

Grammar

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Make a precis of the following passage in about one third of the original length using your own words -

What part should reading play in our lives ? It should certainly not be a substitute for action, not for independent thinking, nor for conversation ; but it may be a help and stimulant to action, thought and talk ; and it is capable of providing almost infinite pleasure. There on a bookshelf or on summons from a library are wit, wisdom , adventure, romance from all the ages and all over the world. Is there any wonder that our eyes sometimes stray wistfully to the bookshelves and away from a dull visitor, or that we shirk a tiresome duty for an exciting book ?

Books or people ? Reading or Conversation or , nowadays, listening in to the radio ? Which is the better way to gain knowledge or to spend your leisure ? Some fortunate people seem always to find time for both and to enjoy both almost equally. My great friend, Arthur Wauchope, a fine soldier, a most able administrator and a very gifted personality, was a constant reader, yet he was always ready to lay aside a book for talk and was a most interesting and interested talker.

The advantages of reading over talk are of course that we can select the book that suits our mood, can go at our own pace, skip or turn back, whereas we cannot turn over two pages of a tedious companion or close him, or her ,with a bang. But reading lacks the human touch, the salt of life, and is, therefore, a dangerous substitute for thought or action. Bacon in one of his essays says that reading maketh a full man; conference (that is talking) a ready man; and writing an exact man. One would like to be full of knowledge, ready in speech, an exact by training. But full of what? What sort of reading has impressed itself on my memory, and what books have found a permanent place on my bookshelves ?

To begin with my profession, soldiering. I do not believe that soldiering, a practical business, in which human nature is the main element, can be learnt from text-books, and more than can boxing or cricket or golf. But for those who have grasped the principles of war and have understood that the human factor is the most important element in it, there is military reading that is fascinating and valuable.

'Read and re-read the campaigns of the great commanders '.said Napoleon. I would venture to put it differently and would say that the lives and characters of the great commanders are what students of war should examine , since their campaigns are only incidents in them; and that the behaviour of leaders and of their men in the field is the subject for study. Take Napoleon's first campaign of 1796. The text-book will tell you that he won by manoeuvre or interior lines or by the principle of concentration of force or some similar conjuration. One learns nothing, I hold ,by such dogma.

In my general reading, history ,biography and travel occupy, I think , first place ; and since I have spent a considerable proportion of my life in the East there are a good number of volumes on India and the Middle East. There is plenty of poetry on my shelves and a good deal of it in my head. I have put my notions of poetry in a book already and will not repeat them here, except to express my firm belief that poetry in some shape or another is one of the most precious of our heritages, and that much of what rise to pass for poetry nowadays is not poetry at all, and not even decently camouflaged as such. Poetry should dance in the mind, and blow one a kiss; or gallop to adventure with a cheer; or whisper gently of sad things past; not shuffle or slouch past with dark incomprehensible mutterings. Perhaps I'm getting old , anyway I prefer the old poets.

Lastly comes what is sometimes called ' escapist' literature, the books we read with no other aim than to rest or to amuse the mind, to forget the day's chores and the morrow's anxieties. This is perhaps the most pleasant form of reading for most.

Solution

Reading should not replace action, independent thinking, or conversation, but it can aid and inspire those activities and provide immense pleasure. Books on a shelf hold adventurous stories from various times and places, making it understandable why our eyes wander toward them during dull moments. Choosing between books and people, or reading and conversation, poses a question about the best way to gain knowledge or spend leisure time. Some people manage to enjoy both. For instance, my friend Arthur Wauchope, an avid reader and an engaging conversationalist, seamlessly balanced the two.

Reading offers advantages like choosing the right book for our mood and going at our own pace, but it lacks the human touch, making it a questionable substitute for thought or action. Bacon suggested that reading makes a person full, conversation makes them ready, and writing makes them exact. What we read leaves a lasting impression, and specific books hold permanent places on our bookshelves.

Regarding my profession, soldiering, practical knowledge can't solely be derived from textbooks, much like sports. Instead, understanding the principles of war and studying the lives and characters of great commanders are essential. Campaigns are only incidents; leadership and the behavior of soldiers in the field are crucial.

In my general reading, history, biography, and travel books take the forefront. Poetry holds a special place in my collection, with a belief that authentic poetry should evoke emotions and not hide behind obscure language. As for "escapist" literature, it provides a pleasant way to rest and amuse the mind, offering an enjoyable form of reading.



Grammar

SPOTTING ERRORS

Directions for the following 20 items : Each question in this section has a sentence with three underlined parts labelled (a), (b) and (c). Read each sentence to find out whether there is any error in any underlined part and indicate your answer in the Answer Sheet against the corresponding letter i.e. (a) or (b) or (c). If you find no error, your answer should be indicated as (d).

