

## Speed Based RCs

1.

I was recently shocked to read that several city councils in the UK are getting ready to expunge everyday Latin words from the English lexicon. Along with 'via' and 'etc' would be banished 'viz' and 'i.e.', not to speak of 'inter alia' and 'bona fide'. There goes away that exotic literary advantage. It was only recently that Amrita, my 10-year-old, fighting against a tide of domestic protestations voted against romantic French and prevalent Spanish and chose Latin as her second language in middle school. I had cheered her and actually promised to help out with the homework, given that three out of five words in English are of Latin origin. Blame this vicarious decision on my formative years but growing up in Mumbai, Latin was never an option in my school, as our national language Hindi was strictly enforced. Shiv Sainiks had decreed that local Marathi was de rigueur for all citizens of the city. I therefore ended up needing to speak three additional languages, not to forget Tamil, my mother tongue.

Languages rarely heard have always fascinated me. I always had this burning desire to speak them, particularly when my travel stints exposed me to the strangest of tongues. Language CDs didn't help me a whole lot. The thing about languages is that though you may be gifted with the art of penmanship, spoken word skills are mostly inherited or acquired after birth. I have always packed my dog-eared phrasebook along with my toothbrush and shaving cream for my travels. These haven't helped me much either, often eliciting that controlled giggle or even outright laughter at my stuttered attempts. Printed words won't tell you that Thai is a tonal language with grammatical minefields or Mandarin and Cantonese have a lilt to them flowing like Indian ink applied with a Chinese brush. These city councils argue that they needed to create a language devoid of such linguistic minefields. However, there could be far-reaching consequences in the professional community. Just like abstruse scientific papers and brain-twisting mathematical theorems, legal documents are made to sound pompous with Latin words sprinkled generously all over those reams of printed matter. With Latin slowly oozing out of our English dictionary our lawyers will be hard-pressed to retain their mystifying status quo.

1.

Which of the following is a suitable title for the passage?

- (a) My Fascination with Languages
- (b) Languages Seldom Spoken
- (c) Should English be pruned?
- (d) Latin: The Legal Language

2.

According to the passage, why did the author choose to help his daughter?

- (a) The author felt that his daughter's choice of language was relevant in light of its close links with English.
- (b) The author felt that his daughter's choice of language was justified given that he had never been allowed to study Latin.
- (c) The author felt that his daughter's choice of language was practical and much better than romantic French and prevalent Spanish.
- (d) The author felt that his daughter's choice of language was relevant since it would give her an exotic literary advantage

3.

According to the passage, why have councils in the UK decided to remove Latin from the English lexicon?

- (a) They feel that the linguistic hurdles in Latin make it difficult to gain mastery over it.
- (b) They want to create a language that does not have the linguistic problems associated with the use of Latin.

- (c) They find themselves unable to overcome the linguistic hurdles provided by Latin.
- (d) They want to create a language that will help them remove the ambiguities associated with the use of Latin which has now become an obsolete language.

## 2

Henry Tyrrell, art critic of The New York World, now replies with the question "Is Chesterton Sane?" Apparently, his conclusion is that Chesterton is misled by his head, though his "heart is in the right place." Chesterton said: "It was the whole point of Whistler and his school that they produced the picture without troubling about the meaning. We may say it is the point of Picasso and the rest to paint the meaning without troubling about the picture."

Henry Tyrrell, quoting Elie Faure, writer of the greatest history of art of recent years, says: "Picasso was undoubtedly a great criminal, in the sense that he is largely responsible for the muddle which painting has got into latterly. It is from him chiefly that the younger artists have taken the notion of looking within themselves to interpret the outer world, instead of, like their elders, looking at the outside world to realize themselves. Because oftentimes they are unable to distinguish much of anything within themselves, you know what happens (They get themselves called crazy). That is Picasso's crime. But Michael Angelo shares his guilt, and Rembrandt, and Delacroix, and Cezanne."

From this, Mr. Tyrrell concludes that Chesterton is quite wrong about Picasso and the mad modern artists.

However, though it certainly is not crazy, modern art, according to M. Faure he is in a "muddle." It is lost and groping its way in its search for new forms, and this naturally troubles such conservatives as Chesterton.

