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01 JUN 2025

ESSAY

Name of Candidate	Admish Jain	Test Code	3280
Medium Hindi/Eng.	Eng	Registration Number	1305363
Centre	ORN	Date	01062025

INDEX TABLE		
Section	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
A	125	
B	125	
Total Marks Obtained:		

Important Instructions

- The ESSAY must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in a medium other than the authorized one.
प्रवेश-पत्र में प्राधिकृत माध्यम में निबन्ध लिखना आवश्यक है तथा इस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यू.सी.ए.) पुस्तिका के मुखपृष्ठ पर निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर करना आवश्यक है। प्राधिकृत माध्यम के अलावा अन्य माध्यम में लिखे गए उत्तरों पर अंक नहीं दिए जाएंगे।
- Word limit, as specified, should be adhered to.
प्रश्नों के उत्तर निर्दिष्ट शब्द-संख्या के अनुसार होने चाहिए।
- Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़े गए किसी पृष्ठ अथवा पृष्ठ भाग को पूर्णतः काट दीजिए।

Remarks:

General Instructions

- Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक इत्यादि)।
- Write **two** essay, choosing **one** topic from each of the Sections A and B, in about 1000-1200 words each.
खण्ड A व B प्रत्येक से एक विषय चुनकर दो निबन्ध लिखिए, जो प्रत्येक लगभग 1000-2000 शब्दों का हो।
- Do not write answers in bad of illegible handwriting. Such answer may not be evaluated.
उत्तर अस्पष्ट अथवा गन्दी लिखावट में न लिखें। इस प्रकार के उत्तरों का मूल्यांकन नहीं भी किया जा सकता है।
- Write answers in ink only. Do not use pencil for writing the answer. However, pencil may be used for drawing diagrams, sketches, etc.
उत्तर स्याही से ही लिखें। उत्तर लिखने के लिए पेंसिल का उपयोग न करें। हालांकि आरेख, चित्र इत्यादि बनाने के लिए पेंसिल का उपयोग किया जा सकता है।
- Do not write answers in a medium other than the authorized medium in the Admission Certificate. Do not use mixed language, i.e., authorized and unauthorized media together, for writing answers.
प्रवेश-पत्र में उल्लेख किए गए माध्यम के अलावा अन्य किसी माध्यम में उत्तर न लिखें। अधिकृत और अनधिकृत की मिली-जुली भाषा का भी उपयोग न करें।
- Write answers at the specified spaces (right below the questions) only. Answers written elsewhere at unspecified spaces in the Booklet shall not be evaluated.
प्रश्नों के उत्तर ठीक उसके नीचे दिए गए निर्धारित स्थान पर ही लिखें निर्धारित स्थान के अलावा किसी अन्य स्थान पर लिखे गए उत्तर का मूल्यांकन नहीं किया जाएगा।

Is student recommended for One-to-One mentoring?

Recommended

Strongly Recommended

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp. Punjab & Sind Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Structure and Flow
3. Dimensional Coverage
4. Language Competence
5. Length of Essays
6. Creativity Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

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Evaluation Parameters

- Understanding of Topic
- Introduction Competence
- Body of Essay
 - Dimensions Covered
 - Shortcomings
 - Value Additions/ Missed Dimensions
- Conclusion Competence
- Organization of Essay
- Language and Expression

Macro Comments – Essay 1

Essay Topic:

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Macro Comments – Essay 2

Essay Topic:

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खण्ड-A / SECTION-A

"THE PARADOX OF HAPPINESS: THE MORE YOU CHASE IT, THE MORE ELUSIVE IT BECOMES".

The history of human civilisation is the history of pursuing happiness. From philosophers to king and to common man, everyone is pursuing happiness day in and day out. But have we succeeded in our endeavour? A quick survey of faces around us will give the answer: → NO.

Today, despite having achieved material progress, the world is not happier than it was during Buddha's time. Low organisation survey shows that one-third of population suffer from drug abuse/anxiety.

The reason for this state of affairs is PARADOX OF HAPPINESS. This paradox says that pursuit of

happiness only brings suffering for people. This conclusion was reached by Buddha too when he argued that desire is the cause of suffering.

Modern day philosophers like Bertrand Russell also argued that pursuing happiness as end goal brings distress.

But what is happiness?

philosophically it is an abstract idea. It is a state of mind experienced on achieving a desired goal.

In human history, happiness is often linked with status, money, meaning etc. But does the pursuit of these things really bring happiness?

