



Passage-1

Not even **annus horribilis** has dented the British public's love for its hobbies. A report published earlier this week by the British Museum found that a copper alloy harness found in Lincolnshire was the millionth archaeological discovery by a member of the British public. In 2020, it seems that the lockdown activity of choice in the UK was treasure hunting and archaeology — 50,000 artefacts were discovered by amateurs. This ability to stay with the small joys, in even the most trying circumstances, was something George Orwell admired about his compatriots. In *The Lion and the Unicorn: Socialism and the English Genius*, as Fascism threatened to sweep England, he remarked: "We are a nation of flower-lovers, but also a nation of stamp-collectors, pigeon-fanciers, amateur carpenters, coupon-snippers, darts-players, crossword-puzzle fans." There is indeed something admirable about the ability to obsess over the small pleasures that life has to offer. But it can also speak of a certain blindness, of people and nations, to their own privilege and entitlement. During the rise of Hitler, Orwell asked his people to look beyond their gardens; to shelve their stamp albums and end colonialism. Today, perhaps, he would urge a post-Brexit, vaccine-hoarding Britain to take its gaze off itself once again.

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<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/editorials/george-orwell-britains-love-for-hobbies-amid-pandemic-7675051/>]

1. Which of the following will aptly summarise the passage given?

- a) The ability to enjoy little things even in the worst of times is admirable and was displayed by the people of the UK during the pandemic when they engaged in treasure hunting and archaeological hobbies.
- b) The people of UK have the commendable quality of enjoying smaller things in life regardless of the situation around them. George Orwell would have appreciated the people displaying this quality even during the pandemic
- c) While the people of the UK displayed the quality of enjoying hobbies and appreciating smaller joys in life even during the pandemic, something which George Orwell would have appreciated, they should also not forget that there are problems which exist beyond these hobbies and affect the whole world and require urgent attention.
- d) George Orwell always supported living a simple life, where one can find joy in small things and if he were to see this quality being continued by the British population even in the pandemic, he would have been happy.

2. Which of the following convey the meaning of the term '**annus horribilis**'?

- a) A bad situation
- b) A year of disaster or misfortune
- c) Catastrophic events
- d) A beneficial situation

3. The author would agree with which one of the following.

- a) George Orwell only supported enjoying smaller things in life
- b) George Orwell would have been satisfied with the British people engaging in hobbies in the present situation of the pandemic
- c) George Orwell would appreciate the British people enjoying hobbies even in trying times like that of the pandemic
- d) George Orwell would want the British people to forget about their hobbies and give their complete focus on solving the problems of the nation and beyond.

4. Identify the figure of speech used in the underlined sentence

- a) Antithesis
- b) Hyperbole
- c) Metaphor
- d) None of these

5. "We are a nation of flower-lovers, but also a nation of stamp-collectors, pigeon-fanciers, amateur carpenters, coupon-snippers, darts-players, crossword-puzzle fans." This statement suggests that:

- a) The British people prefer small and inexpensive hobbies as compared to more exorbitant ones
- b) Simple activities like these go a great way in bringing joy to people in life
- c) Simpler hobbies are the only way to enjoy life
- d) Simple hobbies and activities are the reason why British people cannot focus on other talents

Passage-2

In the preface to the 2014 reissue of her classic text *Ain't I a Woman? Black Women and Feminism*, bell hooks, who styled her name in lower case letters to keep the attention on her ideas, wrote of imagining her mother as her ideal reader. This led her to develop a jargon-free prose style that made her work accessible to all her readers. This was necessary, because the ideas hooks articulated were complex, challenging long-held pieties about the nature of power, social and economic hierarchies, and the role of activism and reform, not only within the women's movement, but movements led by the marginalised everywhere. She rejected the idea that different kinds of injustice existed in isolation from each other and argued that to address one, it is necessary to tackle the others.

hooks, was many things — writer, poet, teacher, activist, but it is as a theorist of love that she may have had the most profound impact. She encountered love as more than just a romantic notion, as a transformative, healing power, during her spiritual journey as a "Christian Buddhist". It was this power of love, she said, that could most effectively end oppression.

Today, hooks's "ethic of love" as well as her intersectional understanding of injustice are accepted wisdom — much of that is because of the enormous impact of her work. Yet, in no way have these ideas lost power or relevance. At a time when social justice is often reduced to slogans used to sell everything from soap and jewellery to electoral promises, reading hooks is like a tonic. Her ideas resist simplification. She muddied the distinction between oppressor and victim, enriching the understanding of oppression itself and challenging the belief that creating a more just world is simply about grabbing a larger share of the pie.

