



Daily Article (Bharath's Reading list) - Answers and Explanations 19.04.2023

Article link : <https://bit.ly/3MWJmk6> (Japan's Cold War education policy used religion to 'make' the ideal humans needed by its nascent economy.)

1. According to the article, all the following contributed to why Ikeda's hitozukuri was appealing in 1960s Japan, except:

- A. The country was undergoing rapid reconstruction after the devastating firebombing of virtually all its major cities during the Second World War
- B. Organizations such as the Japan Teacher's Union (JTU) supported the 'human figure' policy as it could help internalise diligence and perseverance
- C. The country witnessed fractious protests by thousands of students against the US-Japan Security Treaty in the summer of 1960
- D. Many observers described post-defeat Japanese society as morally defunct, with rising drug abuse, sexual licentiousness, theft and violence among Japan's youth

Explanation : B

While options A, C and D are stated in the article, option B is the opposite of what the article states: "...influential Leftist organisations such as the Japan Teacher's Union (JTU) decried the 'human figure' policy as authoritarian and vague".

2. The quiet failure of the human figure policy imagined by the Ministry of Education was due to:

- A. the lack of a legally permissible way to make kids more religious in public schools
- B. the concept itself becoming increasingly blurry in educational circles and there being no accurate way to measure 'morality'
- C. there being no reliable way of proving that confessional instruction engendered morality or that morality led to technical competence
- D. All the above

Explanation: D

All given reasons are mentioned in the article.

3.All the following are ironies, the author observes, that resulted from the human figure concept except:

- A.Though policymakers had attempted inculcate a sense of 'mission' in Japanese youths, it was ultimately the for-profit corporation that took up the task of endowing students with a sense of self-abnegation in pursuit of a mission
- B.For all the discussion around the human figure, excessive use of technology by the juku operators resulted in making 'robotic humans who do not think'
- C.Regarded as lazy, selfish and superficial, the very people who had been raised to be ideal 'human figures' were labelled by professional observers as not human at all
- D.For all the focus by the government on cultivating 'human figure' in the 1960s, by 1976 the Japanese media treated Japan's high-stakes education system as utterly dehumanising

Explanation:

Correct option **B**

Refer to last few paragraphs on the ironies of the situation observed by the author. Option B is too extreme ("resulted in making robotic humans") and not what the article states.

