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9:00-12:00

ESSAY

Name of Candidate

Sakshi Mishra

Test Code 2575

Medium Hindi/Eng.

English

Registration Number

889186

Centre

Online

Date

08/09/2024

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 like Name, Registration Number and Test Code.
उत्तर-पुस्तिका में सुनिश्चित करना आवश्यक है (नाम, पंजीयन संख्या, टेस्ट कोड आदि)।
- Write the essay choosing one topic from each of the two sections. Answer about 1000-1200 words each.
उत्तर लिखते समय 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 answers may not be evaluated.
उत्तर लिखते समय अस्पष्ट/अपठनीय 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 पेसिल का उपयोग न करें। चित्र आदि बनाने के लिए पेसिल 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 अनाधिकृत माध्यमों का मिश्रित उपयोग न करें।
- Write answers only in the specified spaces (right below the question) only. Answers written elsewhere at unspecified spaces in the Booklet shall not be evaluated.
प्रश्नों के उत्तर केवल निर्दिष्ट स्थानों में ही लिखें। पुस्तिका में अन्य अनिर्दिष्ट स्थानों पर लिखे गए उत्तरों का मूल्यांकन नहीं किया जाएगा।

Is student recommended for One-to-One mentoring?

Recommended

Strongly Recommended

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp. Parliament), Connaught Place, New 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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SECTION-A

1. "what makes the desert beautiful is
that somewhere it hides a well"

x

Back in initial centuries of christian
Era when the whole world was wander-
ing in the desert of ignorance, full
with superstition & witchcraft, innovators
like 'Aryabhatt' found the well of true
knowledge by questioning these very ignan-
ce and as a result humanity today
knows, the Earth is round & not flat and
Earth is not at the centre of universe.

In human world, Desert is probably
the most suitable metaphor for situation
of pessimism, hopelessness, uncontrollable
challenges, uncertainties etc that trouble
us and impede our growth, while, Wells

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found in desert serve a metaphor for
ray of hope and solutions amid such
situation.

In this essay, let us explore how desert
of challenges themselves provide the well of
solution and understand why at times we
keep on wandering in this desert without
a sight of well and how we can overcome
this limitation.

Desert of challenges inspiring the well of
solution:-

Since in human life so many
factors are beyond our control, challenges
& uncertainties are bound to come, but
the beauty lies in the fact that then
very challenges push us for finding soluti-
ons as we endeavour for a better
tomorrow.

So the question is how exactly the

desert of challenges give us well of solution?

Challenges in life are mainly due to ignorance as Socrates said, human had been best had he not been ignorant. But ignorance of general reputation forces those innovative & scientific to find solution to end this ignorance, this is how Gautam^{muni} gave the philosophy of Sankhya, where he tries to remove ignorance of origin of earth and life by attributing the material nature & not a supreme being as creator of our world.

Thus, by forcing us to think critically on all kind of options to solve a problem the desert of challenge bring new energy for change and India's freedom struggle best represented this, while the problem of colonialism deprived us of our wealth and autonomy, by producing common

challenges for a diverse Indian population, it gave birth to nationalism.

Further, when we are engulfed in the ocean of uncertainties, we are forced to find a path that gives at least some degree of stability. For instance during the global economic crisis of 2008 when the uncertainty over market economy and globalization was at its peak, world leaders were forced to find stability in institutions like G20 that brought developed & developing countries together to reduce uncertainty of global economy.

Not only uncertainty, but situations like disability that an individual faces offer another desert of problems usually beyond ones control but yet again this has made the disabled people more

entreprising than the able bodied as in doing so those disabled find a way of home and life & work of stephen hawkins, Hellen keller, & para athletes like Avani Lekhara is a glowing example to this.

Moreover, it is the desert of inequality that has brought to idea of liberty, equality, democracy by inspiring the well of French Revolution.

To sum up, deserts of challenges create a situation of do or die most often than not inspiring people to find a well to give the water of solution.

