



DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, GAYA

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WORKSHEET-1

Subject : English

Class : XII

1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1. So great is our passion for doing things for ourselves, that we are becoming increasingly less dependent on specialised labour. No one can plead ignorance of a subject any longer, for there are countless do-it-yourself publications. Armed with the right tools and materials, newly-weds gaily embark on the task of decorating their own homes. Men of all ages spend hours of their leisure installing their own fire-places, laying out their own gardens; building garages and making furniture. Some really keen enthusiasts go so far as to make their own record players and radio transmitters. Shops cater for the do-it yourself craze not only by running special advisory services for novices, but by offering consumers bits and pieces which they can assemble at home. Such things provide an excellent outlet for pent-up creative energy, but unfortunately not all of us are born handymen.
2. Wives tend to believe that their husbands are infinitely resourceful and versatile. Even husbands who can hardly drive a nail in straight are supposed to be born electricians, carpenters, plumbers and mechanics. When lights fuse, furniture gets rickety, pipes get clogged, or vacuum cleaners fail to operate, wives automatically assume that their husbands will somehow put things right. The worst thing about the do-it-yourself game is that sometimes husbands live under the delusion that they can do anything even when they have been repeatedly proved wrong. It is a question of pride as much as anything else.
3. Last spring my wife suggested that I call in a man to look at our lawnmower. It had broken down the previous summer, and though I promised to repair it, I had never got round to it. I wouldn't hear of the suggestion and said that I would fix it myself. One Saturday afternoon I hauled the machine into the garden and had a close look at it. I was not at all iffy about my skills and observed it as like a professional technician would have eyed it. I moved all around the machine to analyse its every groove and bolt. After an hour's scrutiny, I decided to work hands-on the machine. To me overall the machine needed only a minor adjustment: a turn of a screw here, a little tightening up there, a drop of oil and it would be as good as new. I did not waste more time in reevaluating my decision-making skills and sat down to mend it out. Inevitably the repair job was not quite so simple. The mower firmly refused to mow, so I decided to dismantle it. The garden was soon littered with chunks of metal which had once made up a lawn mower. But I was extremely pleased with myself. I had traced the cause of the trouble. One of the links in the chain that drives the wheels had snapped.
4. But the mess all around me filled me with fear. For one moment my own decision of getting it repaired myself irked me a lot. But the other moment, I despised it and moved ahead all full of confidence. I decided to go to the market to buy a new chain. But oops! Whom and where to go to. I wasn't very much aware of the market too. I quietly called up my servant. Quietly because I did not want to be laughed at, and in no way by my wife. I gathered the required information from him and got all set to browse the nearby market. I went into the hardware shop to get a new chain.

5. After buying a new chain I was faced with the insurmountable task of putting the confusing jigsaw puzzle together again. I was not surprised to find that the machine still refused to work after I had reassembled it, for the simple reason that I was left with several curiously shaped bits of metal which did not seem to fit anywhere. I gave up in despair. The weeks passed and the grass grew. When my wife nagged me to do something about it, I told her that either I would have to buy a new mower or let the grass grow. Needless to say that our house is now surrounded by a jungle. Buried somewhere in deep grass there is a rusting lawnmower which I have promised to repair one day.

1.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given choices.

- (a) Shops that cater to the do-it-yourself craze provide
- (i) advisory services and record players
 - (ii) bits and pieces to assemble and building garages
 - (iii) advisory services and bits and pieces to assemble at home
 - (iv) bits and pieces to assemble and building garages
- (b) According to the writer, the unserviceable lawnmower needed
- (i) to be laid out in the garden
 - (ii) a replacement of the old link in the chain
 - (iii) a tightening of the machine
 - (iv) dismantling of its steel
- (c) The writer could not buy a new chain for the lawnmower because
- (i) he did not know from whom and where to buy it
 - (ii) he needed his servant to buy it
 - (iii) he needed to gather more information
 - (iv) there was no hardware shop in the vicinity
- (d) After buying a new chain, the author.....
- (i) fixed the lawnmower
 - (ii) was confused how to put it
 - (iii) faced the task of putting all the parts correctly
 - (iv) lost the new chain

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly.

- (a) Why do people not rely on specialised labour so much nowadays, according to the writer?
- (b) What do wives tend to believe about their husbands?
- (c) Why do husbands think that they can do anything even when proved otherwise?
- (d) What is the disadvantage of do-it yourself game?
- (e) Why could the author not fix the lawnmower?
- (f) Why didn't the author call a mechanic to repair the lawnmower?

