminal law	Law dealing with offences against society	आपराधिक कानून
Civil law	Law dealing with disputes between parties	दीवानी कानून
Burden of proof	The duty to prove one's claim	प्रमाण का भार, सबूत का दा. यित्व
Due process	The guarantee of fair legal procedure	उचित विधिक प्रक्रिया
Acquittal	A verdict of not guilty	दोषमुक्ति, बरी होना
Injunction	A court order to do or stop doing something	निषेधाज्ञा, आदेश
Habeas corpus	Protection against unlawful detention	बंदी प्रत्यक्षीकरण
Affidavit	A written statement sworn to be true	शपथपत्र, हलफनामा
Tribunal	A body set up to settle certain disputes	अधिकरण, न्यायाधिकरण
Statute	A formal written law passed by a legislature	अधिनियम
Appeal	A request to a higher court to review a decision	अपील, पुनरावेदन
Damages	Money awarded to make good a wrong	हर्जाना, क्षतिपूर्ति
Plea	The accused person's formal answer to a charge	अभिवचन, दलील
Sentence	The punishment a court imposes	दंडादेश, सजा
Prosecution	The side that brings a criminal charge	अभियोजन पक्ष
Witness	A person who gives evidence in court	गवाह, साक्षी
Legislation	Laws made by a law-making body	विधान, अधिनियमन
Conviction	A formal finding that a person is guilty	दोषसिद्धि
Arbitration	Settling a dispute through a neutral third party	माध्यस्थम, मध्यस्थता
Contempt of court	Disobedience or disrespect toward a court	न्यायालय की अवमानना
Parole	The early release of a prisoner on conditions	पैरोल, सशर्त रिहाई
Cross-examination	The questioning of the other side's witness	जिरह, प्रति–परीक्षा
Bailable	(Of an offence) one for which bail may be granted	जमानती

PRACTICE PASSAGE - 1

One rule sits at the very heart of a fair legal system, and it often troubles those who first meet it: a person is presumed innocent until proven guilty. It means that the whole weight of proof falls upon the accuser, and that a court must free a man it strongly suspects if his guilt has not been established beyond reasonable doubt. To the impatient, this can seem an obstacle to justice, a shield behind which the wicked escape. Why, they demand, should a court ever be made to set free a person whom it has good reason to believe is guilty? But the principle rests on a hard-won wisdom. It is far worse, most legal thinkers hold, for a society to punish one innocent person than to let several guilty ones go free, because a state that may jail a citizen on mere suspicion is a danger to every citizen, not only the guilty. The presumption of innocence is therefore not a loophole but a wall — a limit placed upon the enormous power of the state, protecting the ordinary person from the terrible weight that power could otherwise bring to bear on anyone at all.

Q1. What rule sits 'at the very heart' of a fair legal system?

(a) the accused must prove innocence
(b) a person is presumed innocent until proven guilty
(c) the state is always right
(d) the rich win their cases

Q2. On whom does the burden of proof fall?

(a) the accused
(b) the accuser
(c) the judge
(d) the witness

Q3. The word 'impatient' here describes people who -

(a) want quick punishment
(b) study the law carefully
(c) defend the accused
(d) respect the rule

Q4. Why is punishing one innocent person worse than freeing several guilty ones?

(a) it costs more
(b) a state that jails on suspicion threatens everyone
(c) the guilty deserve freedom
(d) judges prefer it

Q5. The presumption of innocence is compared to -

(a) a loophole
(b) a wall limiting state power
(c) an open door
(d) a heavy chain

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (B) The passage centres on the presumption of innocence.
Q2 (B) It means the whole weight of proof falls upon the accuser.
Q3 (A) To the impatient the rule seems an obstacle — they want swift justice, not delay.
Q4 (B) A state that may jail on mere suspicion is a danger to every citizen.
Q5 (B) It is called 'not a loophole but a wall' — a limit on the state's power.

PRACTICE PASSAGE 2

Justice, we like to believe, is blind — indifferent to a person's wealth or standing. On the page this is true, for the law makes no distinction between rich and poor. In practice, a quieter kind of inequality creeps in, and its name is delay. A wealthy company sued for a wrong it has done can hire skilled lawyers, file appeal upon appeal, and stretch a case across many years without discomfort, for time costs it little. The ordinary person on the other side has no such luxury; each month of litigation drains his savings and his spirit, until at last, worn down and unable to wait, he accepts a poor settlement simply to end the ordeal. The court has favoured no one, and yet the outcome has been decided less by the merits of the case than by the depth of each side's pockets. This is why reformers insist that speed is not a mere convenience in the law but a part of justice itself, and that a right which arrives too late to be of use has, for the one who needed it, scarcely arrived at all.

Q1. 'Justice is blind' is said to be true -

(a) nowhere at all
(b) on the page, in the written law
(c) only for the rich
(d) only in poor countries

Q2. What 'quieter kind of inequality' creeps in?

(a) delay
(b) bribery
(c) violence
(d) secrecy

Q3. In the passage, 'litigation' means the —

(a) hiring of workers
(b) paying of a fine
(c) process of pursuing a case in court
(d) writing of a law

Q4. Why does the ordinary person accept a poor settlement?

(a) he wins easily
(b) he is worn down and cannot wait
(c) the law forbids delay
(d) he is wealthy

Q5. Reformers insist that speed in the law is —

(a) a mere convenience
(b) harmful to the poor
(c) unimportant
(d) a part of justice itself

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (B) On paper the law makes no distinction between rich and poor.
Q2 (A) The passage names delay as the hidden inequality.
Q3 (C) 'Each month of litigation drains his savings' shows it means pursuing a case in court.
Q4 (B) Drained by delay, he settles cheaply just to end the ordeal.
Q5 (D) The close argues speed is not convenience but part of justice.

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14 CHAPTER Media & Communication

Communication is how ideas travel between minds, and the media are the channels through which they reach not one listener but the many. For most of human history that channel was speech, and then the printed page; today it is a ceaseless torrent of screens. Newspapers, television and, above all, the internet now carry information across the whole world in an instant, handing to ordinary people both a voice and an audience they could never have had before. This has been called the democratisation of information: anyone at all can now publish, and no single gatekeeper can wholly control what is said.

But the very speed that spreads knowledge spreads falsehood just as fast, and often faster, for a lie that flatters or frightens travels more eagerly than a dull truth. Rumour, propaganda and invented 'news' now race around the globe before the correction can lace its boots. Worse, the platforms that carry them are built above all to hold our attention, and so they tend to show each of us only what we already agree with, sealing us into comfortable echo chambers where our own beliefs return to us unchallenged.

Through all this, a free and responsible press remains one of the true pillars of a democracy, holding power to account and giving citizens the honest information on which any real debate depends. Yet the media are also a business, living on advertising and on clicks, and the constant pressure to attract eyes can pull them away from patient accuracy toward easy sensation. The central difficulty of our age, then, is a strange one. It is no longer a shortage of information, of which we have more than any people in history, but the growing hardness of the simplest task of all — telling what is true from what is merely loud.

संचार वह है जिससे विचार मनों के बीच यात्रा करते हैं, और मीडिया वे माध्यम हैं जिनसे वे एक श्रोता तक नहीं बल्कि अनेक तक पहुँचते हैं। मानव इतिहास के अधिकांश समय वह माध्यम वाणी थी, फिर मुद्रित पृष्ठ; आज वह स्क्रीनों की अविराम धारा है। समाचार-पत्र, टेलीविजन और सबसे बढ़कर इंटरनेट अब सूचना को पल भर में पूरे संसार में ले जाते हैं, और साधारण लोगों को एक आवाज तथा श्रोता-समूह देते हैं जो पहले कभी संभव न था। इसे सूचना का लोकतंत्रीकरण कहा गया है: अब कोई भी प्रकाशित कर सकता है, और कोई एक द्वारपाल यह पूरी तरह नियंत्रित नहीं कर सकता कि क्या कहा जाए।

पर वही गति जो ज्ञान फैलाती है, झूठ को भी उतनी ही तेजी से, बल्कि अक्सर तेज, फैलाती है, क्योंकि जो झूठ बहलाता या डराता है वह किसी नीरस सत्य से अधिक उत्सुकता से दौड़ता है। अफवाह, दुष्प्रचार और गढ़ी हुई 'खबरें' सुधार के जूते बाँधने से पहले ही दुनिया भर में दौड़ जाती हैं। इससे भी बुरा यह कि जो मंच इन्हें ढोते हैं वे सबसे बढ़कर हमारा ध्यान बाँधने को बने हैं, इसलिए वे हममें से प्रत्येक को प्राय: वही दिखाते हैं जिससे हम पहले ही सहमत हैं, और हमें ऐसे आरामदेह 'प्रतिध्वनि-कक्षों' में बंद कर देते हैं जहाँ हमारी अपनी मान्यताएँ बिना चुनौती के लौट आती हैं।

इन सबके बीच एक स्वतंत्र और उत्तरदायी प्रेस लोकतंत्र के सच्चे स्तंभों में से एक बना रहता है, जो सत्ता को जवाबदेह ठहराता है और नागरिकों को वह ईमानदार सूचना देता है जिस पर कोई सच्ची बहस निर्भर करती है। फिर भी मीडिया एक व्यवसाय भी है, जो विज्ञापन और क्लिक पर जीता है, और आँखें खींचने का निरंतर दबाव उसे धैर्यपूर्ण सटीकता से हटाकर सस्ती सनसनी की ओर खींच सकता है। इसलिए हमारे युग की केंद्रीय कठिनाई विचित्र है: अब सूचना की कमी नहीं, बल्कि सबसे सरल कार्य का कठिन होते जाना ख़ यह बताना कि सच क्या है और केवल शोर क्या।

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY:-

Convey	To communicate or make known	संप्रेषित करना, बताना
Disseminate	To spread widely, esp. Information	प्रसारित करना, फैलाना
Credible	Able to be believed; trustworthy	विश्वसनीय
Sensational	Causing great excitement or shock	सनसनीखेज
Censor	To suppress or ban part of a message	सेंसर करना, दबाना
Objective	Free from personal feeling; unbiased	वस्तुनिष्ठ, निष्पक्ष

Coverage	The reporting given to an event	कवरेज, समाचार-प्रसार
Articulate	To express an idea clearly	स्पष्ट रूप से व्यक्त करना
Rhetoric	Language designed to persuade	अलंकारिक भाषा, वाग्मिता
Distort	To twist or misrepresent the truth	विकृत करना, तोड़-मरोड़ना
Fabricate	To invent something false	गढ़ना, मनगढ़ंत बनाना
Viral	Spreading rapidly and widely online	वायरल, तेजी से फैलने वाला
Explicit	Stated plainly and openly	स्पष्ट, सुस्पष्ट
Exaggerate	To make something seem larger than it is	बढ़ा-चढ़ाकर कहना
Partisan	Strongly biased toward one party or side	पक्षपाती, दलगत
Verify	To check that something is true	सत्यापित करना, जाँचना
Provocative	Meant to stir a strong reaction	भड़काऊ, उत्तेजक

***TECHNICAL TERMS & JARGON*:-**

Mass media	Channels that reach very large audiences	जनसंचार माध्यम
Journalism	The gathering and reporting of news	पत्रकारिता
Propaganda	Biased information spread to persuade	दुष्प्रचार, प्रचार
Misinformation	False information spread without intent to deceive	गलत सूचना
Disinformation	False information spread deliberately to deceive	दुष्प्रचार, भ्रामक सूचना
Censorship	The suppression of speech or content	सेंसरशिप, अभिव्यक्ति-नियंत्रण
Broadcast	The sending out of a programme to many	प्रसारण
Echo chamber	A space where one hears only one's own views	प्रतिध्वनि-कक्ष
Algorithm	The rules a platform uses to choose content	एल्गोरिद्म
Circulation	The number of copies of a paper distributed	प्रसार संख्या
Press freedom	The right to report without state control	प्रेस की स्वतंत्रता
Public opinion	The shared views of the general population	जनमत, लोकमत
Advertising	Paid promotion of a product or idea	विज्ञापन
Editorial	An article giving a paper's own opinion	संपादकीय
Fake news	Fabricated stories presented as real news	फर्जी समाचार
Source	The origin of a piece of information	स्रोत, सूत्र
Transparency	Openness about methods and motives	पारदर्शिता
Gatekeeper	One who controls what information passes	द्वारपाल, नियंत्रक
Sensationalism	The use of shock to attract attention	सनसनीखेजता
Defamation	The harming of a reputation by falsehood	मानहानि
Bias	A systematic slant in reporting	पक्षपात, झुकाव
Clickbait	Content made only to attract clicks	क्लिकबेट
Medium	A single means of communication	माध्यम
Free press	Independent news media free of control	स्वतंत्र प्रेस
Social media	Online platforms where users share content	सोशल मीडिया
Tabloid	A small paper focused on sensational news	टैब्लॉयड, सनसनीखेज अखबार
Libel	A written false statement that harms a reputation	अपमान-लेख, मानहानि
Op-ed	An opinion article by an outside writer	विचार-लेख
Fourth estate	The press seen as a pillar of society	चौथा स्तंभ (प्रेस)

PRACTICE PASSAGE - 1

A curious study of how news spreads online found something that ought to worry us all. A false story, the researchers discovered, travels farther, faster and to more people than a true one — and not because of any secret machinery, but because of us. The machinery of the internet does not create our appetite for a startling tale; it merely feeds it, carrying the tale faster and further than any rumour of an earlier age could ever have travelled. Falsehood, when it is well made, is more surprising than the truth; it flatters what we wish to believe, or feeds a fear we already hold, and so we share it before we have paused to check. A correction, when it comes, is duller, arrives later, and reaches only a fraction of those who saw the original. This is why simply flooding the world with more information does not cure the problem, and may even deepen it. The remedy is slower and harder. It is the patient building, in each of us, of a small habit of doubt — the reflex to ask, before pressing 'share', one plain question: how do I actually know that this is true?

