

# Unit 2

## Traffic Education

### Objectives

After the completion of this unit, you will–

- read and understand texts through silent reading.
- ask and answer questions.
- describe the traffic and its impact on brain.

### Overview

Lesson 1: How Your Brain Negotiates Traffic

Lesson 2: Traffic Capital of the World

Lesson 3: The Traffic Police

Lesson 4: From Filippos Fylaktos' Film “My Brother, the Traffic Policeman”

### Answer Key

## Lesson 1 : How Your Brain Negotiates Traffic



### 1. Warm-up activity:

Discuss in a small group the following questions.

- What do you mean by traffic?
  - Who controls the traffic?
  - What are the challenges of traffic control?
2. Do you ride a bicycle? If yes, how do you negotiate the traffic? Speak in a group. If you don't know how to ride a bicycle, ask a friend who does.



### 3. Read the passage below and complete the activities mentioned at the end of the passage.

When you are in the driving seat of a car, you have the steering and the horn in your hands, the brake and accelerator under your feet, eyes open looking ahead, left and right. The same can be said about a motorcycle rider, with some modifications. These are all very visible. But, behind all, there is something that keeps working unseen. And that is the Central Processing Unit (CPU), your brain. CPUs are artificially intelligent machines that are programmed to do specific jobs under fixed conditions and judgements. But the human brain is intelligent by nature. It is the most sophisticated machine that is able to operate on ever-changing conditions and standards of judgment. As conditions in the traffic keep invariably changing, this virtue of sophistication of

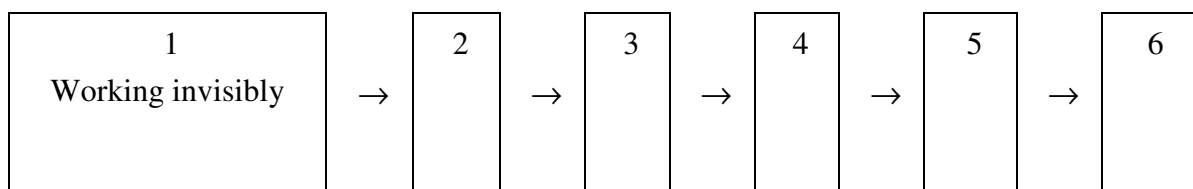
your brain must be at work when you are driving. The difference between traffic in the roads and highways and racing circuit must not be blurring inside you. Never imagine yourself to be a Michael Schumacher driving an F-1 at 300 mph. Leave no room for fantasy. You must always be ready to encounter unexpected behavior from any vehicle or pedestrian. 'Keep your cool' is easy to advice but difficult to maintain. Still you must always restrain yourself because, at the end of the day, you don't want to be regarded as killer. Now you see, the last thing that differentiates you from a computer is your conscience.



**4. Read the following questions. Each question has a word in italics with four alternative meanings. Choose the word which is the closest in meaning:**

- A. What is a *steering* used for?
- speeding
  - stopping
  - changing speed
  - directing
- B. What is the function of the *accelerator*?
- charging battery
  - enhancing speed
  - stopping
  - controlling
- C. Which organ is the word *visible* associated with?
- ear
  - nose
  - eyes
  - refined
- D. The word *sophisticated* in line 15 means-
- complex
  - primitive
  - modern
  - refined
- E. *Michael Schumacher* is a –
- Hollywood hero.
  - German racing driver.
  - English footballer.
  - Australian cricketer.
- 5. Answer the following questions:**
- Where do you see the difference between other human organs and the brain?
  - What is the difference between a computer and the human brain?
  - What is a CPU? What are its functions?
  - What are the main challenges facing a driver?
  - What is a racing circuit?
  - How is a racing circuit different from a public road?
  - Why human brain is called the most sophisticated machine?
  - What kind of skill does car driving regular?

