

Section - A

Group - I

③ The Unknown Citizen, written by W.H. Auden, is a satire upon a government which analyzes the life of an unknown citizen in terms of quantifiable data, with little emphasis on the characteristics that define the individuality of a human being.

Such characteristics, such as freedom, happiness, dreams, aspirations, ideas, idiosyncrasies, beliefs, etc., which define the person or soul of the individual are thrown to the winds as a state which can only dissect the life of its citizens in terms of the materialistic aspects of life such as his occupation, his insurances, his possessions such as a frigidaire, television, etc. cannot be possibly expected to understand and give value or importance to the fundamental

requirements or traits, the aggregate of which is in fact what constitutes the true self of the Unknown Citizen, or any human being in fact.

One of the factors which has always distinguished the extra-ordinary people from the average citizens is the fact that they have strived for what gives them happiness, in face of whatever difficulties might come in their path. They have been the crusaders who have managed to change the world for their own views. But, this is something which is exactly what the bureaucracy does not want. It seems that the things which the state expects from its citizens are to perform their duties to the nation, follow popular political thinkings, give the best for the state development (i.e.

act as good tax-payers), and most importantly
to not act as a hindrance to the smooth
functioning of the bureaucracy. The self-
complacent state views itself as a large
fabric of humanity (the society) and views
each of its citizens as a link, a thread
woven into this fabric. Lest a fabric thread
might stick out, disturbing the order about
itself and subsequently that of the entire
fabric itself, the state never endeavours
or ventures to bring out the speciality
in its citizens. Repression by the state
has been most familiar as was the case
of Galileo & Copernicus. However, a thing
which the state also requires is that
its image must be preserved in the
eyes of its citizens. Therefore, to save
having an allstress round the neck, the

state dismisses the entire notion of freedom & happiness as irrelevant factors in the life of an individual. The individual is stuck tight in the fabric.

As for as the appropriateness of the title The Unknown Citizen in this context is concerned, the title fits beautifully as without his state of happiness & freedom being recognized, the citizen is nothing more than a robot performing his duties to his family & the society at large. And setting up a constitution & preamble can never mean freedom in a true sense.

(13) The bureaucracy, psychology workers, press reports, Union workers, Hospital administration, teacher, etc. can never really realize what are the desires of the individual & whether he was able to realise his dreams in his life. This state of passivity & Unknowingness of ~~which~~ the citizen, now a number JS/07/M378, brings forth the appropriateness of the title The Unknown Citizen.