Q1. What did the study find about a false story?

(a) it spreads more slowly than truth
(b) it travels farther and faster than the truth
(c) it is never shared
(d) it is always corrected

Q2. Why do people share falsehood so readily?

(a) it is dull
(b) it surprises us and feeds what we wish to believe
(c) it is always checked first
(d) it is hard to understand

Q3. In the passage, a 'correction' is -

(a) the original false story
(b) a shared post
(c) a kind of fear
(d) the setting right of a false story

Q4. Why might more information deepen the problem?

(a) truth spreads best
(b) corrections travel fastest
(c) flooding the world with information does not cure it
(d) people stop sharing

Q5. The remedy the author offers is -

(a) banning all news
(b) a personal habit of doubt before sharing
(c) sharing more often
(d) trusting every story

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (B) The study found falsehood travels farther, faster and wider than truth.
Q2 (B) Falsehood is more surprising and flatters our beliefs or fears, so we share it unchecked.
Q3 (D) A correction is the later, duller setting-right that reaches fewer people.
Q4 (C) The passage says simply adding more information does not cure and may deepen the problem.
Q5 (B) The close urges the reflex to ask 'how do I know this is true?' before sharing.

PRACTICE PASSAGE 2

Not long ago, a person read the one or two newspapers that came to the town, and however imperfect they were, his neighbour read them too, so that a community shared a common set of facts to argue about. The internet has quietly dissolved that shared ground. Today each of us is served a private stream of news, chosen by unseen algorithms to match what we have clicked on before. The effect is comfortable and deeply divisive. Two people in the same street may now inhabit entirely different pictures of the world, each certain of his facts, each fed only the views that confirm them. This is what is meant by an echo chamber — a closed space in which one's own opinions echo back, magnified and never questioned. Within it, those who disagree begin to seem not merely mistaken but mad or wicked, since one never meets the reasons they might give. The danger is not that we are told what to think, but that we are quietly prevented from ever hearing that anyone thinks otherwise.

Q1. What did neighbours once share, according to the passage?

(a) the same private stream
(b) a common set of facts to argue about
(c) the same opinions exactly
(d) nothing at all

Q2. How is each person's news now chosen?

(a) by the neighbour
(b) by the government
(c) by unseen algorithms matching past clicks
(d) at random

Q3. In the passage, an 'echo chamber' is a space where -

(a) many views are heard
(b) one's own opinions echo back unquestioned
(c) news is banned
(d) strangers meet

Q4. Inside it, those who disagree come to seem -

(a) mad or wicked
(b) reasonable
(c) friendly
(d) well-informed

Q5. The real danger, the author says, is that we are -

(a) prevented from hearing that others think otherwise
(b) told what to think
(c) given too many facts
(d) left without any news

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (B) A town once shared common facts from the same few newspapers.
Q2 (C) Algorithms serve each a private stream based on what they clicked before.
Q3 (B) It is defined as a closed space where one's own opinions return magnified and unchallenged.
Q4 (A) Never meeting their reasons, one starts to see opponents as mad or wicked.
Q5 (A) The close: the danger is being quietly stopped from hearing that anyone thinks differently.

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15 CHAPTER Art, Literature & Language

Art is the human attempt to give shape to feeling and meaning — in paint and stone, in music, and above all in words. Literature is that attempt made in language: the novel, the poem, the play, the essay. Unlike a report, which tells us plainly what happened, literature shows us what it was like, letting us live for a while inside another person's mind, and feel from within a grief or a joy we have never known. Through metaphor and image, a single fine poem can say in ten lines what a whole argument could not, reaching a truth that plain statement somehow cannot hold.

Language itself is the deeper marvel on which all this rests — a system of sounds and marks by which a private thought in one skull becomes a shared thing in another. Every language, moreover, carries its own way of seeing the world, its own untranslatable words and turns of mind; and so when a language dies, as many now are dying, a whole way of understanding the world quietly dies along with it.

Great writing endures across centuries because it speaks to what does not change in us: love, loss, ambition, fear, the strangeness of being alive and knowing we must die. Styles rise and fall — the ornate gives way to the plain, the romantic to the hard-eyed realist — but beneath the changing fashion the purpose holds. Art does not make things happen in the blunt way a law or a machine does; its work is quieter, slower, and in the end no less important. It is to widen our narrow sympathies, to sharpen our dulled senses, and to remind us, when we have half forgotten, what it actually means to be alive.

कला मनुष्य का वह प्रयास है जो भावना और अर्थ को रूप देता है - रंग और पत्थर में, संगीत में, और सबसे बढ़कर शब्दों में। साहित्य वही प्रयास है जो भाषा में किया जाता है: उपन्यास, कविता, नाटक, निबंध। किसी विवरण के विपरीत, जो सपाट रूप से बताता है कि क्या घटा, साहित्य हमें दिखाता है कि वह कैसा था, और कुछ देर के लिए हमें किसी दूसरे के मन के भीतर जीने देता है, तथा किसी ऐसे दु:ख या आनंद को भीतर से अनुभव कराता है जिसे हमने कभी नहीं जाना। रूपक और बिंब के माध्यम से एक अच्छी कविता दस पंक्तियों में वह कह सकती है जो एक पूरा तर्क नहीं कह पाता।

भाषा स्वयं वह गहरा आश्चर्य है जिस पर यह सब टिका है - ध्वनियों और चिह्नों की एक प्रणाली जिससे एक खोपड़ी का निजी विचार दूसरी में साझा वस्तु बन जाता है। इसके अलावा हर भाषा संसार को देखने का अपना ढंग रखती है, अपने अननुवादनीय शब्द और सोच के मोड़; इसलिए जब कोई भाषा मरती है, जैसे अनेक आज मर रही हैं, तो संसार को समझने का एक पूरा तरीका चुपचाप उसके साथ मर जाता है।

महान लेखन सदियों तक टिकता है क्योंकि वह उससे बात करता है जो हममें नहीं बदलता: प्रेम, हानि, महत्वाकांक्षा, भय, जीवित होने और यह जानने की विचित्रता कि हमें मरना है। शैलियाँ उठती-गिरती हैं - अलंकृत सादे को स्थान देता है, स्वच्छंदतावादी कठोर यथार्थवादी को - पर बदलती फैशन के नीचे उद्देश्य स्थिर रहता है। कला वस्तुओं को उस भोंडे ढंग से नहीं घटाती जैसे कोई कानून या मशीन; उसका कार्य शांत, धीमा, और अंतत: कम महत्वपूर्ण नहीं। वह हमारी संकीर्ण सहानुभूतियों को विस्तृत करना, हमारी कुंद इंद्रियों को तीक्ष्ण करना, और हमें याद दिलाना है कि जीवित होने का सचमुच अर्थ क्या है।

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY:-

Evocative	Bringing strong feelings or images to mind	भाव-जागृत करने वाला, उद्दीपक
Aesthetic	Concerned with beauty and its appreciation	सौंदर्यपरक, कलात्मक
Vivid	Producing bright, clear pictures in the mind	सजीव, स्पष्ट
Subtle	Fine and delicate; not obvious	सूक्ष्म, बारीक
Ornate	Richly and elaborately decorated	अलंकृत, सुसज्जित
Timeless	Not affected by the passing of time	कालातीत, शाश्वत

Poignant	Deeply moving; touching the heart	मर्मस्पर्शी
Abstract	Existing in thought, not as a concrete object	अमूर्त, भावात्मक
Nuance	A subtle shade of meaning or feeling	सूक्ष्म भेद, बारीकी
Eloquent	Fluent and expressive in speech or writing	वाग्मी, प्रभावशाली
Lyrical	Expressing emotion in a song-like way	गीतात्मक, भावपूर्ण
Evoke	To call a feeling or memory to mind	जगाना, स्मरण कराना
Mundane	Ordinary and dull; everyday	सांसारिक, नीरस
Sublime	Of the highest beauty, grandeur or awe	उदात्त, अत्युत्कृष्ट
Interpret	To explain the meaning of something	व्याख्या करना, अर्थ लगाना
Depict	To show or portray in art or words	चित्रित करना, वर्णन करना
Intricate	Having many fine, connected details	जटिल, पेचीदा
Captivating	Holding the attention completely	मनमोहक, मंत्रमुग्ध करने वाला

***TECHNICAL TERMS & JARGON*:-**

Metaphor	A comparison made without 'like' or 'as'	रूपक
Simile	A comparison using 'like' or 'as'	उपमा
Imagery	Language that appeals to the senses	बिंब-विधान, चित्रात्मकता
Narrative	A story or the telling of one	कथा, वृत्तांत
Genre	A category or type of art or writing	विधा, शैली
Protagonist	The main character of a work	नायक, प्रमुख पात्र
Theme	The central idea running through a work	विषयवस्तु, मूल भाव
Irony	A gap between what is said and what is meant	विडंबना, व्यंग्य
Tone	The writer's attitude toward the subject	स्वर, लहजा
Prose	Ordinary written or spoken language	गद्य
Verse	Writing arranged in poetic lines	पद्य, छंद
Allegory	A story with a hidden symbolic meaning	रूपक-कथा, अन्योक्ति
Satire	Writing that mocks folly to criticise it	व्यंग्य
Aesthetics	The philosophy of beauty and art	सौंदर्यशास्त्र
Syntax	The arrangement of words in a sentence	वाक्य-रचना, वाक्य-विन्यास
Connotation	An implied or emotional meaning of a word	भावार्थ, ध्वन्यार्थ
Rhetoric	The art of persuasive language	अलंकार-शास्त्र, वाग्मिता
Motif	A recurring image or idea in a work	अनुस्यूत भाव, प्रतिरूप
Personification	Giving human traits to non-human things	मानवीकरण
Dialect	A regional form of a language	बोली, उपभाषा
Symbolism	The use of symbols to stand for ideas	प्रतीकवाद
Hyperbole	Deliberate, obvious exaggeration	अतिशयोक्ति
Alliteration	The repeating of a sound at the start of words	अनुप्रास
Figurative language	Language used in a non-literal way	आलंकारिक भाषा, लाक्षणिक भाषा
Antagonist	The character who opposes the hero	प्रतिनायक, खलनायक
Plot	The sequence of events in a story	कथानक
Climax	The point of greatest tension in a story	चरमोत्कर्ष
Oxymoron	A phrase that joins two opposite words	विरोधाभासी युग्म
Euphemism	A mild word used in place of a harsh one	शिष्टोक्ति, मृदूक्ति
Denotation	The plain, literal meaning of a word	अभिधार्थ, शाब्दिक अर्थ

PRACTICE PASSAGE - 1

People sometimes ask what a novel is good for, as though a story that never happened could teach us nothing real. The answer is that fiction does something no textbook can: it lets us try on another life. For the length of a book we are quietly permitted to become someone else entirely, and we come back from it, in some small way, changed. When we follow a character through hundreds of pages — sharing her hopes, wincing at her mistakes, feeling from the inside a fear or a longing we have never known — we are, in a quiet way, practising the difficult art of understanding another human being. This is why readers of fiction are often found to be a little better at sensing what others feel; the novel is a kind of gymnasium for empathy. A history book can tell us that a famine killed thousands, a fact we nod at and forget. A novel can make us stand in one hungry family's single room, and having stood there, we do not quite forget. The story that never happened has taught us something truer than a fact: what the fact would feel like, were it our own.

