**The Purpose of Education**

The most important task of life is to preserve what is left of civilization, and out of this to build something “nearer to our heart’s desire.” Education is of small value if it cannot help us in the most important of all tasks; and it can be defined as educating the individual for the society in which he must live and to give him the power to change that society. It has a double purpose, with the emphasis on the second part of the definition. We should not over-emphasize the value of the first part. Indeed, if it were accepted as sufficient in itself, it would mean educating for a fixed society. Yet it is necessary to educate the individual for the society in which he must live; as the needs of the existing society are the dominant needs preceding change.

Further, the individual must hand on to posterity the cultural heritage from the past and the spiritual and moral values of both past and present. It should be one of the functions of education to preserve for the new society all the values essential to it, and to prune or cut out those decayed values which, though sanctioned by tradition, would be harmful to a new society.

**Vocabulary**

Nearer to our heart’s desire

Task – duty - obligation

Over-emphasize

Sufficient – enough – adequate

A fixed society

To precede – to succeed

Posterity

Cultural heritage

Prune

Sanctioned – sanctity

Indeed

**Structures**

Prepositional Relative Clauses/Conjunctions/Participles

…. what is left of …….

To be of small value

Help someone in something

To be sufficient in itself

To educate for something

To hand something on to posterity