

## ParaSummaries

**Four alternative summaries are given below the following passage. Choose the option that best captures the essence of the passage.**

**1.**

There are approximately 400 operational tanneries in Kanpur today. That is after some 70 were shuttered due to pollution concerns. The remaining ones are required to recycle all their water. We visit two facilities, one large and one small, and both have recycling systems, but both require electricity to run their pumps. And electricity production is notoriously unreliable in northern India. I notice power outages occurring six to eight times a day. And when it does, milky, silvery-grayish water spills down overflowing ditches in the streets, most likely headed to the river.

- a) Kanpur faces severe water pollution because of the tanneries established in the city.
- b) The steps taken by the government to limit the pollution concerns caused by tanneries are inadequate.
- c) The state government of Uttar Pradesh is greatly concerned about the water pollution caused by tanneries.
- d) The waste water produced by the tanneries does not cause water pollution once they are recycled.

**2.**

Teachers of philosophy have far more control on the boundaries and contours of their discipline than they used to: they think of themselves as professional academics, which means that the only intellectual relationships that really matter to them are the ones they have with their so-called peers. If you wanted to devise a system for discouraging imagination and innovation, you could not do better than the current system of peer-reviewed "research". Everyone knows that the system creates misery for those who do not come up to scratch when their work is evaluated. But it is no less damaging for those who are going to succeed, because they will always be forced to dance to other people's tunes. When I was a student, I was appalled by the weakness of intellectual ambition amongst my teachers, but when I compare it with the thrusting careerism of the present I look back on them as admirable free spirits.

- a) The peer system in philosophy creates a claustrophobic environment where approval of others is important. It is more damaging to those who get this approval as they become suddenly ambitious, only to realize later that it is futile.
- b) The peer-review system in philosophy creates a claustrophobic environment where approval of others is important. It is as damaging to those who do well as it is to those who do not because the former have to work within limits.
- c) The peer system in philosophy created a claustrophobic environment where approval of others is important. But the new generation's ambition seems to be taking care of this, albeit in a gradual manner.
- d) The peer system in philosophy creates a claustrophobic environment where approval of others is important. The older generation was better off as they handled it better and with dignity.

**3.**

Today, literature attempts to make its audience focus their fantasies on specific people. The 'Author of the Month' is a particular person about whom the reader is meant to have particular perceptions. In my view, this has a more baneful effect on people - it makes them demented, in fact, in a way that earlier writings didn't. This literature promises them that there exists, somewhere on this earth, a life of endlessly desirable and available people. The promise that this life is just around the corner is maddening and disorienting. And in its futility, it makes for rage and self-hatred. The traditional argument against censorship - that 'no one can be seduced by a book' - was probably valid when writing was impersonal and anonymous. Today, however, there is addiction and seduction in prose.

- a) Literature is more seductive now, using photographs of people with names and identities; therefore, it is more harmful to its readers and viewers, who can easily grow dissatisfied and frustrated.
- b) Today's literature promises people that there exists, somewhere on this earth, a life that is endlessly desirable.

- c) Censorship should be an integral part of modern literature.
- d) Literature has become materialistic and damning and infuses a sense of disorientation.

#### 4.

Fortunate to have been born on human rights day, it becomes vivid, not by memory but by instincts and embryonic experience, that the darkest formative cell, nurtured with warmth and care, has the most safe, comfortable, carefree and, above all, fearless living - a custodial dignity that precedes every human born - a dignity infused in the human system that instinctively revolts against its non-recognition in any form by reflex action. This ethereal gift is zealously guarded by all within and only disregarded by most without.

- a) The embryonic experience forms the basis of human dignity.
- b) Custodial dignity is the birthright of every individual who instinctively revolts with any deviation and is infused in human beings right from conception.
- c) Human rights are not to be compromised at any cost.
- d) The gift of dignity, being exposed constantly to the vagaries of the human system, is of immense inner value.

#### 5.

If one wishes to form a true estimate of the full grandeur of religion, one must keep in mind what it undertakes to do for men. It gives them information about the source and origin of the universe, it assures them of protection and final happiness amid the changing vicissitudes of life, and it guides their thoughts and actions by means of precepts which are backed by the whole force of its authority. It fulfils, therefore, three functions. In the first place, it satisfies man's desire for knowledge; it is here doing the same thing that science attempts to accomplish by its own methods, and here, therefore, enters into rivalry with it. It is to the second function that it performs that religion no doubt owes the greater part of its influence. In so far as religion brushes away man's fear of the dangers and vicissitudes of life, in so far as it assures them of a happy ending, and comforts them in their misfortunes, science cannot compete with it.

- a) Religion is incomparable.
- b) Religion scores over science as far as the emotional quotient goes.
- c) Man in his quest for knowledge prefers science and scientific methods.
- d) Science cannot provide a security cover.

#### 6.

This generation of young people are far less likely to be able to learn how to make decisions when on their own, how to act responsibly and how to assess the motives of those they do not know. They are less likely to be able to have adventures, extend personal frontiers, be mischievous, learn directly the consequences of being careless, gain self-esteem and self-confidence from acting sensibly, and contribute to family and community life by shopping, visiting or running errands for old people. These are all essential components of becoming responsible citizens. Thus, the country would soon face a major socio-political problem.

- a) Modernization is responsible for the new generation's tale of depravity.
- b) Life is essentially an amalgamation of experiences.
- c) One's experiences at the micro level get manifested at the macro level as well.
- d) A responsible citizen would have definitely led a wholesome childhood.

#### 7.

After all that has been written about van Gogh, there is still no agreement on who he was. Whether he was a high-I.Q. aesthete (yes!) or an intellectual simpleton, a frugal-minded bohemian or a miscreant squandering spare resources, whether he was the Ingrate From Hell or an achingly sensitive artist, or whether he was none of these — clearly, it is a sign of his greatness that so many people feel so proprietary about him. Yet, not all interpretations are created equal. Perhaps only in an age that distrusts the notion of genius could we wind up with a life of van Gogh that treats his iconoclasm as an expression of anger-management issues. Hasn't he suffered enough without this?

- a) Van Gogh has been treated with unduly harsh criticism and his greatness has not been realized.
- b) Writers have not given Van Gogh the credit that he deserves, with his short-temper being discussed more often than his art.
- c) Van Gogh is often misunderstood and not sufficiently appreciated.
- d) Writers have not come to a consensus on how to treat Van Gogh.

**8.**

Flannery O'Connor, one of the most prolific writers of the twentieth century, is often noted for her satirical writing style and her comically inane characters that often meet gruesome and grotesque ends. The uninitiated might even be tempted to consider her work a confusing and pointless portrayal of senseless violence perpetrated in large part against ignorant innocents. To do so, however, would be to do a great disservice to the genius of her work, and to deny the existence of multiple layers and levels on which her stories can be interpreted.

- a) The genius of Flannery O'Connor lies in the creation of the levels of interpretation. Her style of writing is violently satirical.
- b) Flannery O'Connor, a twentieth century satirical writer, creates multiple layers and levels on which her stories can be interpreted. Violence is integral to her writings.
- c) Flannery O'Connor, the twentieth century satirical writer, often portrays violence in her work. The inexperienced might be induced to regard it as a meaningless display of violence leading to a disservice to her genius.
- d) To disregard the genius of Flannery O'Connor would indeed be a disservice. Her satirical writing style is often mistaken for the inane.