Q1. What does fiction do that a textbook cannot, according to the passage?

(a) list dates
(b) let us try on another life
(c) teach arithmetic
(d) report famines

Q2. The novel is called a 'gymnasium' for -

(a) memory
(b) history
(c) grammar
(d) empathy

Q3. In the passage, 'empathy' means the ability to -

(a) remember facts
(b) forget grief
(c) write novels
(d) sense and share what others feel

Q4. How does a history book's account of a famine affect us?

(a) we stand in the hungry room
(b) we nod at the fact and forget it
(c) we feel it deeply
(d) we refuse to read it

Q5. The passage concludes that a story can teach us -

(a) nothing real
(b) how to write history
(c) only false things
(d) what a fact would feel like as our own

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (B) The passage says fiction lets us try on another life from the inside.
Q2 (D) It is called 'a kind of gymnasium for empathy' — a place to practise understanding others.
Q3 (D) Empathy here is sensing what others feel — the art the novel exercises.
Q4 (B) A fact about thousands dying is one 'we nod at and forget'.
Q5 (D) The close: fiction teaches what the fact would feel like, were it our own.

PRACTICE PASSAGE 2

Every fortnight, somewhere in the world, the last fluent speaker of a language dies, and with that quiet death a whole way of seeing the world is lost forever. It is not only a stock of words that dies, but an entire manner of noticing the world, of dividing and naming experience, that no other tongue ever held in quite the same way. To many this seems a small thing; surely, they reason, it is more convenient if we all speak a few great languages and understand one another easily. But a language is far more than a set of labels for things that exist anyway. Each one carries words for feelings and distinctions that other tongues simply cannot express, ideas that vanish the moment the last speaker falls silent. A language that has forty words for the colours of ice, or a single word for the particular sorrow of an old friendship grown cold, holds a piece of human understanding found nowhere else. When it goes, that understanding is not translated into another language; it is deleted from the species. The loss is invisible precisely because, once a way of thinking is gone, we can no longer even imagine what it was that we are missing.

Q1. What happens 'every fortnight', according to the passage?

(a) a new language is born
(b) the last speaker of a language dies
(c) a dictionary is written
(d) a language is translated

Q2. Why do some people think this loss is small?

(a) languages are worthless
(b) they dislike convenience
(c) they prefer everyone to speak a few great languages
(d) they cannot speak

Q3. The author argues a language is more than -

(a) a way of seeing the world
(b) a set of labels for things
(c) a piece of understanding
(d) words for feelings

Q4. When a language dies, its unique ideas are -

(a) deleted from the species
(b) translated perfectly
(c) written down safely
(d) easily replaced

Q5. Why is the loss called 'invisible'?

(a) once a way of thinking is gone, we cannot imagine what is missing
(b) it is written down
(c) no one dies
(d) it is easily seen

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (B) The passage opens with the death of a language's last fluent speaker every fortnight.
Q2 (C) Some reason it is more convenient if all speak a few great, shared languages.
Q3 (B) The passage insists a language is far more than mere labels for things.
Q4 (A) The passage says the understanding is not translated but 'deleted from the species'.
Q5 (A) The close: once a way of thinking is gone, we can no longer imagine what we have lost.

TOPPERS' WISDOM
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16 CHAPTER Sports & Fitness

Sport is one of the oldest of human activities, and one of the most revealing. On the surface it is mere play — a ball, a field, a set of rules — yet beneath that lightness it draws upon and develops some of our deepest qualities. To excel at any game demands not only physical gifts such as strength, speed and agility, but a whole set of harder, inward virtues: the discipline to train when one would rather rest, the patience to master a skill by slow repetition, and the resilience to rise after defeat and begin again.

This is why sport has long been thought to build character, and why societies place games at the very heart of a child's education. On the field a young person learns, in a safe and structured form, the great lessons of life itself — that effort is rewarded but not always at once, that one must cooperate with teammates toward a shared goal, and that an opponent is not an enemy to be hated but a partner who makes the contest possible. To win with grace and, harder still, to lose with dignity — the quality once called sportsmanship — is a training for adulthood that no classroom can quite supply.

Beyond the playing field lies the wider matter of fitness, which concerns everyone, athlete or not. The human body was shaped for movement, yet modern life has engineered much of that movement away, leaving behind a slow epidemic of sedentary living whose costs — weak hearts, failing stamina, restless minds — grow heavier each year. Sport is also, increasingly, a vast business, and with the money have come shadows: the temptation of doping, the crush of commercial pressure. Yet at its heart the thing endures, as it always has — a test of body and spirit together, and one of the few arenas in which a human being can discover, plainly and without excuse, exactly what they are made of.

खेल मानव की सबसे पुरानी गतिविधियों में से एक है, और सबसे अधिक कुछ प्रकट करने वाली। ऊपर से यह मात्र खेल है ख़ एक गेंद, एक मैदान, कुछ नियम – फिर भी उस हल्केपन के नीचे यह हमारे कुछ गहनतम गुणों को जगाता और विकसित करता है। किसी भी खेल में उत्कृष्टता के लिए केवल शक्ति, गति और फुर्ती जैसे शारीरिक उपहार ही नहीं, बल्कि कठिनतर आंतरिक गुण भी चाहिए: विश्राम के मन के बावजूद अभ्यास करने का अनुशासन, धीमे दोहराव से कौशल साधने का धैर्य, और हार के बाद उठकर फिर आरंभ करने की सहनशीलता।

इसीलिए लंबे समय से माना जाता है कि खेल चरित्र गढ़ता है, और इसीलिए समाज खेलों को बालक की शिक्षा के केंद्र में रखते हैं। मैदान पर एक युवा, सुरक्षित और संगठित रूप में, जीवन के महान पाठ सीखता है – कि परिश्रम का फल मिलता है पर सदा तुरंत नहीं, कि साझा लक्ष्य के लिए साथियों से सहयोग करना पड़ता है, और कि प्रतिद्वंद्वी घृणा का पात्र शत्रु नहीं बल्कि वह साथी है जो मुकाबले को संभव बनाता है। शालीनता से जीतना और उससे भी कठिन, गरिमा से हारना – वह गुण जिसे कभी खेल-भावना कहा जाता था – वयस्कता के लिए ऐसी शिक्षा है जो कोई कक्षा पूरी तरह नहीं दे सकती।

मैदान से परे स्वास्थ्य-साधना का व्यापक प्रश्न है, जो खिलाड़ी हो या न हो, सबसे संबंधित है। मानव शरीर गति के लिए बना था, फिर भी आधुनिक जीवन ने उस गति का बहुत भाग हटा दिया है, और पीछे बैठे रहने की एक धीमी महामारी छोड़ दी है जिसकी कीमत – कमजोर हृदय, घटती सहनशक्ति, बेचैन मन – हर वर्ष भारी होती जाती है। खेल अब एक विशाल व्यवसाय भी है, और धन के साथ छायाएँ भी आई हैं: डोपिंग का प्रलोभन, व्यावसायिक दबाव। फिर भी अपने मूल में यह वैसा ही बना रहता है – शरीर और आत्मा दोनों की परीक्षा।

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY:-

Perseverance	Steady effort in spite of difficulty	अध्यवसाय, दृढ़ता
Discipline	Trained, controlled and orderly behaviour	अनुशासन
Resilient	Able to recover quickly from setbacks	लचीला, सहनशील
Tenacity	The quality of not giving up	दृढ़ता, हठ
Prowess	Great skill or ability	पराक्रम, निपुणता
Exhilarating	Making one feel very excited and alive	उत्साहवर्धक, रोमांचक
Formidable	Inspiring respect through being powerful	दुर्जेय, प्रबल

Rigorous	Demanding, thorough and strict	कठोर, कड़ा
Novice	A person new to an activity	नौसिखिया, नवागंतुक
Veteran	A person with long experience	अनुभवी, दिग्गज
Triumph	A great victory or success	विजय, जीत
Setback	A check or reversal in progress	बाधा, धक्का
Momentum	The force gained by a moving series of events	गति, संवेग
Exemplary	Serving as a fine model for others	अनुकरणीय, आदर्श
Graceful	Showing smooth, pleasing movement	शालीन, सुंदर
Agile	Able to move quickly and easily	फुर्तीला, चुस्त
Vigorous	Strong, energetic and active	जोरदार, ओजस्वी
Relentless	Never stopping; unyielding	अथक, निरंतर

***TECHNICAL TERMS & JARGON*:-**

Athlete	A person trained in sport or exercise	खिलाड़ी, व्यायामी
Aerobic	(Of exercise) improving the use of oxygen	वायुजीवी, एरोबिक
Stamina	The strength to sustain long effort	सहनशक्ति, दमखम
Endurance	The ability to keep going under strain	सहनशीलता, धीरज
Agility	The ability to move quickly and nimbly	फुर्ती, चपलता
Cardiovascular	Relating to the heart and blood vessels	हृदय-रक्तवाहिका संबंधी
Tournament	A series of contests to decide a champion	प्रतियोगिता, टूर्नामेंट
Championship	A competition to decide the best	चौंपियनशिप, विजयी-प्रतियोगिता
Doping	Using banned drugs to boost performance	डोपिंग, प्रतिबंधित औषधि-सेवन
Referee	An official who enforces the rules	रेफरी, निर्णायक
Sportsmanship	Fair and gracious conduct in sport	खेल-भावना
Adrenaline	A hormone that readies the body for action	एड्रेनालिन
Tactics	The planned moves used to win	रणकौशल, दाँव-पेच
Amateur	One who plays for love, not money	शौकिया, अव्यावसायिक
Professional	One who plays a sport for a living	व्यावसायिक, पेशेवर
Spectator	A person who watches an event	दर्शक
Physiotherapy	Treatment of injury by exercise and massage	भौतिक चिकित्सा
Reflexes	The body's automatic quick reactions	प्रतिवर्त, सहज प्रतिक्रिया
Marathon	A long-distance running race	मैराथन, लंबी दौड़
Arena	The ground where a sport is played	अखाड़ा, रंगभूमि
Rehabilitation	The recovery of fitness after injury	पुनर्वास
Warm-up	Gentle exercise done before hard effort	तैयारी-व्यायाम, वार्म-अप
Fitness	The state of being healthy and strong	सुदृढ़ता, तंदुरुस्ती
Regimen	A fixed plan of exercise or diet	नियमित कार्यक्रम, आहार-व्यायाम विधि
Olympics	The greatest international sporting festival	ओलंपिक
Anaerobic	(Of exercise) intense and without extra oxygen	अवायवीय
Calorie	A unit measuring the energy in food	कैलोरी
Body mass index	A measure of healthy weight for one's height	बॉडी मास इंडेक्स (BMI)
Penalty	A punishment awarded for breaking a rule	पेनल्टी, दंड
Flexibility	The ability to bend and stretch the body easily	लचीलापन

PRACTICE PASSAGE - 1

We are taught from childhood to admire the winner, and the shelves of every bookshop groan with the stories of champions; yet the deeper lessons of sport are learnt not in victory but in defeat. A child who has only ever won learns surprisingly little, for success asks nothing hard of us. It is the one who has lost, and lost badly, in front of a watching crowd, who is forced to discover what he is truly made of. To feel the sharp sting of failure, and then to cross the field and shake the victor's hand with genuine warmth, is a harder and far more valuable skill than any that wins a match. It teaches, quietly, that failure is not final, that honest effort has worth even when it does not succeed, and that an opponent is not an enemy to be resented but a partner who makes the whole contest possible. These are the very qualities, once gathered under the plain old word sportsmanship, that a life beyond the playing field will demand of a person again and again. And this, in the end, is the real reason we place games at the centre of a child's upbringing. We are not chiefly training athletes; we are, through the safe and structured struggle of sport, training human beings to lose well, to try once more, and to treat their rivals with respect.

Q1. According to the passage, the deeper lessons of sport are learnt in -

(a) victory (b) watching
(c) practice (d) defeat

Q2. Why does a child who has only ever won learn little?