- i. Why has fantasy been discouraged?
  - j. Why is it easy to remain cool theoretically but not practically?
6. Do you think the bus and truck drivers of our highways maintain traffic discipline? What are the reasons of road accidents in our country? Write your answer within 500 words.
7. Make sentences with the following words and phrases:
- a. sophisticated
  - b. invariably
  - c. fantasy
  - d. pedestrian
  - e. convince
  - f. driving seat
  - g. unseen
8. Do you think our towns and cities are pedestrian friendly? If your answer is “no” how can you make them so?
9. Based on your reading of the passage, make short notes in each of the boxes in the flow chart showing the function and characteristics of human brain according to the passage. (No. 1 has been done for you.)



10. Write a brief summary of the passage in your words.
11. Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word in each gap.
- Bangladesh is the most densely (a) —country in the (b) — million people are being added to our (c)—. The problem is now out of (d) —. But this can be (e) — if the government and the people are firmly determined to control birth are grow more (f) — at the same (g)—. No improvement is (h) —unless this problem is solved. Therefore, all the people of Bangladesh and the government should join hands meet the crisis (i) — at this moment before it is too (j)—.
12. Read the following text and fill in the blanks with suitable word from the box. There are more words than needed. Make any grammatical change if necessary.

the	on	might	sell	a	to
birth	of	blood	work	blue	be

Mans dignity depends upon his words. Man is a rational being (a) \_\_\_\_\_ the earth. He is to (b) \_\_\_\_\_ for others. He should not (c) \_\_\_\_\_ proud if he is of (d) \_\_\_\_\_ blood. He should be ready (e) \_\_\_\_\_ help any class of man. (f) \_\_\_\_\_ man whom he is helping (g) \_\_\_\_\_ be inferior to him by (h)\_\_\_\_\_. But after all, he is (i) \_\_\_\_\_ man. He has the same (j) \_\_\_\_\_ and flash as the above mentioned man.

## Lesson 2: Traffic Capital of the World

# Traffic Jam in Dhaka



### 1. Read the text.



I am in a tiny steel cage attached to a motorcycle, stuttering through traffic in Dhaka, Bangladesh. In the last ten minutes, we have moved forward maybe three feet, inch by inch, the driver wrenching the wheel left and right, wriggling deeper into the wedge between a delivery truck and a rickshaw in front of us.

Up ahead, the traffic is jammed so close together that pedestrians are climbing over pickup trucks and through empty rickshaws to cross the street. Two rows to my left is an ambulance, blue light spinning uselessly. This is what the streets here look like from seven o'clock in the morning until ten o'clock at night. If you're rich, you experience it from the back seat of a car. If you're poor, you're in a rickshaw, breathing in the exhaust.

I'm sitting in the back of a CNG, a three-wheeled motorcycle shaped like a slice of pie and covered with scrap metal. I'm here working on a human rights projects, but whenever I ask people in Dhaka what they think international organizations should really be working on, they tell me about the traffic.

Alleviating traffic congestion is one of the major development challenges of our time. Half the world's population already lives in cities, and the United Nations (UN) estimates that the

proportion will raise to nearly 70 percent by 2050. Dhaka, the world's densest and fastest growing city is a case study in how this problem got so bad and why it's so difficult to solve.

Dhaka's infrastructure doesn't match the scale of its population. Just 7 percent of the city is covered by roads, compared with around 25 percent of Paris and Vienna. Dhaka also suffers from the absence of a planned road network. There are 650 major intersections, but only 60 traffic lights, many of which don't work. That means the police force isn't enforcing driving or parking rules; they're in the intersections, directing traffic.

The cost of Dhaka's traffic congestion is estimated at \$3.8 billion a year, and that's just the delays and air pollution, not the less-tangible losses in quality of life. Paradoxically, the poor infrastructure is one of the reasons why the city is growing so fast. Without roads or trains to whisk them to the suburbs, Dhaka residents have no choice but to crowd into the middle, set up slums between high-rises, and walk to work.

Then there are the users of the roads. Besides pedestrians, the narrow lanes are shared by bicycles, rickshaws, scooters, motorcycles, CNGs, buses, and Cars. All these modes take up a different amount of space and have different top speeds. Most people you talk up a different amount of space and have different top speeds. Most people you talk to in Bangladesh blame the traffic jams on the rickshaws. There are too many of them, they say, and they drive so slowly that they trap the cars, buses and CNGs behind them. The government is under pressure to designate some lanes as car-only, to build wider roads and overpasses, to take the slow traffic out from in front of the fast.

