**GP Essay Outline - Education**

**‘Education should only be concerned with what is useful in life.’ Discuss.**

**Type of question: DYA**

**Thinking aspect:**

For this question, the student must relate to the aims of education and expand on it. The question above gives one school of thought of the purpose of education which is fundamentally a utilitarian concept peppered with pragmatism. The student could even consider the enriching aspect of an arts education too. Also, the student could consider the aspect of what is important or useful. The tension between both concepts could allow the student to formulate an argument to differ the two**.** This question could be a DYA A format and students should not agree with this as the word ‘should’ suggests that it is an absolute statement for disagreement as it is particularly challenging to fully critique different schools of thoughts about education. As such, the student must provide a clear stand and thesis in the introductory paragraph.

**Introduction**

Tracing back to the industrial revolution, the rapid building of infrastructure so as to train factory workers created the concepts of “schools” or “formal education”. At that time, education was primarily a mechanism to churn out efficient workers of the economy and pinned to the utilitarian perception of education who argue that education should be concerned with what is useful in life. Yet ever since, the evolution of education with the sands of time has modernized the system and expanded its aims to educate students about values, meaning and leisure as the intrinsic part of education cannot be quantified. In view of such polarizing perspectives, this essay argues that education should not only be concerned with what is useful in life.

**Main Body**

Point 1.1 - Opposing view 1

Education should be concerned with what is useful in life as the main purpose of education is to ensure the individuals can gain employment and give them the means to have a decent standard of living.

Point 1.2 Opposing view 2 - (optional)

Education should focus on the nurturing of an individual’s cultural and national identity as it will cultivate his sense of belonging to the society, creating political stability for the country.

Point 2 -Rebuttal

However, the above view(s) is/are narrow in scope and does not consider the holistic purpose of education as education is more than just being a productive member of the economy but also involves the development of one’s moral orientation and perspective towards life, shaping them to be civic and moral individuals

Point 3 - Supporting view 1

Moreover, education should be concerned with what is not useful as it is also important to educate oneself about leisure through recreational activities, shaping our sense of happiness.

Point 4 - Supporting view 2

Furthermore, what is considered not useful in life like the cultivation of a circle of friendship to make life more enriching and interesting through our education is often ignored and not pursued.

Point 5 - Supporting view 3

More importantly, education should not be concerned with what is useful as it is an enriching process through education to raise our spirits with passion and devotion to causes in life that will make our lives more purposeful and meaningful.

**Conclusion**

In view of the role education will play in our life journey, we cannot deny that it is of great imperative and we must have a serious view about what we think of education. What we learn will determine who we are. It is important for us to learn as much as possible. We need to learn things which seem to be useful and functional but also need to learn things which we cannot identify the benefits of so directly and easily. This will make our learning more complete, enrich and complete our life.