(a) winning is boring (b) success asks nothing hard of us
(c) he does not practise (d) the crowd distracts him

Q3. In the passage, the word 'sportsmanship' means —

(a) skill at winning matches (b) love of watching sport
(c) physical strength (d) fair, gracious conduct toward rivals

Q4. An opponent, the author says, should be seen as -

(a) an enemy to be resented (b) a partner who makes the contest possible
(c) a distraction (d) a champion

Q5. The 'real reason' for placing games at the centre of upbringing is to -

(a) train professional athletes rivals (b) train human beings to lose well and respect
(c) fill bookshops (d) win medals

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (D) The passage states the deeper lessons are learnt 'not in victory but in defeat'.
Q2 (B) The passage says success asks nothing hard of us, so constant winning teaches little.
Q3 (D) Sportsmanship here is the gracious conduct — shaking the victor's hand, respecting rivals.
Q4 (B) The passage calls the opponent 'a partner who makes the whole contest possible'.
Q5 (B) The close says we are not chiefly training athletes but training human beings in character.

PRACTICE PASSAGE 2

The human body was shaped, over millions of years, for a life of constant movement — for walking great distances in search of food, for lifting and carrying, for the sudden violent effort of the chase. It was never, in any sense, designed for the chair. Yet the modern world, with the very best of intentions, has quietly engineered movement almost entirely out of daily life. The car now carries us where our grandparents walked; the lift spares us the climb the stairs once demanded; and work that formerly taxed the whole body is increasingly done sitting still before a glowing screen. The result is a slow and silent epidemic of what physicians call a sedentary lifestyle, and its toll — in weakened hearts, stiffening joints and failing stamina — is now among the heaviest burdens that modern medicine is asked to carry. The remedy, happily, is neither mysterious nor costly. The body responds with astonishing speed to even modest, regular exercise, and a brisk daily walk can do more for a person's long-term health than a whole cupboard of pills. The real absurdity of our situation is this: the very comforts we laboured so hard to invent have quietly stolen from us the movement our bodies were built to need, so that we must now set aside special time, on purpose, to do what ordinary daily life once demanded of us as a matter of course.

Q1. What was the human body shaped for?

(a) a life of rest
(b) a life of constant movement
(c) sitting at a desk
(b) riding in cars

Q2. What has the modern world done, 'with the best of intentions'?

(a) engineered movement out of daily life
(b) increased daily exercise
(c) banned cars and lifts
(d) improved the chase

Q3. In the passage, a 'sedentary' lifestyle is one that involves -

(a) much travel
(b) hard physical labour
(c) much sitting and little movement
(d) frequent walking

Q4. How does the body respond to modest regular exercise?

(a) very slowly
(b) only with medicine
(c) not at all
(d) with astonishing speed

Q5. The 'real absurdity' the author points to is that -

(a) exercise is expensive
(b) our comforts stole the movement our bodies need
(c) walking is harmful
(d) the body dislikes rest

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (B) The passage opens by saying the body was shaped for a life of constant movement.
Q2 (A) It has, with good intentions, engineered movement almost entirely out of daily life.
Q3 (C) A sedentary lifestyle is defined by context as sitting still, with movement removed.
Q4 (D) The passage says the body responds 'with astonishing speed' to even modest exercise.
Q5 (B) The close notes the absurdity that our comforts removed needed movement, so we must now exercise on purpose.

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17 CHAPTER

Physics

Physics is the most fundamental of the sciences, the study of matter, energy, and the forces that govern everything from the smallest particle to the largest galaxy. Its great ambition is to find the simple rules that lie beneath the bewildering variety of the world — to show that the fall of an apple and the orbit of the moon obey one and the same law. It begins with motion. Why do things move, speed up, or stop? The answer lies in force, in the mass and inertia of objects, and in the famous laws set down by Newton, which describe how a push or a pull changes the way a body travels.

Closely bound to motion is energy — the capacity to do work — which appears in many forms and can change from one to another but, as a deep law insists, can never be created or destroyed. Heat is energy in transit, and its study, thermodynamics, reveals a one-way drift of the universe toward disorder. Light and sound travel as waves, each with its frequency and wavelength, bending and bouncing in ways that explain colour, echoes and the working of a lens.

Deeper still lie the great pillars of modern physics. The study of electricity and magnetism, once thought separate, was united into a single force that now powers our world. And in the last century two revolutions overturned everything: relativity, which showed that space and time themselves bend near great masses and high speeds, and quantum theory, which found that at the scale of the atom the world is strange, uncertain and grainy. From the everyday to the cosmic, physics offers the same quiet promise — that the universe, however vast and various, is in the end intelligible, and written in a language we can learn to read.

भौतिकी विज्ञानों में सबसे मौलिक है – पदार्थ, ऊर्जा और उन बलों का अध्ययन जो सबसे छोटे कण से लेकर सबसे बड़ी आकाशगंगा तक हर चीज को नियंत्रित करते हैं। इसकी महान महत्वाकांक्षा है संसार की चकित करने वाली विविधता के नीचे छिपे सरल नियमों को खोजना – यह दिखाना कि सेब का गिरना और चंद्रमा की परिक्रमा एक ही नियम मानते हैं। यह गति से आरंभ होती है। वस्तुएँ क्यों चलती, तेज होती या रुकती हैं? उत्तर बल में, वस्तुओं के द्रव्यमान और जड़त्व में, और न्यूटन के प्रसिद्ध नियमों में है, जो बताते हैं कि कोई धक्का या खिंचाव किसी पिंड की गति को कैसे बदलता है।

गति से गहराई से जुड़ी है ऊर्जा – कार्य करने की क्षमता – जो अनेक रूपों में प्रकट होती है और एक रूप से दूसरे में बदल सकती है, पर एक गहरा नियम कहता है कि इसे न बनाया जा सकता है न नष्ट किया जा सकता है। ऊष्मा गतिमान ऊर्जा है, और उसका अध्ययन, ऊष्मागतिकी, ब्रह्मांड के अव्यवस्था की ओर एकतरफा बहाव को उजागर करता है। प्रकाश और ध्वनि तरंगों के रूप में चलते हैं, हर एक की अपनी आवृत्ति और तरंगदैर्ध्य होती है।

और गहरे में आधुनिक भौतिकी के महान स्तंभ हैं। विद्युत और चुंबकत्व का अध्ययन, जो कभी अलग माना जाता था, एक ही बल में एकीकृत हुआ जो अब हमारी दुनिया को शक्ति देता है। और पिछली सदी में दो क्रांतियों ने सब कुछ पलट दिया: सापेक्षता, जिसने दिखाया कि महान द्रव्यमानों और उच्च गति के पास स्थान और समय स्वयं मुड़ जाते हैं, और क्वांटम सिद्धांत, जिसने पाया कि परमाणु के स्तर पर संसार विचित्र और अनिश्चित है। रोजमर्रा से लेकर ब्रह्मांडीय तक, भौतिकी एक ही शांत वचन देती है ख़ कि ब्रह्मांड, चाहे कितना ही विशाल और विविध हो, अंततः बोधगम्य है।

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY:-

Fundamental	Forming an essential base; basic	मौलिक, बुनियादी
Phenomenon	An observable event or fact	परिघटना, घटना
Magnitude	The great size or extent of something	परिमाण
Exert	To apply a force or influence	लगाना, प्रयोग करना
Propagate	To travel through a medium, as a wave	संचरण करना, फैलना
Equilibrium	A state of balance between forces	संतुलन
Oscillate	To swing steadily back and forth	दोलन करना
Radiate	To send out energy in rays	विकीर्ण करना

Transmit	To pass along or through	संचारित करना, पारगमन करना
Negligible	So small as to be safely ignored	नगण्य
Uniform	The same throughout; unchanging	एकसमान
Finite	Having limits; not endless	परिमित, सीमित
Dense	Closely packed; heavy for its size	सघन, घना
Intelligible	Able to be understood	बोधगम्य, समझ में आने योग्य
Infer	To work out from evidence	अनुमान लगाना
Precise	Exact and accurate	सटीक, यथार्थ

***TECHNICAL TERMS & JARGON*:-**

Force	A push or a pull acting on an object	बल
Mass	The amount of matter in an object	द्रव्यमान
Velocity	Speed in a particular direction	वेग
Acceleration	The rate at which velocity changes	त्वरण
Momentum	Mass times velocity; the quantity of motion	संवेग
Inertia	A body's resistance to a change in its motion	जड़त्व
Gravity	The force pulling objects toward one another	गुरुत्वाकर्षण
Friction	The force that resists motion between surfaces	घर्षण
Energy	The capacity to do work	ऊर्जा
Kinetic energy	The energy possessed by a moving body	गतिज ऊर्जा
Potential energy	Stored energy due to position or state	स्थितिज ऊर्जा
Work	The effect of a force moving through a distance	कार्य
Power	The rate at which work is done	शक्ति
Thermodynamics	The study of heat and its relation to energy	ऊष्मागतिकी
Entropy	A measure of disorder in a system	एन्ट्रॉपी, अव्यवस्था-माप
Temperature	The degree of hotness of a body	तापमान
Heat	Energy that flows due to a temperature difference	ऊष्मा
Conduction	Heat transfer through direct contact	चालन
Radiation	Energy sent out as waves or particles	विकिरण
Wave	A disturbance that carries energy through a medium	तरंग
Frequency	The number of waves passing per second	आवृत्ति
Wavelength	The distance between two wave crests	तरंगदैर्ध्य
Amplitude	The height, or strength, of a wave	आयाम
Refraction	The bending of light passing between media	अपवर्तन
Reflection	The bouncing back of light or sound	परावर्तन
Spectrum	The band of colours that make up light	वर्णक्रम
Current	The flow of electric charge	विद्युत धारा
Voltage	The electrical push that drives a current	वोल्टता, विभवांतर
Resistance	The opposition offered to an electric current	प्रतिरोध
Conductor	A material that lets current flow easily	चालक
Insulator	A material that blocks electric current	कुचालक, विद्युतरोधी
Magnetism	The force exerted by magnets	चुंबकत्व

Atom	The smallest particle of an element	परमाणु
Nucleus	The dense central core of an atom	नाभिक
Quantum	The smallest possible packet of energy	क्वांटम, ऊर्जा-मात्रक
Relativity	Einstein's theory of space, time and gravity	सापेक्षता
Radioactivity	The giving off of radiation by unstable atoms	रेडियोधर्मिता
Electron	A tiny, negatively charged particle in an atom	इलेक्ट्रॉन
Density	The mass packed into a given volume	घनत्व
Pressure	The force pressing on a unit of area	दाब
Convection	Heat transfer by the movement of a fluid	संवहन
Circuit	A closed loop through which current flows	परिपथ
Nuclear fission	The splitting of a heavy nucleus, releasing energy	नाभिकीय विखंडन
Nuclear fusion	The joining of light nuclei, releasing energy	नाभिकीय संलयन
Weight	The force of gravity acting on a mass	भार

PRACTICE PASSAGE - 1

There is an old puzzle that troubled thinkers for centuries: why does a rolling cart eventually stop on its own, while a resting one never begins to move by itself? For a very long time it was believed that motion needed a constant push to keep it going, and that rest was the natural, preferred state of all things. It was Galileo, and later Newton, who overturned this comfortable error. They saw that the cart slows and stops not because its motion fades of its own accord, but because of an unseen force — friction — quietly dragging against it. Remove that force entirely, they realised, and the cart would roll on forever. This deep tendency of every object to keep doing what it is already doing — to stay at rest if it is resting, and to keep moving if it is moving — is what physicists call inertia. It is exactly why a standing passenger lurches forward when a bus brakes suddenly: his body, already in motion, simply continues. The insight changed everything, for it revealed that the universe needs no push to maintain its motion; it needs one only to change it. What had looked like the mere laziness of objects turned out to be one of the deepest laws of nature.

Q1. The old puzzle asked why a rolling cart -

(a) speeds up forever
(b) moves only when pushed hard
(c) never stops at all
(d) stops on its own while a resting one never starts

Q2. Why does a rolling cart actually stop?

