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Shailendra Kr Mukul <skmukul2002@yahoo.co.in>
 Reply-To: "skmukul2002@yahoo.co.in" <skmukul2002@yahoo.co.in>
 To: LANGAT SINGH COLLEGE <lscollegeprincipal@gmail.com>

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III Part Work and Leisure

Ans: Aldous Huxley is a versatile genius of the twentieth century. He has written many interesting essays. "Work and Leisure" is one of the most original of Huxley's essays. Huxley started his literary career as a poet and developed into a brilliant novelist and fascinating essayist. He used both indirect method ^(attractive) of fiction and direct form of essay to express his views on life. His essays are written on diverse topics and reflect the long journey of his mind to arrive at the important truths. In his famous "Introduction", Shiv K. Kumar superbly describes Huxley's essays:

"They are like conversation: gentle and leisurely, witty and humorous." ^{Next Para} "Work and Leisure" deals with the importance of leisure after work. These days people have to work for a long time. But in the future science will develop more and new technology may arrive. There may be a golden age when

people will work only for four hours a day. They can do whatever they like in their leisure time. But this is only the prophecy.

The fact is that the majority of people are oppressed by excessive labour of the most senseless kind. This arouses our pity and anger at the same time.

incompans (G21)

Let us ask the prophets of the future a simple question. What will the human beings do if they have plenty of leisure. These prophets are Henri Poincaré, Bernard Shaw and H. G. Wells. Henri Poincaré imagines that the human beings of the future would pass their long leisures by thinking over "the laws of nature". Bernard Shaw also holds the same opinion about leisure. In one of his plays, Ancients pass their long leisures by meditating upon the mysterious beauty of the cosmos. H. G. Wells in Men like Gods portrays a race of athletic chemists who go about naked and make free love. They also pass their long leisures in games and sports.

How many rich people do spend their times contemplating "the laws of nature"? The answer is very few. When one meets the rich people at Monte

Carlo, they ^{are seen} passing their leisure not by
contemplating but by playing and making
love. There are respectable minority of
the rich who pass their leisure by
giving to charity or by indulging in
politics. On the other hand, working-man's
leisure is different. The leisured poor
have very scanty leisure to pass.
They pass their ^(small) leisure in cheap things.
They pass their leisure by watching films,
reading newspapers, listening to gramophone
by companion

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