The followers of Michael Angelo (individualists, like Picasso) represented a definite decline in Italian art. Are the imitators of Picasso also on the wrong track? Some of them seem to think so, for they are attempting, in their latest craze for being "primitive," a thing really opposed to the earlier phase. They are trying to get back to the "unspoiled vision" of a child or a savage; which is the same as looking "out" instead of "in." Mr. Chesterton also objects to this phase, as being an affectation. He is convinced that modern artists are mad, whatever they choose to do.

## 1

What is the central purpose of the passage?

- (a) To bring forward the unending debate on the concept of modern art.
- (b) To discuss the views of Henry Tyrell and Chesterton on modern art and artists.
- (c) To discuss and critically analyze the views of the art critic Chesterton.
- (d) To discuss and critically analyze the views of Chesterton and Henry Tyrell.

## 2.

According to Elie Faure, how are the younger artists different from their elder ones?

- (a) The paintings of the younger artists are a reflection of how the outer world impresses itself on the inner being of the artist.
- (b) The paintings of the younger artists reflect the outer world as they interpret it within themselves.
- (c) The paintings of the younger artists are inspired by Picasso's style and they followed his interpretation of the outside world.
- (d) Their paintings are an expression of their independent thinking as opposed to the elder artists.

3.

What is the role of the first paragraph in this passage?

- (a) It indicates that Chesterton is misguided in his approach to art in general.
- (b) It introduces the conflicting opinions of Tyrrell and Chesterton on art.
- (c) It brings forward Tyrrell's opinion on the subject of modern art.
- (d) It indicates that Tyrrell and Chesterton are two contemporaries who are at odds with each other.

3.

China's use of water is another rising source of tension. India's biggest rivers flow into the country from China. China is currently at work on constructing the world's largest hydroelectric dam on the Brahmaputra River, which is vital for Indian agriculture. India has agreed to treaties on water usage with its other neighbors, but China refuses to participate. This refusal to compromise underscores China's unreliability as a neighbor, says Srikanth Kondapalli, head of the Centre for East Asian Studies at New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University. "While China argues for multilateralism in the international arena, it reverses that position when it comes to water," he says.

To try to overcome these political stalemates, both sides are looking to use their surging economies to rebuild relations and raise their political profiles, as they have become invaluable partners for Western markets still mired in a global downturn. "There is a desire with China to get along, and I know there is such a desire in India," says Maharaja Krishna Rasgotra, former Indian Foreign Secretary. Commerce will help soften political attitudes." Trade between India and China is expected to reach \$60 billion this year up from \$270 million 20 years ago, making China India's largest trading partner.

But there too, there are issues to resolve. India's trade deficit with China is expected to top \$20 billion this year. It's an asymmetry that both countries have pledged to correct, but India remains suspicious that, while China is happy to import its raw material while India buys China's refined goods, Chinese policy is standing in the way of Indian companies' exporting their own finished products. "They've turned India into an Africa-style raw material appendage," says Chellaney.

1.

"This refusal to compromise underscores China's unreliability as a neighbor." Paraphrased the following sentence would mean

- (a) China's refusal to compromise highlights the fact that China is not a reliable neighbor to India.
- (b) China's refusal to compromise weakens the fact that China is not a reliable neighbor to India.
- (c) China's refusal to compromise undermines the fact that China is not a reliable neighbor to India.
- (d) China's refusal to compromise conforms to the fact that China is not a reliable neighbor to India.

2.

According to the author, which of the following is not a trade issue that needs to be resolved between India and China?

- (a) India's trade deficit with China is expected to top \$20 billion this year.
- (b) China is content with exporting finished goods to India but not with importing them from India.
- (c) China is willing to receive imports in the form of raw material from India but not in the form of finished goods.
- (d) China's refusal to enter a treaty on water usage with India.

4.

Union Carbide's in-house investigation of the accident will probably not be completed before the end of February. But an inquiry under way in India is already reaching some initial conclusions. The investigation has identified a combination of design flaws, operating errors and managerial mistakes that helped cause the accident and intensified its effects. In addition, the accident has stirred serious questions about placing modern technology in less industrialized Third World nations. The result of seven weeks' work by a team of Indian government officials, the report on the Bhopal accident will not be published until the

opening of a judicial inquiry in India that is scheduled to begin in a month or so. But sources close to the investigation have disclosed some frightening findings. The main conclusions:

Plant safety procedures were inadequate to deal with a large-scale leak of the deadly methyl isocyanate, or MIC, despite the fact that the dangers such a leak would pose were known. Nor had any precautions been taken to protect people living near the plant site. Although a safety survey conducted by experts from Union Carbide headquarters in 1982 identified major hazards that could lead to serious incidents, no procedures were developed for alerting or evacuating the population that would be affected by an accident. Leaky valves were a constant problem at the plant. Six serious accidents occurred at the Bhopal installation between 1978 and 1982, and three, one of which was fatal, involved gas leaks.