(a) an unseen force, friction, drags against it
(b) its motion fades naturally
(c) it runs out of energy
(d) the ground pushes it

Q3. In the passage, 'inertia' is the tendency of an object to -

(a) change its motion
(b) keep doing what it is already doing
(c) speed up on its own
(d) resist gravity

Q4. A standing passenger lurches forward when a bus brakes because his body -

(a) is pushed by the driver
(b) already in motion, simply continues
(c) is lighter than the bus
(d) loses its energy

Q5. The great insight was that the universe needs a push only to -

(a) keep motion going
(b) create friction
(c) stop all movement
(d) change motion

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (D) The puzzle contrasts a moving cart stopping with a resting one never starting on its own.
Q2 (A) Galileo and Newton saw the cart stops because of friction, not because motion fades.
Q3 (B) Inertia is defined as staying at rest if resting and moving if moving.
Q4 (B) His body, already in motion, continues forward — an example of inertia.
Q5 (D) The close: the universe needs no push to maintain motion, only to change it.

PRACTICE PASSAGE 2

For centuries, hopeful inventors have chased a single dazzling dream: a machine that, once started, would run forever, giving out more energy than was ever put into it. Every such attempt has failed, and physics can explain, with unusual certainty, why every future attempt must fail as well. The reason lies in two iron laws. The first states that energy can never be created out of nothing, nor truly destroyed, but only changed from one form into another — so no machine can ever give out more than it is given. The second law is subtler and, in a way, sadder. It holds that every time energy changes form, a little of it is always lost as useless, scattered heat, in a slow and unstoppable slide toward disorder that scientists call entropy. A little of the fuel always escapes as warmth in the bearings, as faint sound, as friction against the air. This is precisely why no engine can ever be perfectly efficient, and why the dream of perpetual motion is not merely unbuilt but genuinely impossible. Nature, it seems, keeps a strict and honest account, and in every single exchange of energy, it quietly takes its unavoidable cut.

Q1. What dream have inventors long chased?

(a) a machine that runs forever giving out more than it takes in
(b) a silent engine
(c) a cheaper fuel
(d) a faster car

Q2. The first law says energy can be -

(a) created from nothing
(b) changed in form but not created or destroyed
(c) destroyed completely
(d) made from friction

Q3. In the passage, 'entropy' names a slow slide toward -

(a) greater order
(b) more energy
(c) higher speed
(d) disorder

Q4. Why is no engine perfectly efficient?

(a) it lacks fuel
(b) some energy is always lost as scattered heat
(c) it moves too fast
(d) friction creates energy

Q5. Perpetual motion, the author concludes, is -

(a) merely expensive
(b) genuinely impossible
(c) almost achieved
(d) easy to build

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (A) The dream is a machine that runs forever, giving out more energy than put in.
Q2 (B) Energy can only be changed from one form to another, never created or destroyed.
Q3 (D) Entropy is defined as the slide toward disorder as energy scatters.
Q4 (B) Some energy is always lost as heat, sound and friction, so none is fully efficient.
Q5 (B) The close states it is not merely unbuilt but genuinely impossible.

18 CHAPTER Chemistry

Chemistry is the science of matter — of what everything is made of, and of how one substance is changed into another. It sits between physics, which studies the fundamental forces, and biology, which studies life, and it explains the ordinary magic of the material world: why iron rusts, why bread rises, why a candle burns. Its first great insight is that the endless variety of things around us is built from a small set of basic substances called elements, of which only about ninety occur in nature. Each element is made of tiny particles called atoms, and an atom is itself built from still smaller parts — protons, neutrons and electrons — whose arrangement decides how the atom will behave.

When atoms join together they form molecules and compounds, held by chemical bonds in which electrons are either shared or handed from one atom to another. This joining and parting of atoms is the heart of a chemical reaction, in which starting substances, the reactants, are rearranged into new ones, the products, often with the help of a catalyst that speeds the change without being consumed.

Much of chemistry is the study of particular families of behaviour. Acids and bases, opposites that neutralise each other to form salts, run through everything from digestion to industry, and their strength is measured on the pH scale. Matter shifts between solid, liquid and gas as heat is added or removed. And a single element, carbon, with its rare gift for linking into long chains, forms the vast field of organic chemistry — the chemistry of fuels, plastics, medicines and, ultimately, of life itself. To understand chemistry is to see the solid, silent world as it truly is: not still at all, but a ceaseless dance of particles, joining, breaking and combining without pause.

रसायन विज्ञान पदार्थ का विज्ञान है - कि हर चीज किससे बनी है, और कैसे एक पदार्थ दूसरे में बदलता है। यह भौतिकी और जीव विज्ञान के बीच बैठता है, और भौतिक जगत के साधारण जादू को समझाता है: लोहा क्यों जंग खाता है, रोटी क्यों फूलती है, मोमबत्ती क्यों जलती है। इसकी पहली महान अंतर्दृष्टि यह है कि हमारे चारों ओर की अनंत विविधता कुछ मूल पदार्थों से बनी है जिन्हें तत्व कहते हैं, जिनमें से केवल लगभग नब्बे प्रकृति में मिलते हैं। हर तत्व सूक्ष्म कणों से बना है जिन्हें परमाणु कहते हैं, और परमाणु स्वयं और छोटे भागों ख्र प्रोटॉन, न्यूट्रॉन और इलेक्ट्रॉन - से बना है, जिनकी व्यवस्था तय करती है कि परमाणु कैसा व्यवहार करेगा।

जब परमाणु आपस में जुड़ते हैं तो अणु और यौगिक बनाते हैं, जो रासायनिक बंधों से बँधे होते हैं जिनमें इलेक्ट्रॉन या तो साझा होते हैं या एक परमाणु से दूसरे को दिए जाते हैं। परमाणुओं का यह जुड़ना और अलग होना ही रासायनिक अभिक्रिया का हृदय है, जिसमें आरंभिक पदार्थ, अभिकारक, नए पदार्थों, उत्पादों, में पुनर्व्यवस्थित होते हैं, अक्सर किसी उत्प्रेरक की सहायता से जो बिना खर्च हुए परिवर्तन को तेज करता है।

रसायन का बहुत भाग व्यवहार के विशेष परिवारों का अध्ययन है। अम्ल और क्षारक, जो परस्पर विरोधी हैं और एक-दूसरे को उदासीन कर लवण बनाते हैं, पाचन से लेकर उद्योग तक हर जगह हैं, और उनकी प्रबलता पीएच पैमाने पर मापी जाती है। ऊष्मा जोड़ने या हटाने पर पदार्थ ठोस, द्रव और गैस के बीच बदलता है। और एक अकेला तत्व, कार्बन, लंबी शृंखलाओं में जुड़ने की अपनी दुर्लभ क्षमता से, कार्बनिक रसायन का विशाल क्षेत्र बनाता है - ईंधन, प्लास्टिक, औषधियों और अंततः जीवन का रसायन।

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY:-

Dissolve	To mix fully into a liquid and disappear	घुलना, विलीन होना
React	To undergo a chemical change together	अभिक्रिया करना
Volatile	Evaporating very easily	वाष्पशील
Soluble	Able to be dissolved in a liquid	घुलनशील
Dilute	Made weaker by adding water	तनु, पतला
Concentrated	Strong; containing little water	सांद्र, गाढ़ा
Decompose	To break down into simpler substances	अपघटित होना
Inert	Chemically inactive; slow to react	अक्रिय, निष्क्रिय

Corrosive	Able to eat away or destroy material	संक्षारक, क्षयकारी
Saturate	To fill until no more can be absorbed	संतृप्त करना
Pure	Not mixed with anything else	शुद्ध
Unstable	Likely to change or break down	अस्थिर
Combine	To join together into one	संयोजित होना, मिलना
Synthesise	To make a substance by combining parts	संश्लेषित करना
Residue	What is left after a process	अवशेष
Potent	Having a powerful effect	प्रबल, शक्तिशाली

***TECHNICAL TERMS & JARGON*:-**

Atom	The smallest particle of an element	परमाणु
Element	A pure substance made of one kind of atom	तत्व
Compound	A substance of two or more elements chemically joined	यौगिक
Molecule	The smallest unit of a compound	अणु
Mixture	Substances combined without a chemical bond	मिश्रण
Solution	A mixture in which one substance dissolves in another	विलयन, घोल
Solvent	The liquid in which a substance dissolves	विलायक
Solute	The substance that dissolves in a solvent	विलेय
Proton	A positively charged particle in the nucleus	प्रोटॉन
Neutron	A particle in the nucleus with no charge	न्यूट्रॉन
Electron	A negatively charged particle around the nucleus	इलेक्ट्रॉन
Atomic number	The number of protons in an atom	परमाणु क्रमांक
Isotope	Atoms of one element with different masses	समस्थानिक
Ion	An atom carrying an electric charge	आयन
Periodic table	The ordered chart of all the elements	आवर्त सारणी
Chemical bond	The force that holds atoms together	रासायनिक बंध
Ionic bond	A bond formed by the transfer of electrons	आयनिक बंध
Covalent bond	A bond formed by the sharing of electrons	सहसंयोजक बंध
Valency	An atom's power to combine with others	संयोजकता
Chemical reaction	A process that changes substances into new ones	रासायनिक अभिक्रिया
Reactant	A substance that takes part in a reaction	अभिकारक
Product	A new substance formed by a reaction	उत्पाद
Catalyst	A substance that speeds a reaction without being used up	उत्प्रेरक
Oxidation	The gain of oxygen or loss of electrons	ऑक्सीकरण
Reduction	The loss of oxygen or gain of electrons	अपचयन
Combustion	Burning; a rapid reaction with oxygen	दहन
Corrosion	The slow eating away of a metal, as in rust	संक्षारण
Acid	A sour substance that turns blue litmus red	अम्ल
Base	A substance that neutralises an acid	क्षारक, भस्म
Alkali	A base that dissolves in water	क्षार

Ph	A scale that measures acidity or alkalinity	पीएच मान
Neutralisation	The reaction of an acid with a base	उदासीनीकरण
Salt	A compound formed when an acid meets a base	लवण
Physical change	A change in which no new substance forms	भौतिक परिवर्तन
Chemical change	A change that forms a new substance	रासायनिक परिवर्तन
Sublimation	A solid turning straight into a gas	ऊर्ध्वपातन
Organic chemistry	The chemistry of carbon compounds	कार्बनिक रसायन
Hydrocarbon	A compound made only of hydrogen and carbon	हाइड्रोकार्बन
Evaporation	A liquid slowly turning into vapour	वाष्पीकरण
Condensation	A gas turning back into a liquid	संघनन
Distillation	Purifying a liquid by boiling and then cooling it	आसवन
Polymer	A large molecule built from repeating units	बहुलक
Alloy	A mixture of a metal with other elements	मिश्रधातु
Inorganic chemistry	The chemistry of non-carbon compounds	अकार्बनिक रसायन

PRACTICE PASSAGE - 1

Look around at the bewildering variety of the world — water and iron, air and diamond, wood and salt and living flesh — and it seems impossible that so many utterly different things could share any common root. Yet one of the great discoveries of science is that they do. Every substance in the universe, however different it may look or feel, is built from a small set of basic building blocks called elements, of which only about ninety occur naturally on Earth. What makes one substance differ from another is not some special stuff unique to it, but simply which of these few elements it contains and how they are joined together. Water is nothing but the gases hydrogen and oxygen, locked into a compound; common table salt is the union of a violent metal and a poisonous gas, tamed by their joining into something harmless we sprinkle on our food. It is a humbling and rather beautiful idea: that the endless richness of the material world is written, like all the words of a language, from a short and shared alphabet. To learn chemistry is, in a real sense, to learn how to read that alphabet.

Q1. The great discovery described is that all substances -

(a) are built from a small set of elements (b) are completely unique
(c) cannot be understood (d) are made of water

Q2. About how many elements occur naturally on Earth?

(a) about nine (b) about ninety
(c) about nine hundred (d) exactly one

Q3. In the passage, a 'compound' is a substance in which elements are —

(a) kept apart (b) left pure
(c) destroyed (d) joined together

Q4. What makes one substance differ from another?

(a) a special stuff unique to it (b) which elements it has and how they are joined
(c) its colour alone (d) its price

Q5. The material world is compared to -

(a) a machine (b) a poisonous gas
(c) a violent metal (d) words written from a short alphabet

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (A) The passage says everything is built from about ninety basic elements.
Q2 (B) The passage states only about ninety elements occur naturally.
Q3 (D) Water is called a compound of hydrogen and oxygen 'locked' together.
Q4 (B) Difference comes from which elements a thing contains and how they combine.
Q5 (D) The passage likens the world's variety to words from a shared alphabet.

