

PASSAGE 7

1. Technology is making advancements at a rapid rate but at the cost of a valued tradition—The crafts industry. The traditional crafts industry is losing a lot of its trained and skilled craftsmen. With that, the art of embellishing brass and copper utensils with fine engravings is also disappearing. The government has identified around 35 crafts as languishing craft.
2. The speciality of handcrafted items is its design, an association with long traditions belonging to a specific region. The word 'handcrafted' does not imply the involvement of dexterous human fingers or an agile mind with a moving spirit anymore. Lessening drudgery, increasing production and promoting efficiency have taken precedence. The labour-saving devices are taking the place of handcrafted tools and this has jeopardised the skills of these artisans.
3. Mechanisation has made its way into everything — cutting, polishing, edging, designing, etc. Ideally, the use of machinery should be negligible and the handicrafts should be made purely by hand with a distinguishable artistic appeal. However, with the exception of small-scale industries, the export units are mostly operated by machines. The heavily computerised designs contribute to a faster production at lower costs.
4. Although mechanisation of crafts poses a challenge to safeguarding traditional crafts, the artisans are lured with incentives in order to impart handicrafts training. Some makers do see machines as a time-saving blessing since they are now able to accomplish difficult and demanding tasks with relative ease. These machines might give a better finesse to these products but they don't stand out as handcrafted. Quantity has overtaken quality in this industry.
5. A need to highlight

5. A need to highlight the importance of the handmade aspect is required by both the government and private sectors, in order to amplify awareness and also support the culture of making handicrafts. A few artisans are still trying their best to rejuvenate and revive their culture and heritage but it's an uphill task competing with the machine-made goods.

A multitude of artisans have changed their professions and are encouraging their progeny to follow suit.

There are others who have stayed their ground but are clearly inclined towards buying machines.

6. Nearly two decades ago, there were around 65 lakh artisans in the country. Three years ago, when the government started the process of granting a unique number to the artisans based on the Aadhaar Card, 25 lakhs were identified. Loss of traditional crafts is

clearly a worrying issue, but it stands to reason that forcing any artisan to follow old ways when concerns of livelihood over rule other considerations, is unfair.

CBSE SQP 2022 Term II Modified

Questions

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions.

- 1.** Why are artisans choosing to work *via*. machines rather than handcrafted tools?
 - (a) To increase the production of things
 - (b) To decrease the production of things
 - (c) Use of labour-exhausting devices
 - (d) To be the part of a developed world
- 2.** Rationalise the writer's view that handicrafts are a 'valued tradition' in about 40 words?
- 3.** Complete the sentence appropriately.

The artisans need to be 'lured with incentives' to impart handicrafts training because
- 4.** Which of the following words is closest in meaning to 'adorning'?
 - (a) Dexterous
 - (b) Embellishing
 - (c) Reviving
 - (d) Languishing
- 5.** Complete the sentence appropriately.

..... poses a challenge to safeguarding traditional crafts.
- 6.** How does the writer justify an artist's act of abandoning her/his traditional craft for a more lucrative option? Answer in about 40 words.
- 7.** What has jeopardised the skills of the artisans?
 - (a) Handcrafted tools replacing labour-saving devices.
 - (b) Labour-saving devices replacing handcrafted tools.
 - (c) Involvement of dexterous human fingers.
 - (d) None of the above.
- 8.** List one likely impact of the support of government and private sectors towards the culture of making handicrafts.

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1. (a) To increase the production of things
2. The writer's view that handicrafts are a 'valued tradition' indicates the importance of the handicrafts in Indian culture and history. The nation is a home to innumerable handicrafts belonging to different regions. Each of these crafts represents the culture of the region with their one of a kind designs. Further, these crafts have been a part of the nation's heritage for a really long time.
3. if they give training to mass producers, they may end up being robbed of their livelihood. Hence, they are careful in not doing so and require benefits and incentives to be lured into imparting their training
4. (b) Embellishing
5. Mechanisation of crafts
6. The writer justifies an artist's act of abandoning his/her traditional craft for a more lucrative option by mentioning that since a better livelihood is the first point to be taken under consideration, artisans can't be expected to continue in their profession if it's not profitable.

7. (b) Labour-saving devices replacing handcrafted tools.
8. If the government and private sectors provide support to the handicraft culture, the artisans would be more motivated to continue their tradition and wouldn't change their profession for a better livelihood.