And this brings us to the third reason why the traffic problem is so difficult to solve. All of these fixes sound easy and obvious, but they come at a cost. One and a half million people drive rickshaws for a living, plus another few hundred thousand own and repair them. Government efforts to get people out of rickshaws and into buses and trains are going to attract huge opposition.

Even increasing bus capacity is more complicated than it sounds. A 2009 World Bank analysis found 60 separate bus companies in Dhaka. Since the bus companies compete with one another, the drivers have every incentive to drive aggressively and take more passengers than the buses can hold. What's more, the public transport isn't all that public. Many of the bus companies are owned or linked to political parties or powerful trade unions. Government efforts to unify or regularize the system would amount to a hostile takeover of all of these small companies.

The obvious solution is to separate the rickshaws from the cars, from the CNGs, give each of them lanes and lights according to their top speed, and crucially, make car drivers pay the cost of taking up more space on the roads.

But that, politically speaking, is unrealistic. Car owners are a small part of the population, but they are the most influential. Every year, Dhaka adds an extra 37,000 cars to its already overcrowded roads.

Think about all this from a Bangladeshi politician's point of view. Any attempt to solve the traffic mess means annoying the poor, the middle class, and the rich all at once.

Thanks about all this from a Bangladesh politician's point of view. Any attempt to solve the traffic mess means annoying the poor, the middle class, and the rich all at once.

Thanks to the donors, In 2012, the government announced a \$2.75 billion plan to build a metro rail system and a \$45 million bus rapid-transit line from the airport. For residents of Dhaka, it will come as a relief.

Whenever I asked my Bangladesh colleagues how long it would take to get somewhere, they always gave two answers: “Without traffic, maybe fifteen minutes. But with traffic? Who knows?”

[Adapted from the article published in [www.newstatesman.org](http://www.newstatesman.org)]



**2. Write ‘T’ if the statement is true, ‘F’ if the statement is false.**

- a. The annual cost of traffic congestion is 3.8 billion taka including less tangible costs such as quality of life.
- b. Only 10 percent of Dhaka is covered by roads.
- c. Each year 37,000 cars are being added to the streets of Dhaka.
- d. The author compares CNG to a piece of pie.
- e. According to the author, the public buses are truly public.

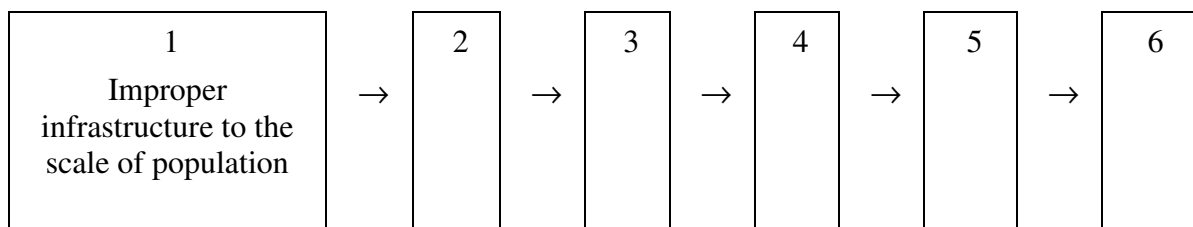
**3. Answer the following questions:**

- (a) Why does the author think Dhaka’s traffic congestion is difficult to solve?
- (b) What are the arguments given for banning rickshaws?
- (c) Why is it difficult to solve the traffic problem in Dhaka from a politician’s perspective?
- (d) What do you think of the style of the author?
- (e) What happens to the inhabitants of Dhaka in the absence of proper traffic system?
- (f) What amount of space do different kinds of vehicles occupy?
- (g) How much area of Paris and Vienna is covered by roads?
- (h) How does Paris and Vienna differ from that of Dhaka?
- (i) Why traffic jam is so acute in Dhaka city?
- (j) What statistics does the United Nation give regarding world population?