PRACTICE PASSAGE 2

Some of the most important substances in all of chemistry take part in a reaction without ever being used up by it. A catalyst is a substance that speeds up a chemical reaction — often enormously — and yet emerges at the very end completely unchanged, ready to do exactly the same work all over again. It behaves rather like a matchmaker who brings two shy strangers together and then quietly steps aside: the marriage happens far sooner than it otherwise would have, but the matchmaker is no part of the marriage itself. Catalysts are everywhere, silently running the world around us and within us. In our own bodies, many thousands of them, known as enzymes, make possible the countless reactions of life that would otherwise be far too slow to keep us alive at all. In industry, they allow fuels, fertilisers and medicines to be manufactured cheaply and at great speed. Without catalysts, much of modern chemistry would simply grind to a halt, and life itself would be impossible. Their quiet magic lies precisely in their generosity: they lend a reaction a helping hand and ask for nothing whatever in return, offering the same service over and over without ever being consumed.

Q1. What is unusual about a catalyst?

(a) it is destroyed by the reaction
(b) it speeds a reaction yet is not used up
(c) it stops all reactions
(d) it is very rare

Q2. In the passage, a 'catalyst' is a substance that -

(a) slows reactions down
(b) speeds a reaction without being consumed
(c) becomes a new product
(d) only works once

Q3. A catalyst is compared to -

(a) a shy stranger
(b) a poison
(c) a marriage
(d) a matchmaker who steps aside

Q4. In the body, catalysts are known as -

(a) hormones
(b) acids
(c) enzymes
(d) salts

Q5. Without catalysts, the passage says, -

(a) chemistry would speed up
(b) much of chemistry would halt and life be impossible
(c) nothing would change
(d) reactions would be cheaper

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (B) A catalyst speeds a reaction but emerges unchanged, ready to work again.
Q2 (B) It is defined as speeding a reaction while emerging unchanged.
Q3 (D) The passage likens it to a matchmaker who brings strangers together, then steps aside.
Q4 (C) The passage names the body's catalysts as enzymes.
Q5 (B) The close states much of modern chemistry would halt and life would be impossible.

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19 CHAPTER Biology

Biology is the study of life in all its astonishing forms — of what living things are made of, how they work, how they pass on their qualities to their young, and how they have slowly changed across the vast reaches of time. Its first great unifying idea is that every living thing, from a bacterium to a blue whale, is built from the same basic unit: the cell. Some creatures are a single cell; others, like ourselves, are built from many trillions, organised into tissues and organs, each carrying out its own task within the living whole.

A second thread runs through the whole of life: information. Inside almost every cell lies a molecule called DNA, a chemical code that carries the instructions for building and running the organism, and that is copied and passed from parent to offspring through units called genes. Occasionally the code changes by chance — a mutation — and it is upon such small differences that the slow engine of evolution works. Over immense spans of time, natural selection preserves the traits that help a creature survive and breed, so that species gradually change and split, producing the great tree of life we see around us.

Biology also studies how living things function and how they fit together. Physiology examines the working of the body — respiration, digestion, circulation — while ecology studies how organisms depend upon one another and their surroundings, linked in food chains and held in a delicate balance. Plants capture the sun's energy through photosynthesis, feeding nearly all other life; microbes, unseen, drive both disease and decay. From the code within a single cell to the web of an entire forest, biology reveals a single, connected story — that all living things, ourselves included, are bound together, kin in a shared and ancient enterprise of life.

जीव विज्ञान जीवन का उसके सभी विस्मयकारी रूपों में अध्ययन है – कि सजीव किससे बने हैं, कैसे काम करते हैं, कैसे अपने गुण संतानों को देते हैं, और समय के विशाल विस्तार में कैसे धीरे-धीरे बदले हैं। इसका पहला महान एकीकृत विचार यह है कि हर सजीव, जीवाणु से लेकर नीली व्हेल तक, एक ही मूल इकाई से बना है: कोशिका। कुछ जीव एक ही कोशिका के हैं; अन्य, हमारी तरह, खरबों कोशिकाओं से बने हैं, जो ऊतकों और अंगों में संगठित हैं।

जीवन में एक दूसरा सूत्र भी है: सूचना। लगभग हर कोशिका के भीतर डीएनए नामक एक अणु होता है, एक रासायनिक कोड जो जीव को बनाने और चलाने के निर्देश रखता है, और जो जीन नामक इकाइयों के माध्यम से माता-पिता से संतान को दिया जाता है। कभी-कभी यह कोड संयोग से बदल जाता है – उत्परिवर्तन – और ऐसी ही छोटी भिन्नताओं पर विकास का धीमा इंजन काम करता है। विशाल कालखंडों में प्राकृतिक चयन उन गुणों को बचाए रखता है जो किसी जीव को जीवित रहने और प्रजनन में सहायता देते हैं, जिससे प्रजातियाँ धीरे-धीरे बदलती और विभाजित होती हैं।

जीव विज्ञान यह भी अध्ययन करता है कि सजीव कैसे कार्य करते और आपस में कैसे जुड़े हैं। शरीरक्रिया विज्ञान शरीर के कार्य – श्वसन, पाचन, परिसंचरण – की जाँच करता है, जबकि पारिस्थितिकी अध्ययन करती है कि जीव एक-दूसरे और अपने परिवेश पर कैसे निर्भर हैं, खाद्य शृंखलाओं में जुड़े और एक नाजुक संतुलन में बँधे। पौधे प्रकाश संश्लेषण से सूर्य की ऊर्जा ग्रहण करते हैं और लगभग सारे जीवन को भोजन देते हैं। एक कोशिका के भीतर के कोड से लेकर पूरे वन के जाल तक, जीव विज्ञान एक ही जुड़ी हुई कहानी प्रकट करता है।

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY:-

Organism	An individual living thing	जीव, सजीव
Adapt	To change so as to suit conditions	अनुकूलित होना, ढलना
Evolve	To develop gradually over generations	विकसित होना
Reproduce	To produce young or offspring	प्रजनन करना
Inherit	To receive traits from one's parents	विरासत में पाना
Secrete	To give out a substance, as a gland does	स्रावित करना
Dormant	Alive but inactive for a period	सुप्त, निष्क्रिय
Thrive	To grow strong and flourish	फलना-फूलना

Vital	Absolutely necessary for life	महत्वपूर्ण, जीवनावश्यक
Diverse	Of many varied kinds	विविध
Sustain	To keep alive or in existence	बनाए रखना, पोषण देना
Respond	To react to something	प्रतिक्रिया करना
Generate	To bring into being; to produce	उत्पन्न करना
Complex	Made of many connected parts	जटिल
Absorb	To take in, as nutrients or water	अवशोषित करना
Intricate	Very detailed and finely made	पेचीदा, जटिल

***TECHNICAL TERMS & JARGON*:-**

Cell	The basic structural unit of all living things	कोशिका
Nucleus	The control centre of a cell	केंद्रक
Cytoplasm	The jelly-like fluid filling a cell	कोशिकाद्रव्य
Cell membrane	The outer boundary that encloses a cell	कोशिका झिल्ली
Organelle	A tiny working structure inside a cell	कोशिकांग
Tissue	A group of similar cells doing one job	ऊतक
Organ	A body part made of several tissues	अंग
Chromosome	A thread of dna that carries genes	गुणसूत्र
Gene	A unit of heredity that codes for a trait	जीन
Dna	The molecule that carries genetic instructions	डीएनए
Heredity	The passing of traits from parent to offspring	आनुवंशिकता
Mutation	A chance change in the genetic material	उत्परिवर्तन
Evolution	The slow change of species over long time	विकास, क्रम-विकास
Natural selection	The survival of the best-adapted	प्राकृतिक चयन
Adaptation	A trait that helps an organism survive	अनुकूलन
Species	A group of similar organisms that can breed	जाति, प्रजाति
Extinction	The complete dying out of a species	विलुप्ति
Respiration	The release of energy from food in cells	श्वसन
Digestion	The breaking down of food in the body	पाचन
Circulation	The flow of blood around the body	रक्त परिसंचरण
Metabolism	All the chemical processes within a body	उपापचय, चयापचय
Hormone	A chemical messenger that controls the body	हार्मोन
Enzyme	A protein that speeds up reactions in the body	एंजाइम, प्रकिण्व
Immune system	The body's defence against disease	प्रतिरक्षा तंत्र
Nervous system	The body's network of message and control	तंत्रिका तंत्र
Photosynthesis	How plants make food from sunlight	प्रकाश संश्लेषण
Chlorophyll	The green pigment that captures light in plants	पर्णहरित, क्लोरोफिल
Pollination	The transfer of pollen so plants can seed	परागण
Germination	The sprouting of a seed into a plant	अंकुरण
Ecosystem	Living things together with their surroundings	पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र
Food chain	The order in which organisms feed on each other	खाद्य श्रृंखला
Biodiversity	The variety of all living things in an area	जैव विविधता
Symbiosis	A close living-together of two different species	सहजीविता
Decomposer	An organism that breaks down dead matter	अपघटक

Producer	An organism, like a plant, that makes its own food	उत्पादक
Bacteria	Tiny single-celled living organisms	जीवाणु
Virus	A tiny agent that causes infection	विषाणु
Reproduction	The process of producing offspring	जनन, प्रजनन
Vertebrate	An animal that has a backbone	कशेरुकी
Invertebrate	An animal that has no backbone	अकशेरुकी
Protein	A nutrient that builds and repairs the body	प्रोटीन
Genetics	The study of genes and heredity	आनुवंशिकी
Excretion	The removal of waste from the body	उत्सर्जन
Fungi	Organisms such as moulds and mushrooms	कवक
Microbe	A tiny living organism, seen only under a microscope	सूक्ष्मजीव
Herbivore	An animal that eats only plants	शाकाहारी जीव
Carnivore	An animal that eats other animals	मांसाहारी जीव
Cell division	The splitting of one cell into two	कोशिका विभाजन

PRACTICE PASSAGE - 1

Why does the polar bear wear white, and the desert fox carry such enormous ears? For most of human history the answer given was simply that each creature had been made, from the very beginning, to fit its home. Charles Darwin offered a stranger and far more powerful explanation. In any group of animals, he observed, individuals differ slightly from one another, and some of these small differences happen, by pure chance, to help their owners survive and breed a little better than the rest. A bear born slightly paler than its fellows is a little harder for seals to see against the ice, and so it hunts, lives and leaves behind more cubs — cubs that inherit its useful paleness. Repeat this quiet process over many thousands of generations, and the whole species drifts, step by tiny step, toward whiteness. This slow shaping of living things by the survival of the best-suited is what Darwin called natural selection, and the helpful trait it slowly produces — the white coat, the great cooling ears — is called an adaptation. No designer is needed, only time, chance variation, and the steady pressure of a world in which not everything that is born can possibly survive.

Q1. What was the old explanation for creatures fitting their homes?

(a) they were made from the start to fit (b) they chose their homes
(c) they were trained (d) they moved often

Q2. How does a slightly paler bear benefit?

(a) it is warmer (b) it is harder for seals to see, so it breeds more
(c) it runs faster (d) it eats plants

Q3. In the passage, an 'adaptation' is -

(a) a chance mutation (b) a designer's plan
(c) a kind of animal (d) a helpful trait that aids survival

Q4. Natural selection, the author says, needs no designer, only -

(a) luck alone (b) time, variation and survival pressure
(c) a single generation (d) a warm climate

Q5. The tone of the passage toward Darwin's idea is -

(a) admiring (b) dismissive
(c) fearful (d) confused

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (A) For most of history it was believed each creature was made from the beginning to fit.
Q2 (B) Being harder to spot against ice, it hunts and leaves more cubs.
Q3 (D) An adaptation is defined as the helpful trait natural selection produces.
Q4 (B) It needs only time, chance variation, and the pressure of survival.
Q5 (A) The passage presents the idea as 'stranger and far more powerful' — an admiring tone.

PRACTICE PASSAGE 2

Every scrap of food you have ever eaten traces back, in the end, to a quiet miracle performed by plants in silence and in green. Deep inside every leaf, using nothing but sunlight, water and the carbon dioxide of the air, a plant builds sugar — its own food, and eventually ours. This remarkable process, called photosynthesis, is the hinge on which almost all of life turns. The animal that eats the leaf, and the animal that in turn eats that animal, are both living, at one remove or two, upon captured sunlight. Nor is that the whole of it. In the very act of building its sugar, the plant releases oxygen as a waste product — the same oxygen that fills our atmosphere and every single breath we take. It is a sobering thought that the forests and the drifting green plankton of the oceans are not merely pleasant scenery but the true source of both the food we eat and the air we breathe. When we clear a great forest without a second thought, we are not only losing trees; we are quietly dismantling, piece by piece, the ancient living machinery that keeps every one of us alive.

