

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER TWO-SUMMARY WRITING SAMPLE

Read the following passage and answer the question which follow.

Certain people insist that religion is irrelevant to modern life. It is out of fashion. It is regarded as an embarrassing carryover from man's primitive past, a foolish creation of weak, superstitious minds. Others argue that it is an invention of evil men who use it to pacify simple people and then exploit them. Despite these views, however, religion is man's humble acknowledgement of the supernatural-his recognize that there are powers that are non-human and that these influence his destiny.

Man has not outgrown religion. There is plenty of evidence throughout the world to prove that religion still has a strong influence on man. Some countries have pressurized their citizens to abandon religion beliefs but with little success. Strangely enough, history testifies to the fact that following religious persecutions, the believers increase in number. Millions of people in the world, regardless of colour, political persuasion, mental abilities and social background, find religion relevant and practical in their everyday lives. All over the world, magnificent mosques, cathedrals, temples and shrines stand out and quietly exclaim that man is a creature that cannot be separated from religion.

On the other hand, we must recognize the wonderful achievements of science. Many killer diseases have been eradicated or brought under control. Food production has increased. Life for many is easier, more comfortable and more convenient. These astonishing successes have, however, developed in man an unfortunate disregard for the established human values. But scientific adventurism has also led us to the brink of self-destruction. Man lives in fear of his inventions.

No doubt science has answered many questions about man and his life on earth, but religion also provides satisfactory answers to otherwise insoluble questions. It fills the gap in human knowledge and experience and so reduces areas of doubt and uncertainty. In the face of dangers that would otherwise be overwhelming, religious beliefs inspire confidence and provide moral and emotional satisfaction. In addition, religion serves as a social restraint by instilling fear of supernatural punishment if approved values are violated.

Since science has left many needs unmet, it would be a disservice to society if we did not continue to examine other ways of making life on earth more delightful. Religion can help, man to overcome misunderstanding, racism, suspicion and other evils that plague him and therefore it ought to be encouraged. After all, many religions teach about the brotherhood of all men and the importance of living in harmony.

Question:

In not more than 100 words, summarize the advantages of having a religion.