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**Class -12, Subject -English**

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**Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:**

- 1. A stout old lady was walking with her basket down the middle of a street in petrogard to the great confusion of the traffic and with no small peril to herself. It was pointed out to her that the pavement was the place for pedestrians, but she replied: ' I am going to walk where I like. we have got Liberty now'. It didn't occur to the dear old lady that if Liberty entitled the**

*pedestrian to walk down the middle of the road, then the end of such Liberty would be Universal chaos. Everybody would be getting in everybody else's way and nobody would get anywhere. Individual Liberty would have become social anarchy.*

*2. There is a danger of the world getting liberty drunk in these days like the old lady with the basket, and it just as well to remind ourselves of what the rule of the road means. It means that in order that the liberties of all may be preserved, the liberties of everybody it must be curtailed. When the policeman, say, at Piccadilly Circus steps into the middle of the road and puts out his hand, he is the symbol not of tyranny, but of Liberty. You may not think so. You may, being in a hurry, and*

***seeing your car pulled up by this insolence of office, feel that your liberty has been outraged. How dare this fellow interfere with your free use of the public highway? Then if you are a reasonable person, you will reflect that if he didn't interfere with you you would interfere with no one and the result would be that Piccadilly circus would be maelstrom that you would never cross at all. You have submitted to a curtailment of private liberty in order that you may enjoy social order which makes your liberty a reality.***

***3. Liberty is not a personal affair only, but a social contract. It is an accommodation of interests. In matters which do not touch anybody else's liberty, of course, I may be as free as I like. If I choose to go down the road in***

*a dressing- gown ,who shall say me nay? You have liberty to laugh at me, but I have liberty to be indifferent to you. And if I have a fancy for dyeing my hair, or waxing my moustache (which heaven forbid), or wearing an overcoat and sandals ,or going to bed late or getting up early, I shall follow my fancy and ask no man's permission I shall not inquire of you whether I may eat mustard with my mutton. And you will not ask me whether you may follow this religion or that whether you may prefer Ella wheeler wilcox to Wordsworth,or Champagne to Shandy.*

*4. In all these and a thousand other details you and I please ourselves and ask no one's leave. We have a whole Kingdom in which we rule alone, can do what we choose, be wise or*

***ridiculous, harsh and easy, conventional or odd. But directly we step out of that Kingdom, our personal liberty of action becomes qualified by other people's liberty. I might like to practice on the trombone from midnight till three in the morning. If I went on the top of Everest to do it, I could please myself, but if I do it in my bedroom my family will object, and if I do it out in the streets the neighbours will remind me that my liberty to blow the trombone must not interfere with their liberty to sleep in quiet.***

- 5. There are a lot of people in the world, and I have to accommodate my liberty to their liberties. We are all liable to forget this, and unfortunately we are much more conscious of the imperfections of others in this respect***

*of our own. A reasonable consideration for the rights or feelings of others in the foundation of social conduct.*

**6.** *It is in the small matters of conduct, in the observance of the rule of the road, that we pass judgement upon ourselves, and declare that we are civilized or uncivilized. The great moments of heroism and sacrifice are rare. It is the little habits of commonplace intercourse that make up the great sum of life and sweeten or make bitter the journey.*

**A.** *On the basis of your understanding of this passage, answer the following questions with the help of the given options:*

- I. *what is 'rule of the road' according to the author?*
  - a) *Not to walk in the middle of the road*
  - b) *To be considerate towards others*
  - c) *Not to overtake others*
  - d) *Not to drive rashly*
- II. *What is the major danger in today's world?*
  - a) *Of the society getting Liberty -drunk*
  - b) *Of the society behaving in rush manner*
  - c) *Of the society living poorly*
  - d) *Of people not cooperating with others*

**B. Answer the following questions briefly:**

- i. What is the author's attitude towards the old lady in passage?***
- ii. How would 'individual Liberty become social anarchy'?***
- iii. What is the sentence 'It means.... curtailed ( para 2) represent?***
- iv. Which sentence best sums up the author's main point ?***
- v. 'We are all liable....'(para5).What does the author refer to?***
- vi. What habits can make our journey sweet or bitter?***

***C. Find out words from the passage which mean the same as each of the following:***



- i. rude and disrespectful  
behaviour (para 2)*
- ii. traditional (para 4)*

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