1. Which of the following can be an appropriate title for the passage.

- a) Power of Love
- b) Intersectional Nature of Justice
- c) Reform in women's movement
- d) All the above

2. hook's idea of injustice is best summarised by which of the following:

- a) Injustices against a certain section of people can be tackled only by those people, involving others only creates more chaos and shifts the focus from the actual problem.
- b) Injustices of different kinds do not exist individually. To tackle one, all other kinds of injustices must also be addressed.
- c) Oppression is the main reason for injustice in society and therefore, it is oppression that must be tackled, injustice will be dealt with consequently.
- d) Injustices exist in isolation, but to tackle one, all others must be addressed.

3. hook's style of writing is described by the author as 'jargon free'. Which of the following most appropriately convey the meaning of the term:

- a) Free of complicated language or uncommon terminology
- b) Without using technical terms that might normally be understood by only a particular group of people
- c) Without innuendoes
- d) Without compound sentences

4. Which of the following is hook likely to disagree with

- a) Love can be understood as more than just an element of romance, it can carry transformative and healing powers that can help solve the problems of the world.
- b) Love can be tool used to address and end oppression
- c) Social injustices and oppression of certain sections of the society stem from various historical reasons and cannot be addressed by vague ideas like love
- d) There is no clean distinction between an oppressor and a victim, oppression must be understood as a practice first and then only can it be addressed properly.

5. hook's theory of 'ethics of love' can help in ending which of the following problems:

- a) Oppression
- b) Social injustice
- c) Crimes against women
- d) Oppression and injustices

Passage-3

Six IITs are now among the top 20 management institutions in the country, some even outpacing reputed business schools such as IIM-Indore and IIM-Lucknow — proof that India's premier engineering schools are not content to remain just that. The signs of more expansive vision of education, that looks beyond tech to embrace the world of humanities and law, arts and architecture, have been evident at the IITs for a while now. IIT-Kharagpur, for example, opened a medical college in 2018; over a decade earlier, it had set up a school of law focussed on intellectual property. The highest ranked IIT on the National Institute Ranking Framework in the management category, IIT Delhi, started offering MBA programmes in the late 1990s. Over the years, several IITs have gone on to offer courses in humanities, social science and literature as well, arguably in response to a growing realisation that an exclusively technical education can become a stunted one. The transformation has been slow and steady, at a pace decided by the IITs and on their own terms. But it signals an important, welcome change — it is increasingly hard to conceive of education, even professional education, in silos. Indeed, the IITs have been chipping away at a working model of interdisciplinary education, much in the mould of what the National Education Policy envisages a future university ought to be.

This success offers a lesson: Given adequate financial resources and the autonomy to decide their own trajectory, higher education institutions can build on their unique strengths to live up to the ambitious blueprints of policymakers of the National Education Policy 2020.

[Extracted and edited from the editorial 'IIT PLUS' published in the Indian Express.

1. In the underlined statement, there is a grammatical error. Identify the option that would correct the mistake

- a) 'has' instead of have
- b) 'look' instead of looks
- c) use of article 'a'
- d) None of the above

2. Which of the following appropriately convey the main idea of the passage?

- a) Offering a variety of courses is what makes the IITs so successful
- b) The IITs' efforts offer various courses from a variety of fields is an important step towards a more interdisciplinary education in India.
- c) IITs have also become the top institutions for management programs.
- d) IITs have not been offering enough courses from different fields.

3. The meaning of the word 'silos' as used in the passage is:

- a) Together or in unity
- b) Diversity
- c) Isolation
- d) Lonely

4. The IITs offering courses and programs on different subjects, other than tech, highlights:

- a) That education cannot be limited to one discipline and learning should be holistic
- b) Education, especially profession education should focus on one discipline so that students can gain expertise.
- c) That restricted education can reflect badly the country
- d) There should not be any level of exclusivity in any institutions in the country.

5. Which of the following is the author of the passage most likely to agree with:

- a) The IITs might have introduced other courses to attract more students rather than to focus on multidisciplinary education
- b) The autonomy and financial support that the IITs enjoy is the one of the main causes for the introduction of different courses
- c) IITs might drop the other courses they are offering if they don't see quick success.
- d) IITs have worked hard to create their name in the world of tech, deviating from that and offering other courses can shift the focus from their tech courses

Passage-4

Strong smells don't always deserve the bad rap they get. Take Vegemite, Australia's favourite spread with a punchy, unmistakable aroma that brings tears to some eyes. So deep is the Australian love for Vegemite that Melbourne has decided to list the smell emanating from the factory where it's made as part of the city's heritage. The Melbourne City Council's decision is remarkable not only because a smell has been recognised as having heritage value, but because it is not one that is universally loved, in fact

far from it. Those who've grown up with a pot of Vegemite sitting on the breakfast table may adore its savoury fragrance — a gift of the brewer's yeast that is used to make the spread — but those who haven't grown up with it usually can't stand it. This puts the recognition in quite a different league from, say, the 2018 UNESCO "intangible heritage" label granted to the art of perfumery in Grasse, the French region known as the Perfume Capital of the World. It assigns value to a unique aroma, instantly recognisable to a certain culture and loved by it, even if it is described as "stinky" by the rest of the world.