1.3 Find words from the passage which mean the same as:

- (a) beginners (para 1)
- (b) zealous (para 1)

1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1. It is an era of automation. Nearly every year several inventions and innovations swell up the markets making the consumers vow on knowing about each one. One of the commonest factors behind those inventions is our consistent quest for making things easier for ourselves to work upon.
2. One of the greatest advances in modern technology has been the invention of computers. They are already widely used in industry and in universities. Now there is hardly any sphere of human life where computers have not been pressed into service of man. We are heading fast towards a situation when a computer is as much a part of man's daily life as a telephone or a calculator.
3. Computers are capable of doing extremely complicated work in all branches of learning. They can solve the most complex mathematical problems or put thousands of unrelated facts in order. These machines can be put to varied uses. For instance, they can provide information on the best way to prevent traffic accidents, or they can count the number of times the word 'and' has been used in the Bible. Because they work accurately and at high speeds, they save research workers' years of hard work. This whole process by which machines can be used to work for us has been called 'automation'. In the future, automation may enable human beings far more leisure than they do today. The coming of automation is bound to have important social consequences.
4. Some years ago an expert on automation, Sir Leon Bagrit, pointed out that it was a mistake to believe that these machines could 'think'. There is no possibility that human beings will be 'controlled by machines'. Though computers are capable of learning from their mistakes and improving on their performance, they need detailed instructions from human beings to be able to operate. They can never, as it were, lead independent lives or 'rule the world' by making decisions of their own.
5. Sir Leon said that in the future, computers would be developed which would be small enough to carry in the pocket. Ordinary people would then be able to use them to obtain valuable information. Computers could be plugged into a national network and be used like radios. For instance, people going on holiday could be informed about weather conditions; car drivers can be given alternative routes when there are traffic jams. It would also be possible to make tiny translating machines. This will enable people who do not share a common language, to talk to one another without any difficulty or to read foreign publications.
6. It is impossible to assess the importance of a machine of this sort, for many international misunderstandings are caused simply through our failure to understand one another. Computers are used in ordinary public hospitals. By providing a machine with a patient's systems, a doctor is to diagnose the nature of his illness. Similarly, machines can be used to keep a check on a patient's

health record and bring it up to date. Doctors can therefore have immediate access to a great many facts which helps them in their work. Bookkeepers and accountants, too, can be relieved of dull clerical work, for the tedious task of compiling and checking lists of figures can be done entirely by machines.

7. Computers are able to tell the exact age of a man or how many years he is going to live with the help of his blood picture. Computers are the most efficient servants man has ever had and there is no limit to the way they can be used to improve our lives. But they are so much in every sphere of life that they are speedily becoming our masters and we like dumbs are allowing them to easily play upon our minds. Things have changed so fast after the initial introduction of computers that hardly we sit to think upon concepts, believing computers to be there for that task too. Getting everything on a single click has made our other fingers inactive. In a crunch to know everything we have packed up our minds with utter confusion. We strive so hard to browse answers on several search engines, but do not allow our minds to exert a bit in analysing the questions ourselves.
8. The advantage of computers is as vivid as its aftermath. It is an inevitable fact the computers have enhanced technology but jammed common minds. It's strange we are unable to concentrate upon books when computers are on!

1.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given choices.

- (a) One of the greatest advances in human technology is
 - (i) the era of automation
 - (ii) the invention of computers
 - (iii) machines that can think
 - (iv) the need for instructions from human beings
- (b) The process by which machines can work for human beings is called
 - (i) controlling by machines
 - (ii) bookkeepers and accountants
 - (iii) computers
 - (iv) automation
- (c) Sir Leon Bragit had predicted that
 - (i) computers could be carried in one's pocket
 - (ii) weather forecasts would be made by computers
 - (iii) people could diagnose their own diseases
 - (iv) computers can lead independent lives
- (d) It is an inevitable fact that computers
 - (i) can take decisions by themselves
 - (ii) make our concepts clear
 - (iii) have jammed common minds
 - (iv) allow us to analyse the questions

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly:

- (a) Why does the writer call computers one of the greatest advances in modern technology?
- (b) What is automation?
- (c) How does automation help human beings?
- (d) Mention two areas wherein computers can be effectively used, according to the writer.
- (e) Though computers are capable of learning from their mistakes and improving on their performance, they will never be able to replace man. Why?
- (f) How, according to Sir Leon, will computers break the language barrier?

1.3 Find words from the passage which mean the same as:

- (a) estimate (para 6)
- (b) complex (para 3)

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