Some important safety systems were not working at the time of the accident. Refrigeration units designed to keep the highly reactive MIC cool so that it could not vaporize had been shut down before the accident. Other equipment, including devices designed to vent and burn off excess gases, was so inadequate, investigators hinted, that it would have been ineffective even if it had been operating at the time of the accident.

Plant workers failed to grasp the gravity of the situation as it developed, allowing the leak to go unattended for about an hour. Brief and frantic efforts to check the leak failed. As the situation deteriorated, the workers panicked and fled the plant.

Union Carbide, which disclosed late last month that leaks at its Institute, W. Va., plant had resulted in a revision of procedures there, has conceded that some of the information coming out of India is correct. The company has acknowledged that a backup storage tank that was supposed to be empty at the time of the accident had in fact been partly filled. But company officials declined to comment in detail on other findings until they could study the results of the investigation.

1.

It can be inferred that the style of the passage is

(a) Incriminatory (b) Critical (c) Factual (d) Investigative

2.

Which of these has not been featured in the conclusions of the investigation by the Indian government officials?

(a) Plant safety procedures were inadequate to deal with a large-scale leak of MIC.

(b) Failure of the plant workers to check the leak as it developed.

(c) Union Carbide never fully advised the national government of the dangers involved in producing and storing MIC.

(d) Some important safety systems were not working at the time of the accident.

3.

Which of the following can be inferred from the main conclusions of the investigation?

(a) Union Carbide was aware of the steps it should take to avoid a major accident but shrewdly did not do so.

(b) Union Carbide knowingly took no steps to avoid a major accident.

(c) Companies take fewer precautions at their plants in the developing countries in comparison to what they take in developed countries. .

(d) The accident mentioned in the passage was a result of various factors that can be attributed to any plant functioning in the third world nations and not to Union Carbide's neglect.

5.

The source of income for the elderly has changed dramatically over the past three decades. Salaries were the most important source of money, but now they account for only 15% of retirees' income. Even so, the ranks of oldsters working at least part time are growing. About half the men 65 and over now work part time, vs. only 35% in 1960. A deterrent to full-time work for many retirees is that Social Security is in

effect taxed at the 50% rate for earnings above \$7,320. Thus many people work just enough to keep under the cutoff.

The most important source of money for the majority of elderly people today is Social Security which, says the report, accounts for about 40% of retirees' income. Just behind that is the 25% provided by their own assets, such as savings and investments. Another major chunk comes from private pensions. Only a quarter of the work force was covered by pensions in 1950, but now half of all workers have them. In the future more and more employees will fall under various plans.

The perception that retired people are especially susceptible to inflation "is not supported by recent evidence," says the council in the dry, scholarly tone of the report. In fact, the elderly have done relatively better in keeping up with rising prices in recent years than the population as a whole. Social Security payments, tied by a 1972 law to the rate of inflation, went up 46% in real terms since 1970, while wages and salaries of people still working withered by 7%. Prices increased 312% between 1950 and 1983. During that same period, wages and salaries rose 412%, but the typical monthly Social Security payment jumped 905%. Says the report: "Thus younger families have had to work more to keep up with inflation; older families have not."

1

What is the primary purpose of the passage?

- (a) Discuss the sources of income for the elderly.
- (b) Discuss the change in the source of income for the elderly.
- (c) Assert that older families in the US are better off monetarily than younger families.
- (d) Discuss the transition in the financial standing of the elderly.

2.

According to the author, why do many retirees work part-time?

- (a) To ensure that their the total annual income falls above the taxable bracket.
- (b) To ensure that their annual income does not lead to their being placed in the 50% tax bracket.
- (c) To ensure that the total annual income they earn does not fall in the taxable bracket.
- (d) To ensure that the total annual income they get does not go towards funding their Social Security.