

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

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Section A:

If you want to walk fast, walk alone.

But if you want to walk far, walk together.

At the young age of 23, Alok Gupta was determined to work hard for his dreams.

He knew no limits and worked day and night to get a job at his dream company.

However, he ignored all his close ones during this period. He was so much immersed in his work that he barely recognised their existence.

Soon, Alok was at a prestigious position in the company he aimed for. But as life would have it, he faced multiple unexpected challenges there. While he never earned credit for his work, he was often demoted for others' mistakes. This work culture had made him depressed and

he started taking drugs. His health and work both deteriorated at a rapid pace.

One day, when he couldn't bear it any longer, he called his mother and cried out of despair. 5 years down the line, Alotk is healthy again and much more successful, but this time, along with his family and friends.

The story of Alotk shows that one may walk fast when alone; but can walk far, when together. Often in individual lives, we aim for certain goals and success. It is natural that a person puts every effort towards their aim.

However, a balance between work and family life must be maintained. The support of others helps a person to face difficult times with confidence. Further,

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with others, a person remains grounded and doesn't take unethical path in life. A person, together with others, can definitely walk further, even if not faster.

History is filled with examples justifying this quote. During 1857, many localised revolts under Laxmi Bai, Nana Sahab, etc took place. But, these revolts failed owing lack of unified organisation. Contrasting this with mass movements led by Gandhiji like Civil Disobedience Movement. These efforts ultimately led to India's independence.

Similarly, even world history shows that walking alone will not get us very far. During 1900s, many European nations were involved in a race for colonies. This desire to

gain maximum by eliminating others, ultimately resulted in World War I, that brought countless misery for people.

As said by Marlin Luther King Jr.,

"we must learn to live together as brothers, or perish together as fools."

Looking at social sphere, after independence till today, India faces many regionalism protests like demand for Bodoland & Gorkhaland

These demands can divide the country into numerous pieces and our Constitution makers adhered to principle of walking together, to ensure national integrity in long run.

At the same time, India is a land of great diversity in religion, language, festivals, dress, etc. This unity in diversity and its philosophy of "Vasudhaiva

Kutambakam”, has made India a far greater nation. This acceptance of multiple cultures has helped India to avoid becoming another Pakistan and avoid terror attacks similar to France, which imposes “collective Frenchness”. This idea of taking everyone along has further strengthened India's moral societal fabric and brought greater social cohesion.

Not only socially, but culturally too, this quote is evident in the religion of Mahayana Buddhism. It holds that individual Bodhisattvas can attain salvation, but choose to remain in lifecycle to help others also attain Nirvana.

Looking at the field of politics, we see

that concentration of power in a few individuals can lead to defections, break up of coalitions and ultimately the fall of government. It has been evident during coalition phase (1990s-2014) that walking together can only ensure stable government.

Many times, not only governments, but businessmen and capitalists try to amass wealth at the cost of masses. For example, as per Oxfam report 2019, richest 1% in India own 4 times the wealth of poorest 70%. This contrast will ultimately lead to economic disruption of poor and rich alike.

It was evident in Great Economic

Depression of 1920s, when capitalists raised prices of goods, but workers had no purchasing power, leading to global economic downturn. Clearly, one can only walk so far when alone.

Looking at global issues, today environment is facing the threat of rise of temperature to 1.5°C by 2027-42, as per IPCC report. Further, about 1 million species are threatened with extinction, according to WWF. Only collective action via initiatives like UNFCCC, Paris Climate Agreement, Aichi Biodiversity targets, etc can help to combat climate change. Unless the large industrialised states take action, other's steps will make little change.

It has been rightly said by Richard Rogers,

"The only way forward,
if we are going to improve the quality
of the environment,
is to get everybody involved."

Not only environmentally, but also inter-
nationally, steps taken alone will not get
us very far. Today many nations are
engaging in vaccine nationalism. Countries
like UK and Canada having 16% of
world's population, have cornered 60% of
vaccines, so that their population can be
vaccinated 6 times. Such actions are
harmful as many poorer nations have
large unvaccinated population, which forms
the base for virus mutation, as seen in
rise of omicron variant. In this context,

India's steps to distribute vaccines globally like vaccine maitri will help world survive.

As said by Bertrand Russell,

"Its coexistence or no existence."

Even in the field of administration, collective efforts by IAS officers like Divya Devarajan among Gond tribals and Armstrong Pame's People's Roads have produced long lasting results. On the other hand, IAS officers engaging in corruption, may make quick money, but will be caught sooner rather than later.

This highlights a need to inculcate such values in children that promote collectiveness and inclusion. Such values build trust in society and help in

reducing corruption. For example, efforts of G20 led to global minimum tax to avoid base erosion & profit shifting.

Walking together will lead to development at individual, societal and national level.

Just like in Alok's life, with the support of his family, he quit the excruciating job and worked on his startup. While maintaining a balance, he has been able to become a global icon of Forbes 30 under 30.