4. Match the words in *Column A* with their meanings in *Column B* in the box below:

<i>Column A</i>	<i>Column B</i>
i. stuttering ii. wrenching iii. exhaust iv. wriggling v. suburbs vi. wedge vii. pedestrians viii. whisk ix. paradoxically x. infrastructure	a. shaking b. tire out c. road and rail network d. faltering e. twisting suddenly and violently f. in contradiction g. a residential urban area outside the city h. force into a narrow space i. to move suddenly and quickly j. people who are walking rather than travelling in a vehicle

5. Based on your reading of the passage, make short notes in each of the boxes in the flow chart showing the reasons of traffic jam in Dhaka city. (No. 1 has been done for you.)



6. Write a brief summary of the passage in your words.



### Lesson 3: The Traffic Police



#### 1. Warm-up activity:

- Discuss in a small group what traffic management means. Then write down how you think traffic management can be improved in our cities.



#### 2. Now read the poem given below and answer the questions that follows:

Amidst killer speeds I stand  
Facing the traffic, stretching my hand.  
I am seen on kid's books and as cartoons everywhere  
Educating people and asking them to beware  
Of the erratic traffic and the signboards  
Seen on almost all the roads.

So that you're safe I see each one of you  
But my sweet, my plight on the road sees who?  
Be it sunny or rainy,  
For your safety I must be  
Vigil and agile, on the middle  
Standing erect, as fit as a fiddle.

Oh! My ear hurts! Oh! My head aches!  
Oh! Look at the weather ..... such unpredictable days!  
But I cannot swerve; I must be on duty.  
I care for your safety.  
Be it noisy or dusty; Be it sunny or rainy;  
I must be on duty. I care for your safety.

**3. Answer the following questions:**

- a. Who is the speaker in the poem?
- b. What do the words 'killer speeds' mean?
- c. What is your view of a traffic policeman?
- d. Why do his ears hurt?
- e. What is 'unpredictable'?
- f. What is the attitude of the speaker to the job he does?
- g. What pressure is the traffic police facing?
- h. What is your idea about traffic management system shown in this poem?
- i. From your reading of the poem explain the activities of the traffic police
- j. How is traffic police associated with kid's books?

**4. The poem has three stanzas. What is the rhyme scheme of the stanzas? What are the advantages of using rhyme in a poem?**

**5. Attempt a poem of 8 or 10 lines about a policeman standing at a busy intersection in a city or a paragraph or two in prose.**

**6. Make sentence using the following words:**

- a. erratic
- b. plight
- c. agile
- d. safety
- e. dusty

**7. Write down the adjectival form of the following words:**

- a. cartoon
- b. ache
- c. duty
- d. sweat
- e. educate

**8. Elaborate on the meaning of the lines:**

- a. Amidst killer speeds I stand
- b. Standing erect, as fit as a fiddle
- c. Oh! Look at the weather..... such unpredictable days!

**9. Write a brief summary of the poem in your words.**

## Lesson 4 : From Filippos Fylaktos' Film "My Brother, the Traffic Policeman"

### 1. Warm-up activity:

- Imagine yourself as a traffic policeman. You have just finished your shift directing traffic near a school from morning till noon. Talk to a small group for 5 minutes about your experience.



### 2. Now read the short passage about the film and answer the questions that follow:

From Filippos Fylaktos' film "*My Brother, the Traffic Policeman*"

The persona of a traffic policeman has always been a curious one. It has often found important space and close treatment in literature and other arts. Besides the many poems about this fascinating character, there is at least one movie where the central character is a traffic policeman. In 1963, Greek film maker Filippos Fylaktos made this film named *My Brother, the Traffic Policeman*. It featured a slightly manic traffic policeman, Antonis Pikrocholos, who is utterly devoted to service and duty, and applies the traffic code with unyielding severity. Tickets rain down upon law-breakers in particular taxi-driver and especially Lampros, who happens to be in love with a businessman's daughter, Kiki, who is afraid to reveal her feelings to her father. Besides, Antonis has given lots of traffic tickets to a bus belonging to her father's company. For all these reasons, the road to marriage for both couples is long and strewn with obstacles, but the outcome is a happy one for everyone involved.



