

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.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

History is a philosophy brought by
examples.

'How many people should die to
know that ~~too~~ many have died,
the answer my friend is blowing
in the wind'
- Bob Dylan.

This poem written by Bob Dylan
after seeing the misery caused
due to second world war serves
as a reminder for us to learn
from history. It teaches us
philosophy.

So, what is history and
philosophy?

History is something which

has happened in the past. It can be recent past or a distant past. For example, what happened yesterday is history and what happened in Harappan civilization (25,00 years ago) is also history.

It is a fact which cannot be changed. The course which

cannot be altered as it has already happened. History is

learned by reading about the past in books, that is to say that it can be recorded.

Philosophy on the other
hand is to understand and
question why something happened?

The reason behind killing of people
and the guilt associated with
it as reflected in Bob Dylan's
poem. It is the attitude which

acts as a guiding principle of
our behaviour. Understanding

what is good, bad, evil, happiness,
sorrow is. Why we feel that

some actions are good and some

are evil. To learn philosophy,

an individual should have

the understanding ability. It
can be thought through

various methods, one of them
is learning through history.

History is a philosophy
taught
through by examples - It
explains why people did what
they did. Why a person turned
evil ^(Hitler) and why a person turned
into Mahatma (Gandhi). History
is a philosophy for us to learn
from it, understand the
contemporary world as
it is shaped by it.

Going back to third
century A.D. The Great Ashoka
fought in the battle of Kalinga.

He was very aggressive and strong. With not much emotional attachment to relationships, killed his brothers to ascend to the throne. In the battle of Kalinga he killed many people. The suffering and pain of the people after war brought a huge change in his life. He gave up fighting and war, adopted buddhism. Later in life gave the philosophy of Dhamma. Dhamma was a guide to lead a compassionate way of life. By this example from our ancient history we

learn the philosophy of love and compassion. How a peaceful life is led by loving another human being and animals.

Similarly, from the history of Gupta empire (700 AD) which was the golden era in Indian history, we learn philosophy.

Was it even a golden era? As there were many social evil present like sati pratha, inhumane treatment of lower caste (untouchables) people. It made us question that only good architecture does not constitute a golden era.

Another teaching of philosophy about how weak is always eliminated can be seen from the medieval Indian history. Weak empires were always eliminated by the stronger ones. For example - Rajputs were raised by Turks, then Turks were defeated by Delhi Sultanate and finally the greatest Mughal Empire was established. Even within the Mughal Empire there was a transition from tough times (Babur) to good times (Akbar, Shahjahan, Aurangzeb) to weak times and end of the Mughal rule (Bahadur Shah). This

teaches us that tough times
create tough leaders and easy times
create weak leaders. Weakest
ones are always eliminated.

Similar, examples
can be seen in the rise and
fall of world's greatest empires.

The rise and fall of
British empire was due to
initial motive of trade to over
ambition of ruling the world.
They faced many revolts from
the colonies and finally had
to liberate the colonies from
the British rule. The philosophy

learned by this episode of history
is about not to have to much
power. In the words of
Rudyard Kipling - 'If you can
dream and not make dreams
your master, then you are in the
world and everything in it'.

Apart from these distant
history, the ~~can~~ recent past
teaches us many philosophies
like how power made many
individuals corrupt. How power
changes people and why it
is important to stay humble
when in position of power. For
example, due to misuse of power

and declaration of emergency
during by Indira Gandhi led
to defeat of Congress party and
formation of Janta party at
the centre in 1978.

Like wise the communal
hate spreading in recent times (सुरत
पेस)
is making us question if
humans really think beyond
their narrow mindsets of communalism.
Killing of innocents in suspect
of eating beef points us towards
philosophy of human behaviour
filled with hate.

Apart from these, at individual level. Our own history of past makes us philosophical. For example having childhood trauma due to sexual abuse ~~in~~ makes the person question the meaning of life. Our past history of relationships either make us believe in love - if it was a good experience or make us indifferent - if the experience was bad. We try to understand love, sadness, happiness from these

past experiences.

To conclude history
is nothing but a philosophy
as it tells us stories and
we learn from these stories.
From life of Buddha, Maharaja
Basavan - who made us
moral (moral philosophy) to
the history of power struggle
which made us greedy, there is
always a learning.

Anyone who is a
lover of history is a good
philosophical student too and

understands that no matter
how good or bad the time
is, it shall always pass. All
it leaves behind is philosophical
stories for us to learn from.

