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Check your answer with that given at the end of the Unit.

4.6 LET US SUM UP

The goal of writing a summary of an article, a chapter, or a book is to offer as accurately as possible the full sense of the original, but in a more condensed form. A summary restates the author's main point, purpose, intent, and supporting details in your own words. The process of summarizing enables you to better grasp the original and the result shows the reader that you understand it as well. In addition, the knowledge gained allows you to better analyse and critique the original.

In this unit we have shown you how we can write summaries of the passages we read by looking for the important ideas in each passage and the relationship between them; and adopting a proper arrangement for the main points in the summary and linking the various sentences in it with the use of connectives.

4.7 SUGGESTED READING

J. Zukowski/Faust, S.S. Johnston and C.S. Atkinson: *Between the Lines*.

4.8 ANSWERS

Check Your Progress 1

1. i. imports ii. verified iii. versatile iv. prospective
v. aggravate vi. acquittal vii. arbitrate viii. infallible

Check Your Progress 2

1. I suggest we alter the length of the cloak.
2. Everything today requires peoples' conformity to some standard.
3. If we revise the programme, our efficiency in customer service will increase.
5. Many engineers have commented about not being notified when new information is filed in the library.

Check Your Progress 3

Topic sentences:

Text 1: (a) Today, boys try to prove they are men in many different ways.

Text 2: (d) Failure to abide by these rules will result in a failing grade for this test.

Check Your Progress 4

i. The topic sentence: Playing computer games causes social, educational and personal problems to youngsters and society and therefore should be controlled.

- ii. The main ideas: youngsters stop playing sport – become overweight and less healthy – more prone to diseases – games may be violent – leads to lack of interaction and social skills.
- iii The summary

Nowadays almost every household has a computer. However, playing them causes social, educational and personal problems. Children can become overweight and more prone to diseases. Also, games are often violent and can lead to less interaction with friends and relatives. Therefore they need to be tightly controlled. (47 words)

Check your progress 5

Main Ideas in 'Earthworms Back in the Garden'

Paragraph 1: Earthworms are the answer for every garden problem: they can increase crop production, turn and freshen soil and produce faster growth.

Paragraph 2: Earthworms, it is claimed, are 70 per cent protein, so they can be eaten. They can replace topsoil which is disappearing every year through erosion.

Paragraph 3: Within one year, 1000 earthworms and their descendants can change approximately 1 ton of organic matter into one of the highest-yield growing materials known. They produce the same amount of topsoil in one day that nature could produce in 700 years through decomposition and erosive forces.

Paragraph 4: Worms make the soil porous, absorbent and of even consistency.

Paragraph 5: Worms need only moisture, darkness and food from the soil. A Worm Growers' Association is active in many states.

Final Summary of 'Earthworms Back in the Garden'

Earthworms are the answer for every garden problem: they can increase crop production, turn and freshen soil and produce faster growth. Earthworms, it is claimed, are 70 per cent protein, so they can be eaten. They can replace topsoil which is disappearing every year through erosion. Within one year, 1000 earthworms and their descendants can change approximately 1 ton of organic matter into one of the highest-yield growing materials known. They produce the same amount of topsoil in one day that nature could produce in 700 years through decomposition and erosive forces. Worms make the soil porous, absorbent and of even consistency. Worms offer all these benefits, yet they make few demands: they need only moisture, darkness and food from the soil.