1. Why is the decision to list the smell of vegemite a part of the city's heritage different from the UNESCO 2018 'intangible heritage' label?

- a) The city heritage chooses to highlight the smells that have been a part of its culture for a long time, irrespective of how the rest of the world might describe them, which makes it different from the UNESCO.
- b) The UNESCO label does not recognise unique aromas.
- c) The UNESCO label is more professional and gives smells and aromas an international recognition, but the smell of vegemite has only been considered a city heritage and therefore is different from the UNESCO label.
- d) None of the above

2. The author might agree with which of the following:

- a) The recognition of the smell of vegemite as a city heritage is important because it includes aromas and smells as part of culture breaking the usual norm where smells of a culture are not given as much importance.
- b) The smell of vegemite being recognised as part of city heritage points how the smell carries a certain uniqueness to it and helps people identify with the city's culture
- c) The smells should be judged on how pleasant they are and not on their cultural values
- d) Smells do not form an important part of any culture.

3. The main idea of the passage is:

- a) Smells can be a part of culture too
- b) Melbourne's recognition of the smell of vegemite as city heritage is an important step towards making cultures uniquely identifiable.
- c) The smell of vegemite being listed as city heritage is a way for Melbourne to celebrate its culture and love for vegemite.
- d) There are more official ways to recognise a smell as heritage than just the UNESCO label.

Passage-5

Can fashion be green? In a recent social media post, the environmental activist, Greta Thunberg, wrote, "You cannot mass produce fashion or consume 'sustainably' as the world is shaped today." Quite simply — and this may come as a shock to those who wear their "ethically-manufactured" yoga pants like a badge of honour — there is no such thing as "sustainable" fashion. Much like how denims were once acid washed or stone washed, these days, everyone's "greenwashed". The fashion industry, especially the sector known as fast fashion, has a massive environmental footprint, accounting for around 10 per cent of global carbon emissions and about 20 per cent of wastewater, and using up more energy than aviation and shipping combined. And, as consumers have grown conscious of this over the last decade or so, brands have been looking for ways to appear more eco-friendly. So, they make clothing that includes a tiny percentage of organically grown cotton, just to slap on a label that says, "uses organically-grown cotton". Or they claim that their clothes are "ethical", "climate-neutral" or "green" — buzzwords that sound reassuring to consumers (whose conscience might otherwise play spoilsport) but which really

mean nothing. More ingeniously, brands offer buy-back schemes to customers only to sell the used clothing in bulk to countries in Africa and Asia where they end up as waste in landfills anyway. In the meantime, consumers, their conscience soothed, keep buying, while manufacturers, their bottom lines intact, keep making.

1. The use of the term 'greenwashed' in the passage means:

- a) Appearing to be eco-friendly
- b) Eco-Friendly
- c) Using green colours more to appear nature conscious
- d) All the above

2. Why is it that brands use words like 'ethical' 'climate neutral' or 'green' to describe their products?

- a) The brands have taken great efforts to become environment conscious and these terms are a true reflection all everything they have done to bring down their environmental costs.
- b) These words tend to create a more eco-friendly image for the brand and its product, thus present them as being more conscious towards the environment which appeals to most customers
- c) The brands use these terms as they are trending.
- d) The people over the surface to see if something is eco-friendly do not do actual research to understand that these terms do not reflect the actual problems of the fashion and clothing industry

3. The meaning of the word sustainable as used in the passage is:

- a) Conserving ecological balance
- b) To uphold or to maintain
- c) To nourish
- d) To defend

4. The environmental cost of the fashion industry, according to the passage is:

- a) 10 percent carbon emissions of the USA and 20 percent carbon emissions globally
- b) 10 percent of the global wastewater and 20 percent of the global carbon emissions
- c) 10 percent of the global carbon emission and 20 percent of the global wastewater
- d) None of the above

5. According to the passage, does the conscience of the customers play an important role in their buying habits?

- a) Yes, as most customers would stop buying from fast fashion chains if they realised the cost on the environment.
- b) Yes, most customers have become more environment conscious and would go to any lengths to save it.
- c) Yes, as customers don't like to shop with a guilty mind.
- d) The passage does not provide enough information to determine the shopping practices the 'green' curtain is pulled off the brands

-original work of Shubhaangi Thakur

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