⑤ The unexamined life is not worth living

'In the bustle of life, when will
I get time to sit down and
think about what's correct
and incorrect in the things that
I have said, done and heard.'
- Haimanish Rai Baichan

In the above poem Baichan's
wish is to examine his life.

He understands that life is
never a smooth journey. It is

important to examine one's

life to feel alive. To be aware

of what is going on in our

life, is a worthy living. To
examine life, it is prudent
to understand the meaning
life and meaning of living.

The difference between life and
living and the difference between
an examined and an unexamined
life.

Life is being alive,
animals and plants have
life span. It is the journey
between birth and death of
an organism.

On the other hand

living the life means knowing that you are alive. Humans are the only animals (or living beings) who are aware of their existence. We are the only species who have evolved to incubate strong emotions in our lifelines. To make this count, we should examine our life.

This can be done by being aware of what is going on in life. When some act is done, to understand the consequence of it, is examination.

For example, when we hurt someone, we put the other person in pain. Only when we examine our act is when we can understand the other person's feelings, otherwise it is just cold. (Unexamined act).

Historically, we have seen rise and fall of empires because of examined and unexamined lines of the rulers. For instance, Ashoka, the great Mauryan king was too self absorbed in his greed to attend to the

thereone that he killed his own
brothers. This had led to a his
mere existence as a ruler
without self-appraisal. After
Kalinga war, he visited the
battle ground to see the destruction
he caused to the lives of people.
This led to Emperor Ashoka's
examination of his life and
opened way for his Dhamma.

Even though the
Mauryan Empire could not
survive after the peace (Dhamma
living) for many years. It
sure did make Emperor Ashoka's

life worth living.

In contrast ~~to~~ ^{to} the fall
of Mauryan Empire, the examined
life of Mahmud Ghazni after
repeated failures led to establishment
of his empire finally. These
are instances from the past
great kingdoms. At the individual
level, how the unexamined
life is not worth living?

Sometimes people
aim high and fail. Sometimes
they succeed. In both the
cases to make the life worthwhile,

it is important to examine one's actions.

When we fail, it becomes necessary to understand that it does not define you or it will not last forever. In George Bernard's words - 'There was never a night or a problem that didn't see a sunrise or a solution'. To understand this it is important to examine one's life.

Similarly when we succeed, we should take some time to sit down and

analyse the things we did
right to repeat the same
in future. To pass on the
wisdom to the next generation.
Unexamined life will just give
one time happiness without
being able to sustain it. These kind
expressions are explained by
poets since ages.

For instance, one of
it goes like - 'At the trial
of God we will ask why did
you allow all this and
the answer will be an echo

Why did you allow all this?
meaning if any incidence happens
once it may or may not
be a mistake. But if you
are going through similar incidences
(negative or positive) then it is
you who are allowing it. It
is lack of examination of life.
An unexamined life will lead
to repeated mistakes.

Above all ~~that~~, to
be born a human being
is a gift (banning some nihilists).
We can feel - not being aware of
it (not examining) will not
be worth living.

In cosmic terms, all these human emotions seem to be insignificant but still our species show a ~~per~~ curiosity and desire to live. The ability to examine life over the centuries has resulted in complex development of human brain. It has helped us survive, feel, feel alive, making us realize that the unexamined life is not worth living.

Despite all the fanouze towards being aware

and leading an examined
life, sometimes it is important
leave it unexamined too.

'Ignorance is a bliss' they
say. Though not completely
agreeing to it, it does sometimes
provides peace to a disturbed
soul.

For example, if a thought
which is negative and harmful
like suicidal thought is bothering
you since long. The best way
is to examine the cause, work
on it and then let it go to

direct your mind. It may
sometimes bring in peace and
lead you towards other brighter
aspect of life.

Finally to understand
what Mahatma Gandhi said -

'Be the change you want
to see' - to ~~under~~ know
what change you want to
see - you should not leave
the life unexamined. For

example - if you wish to
see a society which is free

of caste discrimination. It is important to examine your own life, if you practice discrimination in any way.

Towards your house servants - by keeping separate utensils

for them. Towards women

of your family by considering them inferior. It become essential

to examine these things before

wishing the end of another

social evil of caste discrimination.

To conclude - the

unenamined life is not worth

living. When you examine
you live better, you love
better, you laugh better,
you feel better. This will
not only make your life
worth living but will help
the people who love you have
a better relationship with
you.