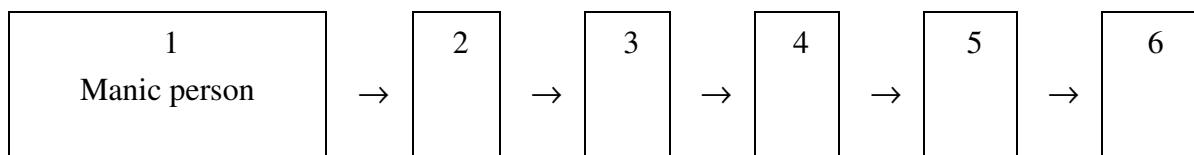
### 3. Guess the meanings of the following words from the context:

- persona
- curious
- fascinating
- manic
- devoted
- obstacles

### 4. Answer the following questions:

- What does 'giving tickets' mean in the context?
- What idea of the central character have you formed?
- What is meant by 'the road to marriage'?
- In which language was the movie probably made?
- How does the movie end?
- What kind of character is Antonis Pikrocholos?
- What is the setting of the story?
- Why is kiki afraid to real her feeling to her father?
- What idea has the story teller tried to convey through such an insignificant plot?
- Why is the outcome happy for everyone involved?

5. Find the meaning of the word 'manic. What is the root word for manic? Describe in 5 sentences how a manic traffic policeman would behave in real life.
6. Do you think our traffic policeman perform the following duties? If not, why?
  - a. apply traffic codes with severity
  - b. give tickets to all law-breakers
7. The passage suggests that traffic policemen have found important space in literature. Can you remember reading about a traffic policeman in any novel, short story or poem?
8. Imagine that you are a taxi-driver and have broken traffic rules on the road. Now write a dialogue between the traffic policeman in *My Brother, the Traffic Policeman* and yourself.
9. Go to Google and find out more about the film and write a 200 words paragraph based on your search. If possible, watch the film on the You Tube.
10. Based on your reading of the passage, make short notes in each of the boxes in the flow chart showing the characteristics of Antonis Picrocholos. (No. 1 has been done for you.)



11. Write a brief summary of the passage in your words.
12. Fill in the gaps with suitable words from the box. There are more words in the box than you need.

educate	recreation	religion	original	question	broadcast	sent
aim	facilities	concern	look	consider	though	taken

Television, a source of much knowledge, pleasure and information and a widely used media of mass communication, is now being (a) — at from a different point of view. Is the TV really doing good, especially to the youngsters of our new generation? It is an important (b) — both to ask and to answer indeed. Viewed from an (c) — point of view, TV is to be (d) — one of the most effective means of educating both the students and the public as a whole. Again, it has almost become the most effective and popular means of people's (e) —. Films, dramas, songs, dances, comedy series — all these are very attractive packages of programmes. As a means of communication TV is (f) — not the most important, yet the most effective and useful means of communication. Up to this point, we must say that the TV is doing good to our youngsters by educating them and by giving them recreational (g) —. But as far as the satellite TV is (h) —, we cannot say "this for certainly. The commercial package programmes (i) — by satellite TVs are detrimental to our young generation, pernicious to our societies, threatening to our values and traditions and (j) — beliefs.

13. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words:

