

Directions: *There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A) , B) , C) and D) . You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre.*

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

GDP growth is not a good indicator of how well a country is performing, and should not be the primary goal of governments. Unlimited growth is not sustainable, and economic thinking is moving toward the idea that we should aim for sustainability in our economic models. But while a sustainable economy is vital to our future, it is a means to an end, not an end in itself.

The idea that governments should focus on happiness has its critics. There are concerns about how happiness can be measured. Is happiness not a fleeting and subjective psychological state? Don't different people experience different levels of happiness? Even on the broadest interpretation of 'happiness' as prosperity or 'life satisfaction', people want different things.

Of course, governments cannot impose life satisfaction on citizens. But our happiness relies on collaborative efforts as a society. A government's obligation lies in creating conditions that promote prosperity. And there is good reason to suppose that such conditions exist, are globally applicable, and are discoverable through research.

In a recently published article, philosopher Julian Baggini suggests we should focus on 'real wealth' for citizens, which does not depend on GDP growth. Access is key: people do not need to own, but rather access things that enable them to live well. Technological advances and changes in social behavior enable us to make more efficient use of the assets that we already have. And focusing on access to the resources people need to live better lives could help reduce inequality.

As far as it goes, this has much in common with proposals tabled by 'happiness' advocates. But it sets the bar far too low for what governments can and should be doing for their citizens.

For example, it's not clear how a 'real wealth' economy would remedy the epidemic of mental ill-health that plagues our society. In Western countries, at least—poor mental health is more detrimental to wellbeing than poverty. Over and above a vastly improved provision of therapeutic mental healthcare, there are preventative measures for improving mental health that governments could and should adopt. The WHO recommends establishing institutions that facilitate community participation—educational programs and interventions that provide skills for promoting mental wellbeing. It says a lot, however, that the WHO feels the need to appeal to the economic benefits of improving mental health to persuade governments that the cost of taking proposed measures is justified. As long as the economy is their priority, governments need go no further than ensuring citizens' continued productivity.

To demand that governments set the 'happiness' of citizens as their highest priority is to demand that they view citizens as ends in themselves.

51. What does the passage say is the more recent thinking of economic growth?
- A) It should be made sustainable.
 - B) It is vital to the future of humanity.
 - C) It should be governments' chief concern.
 - D) It is an indicator of government performance.
52. Why are some people opposed to the idea that governments should focus on happiness?
- A) Governments cannot impose happiness on citizens.
 - B) People's happiness is built upon their own endeavor.
 - C) Happiness means different things to different people.
 - D) Happiness depends on sustainable economic growth.
53. What does philosopher Julian Baggini suggest governments do in a recently published article?
- A) Try to reduce inequality between the rich and the poor.
 - B) Provide people with access to resources for a better life.
 - C) Change people's behaviors to put social wealth to better use.
 - D) Make use of advanced technologies to improve people's lives.
54. Why does the WHO feel the need to appeal to the economic benefits of improving mental health to justify its recommendations?
- A) Mental health programs cannot be executed without GDP growth.
 - B) Psychological interventions are conducive to people's wellbeing.
 - C) Poor mental health is detrimental to a nation's economic system.
 - D) Governments still take economic development as their priority.
55. What message does the author try to convey at the end of the passage?
- A) Governments' goal should be prosperity-driven.
 - B) Governments' goal should be people-oriented.
 - C) Governments should consider citizens' views in decision-making.
 - D) Governments should set sustained productivity as their top priority.