



Assignment

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Date: ___ / ___ / ___

Name: _____

Max Marks: 12

Read the following passage carefully.

We call a man irrational when he acts in a passion, when he cuts off his nose to spite his face. He is irrational because he forgets that, by indulging the desire which he happens to feel most strongly at the moment, he will thwart other desires which in the long run are more important to him. If men were rational, they would take a more correct view of their own interest than they do at present; and if all men acted from enlightened self-interest, the world would be a paradise in comparison to what it is. I do not maintain that there is nothing better than self-interest as a motive to action, but I do maintain that self-interest, like altruism, is better when it is enlightened than when it is unenlightened. In an ordered community it is very rarely to a man's interest to do anything which is very harmful to others. The less rational a man is, the oftener he will fail to perceive how what injures others also injures him, because hatred or envy will blind him. Therefore, although I do not pretend that enlightened self-interest is the highest morality, I do maintain that, if it became common, it would make the world an immeasurably better place than it is.

Rationality in practice may be defined as the habit of remembering all our relevant desires, not only the one which happens at the moment to be strongest. Like rationality in opinion. It is a matter of degree. Complete rationality is no doubt an unattainable ideal, but long as we continue to classify some men as lunatics it is clear that we think some men we rational than others. I believe that all solid progress in the world consists of an increase in rationality, both practical and theoretical. To preach an altruistic morality appears to me somewhat useless, because it will appeal only to those who already have altruistic desires. But to preach rationality is somewhat different, since rationality helps us to realise our own are on the whole, whatever they may be. A man is rational in proportion as his intelligence informs and controls his desires. I believe that the control of our acts by our intelligence is ultimately what is of most importance, and that alone will make social life remain possible as science increases the means at our disposal for injuring each other. Education, the press, politics, religion—in a word, all the great forces in the world—are at present on the side of irrationality, they are in the hands of men who flatter King Demos in order to lead him astray. The remedy does not lie in anything heroically cataclysmic, but in the efforts of individuals towards a more sane and balanced view of our relations to our neighbors and to the world. It is to intelligence, increasingly side-spread, that we must look for the solution of the ills from which our world is suffering.

Q1: Answer the following questions briefly.

1. If all human beings act from enlightened self interest _____
2. An irrational man fails to perceive _____
3. Complete rationality is _____
4. The paragraph centres round the idea that _____
5. Rationality means _____
6. The expression 'King Demos' in the passage means _____

Q2: Fill in the blanks with 'One' word only.

According to the writer all solid progress (7) _____ the world consists (8) _____ an increase in rationality. It is useless (9) _____ preach altruistic morality, because appeal only (10) _____ those who have altruistic desires.

Q3: Find words from para 1 and para 2 which mean almost the same as:

11. frustrate _____
12. which cannot be achieved _____