Q1. All the food we eat traces back to a miracle performed by —

(a) animals (b) the ocean

(c) the sun alone (d) plants

Q2. In the passage, 'photosynthesis' is the process by which a plant -

(a) builds sugar from sunlight, water and carbon dioxide

(b) eats other plants

(c) releases carbon dioxide

(d) stores oxygen

Q3. What does a plant release as a waste product?

(a) sugar (b) water

(c) carbon dioxide (d) oxygen

Q4. An animal that eats a leaf is living, at one remove, upon -

(a) soil (b) water

(c) captured sunlight (d) air

Q5. Clearing a great forest, the author warns, means -

(a) gaining farmland (b) dismantling the machinery that keeps us alive

(c) planting more trees (d) cooling the air

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (D) The passage says every scrap of food traces back to plants.
Q2 (A) Photosynthesis is defined as building sugar from sunlight, water and CO^2.
Q3 (D) In building sugar, the plant releases oxygen as waste.
Q4 (C) Such an animal lives, at one remove, on the sunlight the plant captured.
Q5 (B) The close warns we dismantle the living machinery that keeps us alive.

20 CHAPTER Space & Astronomy

Astronomy is the oldest of the sciences and, in a way, the humblest, for it studies everything that lies beyond our own small planet — the sun and moon, the wandering planets, the distant stars, and the vast dark reaches of the universe itself. It begins close to home, with the solar system: our star, the sun, and the eight planets that circle it in their steady orbits, held in place by the invisible grip of gravity, along with their moons, and the drifting asteroids and comets that share their space.

Beyond the solar system lies a far greater immensity. Our sun is but one ordinary star among hundreds of billions that together form our galaxy, and our galaxy is one among countless others scattered through space. The distances are so enormous that ordinary measures fail, and astronomers count instead in the light-year, the distance light itself travels in a single year. Because that light takes so long to reach us, to look outward into space is also to look backward in time, seeing distant stars not as they are but as they were long ago.

The universe, we now believe, began some fourteen billion years ago in an event called the Big Bang, and has been expanding ever since. Much about it remains deeply mysterious — the nature of black holes, whose gravity lets nothing escape, or of the unseen dark matter that seems to hold the galaxies together. Against this backdrop, the human effort to explore space — with telescopes that peer across the void, and with rockets, probes and astronauts that venture into it — stands as one of our boldest adventures. For all our smallness, we are the part of the universe that has begun, at last, to look back at itself and wonder.

खगोल विज्ञान विज्ञानों में सबसे पुराना और एक अर्थ में सबसे विनम्र है, क्योंकि यह उस सब का अध्ययन करता है जो हमारे छोटे ग्रह से परे है – सूर्य और चंद्रमा, भटकते ग्रह, दूरस्थ तारे, और स्वयं ब्रह्मांड का विशाल अंधकारमय विस्तार। यह घर के पास से आरंभ होता है, सौर मंडल से: हमारा तारा सूर्य, और आठ ग्रह जो अपनी स्थिर कक्षाओं में उसकी परिक्रमा करते हैं, गुरुत्वाकर्षण की अदृश्य पकड़ में बँधे, साथ ही उनके चंद्रमा, और तैरते क्षुद्रग्रह तथा धूमकेतु।

सौर मंडल से परे कहीं अधिक विशालता है। हमारा सूर्य उन सैकड़ों अरब तारों में से एक साधारण तारा मात्र है जो मिलकर हमारी आकाशगंगा बनाते हैं, और हमारी आकाशगंगा अनगिनत अन्य में से एक है। दूरियाँ इतनी विशाल हैं कि सामान्य माप विफल हो जाते हैं, और खगोलविद इसके बजाय प्रकाश वर्ष में गिनते हैं, अर्थात् वह दूरी जो प्रकाश एक वर्ष में तय करता है। चूँकि उस प्रकाश को हम तक पहुँचने में इतना समय लगता है, अंतरिक्ष में बाहर देखना समय में पीछे देखना भी है।

हम अब मानते हैं कि ब्रह्मांड लगभग चौदह अरब वर्ष पूर्व महाविस्फोट नामक घटना में आरंभ हुआ, और तब से फैल रहा है। इसके बारे में बहुत कुछ गहरे रूप से रहस्यमय है – कृष्ण विवरों की प्रकृति, जिनके गुरुत्व से कुछ भी नहीं बच सकता, या उस अदृश्य श्याम पदार्थ की जो आकाशगंगाओं को थामे रखता प्रतीत होता है। इस पृष्ठभूमि में अंतरिक्ष की खोज का मानव प्रयास – दूरबीनों, राकेटों, जांच-यानों और अंतरिक्ष यात्रियों के साथ – हमारे सबसे साहसी अभियानों में से एक है।

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY:-

Vast	Extremely large in size or extent	विशाल
Celestial	Relating to the sky or the heavens	आकाशीय, खगोलीय
Remote	Situated far away	दूरस्थ
Luminous	Giving off light; shining	प्रकाशमान, चमकीला
Immense	Enormous; very great	अत्यधिक विशाल
Void	A completely empty space	शून्य, रिक्ति
Hostile	Harsh and unwelcoming, esp. To life	प्रतिकूल, विरोधी
Pioneer	One of the first to explore something	अग्रदूत, प्रवर्तक
Aspire	To aim for something high or great	आकांक्षा करना

Elusive	Difficult to find, catch or grasp	मायावी, दुर्ग्राह्य
Barren	Bare and lifeless	बंजर, वीरान
Propel	To drive or push forward	आगे बढ़ाना, प्रणोदित करना
Infinite	Having no limit or end	अनंत
Distant	Far off in space or time	दूरस्थ
Awe	A feeling of wonder mixed with respect	विस्मय
Observe	To watch carefully and note	प्रेक्षण करना, देखना

***TECHNICAL TERMS & JARGON*:-**

Solar system	The sun and everything that orbits it	सौर मंडल
Planet	A large body that orbits a star	ग्रह
Orbit	The curved path of one body around another	कक्षा, परिक्रमा-पथ
Satellite	A body or device that orbits a planet	उपग्रह
Asteroid	A small rocky body orbiting the sun	क्षुद्रग्रह
Comet	An icy body that grows a tail near the sun	धूमकेतु
Meteor	A space rock that burns up in the atmosphere	उल्का
Eclipse	The blocking of one body's light by another	ग्रहण
Gravity	The force that pulls masses toward each other	गुरुत्वाकर्षण
Star	A huge glowing ball of gas, like the sun	तारा
Galaxy	A vast system of billions of stars	आकाशगंगा, मंदाकिनी
Constellation	A recognised pattern of stars	तारामंडल, नक्षत्र
Nebula	A great cloud of gas and dust in space	निहारिका
Supernova	The violent explosion of a dying star	महानोवा, तारा-विस्फोट
Light-year	The distance light travels in one year	प्रकाश वर्ष
Black hole	A region whose gravity lets nothing escape	कृष्ण विवर, ब्लैक होल
Universe	All of space and everything within it	ब्रह्मांड
Big bang	The event in which the universe began	महाविस्फोट
Cosmos	The universe seen as an ordered whole	विश्व, ब्रह्मांड
Dark matter	Unseen matter that seems to hold galaxies together	श्याम पदार्थ
Telescope	An instrument for viewing distant objects	दूरबीन
Spacecraft	A vehicle built for travel in space	अंतरिक्ष यान
Rocket	An engine-driven vehicle that reaches space	राकेट
Space station	A crewed structure that orbits the earth	अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन
Astronaut	A person trained to travel in space	अंतरिक्ष यात्री
Probe	An unmanned craft sent to explore space	जांच-यान
Launch	The sending of a craft up into space	प्रक्षेपण
Trajectory	The path that a moving object follows	प्रक्षेप-पथ
Lunar	Relating to the moon	चंद्र, चंद्रमा संबंधी
Interstellar	Occurring between the stars	अंतरतारकीय
Astronomy	The scientific study of the heavens	खगोल विज्ञान
Astrophysics	The physics of stars and the universe	खगोल भौतिकी
Observatory	A place equipped for observing the sky	वेधशाला
Cosmic	Relating to the universe as a whole	ब्रह्मांडीय, वैश्विक
Rotation	The spinning of a body on its own axis	घूर्णन, परिभ्रमण

Revolution	The movement of one body around another	परिक्रमण
Meteorite	A space rock that lands on the earth's surface	उल्कापिंड
Milky way	The galaxy that contains our solar system	आकाशगंगा, मंदाकिनी
Atmosphere	The layer of gases surrounding a planet	वायुमंडल

PRACTICE PASSAGE - 1

When you look up at the night sky, you are not seeing the stars as they are now, but as they once were — in some cases, as they were long before you were born. The reason lies in the almost unimaginable distances of space, together with the fact that light, though it is the fastest thing in the entire universe, still takes time to travel. Astronomers measure these gulfs not in miles but in the light-year, the distance that light covers in a single year of travel. A star that lies a hundred light-years away is seen by us exactly as it looked a hundred years ago, for its light has taken precisely that long to cross the void and reach our eyes. Some of the faint points we admire may, in sober truth, no longer exist at all, having burned out centuries ago, their final glow only now arriving. To gaze at the heavens, then, is to look not merely across a vast distance but backward through time itself — a strange and humbling thought, that the night sky is less a photograph of the present moment than a bundle of old letters from the deep past, still travelling patiently toward us across the dark.

Q1. When you look at the night sky, you see the stars -

(a) as they once were (b) as they are right now
(c) brighter than they are (d) exactly as photographs

Q2. Why do we see stars as they were in the past?

(a) they move away (b) light takes time to travel across vast distances
(c) the sky is dark (d) stars change colour

Q3. In the passage, a 'light-year' is -

(a) a very long year (b) the age of a star
(c) the distance light travels in one year (d) the speed of light

Q4. Some faint stars we admire may, in truth, -

(a) be getting brighter (b) no longer exist, having burned out
(c) be very close (d) be newly born

Q5. To gaze at the heavens, the author says, is to look backward through -

(a) distance only (b) the atmosphere
(c) a telescope (d) time itself

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (A) The passage opens by saying we see stars not as they are now but as they once were.
Q2 (B) Light, though fastest, still takes time to cross the enormous distances.
Q3 (C) A light-year is defined as the distance light covers in a single year.
Q4 (B) Some may have burned out centuries ago, their last glow only now arriving.
Q5 (D) The close: looking at the sky is looking backward through time.

PRACTICE PASSAGE 2

To most people, space seems the remotest of concerns — a playground for dreamers, and a waste of money that might be far better spent on pressing needs here on Earth. Yet space is woven, quite invisibly, into the fabric of ordinary daily life, chiefly through the satellite, a device placed in orbit high above the planet to perform work that could never be done from the ground. When you check tomorrow's weather, follow a map on your phone, watch a match beamed live from another continent, or make a call from a remote village, you are almost certainly relying on satellites circling silently overhead. Farmers use them to watch over their crops; sailors and pilots use them to find their way; and governments use them to give early warning of an approaching storm that, in an earlier age, might have killed thousands with no warning at all. The vast sums spent on reaching space, its defenders argue, are not flung uselessly into the void; a great deal of it returns to Earth in the shape of technologies that quietly serve us every hour of every day. The frontier that appears so impossibly far away turns out, on closer inspection, to be nearer to our daily lives than almost anything else.

Q1. How does the passage say most people view space?

(a) as central to life
(b) as a remote concern and a waste of money
(c) as frightening
(d) as easy to reach

Q2. In the passage, a 'satellite' is a device placed in -

(a) a distant galaxy
(b) a telescope
(c) a farmer's field
(d) orbit above the planet to do work

Q3. Which of these is named as relying on satellites?

(a) writing a letter
(b) checking the weather and following maps
(c) digging a well
(d) reading a book

Q4. What do defenders say about money spent on space?

