

# St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

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Session: 2025-2026    Notes

**Class : XI      Subject : English      Topic - Note-Making & Summarisation**

## Solved Examples:

### PASSAGE 1

The Earth is the fifth largest planet in the solar system, smaller than the four giant planets-Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune but larger than the rocky planets Mercury, Mars, and Venus. Approximately 71% of its surface is covered with water, primarily in oceans, and about 20% of its atmosphere consists of oxygen produced by plants.

While orbiting the Sun, Earth spins on an axis from the North Pole to the South Pole. It takes about 23.934 hours to complete a rotation and 365.26 days to revolve around the Sun. The Earth's axis is tilted relative to the ecliptic plane, causing seasonal changes as different hemispheres receive varying amounts of sunlight throughout the year.

Earth's orbit is elliptical rather than circular, making it slightly closer to the Sun in January and farther away in July. This variation has a minor effect compared to the impact of its axial tilt on climate.

Scientists believe Earth formed around 4.6 billion years ago from a rotating cloud of gas and dust known as the solar nebula. As this nebula collapsed under gravity, it spun faster and flattened into a disk, with material coalescing to form the Sun and other planetary bodies.

The Earth's magnetic field is generated by currents in its outer core. The magnetic North Pole is moving northward at approximately 40 km per year and may exit North America for Siberia in a few decades.

## **QUESTIONS**

(a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognisable abbreviations wherever necessary. Supply an appropriate title to it.



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(b) Write a summary of the above passage in up to 50 words.

Ans. Title: EARTH IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM

NOTES:

1. Earth's Position

1.1 5th largest planet

1.2 Size comparison:

1.2.1 Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune

1.2.2 Mercury, Mars, Venus

1.3 71% water coverage

1.4 02 constitutes 20% of atmosphere

2. Movement on Axis

2.1 Axis runs from NP to SP

2.2 Rotation: 23.934 hrs

2.3 Revolution: 365.26 days

3. Ecliptic Plane

3.1 Tilted axis affects sunlight distribution

3.2 Results in:

3.2.1 Varying light amounts

3.2.2 Different seasons

4. Earth's Orbit

4.1 Oval-shaped ellipse

4.2 Proximity to Sun varies seasonally

5. Formation

5.1 Formed -4.6 billion yrs ago

5.2 Originated from solar nebula collapse

6. Magnetic Field

6.1 Generated by outer core currents



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## 6.2 Magnetic North Pole moving northward (-40 km/year)

### KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS & SYMBOLS

NP - North Pole

SP - South Pole

O<sub>2</sub> - Oxygen

yrs - years

hrs - hours

- - approximately

### SUMMARY

The Earth is the fifth largest planet in the solar system, with 71% of its surface covered by water and 20% of its atmosphere composed of oxygen. It rotates on an axis and orbits the Sun in an elliptical path. Formed around 4.6 billion years ago from a solar nebula, it has a dynamic magnetic field influenced by currents in its outer core.

### PASSAGE - 2

The role of work in happiness is debatable. While excessive work can be painful, for most people, it's less tedious than idleness. Work varies from mere relief of boredom to profound delight, depending on its nature and the worker's abilities. Even uninteresting work has advantages: it fills time without the need for decision-making, which can be tiresome. Most people struggle to fill leisure time pleasantly, and being told what to do can be agreeable. The idle rich often suffer from boredom, leading intelligent wealthy individuals to work nearly as hard as if they were poor.

Work is desirable primarily as a preventive of boredom, although uninteresting work can be as boring as idleness. It also makes holidays more enjoyable when they come. Provided work doesn't impair vigor, it can bring more zest to life than idleness. Most paid work offers chances of success and opportunities for ambition. In our capitalistic society, success is often measured by income. Even dull work becomes bearable if it builds reputation.

Continuity of purpose, one of the most essential ingredients of happiness, comes chiefly through work. While work can be irksome and excessive work is painful, it generally provides structure, purpose, and opportunities for achievement that contribute significantly to overall happiness and life satisfaction.

### QUESTIONS

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(b) Write a summary of the above passage in up to 50 words.

Ans. Title: WORK A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD FOR HAPPINESS

### NOTES:

#### 1. Work's Dual Nature

1.1 Can cause happiness or unhappiness

1.2 Varies from tedious to delightful

1.3 Generally less boring than idleness

#### 2. Advantages of Work

2.1 Fills time without decision fatigue

2.2 Provides structure to day

2.3 Prevents boredom

2.4 Enhances holiday enjoyment

2.5 Offers success and ambition opps.

2.6 Builds reputation

#### 3. Work vs. Idleness

3.1 Idle rich often suffer boredom

3.2 Intelligent wealthy work hard

3.3 Most struggle with leisure time

#### 4. Work and Happiness

4.1 Provides continuity of purpose

4.2 Contributes to life satisfaction

4.3 Balancing work intensity is crucial

### KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

opps. - opportunities

VS. - versus



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hrs. - hours

sat. - satisfaction

rep. - reputation

### SUMMARY

Work plays a complex role in happiness, offering structure and purpose while potentially causing stress. It prevents boredom, provides opportunities for success, and enhances leisure time appreciation. Even uninteresting work can be beneficial by filling time and building reputation. While excessive work is detrimental, a balanced approach to work contributes significantly to overall life satisfaction and happiness.

### Practice Question 1.

Television significantly impacts our lives, offering both advantages and disadvantages. When chosen wisely, it can enhance our knowledge of the world, covering various subjects like science, medicine, and the arts. It serves as a valuable resource for elderly individuals and hospital patients who may have limited mobility. Additionally, non-native speakers benefit from informal language practice, improving their vocabulary and listening skills. However, excessive television viewing poses serious drawbacks. In some countries, individuals watch TV for six hours or more daily, leading to negative influences on children who often spend more time in front of screens than on studying or sleeping. Studies indicate that just thirty seconds of watching can relax the brain similarly to falling asleep, resulting in poor concentration. Children may struggle to focus on tasks for longer

than fifteen to twenty minutes. Television can also create dissatisfaction with real life; viewers may find their own lives less exciting compared to what they see on screen. This disconnect can lead to feelings of inadequacy or depression when real-life problems cannot be resolved as quickly as those depicted in shows.

Moreover, children exposed to violent content may become desensitized to violence, leading them to perceive aggressive behavior as normal. Research shows that they are at a higher risk of exhibiting violent behavior after watching such programs.

### QUESTIONS

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