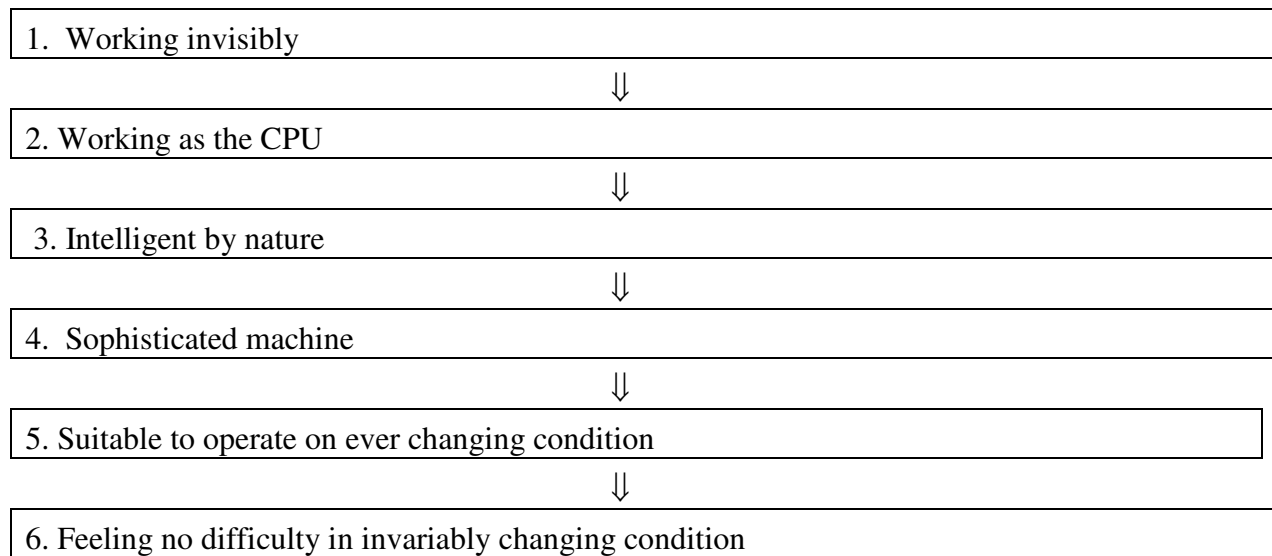
The importance of women in the society is in no way less than that of men. But women in our society have become (a) \_\_\_\_\_ of gender disparity. They are oppressed in (b) \_\_\_\_\_

ways. Thousands of girls fall victim to (c) \_\_\_\_\_ system. The worst sufferers are the working (d)\_\_\_\_\_ of women. Women generally work longer hours (e) \_\_\_\_\_ men but they are paid less than (f) \_\_\_\_\_. It is high time, we considered women (g) \_\_\_\_\_ partners of men. Everybody especially, the young (h) \_\_\_\_\_ should come forward boldly to remove this (i) \_\_\_\_\_. The first and foremost thing what the (j) \_\_\_\_\_ people can do is that they should have a clear conscience about the gender disparity..

## Answer Key

### Lesson 1

4. A. (iv) directing; B. (ii) enhancing speed; C. (iii) eyes; D. (iv) refined; E. (ii) German racing driver.
5. Prepare the answers by yourself and show your tutor.
6. Prepare the answers by yourself and show your tutor.
7. Prepare the answers by yourself and show your tutor.
8. Prepare the answers by yourself and show your tutor.
9. A flow chart showing the function and characteristics of human brain according to the passage is given below:



10. Prepare the answers by yourself and show them to your tutor.
11. a) population    b) world    c) population    d) control    e) possible    f) rapidly  
g) way    h) sustainable    i) to solve    j) difficult
12. a) on    b) work    c) be    d) blue    e) to    f) The    g) might    h) birth  
i) a    j) blood

### Lesson 2

2. a) F; b) F; c) T; d) T; e) F
4. (i)+(d); (ii)+(e); (iii)+(b); (iv)+(h); (v)+(g); (vi)+(a); (vii)+(j); (viii)+(i); (ix)+(f), (x)+(c)
5. A flow chart showing what people did after the dissolution of the Assembly is given below:

1. Improper infrastructure to the scale of population



2. Insufficient number of roads



3. unplanned road network



4. less traffic lights than intersections



5. Damaged traffic lights in the intersections



6. Unskilled police force to enforce traffic rules

6. Prepare the answer by yourself and show it to your tutor.

### Lesson 3

3. (a): The speaker in the poem is a traffic policeman.

(b): 'Killer speeds' means the frightening speeds of the vehicle which can cause accidents.