(a) much of it returns to Earth as useful technology
(b) it is lost in the void
(c) it helps only dreamers
(d) it should be stopped

Q5. The passage concludes that space is -

(a) further away than ever
(b) nearer to daily life than almost anything
(c) of no real use
(d) only for governments

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (B) Most see space as a remote concern and a waste of money better spent on Earth.
Q2 (D) A satellite is defined as a device placed in orbit to perform work impossible from the ground.
Q3 (B) The passage lists weather forecasts, maps, television and calls as satellite-dependent.
Q4 (A) They argue much of it returns as technologies that serve us daily.
Q5 (B) The close: the far-seeming frontier is nearer to daily life than almost anything else.

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21 CHAPTER Globalisation & International

For most of history, nations lived largely separate lives, meeting mainly through trade at the edges or war at the borders. That age has ended. The defining feature of our time is globalisation — the weaving-together of the world's economies, cultures and peoples into a single, restless and deeply connected system, driven by trade, travel and instant communication. Goods are now made across a dozen countries before they reach a shop; ideas and fashions cross the planet in moments; and the fortunes of a farmer in one continent may turn on a decision taken in a distant capital he will never see.

How nations manage this closeness is the business of international relations. At its best, it is conducted through diplomacy — the patient art of settling disputes with words rather than weapons, through talks, treaties and alliances, and through great international bodies such as the United Nations, built after a century of terrible wars to give the world a place to argue instead of fight. Yet cooperation is never guaranteed. Nations remain jealous of their sovereignty, rivalries and old suspicions endure, and the threat of conflict is never wholly absent.

Globalisation, for all its gifts, is fiercely debated. Its defenders point to the hundreds of millions lifted from poverty and the spread of knowledge across old barriers; its critics answer that the gains have been unevenly shared, that jobs vanish from one land as they appear in another, and that local cultures are flattened by a powerful few. What is beyond dispute is the depth of our interdependence. The great problems of the age — climate change, pandemics, financial panics — respect no borders and can be solved by no nation alone. Our troubles have become global, even as our politics remains stubbornly national; learning to bridge that gap may be the central task of the century.

इतिहास के अधिकांश समय राष्ट्र काफी हद तक अलग-अलग जीवन जीते थे, और मुख्यत: किनारों पर व्यापार या सीमाओं पर युद्ध के माध्यम से मिलते थे। वह युग समाप्त हो चुका है। हमारे समय की परिभाषित विशेषता है वैश्वीकरण ख़ व्यापार, यात्रा और तत्काल संचार से प्रेरित होकर संसार की अर्थव्यवस्थाओं, संस्कृतियों और लोगों का एक ही जुड़ी हुई प्रणाली में बुनना। वस्तुएँ अब किसी दुकान तक पहुँचने से पहले एक दर्जन देशों में बनती हैं; विचार और फैशन पल भर में ग्रह पार कर जाते हैं; और एक महाद्वीप के किसान का भाग्य किसी दूरस्थ राजधानी में लिए निर्णय पर टिक सकता है।

राष्ट्र इस निकटता को कैसे संभालते हैं, यह अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संबंधों का विषय है। अपने सर्वोत्तम रूप में यह कूटनीति के माध्यम से चलता है ख़ विवादों को हथियारों के बजाय शब्दों से सुलझाने की धैर्यपूर्ण कला, वार्ता, संधियों और गठबंधनों के जरिए, और संयुक्त राष्ट्र जैसे महान अंतर्राष्ट्रीय निकायों के माध्यम से। फिर भी सहयोग कभी सुनिश्चित नहीं होता। राष्ट्र अपनी संप्रभुता के प्रति सजग रहते हैं, प्रतिद्वंद्विताएँ और पुराने संदेह बने रहते हैं, और संघर्ष का ख तरा कभी पूरी तरह अनुपस्थित नहीं होता।

वैश्वीकरण, अपने सभी उपहारों के बावजूद, तीव्र बहस का विषय है। इसके समर्थक गरीबी से उठाए गए करोड़ों लोगों और बाधाओं के पार ज्ञान के प्रसार की ओर संकेत करते हैं; इसके आलोचक उत्तर देते हैं कि लाभ असमान रूप से बँटे हैं, कि एक देश से नौकरियाँ गायब होती हैं जब वे दूसरे में प्रकट होती हैं। जो निर्विवाद है वह है हमारी परस्पर निर्भरता की गहराई। इस युग की महान समस्याएँ ख़ जलवायु परिवर्तन, महामारियाँ, वित्तीय संकट ख़ किसी सीमा को नहीं मानतीं और किसी अकेले राष्ट्र से हल नहीं हो सकतीं।

IMPORTANT VOCABULARY:-

Interconnected	Linked so that each part affects the others	परस्पर जुड़ा हुआ
Mutual	Shared between two or more parties	पारस्परिक, आपसी
Hostile	Unfriendly and aggressive	शत्रुतापूर्ण
Negotiate	To bargain in order to reach agreement	बातचीत करना, समझौता करना
Prosper	To thrive and grow successful	समृद्ध होना, फलना-फूलना
Tension	A state of strained relations	तनाव
Integrate	To combine parts into a single whole	एकीकृत करना

Rivalry	Competition between opponents	प्रतिद्वंद्विता, होड़
Cooperate	To work together toward a goal	सहयोग करना
Dominate	To have controlling power over	प्रभुत्व रखना, हावी होना
Fragile	Easily broken, as a peace or truce	नाजुक, भंगुर
Emerge	To rise up or come into view	उभरना, प्रकट होना
Volatile	Unstable and liable to sudden change	अस्थिर, विस्फोटक
Strategic	Forming part of a long-term plan	रणनीतिक
Impose	To force a rule or penalty upon	थोपना, लागू करना
Mediate	To help two sides reach agreement	मध्यस्थता करना

TECHNICAL TERMS & JARGON:-

Globalisation	The growing interconnection of the world's economies and cultures	वैश्वीकरण
Trade	The buying and selling of goods between nations	व्यापार
Tariff	A tax charged on imported goods	आयात शुल्क
Multinational	A company that operates in many countries	बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनी
Free trade	Trade conducted without barriers or tariffs	मुक्त व्यापार
Protectionism	Shielding home industry from foreign competition	संरक्षणवाद
Interdependence	The mutual reliance of nations on one another	परस्पर निर्भरता
Diplomacy	The managing of relations between states	कूटनीति
Treaty	A formal, binding agreement between nations	संधि
Alliance	A union of nations formed for a common aim	गठबंधन
Summit	A meeting of the top leaders of nations	शिखर सम्मेलन
Bilateral	Involving two nations	द्विपक्षीय
Multilateral	Involving many nations together	बहुपक्षीय
Embassy	A nation's official office in another country	दूतावास
Ambassador	A nation's chief representative abroad	राजदूत
Sanction	A penalty imposed on a nation to force a change	प्रतिबंध
Negotiation	Discussion aimed at reaching an agreement	वार्ता, बातचीत
Sovereignty	A nation's full authority over itself	संप्रभुता
United nations	The world body for peace and cooperation	संयुक्त राष्ट्र
Superpower	An extremely powerful and influential nation	महाशक्ति
Geopolitics	How geography shapes power between nations	भू-राजनीति
Bloc	A group of nations acting together	गुट, समूह
Ceasefire	An agreed halt to fighting	युद्धविराम
Deterrence	Preventing attack by the threat of retaliation	निवारण, प्रतिरोध
Refugee	A person who flees to another country for safety	शरणार्थी
Cold war	Hostility between powers without direct fighting	शीत युद्ध
Embargo	An official ban on trade with a nation	व्यापार-प्रतिषेध

Foreign aid	Help given by one country to another	विदेशी सहायता
Neutrality	The policy of taking no side in a conflict	तटस्थता
Summitry	The conduct of diplomacy through leaders' meetings	शिखर-कूटनीति
World trade organization	The body that oversees the rules of world trade	विश्व व्यापार संगठन
International monetary fund	The global fund that helps nations in financial trouble	अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष
Soft power	Influence gained through culture and persuasion, not force	सॉफ्ट पावर, कोमल शक्ति
Hegemony	The dominance of one nation over others	आधिपत्य
Diaspora	A people scattered far from their homeland	प्रवासी समुदाय
Asylum	Protection given to a refugee by another country	शरण

PRACTICE PASSAGE - 1

A century ago, a failed harvest in one country was, for the most part, that country's own private misfortune. Today, a shock in almost any corner of the world is felt, within hours, in every other. This is the defining fact of globalisation — the weaving-together of the world's economies into a single, restless system through trade, travel and instant communication. Its benefits have been enormous and undeniable. Goods that were once rare and costly are now cheap and everywhere; ideas and technologies leap across borders in moments; and hundreds of millions of people have been lifted out of poverty by selling their labour and their wares to distant markets. Yet the very same connectedness carries a hidden price. A factory closing on one continent throws people out of work on another; a financial panic in one great city can drain the savings of families across the globe; and a virus in a single crowded market can, as the whole world has lately seen, become everyone's disease within a matter of weeks. This deep interdependence means that no nation, however rich or powerful, can any longer stand truly alone. Our problems have become global, even while our politics remains stubbornly national, and the two do not fit together at all easily.

Q1. A century ago, a failed harvest was chiefly -

(a) that country's own private misfortune (b) a global disaster
(c) a cause of war (d) unnoticed

Q2. In the passage, 'globalisation' is the weaving-together of economies through -

(a) war and conquest (b) trade, travel and communication
(c) borders and armies (d) farming alone

Q3. Which of these is named as a benefit of globalisation?

(a) more factory closings (b) financial panics
(c) hundreds of millions lifted from poverty (d) the spread of disease

Q4. 'Interdependence' in the passage means that no nation can -

(a) trade with others (b) stand truly alone
(c) close its factories (d) grow rich

Q5. The great difficulty of the age is that problems are global while politics is -

(a) also global (b) stubbornly national
(c) unimportant (d) perfectly united

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (A) The passage opens by contrasting the private misfortune of the past with today's shared shocks.
Q2 (B) It is defined as connecting the world's economies through trade, travel and communication.
Q3 (C) Benefits listed include cheaper goods, spreading ideas and poverty reduced.
Q4 (B) Deep interdependence means no nation, however powerful, can stand alone.
Q5 (B) The close states problems are global while politics remains national, and the two clash.

PRACTICE PASSAGE 2

It is often said that war begins where diplomacy ends, and there is a hard truth folded into the saying. Diplomacy is the patient, unglamorous art by which nations settle their quarrels with words rather than with weapons — through talks, through treaties, and through the endless quiet labour of ambassadors. It rarely makes the headlines, for its greatest successes are, by their very nature, invisible: the war that did not break out, the crisis that was quietly talked down, leaves behind no ruins for a photographer and no dramatic story to tell. Only its failures are loud. This is precisely why diplomacy is so easily undervalued, and why leaders are sometimes tempted to abandon it for the swift and dramatic gesture of force. Yet history teaches, over and over, that a war is almost always more costly, more destructive and more uncertain in its outcome than the compromise that might have prevented it. The finest diplomacy asks something genuinely difficult of proud nations: the willingness to give a little in order to gain peace, and to see an opponent not as a monster to be crushed but as a party with real interests that must somehow be accommodated. It is slow, it is often frustrating, and it is, in the end, far cheaper than the alternative.

Q1. 'War begins where diplomacy ends' suggests that diplomacy is -

(a) the cause of war
(b) the alternative to war
(c) a kind of weapon
(d) always a failure

Q2. In the passage, 'diplomacy' is the art of settling quarrels with -

(a) weapons
(b) money
(c) threats
(d) words rather than weapons

Q3. Why are diplomacy's greatest successes called 'invisible'?

(a) they are secret plots
(b) the war that did not happen leaves no ruins
(c) no one records them
(d) they always fail

Q4. What does history teach about war versus compromise?

(a) war is more costly and uncertain than the compromise that might prevent it
(b) war is always cheaper
(c) compromise never works
(d) war is unavoidable

Q5. The finest diplomacy asks nations to -

(a) crush their opponents
(b) abandon all talks
(c) give a little to gain peace and accommodate rivals' interests
(d) use force swiftly

ANSWERS & EXPLANATION

Q1 (B) The saying implies diplomacy is what holds off war — its alternative.
Q2 (D) Diplomacy is defined as settling disputes with words rather than weapons.
Q3 (B) A prevented war leaves no ruins to photograph, so success goes unseen.
Q4 (A) History shows war is almost always costlier and less certain than a preventing compromise.
Q5 (C) It asks the willingness to give a little for peace and to see rivals as parties with interests.