1. He asked her that whether she knew what had happened last week
 (a) (b) (c)
when she was on leave. No error
 (d)
2. Until you do not go to the station to receive him I can hardly feel at ease.
~~(a)~~ (b) (c)
No error
 (d)
3. I did not know where they were going nor could I understand
why had they left so soon. stated (b)
 (a) No error (d)
 (c)
4. The distinguished visitor said that he had great pleasure to be with us for some time
and that the pleasure was all the greater because his visit afforded him an opportunity
 (a) (b) (c)
to study the working of an institution of such eminence as ours. No error
 (d)
5. Please convey my best wishes back to your parents. No error
 (a) (b) (c) (d)
6. The call of the seas have always found an echo in me. No error
 (a) (b) (c) (d)
7. Hardly I had left home for Bombay when my son who is settled in Calcutta arrived
without any prior information. No error
 (a) (b) (c) (d)

8. Now it can be easily said that the population of this city is greater
~~that~~ (a) ~~of~~ (b) No error
than any other city in India. (c) (d)
9. It is difficult to explain why did Raigopalachari resigned
 (a) (b) No error
from the Congress in 1940. (c) (d)
10. The boss reminded them of the old saying that honesty was the best policy.
 (a) (b) No error
and told them that they had better be honest in their work. (c) (d)
- 2
★
- (Contd.)

11. "Gulliver's Travels" are the most fascinating adventure story that I have ever read.
 (a) (b) (c) No error
 (d)
12. The teenager reassured his father at the station "Don't worry, dad"
I will pull on very nicely at the hostel." (a) No error (b)
 (c) (d)

13. The way he's behaving. (a) he'll soon spill the beans. (b) I'm afraid. (c) No error (d) *(d)*
14. Most of the developing countries find it (a) difficult to cope up with the problems (b) created by the sudden impact of technological progress. (c) No error (d)
15. People blamed him (a) for being (b) a coward person. (c) No error (d) *ly*
16. We swam up to the drowning man, caught hold of his clothes (a) before he could go down again (b) and pulled him out, safe to the shore. (c) No error (d) *safely*
17. Meena was so tired (a) that she could not hardly (b) talk to the guests for a few minutes. (c) No error (d) *barely*
18. If I was knowing (a) why he was absent, (b) I would have informed you. (c) No error (d) *had known*
19. He goes (a) to office (b) by foot. (c) No error (d) *on*
20. The hundred-rupees notes (a) that he gave them for the goods bought from them looked genuine (b) but later they reliably learnt that the notes were all counterfeit. (c) No error (d)

1. It was ^{we} us who had left before he arrived.
- × (a) we who had left before time he had arrived.
 - × (b) us who had went before he arrived.
 - × (c) us who had went before had arrived.
 - ✓ (d) we who had left before he arrived.
2. The MP rose up to say that in her opinion she thought the Women's Reservation Bill should be passed on unanimously. → *agreed upon*
- ✓ (a) rose to say that she thought the Women's Reservation Bill should be passed
 - × (b) rose up to say that, the Women's Reservation Bill should be passed on
 - × (c) rose to say that, in her opinion, she thought that the Women's Reservation Bill should be passed
 - × (d) rose to say that, in her opinion, the Women's Reservation Bill should be passed on
3. Mr. Pillai, the president of the union and who is also a member of the community group will be in charge of the negotiations.
- ✓ (a) since he is a member of the community group
 - × (b) also being a member of the community group
 - ✓ (c) a member of the community group
 - ✓ (d) in addition, who is a member of the community group

4. Since the advent of cable television, at the beginning of this decade the entertainment industry took a giant stride forward in our country.

(a) this decade saw the entertainment industry taking

✓ (b) this decade, the entertainment industry has taken

✗ (c) this decade, the entertainment industry had taken

✗ (d) this decade, the entertainment industry took

5. His mother made great sacrifices to educate him, moving house on three occasions, and severing the thread on her loom's shuttle whenever Mencius neglected his lessons to make him understand the need to persevere.

✓ (a) severing the thread on her loom's shuttle whenever Mencius neglected his lessons to make him understand the need to persevere.

(b) severed the thread on her loom's shuttle whenever Mencius neglected his lessons to make him understand the need to persevere.

(c) severed the thread on her loom's shuttle whenever Mencius neglected his lessons to make him understand the need for persevering.

(d) severing the thread on her loom's shuttle whenever Mencius neglected his lessons to make them understand the need to persevere.

7. Many of these environmentalists proclaim to

(c) B and C

1. Though one eye is kept firmly on the future the company now also promotes popular contemporary art.

- (a) Present, experimental
- (b) Future, popular
- (c) Present, popular
- (d) Market, popular

2. The law prohibits a person from felling a sandalwood tree even if it grows on one's own land without prior permission from the government. As poor people cannot deal with the government this legal provision leads to a rip roaring business for touts who care neither for the poor nor for the trees.

- (a) Middle men, rich
- (b) The government, poor
- (c) Touts, poor
- (d) Touts, rich

3. It will take some time for many South Koreans to reconcile the conflicting images of North Korea, let alone to decide what to make of their northern cousins.

- (a) Reconcile, decide
- (b) Understand, clarify
- (c) Make out, decide
- (d) Reconcile, understand

4. In these bleak and depressing times of prices, non-performing governments and crime rates, Sourav Ganguly has given us Indians a lot to cheer about.

- (a) Escalating, increasing
- (b) Spiralling, booming
- (c) Spiralling, soaring
- (d) Ascending, debilitating

5. The manners and of the nouveau riche is a recurrent in the literature.

- (a) Style, motif
- (b) Morals, story
- (c) Wealth, theme
- (d) Morals, theme