In Mahabharata, Duryodhana was driven by desire to become king of Hastinapur. He thought

the status and power will bring him happiness. In contrast, his desires led to his brutal end! In contrast, Lord Ravi in Ramayana, gave up the throne to Bharate. Despite living in forest, he was always content with his life. This brought him happiness.

Similarly, people commit crimes to become rich. It is driven by desire of happiness. They think more money is equivalent to more happiness. However, as Harshad Mehta case shows, money does not necessarily bring happiness.

People also fall for lower desires. Rapists are pursuing their pleasure while performing heinous acts. However, the pleasure gained is momentary. After it, there is

only guilt and shame in front of society.

Happiness is also linked with meaning / purpose. However if this purpose is wrongly defined then it leads to unhappy ending. For example, Hitler was driven by ideology of Aryan superiority. He carried out holocaust of Jews thinking that he is helping German race. In reality, it brought destruction of Germany in world war II!

So, what is the reason for this paradox of happiness?

First, there is no end to human desires. As Gandhiji said →

"there is enough for everyone's need but not for anyone's greed".

When these endless desires are not fulfilled, it brings grief and discontent.

Second, humans are evolved beings. As Rousseau argued happiness is an outcome of creative work. Without creativity, happiness will remain an illusion.

Third, happiness is not an end goal. The moment you achieve a desire, happiness evaporates. It needs continuous pursuit of goals to achieve momentary happiness on its completion.

Fourth, Our conception of what brings happiness is wrong. As discussed earlier, money/status creates an illusion of happiness without bringing real joy.

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This paradox was understood by Indian philosophers years ago. That's why they recommended pursuit of spirituality over materialism. Spirituality leads to contentment. By becoming grateful for today, one can experience joy.

Krishna in Gita argued that one should do karma for its own sake. As a duty. One should not be conscious of its fruits. When one is fully engaged in one's actions, it brings freedom which in turn leads to happiness.

All great artists like Da Vinci, Picasso etc, cricketers like Sechian and Kohli lived Krishna's message of Karma Yoga. One gets happiness

through this without actively pursuing it.

Another way to become happy without pursuing it is by serving others. Mother Teresa, Kailash Satyarthi etc found happiness in their work by dedicating their lives for a cause. When one engages in a act without selfish motives, it brings lasting joy.

As Gandhiji put it -

"Only those truly live who live for others, rest are more dead than alive".

Living in the moment also brings happiness. In "The Power of Now", author explains that observing "present" can liberate us from day to day worries. For example, witnessing rays of a sunset, listening to chirping of birds etc. Kids are happy because

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they are always present in the moment. This can be cultivated by practise of Mindfulness.

Today as the world grapples with wars, climate change, ethnic strife etc, understanding paradox of happiness can bring peace and stability. Wars fought for 'enhanced security' (long term happiness) only creates security dilemma and causes 'arms race'.

Similarly, consumerism to satisfy human appetite is causing diseases, environmental destruction which will compromise our happiness.

Use of social media is another relevant example where paradox of happiness is apparent. Its use cause dopamine release (e.g. scrolling on youtube)

however, it leads to addiction and attention deficit.

Thus, human society needs to understand that mindless pursuit of happiness is doing more harm than good. This can be reversed through mindfulness, karma yoga and practicing gratefulness.

In the movie "the pursuit of happiness", the protagonist realises at the end that happiness lies in small moments. It does not need riches to appreciate the gift of life. Thus, let's liberate ^{ourselves} ~~us~~ from this paradox and become ~~truly~~ joyful and content.

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खण्ड-B / SECTION-B

"THE SADDEST ASPECT OF LIFE IS THAT
SCIENCE GATHERS KNOWLEDGE FASTER
THAN SOCIETY GATHERS WISDOM"

Oppenheimer is one of the greatest scientist of 20th century. He is the father of nuclear bomb. While developing nuclear weapon in "Manhattan project", he thought that presence of nukes will bring all wars to an end and usher peace. However, when he saw the destruction in Hiroshima he commented:-

"Now I am become death, the
destroyer of the world".

This wisdom that his invention will bring death instead of peace ushered in AFTER he had already developed the bomb!

The above example shows that science develops faster than society gathers wisdom. This phenomenon has been repeatedly proven to be true in human history.

Alfred Nobel invented dynamite.

However, he was so distressed with the repercussions of his invention that he donated money for an annual prize → the Nobel for human society progress. The wisdom followed the invention.

In medieval Europe, Galileo propounded that earth rotates around sun. It went against church's wisdom of geocentrism. Since Galileo's discovery went against conventional societal wisdom, he was banished and threatened. This slowed down

our progress in understanding universe.

