

**Passage :**

The 21st century is a time of great change. Around the world, how people think about men, women, and gender is shifting. In the past, society often had strict rules about what men and women could do. Men were usually expected to work outside the home, while women were expected to take care of the family. Today, these traditional roles are changing fast, and people are pushing for true equality.

Gender equality means that all people, regardless of their gender, have the same rights, responsibilities, and opportunities. It means that a person's success should depend on their talent and hard work, not on whether they are male or female. In the 21st century, we see more women becoming leaders in politics, science, and business. For example, leaders like Jacinda Ardern, the former Prime Minister of New Zealand, and Sanna Marin, the former Prime Minister of Finland, showed the world that women can lead nations successfully through major global crises. In the business world, women like Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala made history by becoming the first female Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO). At the same time, more men are choosing to stay at home and care for their children. In countries like Sweden and Iceland, governments have introduced paid parental leave laws that encourage fathers to stay home with their new-borns, proving that caregiving is a shared responsibility. These changes show that talent and kindness do not belong to just one gender.

However, the 21st century has also brought a deeper understanding of gender variety. We now recognize that gender is not just about being a boy or a girl. Some people do not feel completely like a man or a woman. They may identify as non-binary or gender-fluid. This variety teaches us that human identity is wide and beautiful. Recognizing gender variety means respecting how each person feels inside and allowing them to live authentically. To support this, many countries have updated their official documents. For instance, countries like Canada, Australia, Malta, and several U.S. states now allow citizens to choose an "X" gender marker on their passports and driver's licenses instead of just "M" (male) or "F" (female). Furthermore, global events like the Olympic Games have updated their rules to be more inclusive of transgender and non-binary athletes, celebrating human diversity on the world stage.

Education is the most powerful tool for achieving equality. When boys and girls go to school together and learn the same subjects, they learn to respect each other as equals. Organizations like the United Nations run global campaigns, such as "Because I am a Girl" and the "Malala Fund"—started by Nobel Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai—to ensure that girls everywhere have access to safe, quality education. Schools today teach students that anyone can be good at math, sports, art, or science. When children grow up with these ideas, they build a fairer world.

Despite this progress, challenges still exist. In many places, women still earn less money than men for doing the same job. This is called the gender pay gap. To fight this, countries like Iceland made it illegal for companies to pay men more than women for the same work, forcing businesses to prove they pay fairly. Furthermore, people who do not fit into traditional gender roles sometimes face unfair treatment or bullying. This shows that while laws can change quickly, human attitudes often take more time to change.

True equality is not just about changing laws; it is about changing how we treat one another every day. It means listening to different voices and making sure everyone feels safe and valued. When we accept gender variety and support equality, society becomes stronger. We unlock the potential of all people, allowing everyone to contribute their unique skills to the world. The 21st century is an exciting era because it challenges us to be more inclusive, kind, and fair to everyone.

**1. Choosing the most complete and accurate title for the text involves selecting:**

- A) The Rise of Female Prime Ministers in Europe
- B) Breaking Barriers: Shifting Roles, Gender Variety, and the Journey to True Equality
- C) Why Laws Change Faster Than Human Attitudes
- D) How Traditional Household Roles Destroy Modern Economies

**2. The phrase “in a way that is true to one’s own personality, spirit, or inner self” can be substituted by which word from the passage?**

- A) Authentically
- B) Traditional
- C) Inclusive
- D) Legally

**3. Evaluate the two statements below based on the text:**

**Assertion (A):** The 21<sup>st</sup> century has successfully achieved complete global gender equality in the workplace.

**Reason (R):** Countries like Iceland have made it illegal to pay men more than women for the same work.

- A) Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- B) (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- C) (A) is false, but (R) is true.
- D) Both (A) and (B) are entirely false statements based on the text.

**4. The inclusion of an “X” gender marker on passports in countries like Canada and Australia primarily demonstrates that:**

- A) Biological definitions of male and female are completely erased by governments.
- B) Official systems are evolving to recognize and respect the reality of gender variety.
- C) Traveling to other countries has become much easier for non-binary citizens.
- D) Passports are no longer useful for identifying individuals at borders.

**5. Sweden and Iceland’s decision to introduce paid parental leave for fathers implies that:**

- A) Women are no longer interested in staying home with new-borns.
- B) Caregiving is being redefined as a shared responsibility rather than a gender-specific role.
- C) Governments want men to stop working in business and politics.
- D) Children grow up healthier when only fathers care for them.

**6. The presence of the “gender pay gap” even in the 21<sup>st</sup> century proves that:**

- A) Women do not possess the same leadership talents as men in business.
- B) Changing official laws is an easier task than shifting deep-rooted human attitudes.
- C) Most companies are completely unaware of how much they pay their employees.
- D) Education has failed to teach boys and girls the same academic subjects.

**7. Malala Yousafzai’s global educational campaign supports the passage’s claim that:**

- A) Girls are naturally better at math and science than boys.
- B) Respecting one another as equals begins with equal access to schooling.
- C) Traditional roles can only be broken by international organizations, not local schools.
- D) Politics is the only career path where women can achieve true success.

**8. According to the final paragraph, unlocking the full potential of a society requires:**

- A) Forcing all citizens to completely reject their past traditions.
- B) Punishing anyone who does not agree with new government laws.
- C) Accepting gender variety and ensuring every individual feels safe and valued.
- D) Allowing only non-binary individuals to hold leadership positions.