(c): My view of a traffic policeman is that he is a very dutiful person. He is courageous and industries. He has to work standing still in the busy road to apply the traffic rules.

(d): His ears hurt as he has to work in the midst of the running vehicles that create unbearable noise.

(e): His days are unpredictable because of weather.

(f): The attitude of the speaker to the job he does is that his service is full of courage and importance.

4. Prepare the answers by yourself and show them to your tutor.

5. Prepare the answers by yourself and show then to your tutor.

6.

a. erratic	The speeds of the killer vehicles are erratic.
b. plight	The plight of a traffic police on duty beggars description
c. agile	A traffic police in duty is very agile.
d. safety	A traffic police has to ensure the safety of the vehicles running on the road.
e. dusty	A traffic police has to continue his duty in the dusty environment.

7.

a. cartoon = cartoon, cartoonish

b. ache = achy

c. duty = dutiful

d. sweat = sweaty

e. educate = educative

8. Prepare the answers by yourself and show them to your tutor.

9. Prepare the answers by yourself and show it to your tutor.

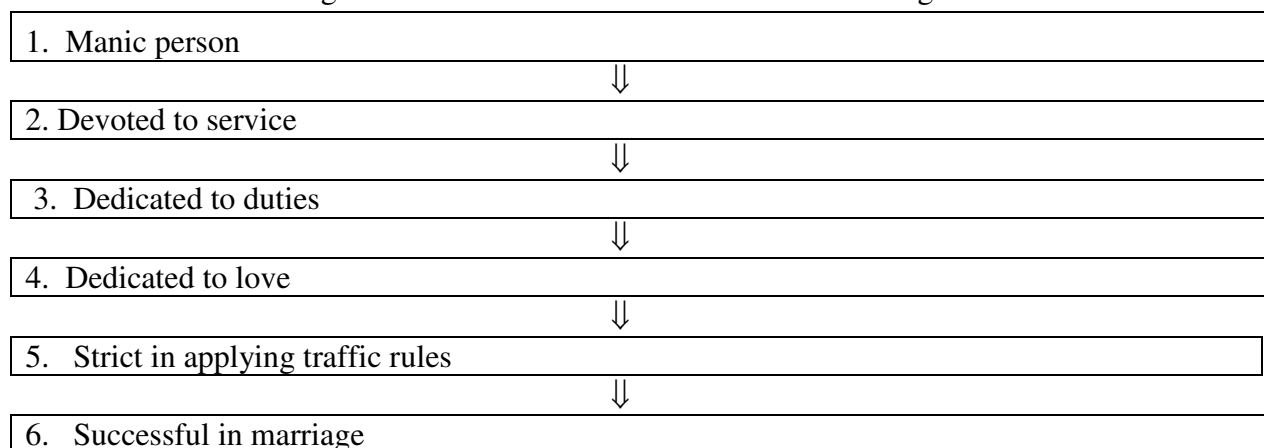
**Lesson 4**

- 3. Prepare the answers by yourself and show your tutor.
  - 4. Prepare the answers by yourself and show your tutor.
  - 5. Manic means agitated. The root word for manic is ‘mania’.
- Five sentences on how a manic traffic policeman would behave in real life-

- i) He is somewhat harsh
- ii) He is disciplined
- iii) He is punctual.
- iv) He is loyal to the law.
- v) He is hard working and dutiful.

- 6. Prepare the answers by yourself and show your tutor.
- 7. Yes, I can remember reading about a traffic policeman in a poem. Its name is ‘The Traffic Police’. I can also remember watching a film about a traffic policeman named ‘My Brother, the Traffic Policeman’.

10. A flow chart showing the characteristics of Antonis Pikrocholos is given below:



11. Prepare the answers by yourself and show them to your tutor.

- 12. a) looked
- b) concern
- c) educational
- d) considered
- e) recreation
- f) taken
- g) facilities
- h) original
- i) telecast
- j) religious
- 13. a) victim
- b) many
- c) dowry
- d) place
- e) than
- f) men
- g) equal
- h) people
- i) curse
- j) conscious