And now that we understand how deserts offer well, let us explore why we often get lost in desert of challenges ignoring the well it hides.

Impediments: keeping us thirsty in desert

The first impediment to finding wells of solution is complacency, we many a times accept the situation no matter how tough & try to reconcile with it, this as Dr APJ Abdul Kalam highlights in his "Ignited minds" is the cause of persistence of challenges that India faces even after seven decades of independence.

While we think ~~soft~~ complacency keeps us safe, it infact is the most dangerous situation with capacity to expand the challenge as Dr B. Jaisankar highlights in his 'India way', it was strategic complacency of India towards rise of china that china today stands

as the biggest impediments to India's aspirations.

Second Impediment is the tendency of 'groupthink' i.e. we don't try to be different and innovative just because we want to be in the group.

The continued & expanding challenge of corruption that engulfs almost all the countries today is reflection of same.

Third biggest impediment is that in 21st century despite being surrounded by difficulties like always, human is most pessimistic than ever, this leads to people giving up ~~the~~ to the challenges even without trying to solve them.

The growing number of student suicides across world due to academic and

Career pressure reflects this.

Another major impediment that inhibits us from finding the wells in desert is lack of self awareness, with increasing penetration of technology in life human is today left with little time to spend on self reflection ~~to~~ and thus remains unaware on his strengths and weaknesses which are necessary determinant of our ability to find solution to life problems.

Ultimately, the fear of retribution or failure on even trying to find a solution is what prevents us from challenging the challenge. For instance it is the fear of loss of dignity that women since ancient times have been

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silent receivers ~~all~~ of all forms of atrocities which perpetuate across time and space.

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But as Mahatama Gandhi said in his "My experience with truth" that there is no problem without solution, let us now explore how we can make ~~us~~ ~~sa~~ ~~oursell~~ ourselves capable of finding wells of opportunities hidden in desert of challenges.

finding the well: Building the strength

To make ourselves capable of finding solutions to problems that engulf us, the first step should be to develop the habit of critical thinking as only then we can find different

options available to us amid desert of challenges. This attribute was seen in lives of leaders like Gandhiji & Nelson Mandela who helped their nation-als to erect a nation on the backdrop of colonialism.

Then we should develop the habit of 'suyatchai' as Thiruvalluvar mentions in his thirukkural is the habit of 'self reflection' to identify our strength to beat the challenges without creating new problems.

Further we should develop the mental capacity of optimism and in this development of emotional intelligence can help us by enabling us to control emotions and harness them to find

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optimism as in uncertain times optimism forms the bedrock of hope.

Moreover we should try to develop courage which as per Aristotle is the most important of four cardinal virtues. As only a courageous one can wander a vast desert with hope of well.

Ultimately we ~~must~~ ^{should} endeavour to develop a balanced approach in life as seen in 'Tavangam' when a Kuchipudi dancer balances herself over a plate. As only by balance we can find the right path and means for bringing solutions overcoming biases & prejudices.

And in our efforts to find the hidden wells in desert we should follow the idea that

"When the going gets tough
The tough gets going".

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We are not makers of history,
We are made by history

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On comparing the materialism
of west and spiritualism of east of
this globe; ^{One wonders} what brings such contrasts
in population on two sides of the same
globe? I argue, it's the history that
these part of world carry ^{which} is respon-
-ble for present approach of humans
residing there. while history of west
is about mercantilism and colonialism
gripped by spirit of supremacy that
advocated materialism, history of east
is more deep dating back to 6th cen
BC inspired by the spirit of spirituali-
sm as seen in lines of Buddha and

Mahauira from this part of world.

And this shows how we all very much shaped by the history that we carry.

But before moving ahead let us answer what constitutes history? history is accounts written or unwritten of actions done by all humans who came before us and their environment in which they lived.

In this essay we would make an effort to understand how we are made by history while challenging the idea that we don't create history while recognising the exception when we really don't create history & end with a note on ^{how} ~~how~~ we can use our past

for the best of our present.

