

BCR Day – 4 (first 3 questions)

1. Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:

Organic farming is a method of farming which mainly aim sat cultivating the land and raising crops in such a way, as to keep the soil alive and in good condition by use of organic wastes (crop, animal and farm wastes, even aquatic wastes) and other biological material along with beneficial microbes to release nutrients that would ensure increased sustain able production in an eco-friendly and pollution free environment.

Organic farming was being practiced in India years ago till the British ruled it. In traditional India, agriculture was practiced using organic techniques, where the fertilizers, pesticides etc. were obtained from plant and animal products. Organic farming was the backbone of the Indian economy. Pouching was done by bullock sand cow dung was used as manure.

During the mid 1900's, (1950' sand 1960's to be precise), the ever increasing population of India and several natural calamities led to severe food crisis. As a result, the government was forced to import food grains from foreign countries. To increase food security, the government had to increase food production. Several hectares of land were bought under cultivation. Hybrid seeds were introduced. Natural and organic fertilizers were replaced by chemical fertilizers and locally made pesticides were replaced by chemical pesticides. With time, extensive depend once on chemical farming has led to loss of land fertility. Pests are becoming immune, requiring the farmers to use stronger and cost lire pesticides.

Due to increased cost of farming, farmers are falling into trap of money lenders, who are exploiting them and forcing a lot of farmers to commit suicide. Both consumers and farmers are now gradually shifting back to organic farming in India. It is believed by many that organic farming is healthier. Consumers are willing to pay higher prices for the same. Many farmers are shifting to organic farming due to domestic and international demand for organic food.

Further, stringent standards for non organic food in European and US markets have led to rejection of many Indian food consignments in the past. Organic farming, therefore, provides a better alternative to chemical farming. Today, more than 2.5 million hectares of land is under organic farming in India. Moreover, there are over 15000 certified organic farms in India. Hence, India is one of the most important suppliers of organic food to the developed nations. The organic movement has again started in India.

1. Define organic farming. **(1)**
2. What measure were taken to increase food security? **(1)**
3. How do we know that India is one of the most important suppliers of organic food to the developed nations? **(1)**
4. Choose a suitable synonym for the word '**stringent**' as used in line1, para5: **(1)**

- (a) Strict
- (b) Busy
- (c) Bulky
- (d) Alarming

5. Why are farmer snow shifting to organic farming? Explain in one line **(1)**

Answers:

1. Organic farming is a method of farming which mainly aim sat cultivating the land and raising crops in such a way, as to keep the soil a live and in good condition by use of organic wastes (crop, animal and farm wastes, even aquatic wastes) and other biological material along with beneficial microbes to release nutrients.
2. To increase food security, the following measures were taken:
 - a. The government had to increase food production.
 - b. Several hectares of land were bought under cultivation.
 - c. Hybrid seeds were introduced.
 - d. Natural and organic fertilizers were replaced by chemical fertilizers and locally made pesticides were replaced by chemical pesticides
3. Today, more than 2.5 million hectares of land is under organic farming in India. Moreover, the reared over 15000 certified organic farms in India. This shows that India is one of the most important suppliers of organic food to the developed nations.
4. Option a Strict
5. Many farmers are shifting to organic farming due to domestic and international demand for organic food.

2. Read the passage carefully and answer the question given below:

The issue of road rage requires serious attention. Day by day, it is becoming a great concern. Call it the negligence of the government or the rashness of the drivers, the underlying fact is that at the end of the day, the common man is the one who suffers the most. The commoner driving a two-wheeler who is hit by a speeding SUV, even though the former was following the traffic rules, has nowhere to go in order to seek redressed for his grievances or his injury. A recent case in point is the accident caused by the speeding luxury car owned by HemaMalini. A family of four driving a modest Alto was hit by the over speeding car driven by the actress's driver. It resulted in the death of the youngest child of the family and several injuries to the other family members. To add insult to injury, Malini posted negative comments on a famous social networking website.

Part of the problem lies with the attitude and mentality of the driver behind the steering wheel. The car is a personal vehicle and one possesses the freedom to drive it independently and at one's own will. But one must understand that the road on which one drives is open to the public. This blurring of the dichotomy between the public and the private leads to reckless behavior on the roads. Respect for the elderly and pedestrians, so common in countries abroad, is a thing of rarity to be found in our land. A little consideration to road rules and adoption of simple safety measures such as fastening of the seat belt, can go a long way in reducing this menace.

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| 1 Suggest a suitable title to the passage. | 1 |
| 2 Why does the common man suffer grievously in instances of road rage? | 1 |
| 3 What should the driver understand? | 1 |
| 4 What is the solution to this problem of road rage? | 2 |

Answers:

1. "Road Rage", "Menace on Indian Roads"
2. The common man suffers in instances of road rage because of the absence of immediate grievance redressal mechanisms.
3. The driver should not overstep the line which separates the public and the private, by respecting others on the road and not blindly giving in to speeding etc.
4. In order to solve the problem of road rage one should inculcate a sense of respect for the elderly and pedestrians, adopt simple safety measures such as utilization of seat belt.

3. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given below:

A life of action and danger moderates the dread of death. It not only gives us the fortitude to bear the pain but teaches us at every step the precarious tenure on which we hold our present being. Sedentary and studious men are the most apprehensive on this score. Dr. Johnson was an instance in point. A few years seemed to him soon over, compared with those sweeping contemplations on time and infinity with which he had been used to pose himself. In the still life of a man of letters, there was no obvious reason for a change. He might sit in an armchair and pour out cups of tea to all eternity would it had been possible for him to do so. The most rational cure after all for the inordinate fear of death is to set a just value on life. If we merely wish to continue on the scene to indulge our head-strong humor and tormenting passions, we had better be gone at once; and if we only cherish a fondness for existence according to the good we desire from it, the pang we feel at parting it will not be very severe.

1. What type of people are afraid of death and Why?
2. How can we get rid of the fear of death?
3. What idea do you form about Dr. Johnson from this passage?
4. Write a Summary of the Passage. (CA Foundation May 2018)

Answer:

1. Usually people who have a sedentary and inactive lifestyle and are studious or too much into academics are afraid of death.
2. The most sensible way of getting rid of the fear of death is to value life properly. We should know that our hold upon life is very risky and that we may die any moment. We can get rid of the fear of death by leading a life full of action and danger.
3. Dr. Johnson appears to lead a 'still life' i.e. a sedentary life, devoid of action and danger and thus appears to be afraid of death.

4. Summary:

If we lead an active life facing dangers, we will less fear death. People, who lead a lazy and peaceful life, are the most afraid of death. The most sensible way of getting rid of the fear of death is to value life properly. If we do not give unnecessary importance to our life, we will not feel the pang of death.