In his book, "News"; Yuval
Naah Harari quotes multiple instances
of misuse of science since society
lacked wisdom. For example, when
writing developed, first books to be
written were Bible/Ouran. Writing
helped in spread of religious ideas
around the world. However, it
resulted in religious crusades in
9th-10th century. This happened because
people lacked wisdom to correctly
use religious knowledge.

During 1st industrial revolution,
steam engines were developed. This made
mass transport like ships/trains
possible. However, since we lacked
wisdom, the same technologies played
a role in spread of colonialism in

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Africa and Asia. Trains in India were used to transport raw materials from hinterland to ports.

During same time, factory systems developed in Britain. Though it had the potential of mass production and productivity, it lead to human rights violation in factories. Small children were made to do hazardous work. The wisdom of Universal declaration of human rights developed later.

Harari also points out that ICT technology lead to rise of Totalitarian regimes in Russia/China. The "big brother" state could now monitor every action (and even thoughts) of all citizens. This lead to centralisation of power and elimination of all dissenters. Again the wisdom to check misuse

of ICT was lacking.

In today's digital age, we are witnessing manipulation of masses using tech algorithms. In Myanmar 2016, Facebook algorithm promoted anti-Rohingya content. People used social media for de-humanising and blaming Rohingyas. This led to mass genocide!

Cambridge Analytica scandal is another example of how digital technology can be misused to manipulate people. This had repercussions for the representative democracy itself.

The progress made in last 400 years on the basis of industrial development is showing repercussions today in the form of climate change. Our mindless pursuit of consumption backed by tech progress is causing erratic weather patterns today. As

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per IPCC reports, world has already crossed the tipping point threshold of 2°C ! This occurred because human society lacked the wisdom & sustainability. It is only now that we were talking of SDGs and Mission LIFE. Thus, science precedes society wisdom!

Today, we are standing on the brink of 4th industrial Revolution. In "The coming wave", founder of DeepMind, ~~he~~ argues that AI and Biotech will define this new age. But do we have the wisdom to face these monumental changes??

In 2018, a scientist in China genetically edited a child seeding to first designer baby! This technology is a double edged sword depending on

wisdom of its usage. On one hand, it can be used to free humans of genetic diseases. But can also be used for creating babies with 'superior traits' like height, intelligence etc. It will create new birth based inequalities in society!

Genetic engineering is also being used in Agriculture. Used wisely it can enhance yield of crops and make them climate resilient. However, its impact on wider ecosystems is still unknown!

Artificial Intelligence is another arena where wisdom is catching up with science. Recently, Elon Musk, called for a moratorium on AI development highlighting its rapid advances. In wrong hands, it can lead to manipulation, warfare, violence etc. Job losses are already visible across

sectors. Fields like education, doctors, engineers can become redundant if AI can teach, diagnose/treat, design/write code! Fear of emergence of 'singularity' where AI takes over human race as portrayed in 'Matrix' is another challenge.

However, science developing faster than societal wisdom may not always be sad!

Scientific progress has potential of challenging conventional wisdom and aid in human progress. In 20th century, science debunked 'race theory' that justified racism. It led to acceptance of principle of equality.

During enlightenment period, science was used to challenge superstitions and vices of society. It led to equal

rights for women. In India too, caste based distinctions were challenged using science. It helped in upholding equality.

Today, science is helping develop clean energy like nuclear fusion, plant based meat, reusable materials etc. This can help tackle environmental challenges we are facing. Thus rapid scientific progress may not always be sad!

The way forward for humanity is develop regulations in parallel. EU's GDPR and India's data protection Bill are steps in this direction.

Secondly, global cooperation is needed to tackle challenges from new tech. Recent AI Safety Summit in Paris was a step in right direction.

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A global regulatory body can be created under United Nations for global coordination and regulation.

Next, every scientific advancement and tools should be grounded in ethical principles like Beneficence, Non-maleficence, autonomy, privacy, human dignity, transparency & accountability etc. This will ensure that scientific progress is in sync with human wisdom!

While doing this, we should be mindful of over-regulation which could stifle innovation. Aristotle's golden mean is the key here.

In conclusion, we need to revisit ideas of Gandhiji to tackle threat of technology. In 'hind swaraj', he held that science has the potential of

dehumanising man. This happens when science becomes a means to achieve our selfish ends. Instead, human being should be treated as end in himself. Developing compassion, respect, tolerance for each other will go a long way in ensuring science is not misused.

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