History: Making us

Human history is part of his culture which is transmitted to him via socialization, thus from the day we are born we knowingly or unknowingly imbibe the beliefs that our ancestors had perpetuated thus shaping our personality and this explains why most Indians love freedom and democracy because we have a past that was democratic during Mahajanpad period when Licchavis practiced democracy and because this democracy & freedom was taken away from us first by autocratic rulers and then by english aliens, we hate colonialism.

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further, history is part of our faith i.e. the religious beliefs we carry which influence our emotional self and hence our attributes in turn making us what we are. For instance the story of Lord Ram teaches us tolerance and fight for justice against evil, the story of Gurusnanak teaches us brotherhood and so on thus shaping India into a diverse yet tolerant nation.

Also, it is a society's history that decides what values the society cherishes which in turn shape our goals to get into values that society cherishes. This explains why most people in america are economically prosperous because economic prosperity is valued

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in that society shaping individual goals.

Moreover, since we consider ourselves as part of collective history, it invokes ^{strong} emotions impacting our thoughts and shaping us. For instance the distrust and conflict between Japan & South Korea is due to the history of exploitation of Korean women by Japanese soldiers that evokes strong emotions against Koreans in Japanese society impacting ties.

Ultimately, history shapes us by giving us role models whose values we cherish and whom we follow, for instance it's the Dr B R Ambedkar acts as role model for Dalits & Nelson Mandela acts as role model for Blacks shaping modern movement by these groups for equal rights.

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But, History may not always shape us

This can be due to multiple factors like when we don't agree with the values that history perpetuates. For instance, history of untouchability no more shapes upper caste's attitude towards lower castes usually, since untouchability has been discarded by 21st century upper castes as a moral sin.

Further, lack of clarity on what our history was keeps us away from identity created by history. For instance ^{new generation} as ^{new generation} expat Chinese and Indians living in US no more know about their cultural past they are no more made by it.

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More over, history may not make us what we are if we are simple not taught about it. For instance the underrepresentation of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and Bal Gangadhar Tilak has ~~keep~~ kept us deprived from values of courage and resistance that they preached.

Now that we understand when and how history shapes & not shapes us, let us explore,

We are not makers of history: A mis-conception

Since history is a culmination of human actions, at the very outset it is wrong to claim that we are not makers of history.

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As it is our present efforts that will create reality for people who come tomorrow. For instance it was efforts of moderates, extremists, revolutionaries & gandhians that India created a history by achieving independence.

Further, history is a series of events which were result of action & interaction between actors. For instance the history of World war one and two were major events ~~due~~ created by conflicting interaction between nations in axis and allied groups.

We also create history by bringing new ideas through power of imagination. The history of scientific development that

humanity has seen is an example to this. For instance, had Einstein not given the theory of relativity, the vast amount of scientific work on dark matter & dark energy had never been a reality.

Thus human indeed has been a maker of history with nature doing its own part.

But it should also be accepted that at times

We may not make history

To begin with, we may not create history and just live it if we are not creative as by not being creative we allow the situations to remain stagnant without change.

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further we may not create history by remaining away from serious efforts which are necessary to create history for people of tomorrow.

Also, since we have inherited a huge part of history from others it is not made by us.

Now that we have understanding of major questions like how history makes us what we are & when it may not do so and how we in turn make history and may not do so, let us explore how we can harness our history for benefit of modern human.

Learning from history: Using it as treasure:-

To best use our history we

should first focus on our failures, so that we don't learn about them after repeating them. For instance we should learn from devastation caused by war to avoid them.

Then we should work on understanding the human virtues that our forefathers showed and imbibe them in our own life to become better human.

Moreover we should extensively research on our history to open those aspects that may be presently hidden from us.

And finally we should preserve our history to use it as a treasure as the saying goes,

"Those who don't learn from history can't create one".

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