Finally, as said by Martin Luther King Jr,

"An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity."

Section B :-

Dissent is the safety valve of a Democracy.

“ If we were all to agree,
Never to say 'No', Never to criticise,
We would never know what's wrong,
What is stopping us,
What is holding us back,
We may become more backward,
more decadent and complacent,
but satisfied that no one said 'No'.”

This quote aptly captures the significance of dissent in a democracy. Democracy means rule of the people, by the people and for the people. Without dissent, democracy sounds hollow and without democracy, dissent can't survive.

Dissent is the voice of reason in a democracy. It is the voice that highlights our shortcomings and fallacies. It highlights the excesses and failures. It is crucial for making improvements and making democracy a success.

Dissent brings reforms in a democracy, thus strengthening it. For example, protests by Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan led to the introduction of Right to Information (RTI) act. Similarly, voice of dissent by Association for Democratic Reforms led to Supreme Court's declaration that it is citizen's right to know about assets and criminal antecedents of political candidates.

Further, democracy has fundamental human rights at its core. When the government shifts away from democracy, it is dissent that first points it out. It was evident in dissent judgement of Justice HR Khanna in ADM Jabalpur v Shivkant Shukla Case (1976), that upheld right to life during emergency.

Not only does it protects human rights, dissent also paves the way for a transparent and accountable government.

It ensures zero tolerance to corruption.

Dissent in the form of social audits, citizen's report card and jan sunwais are effective instruments to ensure thriving of democracy.

Plato has rightly noted that,

"The price good men pay for indifference
to public affairs is to be ruled by
evil men."

Dissent can fulfil various strategic and
national objectives of democracy as well

For example, Indian general Sam
Maneckshaw, when asked by then Prime
Minister Indira Gandhi, held that India
won't ready for war. He suggested a later
war in 1971, which led to India's victory.

It shows that dissent by even one person
can play a huge role in democracy.

Further, dissent gives voice to people. It
increases their political participation
and ensures that minorities have a

say in government. Their inclusion prevents their marginalisation from the mainstream society. When minorities express their grievances regarding lack of development, their voices must be addressed to, which in turn strengthens democracy.

As noted by Thomas Jefferson,

"Government exists for the interests of the governed,
not for the governors."

However, there have been several attempts to classify the voices of dissent as seditions and anti-national. Such attempts stop the progress of democracy at its tracks.

As noted by Supreme Court in Kedar Nath Singh judgement (1962), strong criticism

of the government is not sedition.

Further, ignoring the voices of dissent can lead to demands for secessionism and regionalism. It hinders smooth growth of democracy. Many demands like for Bodoland, Gurkhaland and Jharkhand emerged from disregard of voices of dissent from minority communities. It shows dissent is rightfully the safety valve of democracy.

History has been proof that suppression of dissent endangers the existence of nation itself. During colonial times, as Britishers suppressed ^{peaceful} Swadeshi and non-cooperation movements, it gave way to revolutionary activities like Ahadr, Kakori conspiracy as also

Surya Sen's raids.

Not only in India, suppression of ^{dissent in} democracy has led to partition and violence. For example, Pakistan denied east Pakistan any rights and ignored their concerns. This ultimately led to creation of Bangladesh in 1971.

Similarly, China's Hong Kong region witnesses protests in demands for recognition of their concerns. Russia was balkanised in 1992 as it never heard the dissent voices from its constituent states earlier.

Dissent being safety valve of democracy, has been inbuilt in Indian constitution. Article 19 protects the freedom of speech and right to peaceful assembly.

Further, concept of judicial review under Article 13 and 32 highlights voice of dissent against governmental steps. Institution of Rajya Sabha acts as a check against hasty ill-considered legislations. Similarly, office of leader of opposition shows the importance to dissent given by constitution framers.

Absence of dissent in a society can make it decadent, rotting and complacent. There will be hardly any incentive to improve. The period of later Mughals exemplifies a time of lack of dissent, decadence and violence by opposing factions.

Thus, it becomes important to

politically educate people and make them aware. Simultaneously, it is essential that citizens understand their responsibility while voicing dissent.

Dissent must not threaten the unity and integrity of nation nor should it harm its security. The voicing of dissent must be peaceful and in non-violent manner, 'Satyagraha' as Gandhiji called. For example, recent Capitol Hill Riots in USA highlight poor expression of dissent.

Norman Cousins have rightly said,

"In a democracy,
the individual enjoys not only the
ultimate power,
but carries the ultimate responsibility."

Thus, dissent in a democracy is essential for the realisation of rights of people, bringing reforms in governance and building social cohesion.

Finally, concluding by words of Rebendranath Tagore, which hold true for dissent,
"Where words come out from the ~~tireless~~
depth of truth;

Where tireless striving stretches its arms
towards perfection;

Where the clear stream of reason has not
lost its way into the dreary desert sand
of dead habit;

Where the mind is led forward by thee into
ever widening thought and action,

Into that heaven of freedom, my father,
let my country awake".