

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.

VisionIAS

Life must be understood backward, but it must be lived forward

Section A

- ✓ Hist is the best teacher
- ✓ All Great men have learnt from past
- ✓ learn from past to apply in future
- ✓ Story of Humay & Akbar
- ✓ Egs of Chanakya, Macaivelli
- ✓ Egs of Ramayana and Mahabharata
- ✓ Those who learn from... quote
- ✓ Experience is the best teacher
 - o) What to learn from life not backward or past events?
 - people - attitudes, behavioural
 - experience - good, bad, ugly, difficult.
 - events
 - life as whole luck, destiny
 - never overconfidence
- o) Hindi movies like "Waqt"
- * Never regret - past shld be acknowledged to learn not to repeat.
- * Mistake shld be corrected for future
- * focus shld be on future - past shld be referred to but not totally dependant on.
- * Gone with the wind - Margaret Mitchell
 - Tomorrow is another day.
- * May hay while sunshine
- * Recent egs. from politics → things like communal, caste politics to be avoided to avoid violence except
- * Gandhi experience - gained experience from SA to apply in India.

Thomas Edison
eg. Washington

Life must be understood backward,
but it must be lived forward.

When Arjuna stood at the battlefield
of Kurukshetra, reluctant to wage
war against his kinsmen, Lord
Krishna reminded him the misdeeds
committed by the adversaries.
He reminded Arjuna the misery
they had undergone due to the conduct
and misdoings of those kinsmen.
He persuaded Arjuna to leave from
past experiences and keeping emotive
instincts aside, view the way for-
ward by waging the war.

All the Great men in the
past are 'great' because they have
learned from their past experiences
and applied judiciously in future.
Life must be understood from
backward aspect to comprehensively
~~recollect~~ assess the mistakes
of self and others. This enable the
person not only to achieve
farsightedness for future but
also ~~so~~ help in acquiring emotional
intelligence.

We often keep hearing phrases like 'History ~~is~~ should be looked at like a teacher', 'Experience is the best teacher' etc. What does these indicate?

This mainly indicates that the aspects of life must be understood looking at the past events so as not to repeat it in the future, upcoming life. Life must be lived forward incorporating the sweet and sour experiences from the past.

Now the most evident question arises - 'How one must understand life looking backward?' The answer to the question is multidimensional.

Firstly, one must gather experience about the attitudinal and behavioural aspect of human beings. Man is a social animal. Therefore we need to live and ~~be~~ remain as an active part of society. However, it is important that a wise man make informed choices

Before making commitments in life. People, their relation with you, their behaviour in general and particular must be understood. Their past conducts or misdoings must be assessed before making decisions.

• Practical rather than emotional instinct is required in order to make appropriate choices. In the context of learning from past, it is often ~~said~~ cited that -
'One who learns from other's mistake is wise, one who learns from own mistake is sensible, but one who does not even learn after own mistake is a fool.'

Secondly, therefore, one should choose friends and enemies very cautiously to abstain from regret in future. ~~There~~ Thus, looking at backward life is indeed acts as a resource when it becomes learning for life to follow forward.

Secondly, a wise man, apart from making informed choices regarding other people and friends,

must not forget making adequate choices for himself as a person.

A self aware person would always have a stable mindset. A person despite having lot of good friends and trustworthy people around him cannot be called a perfectly informed unless he is a self aware person. By self awareness, it means the person should have control over the 'seven sins' which includes 'arrogance', 'greed', 'anger', 'lust' etc. These are the bits that a man must have control over. This will make him wise. For instance - If a person is aware that a particular situation makes him 'angry', then when such situation ~~is~~ will arise, he will choose to stay quiet so as to avoid unwanted consequence.

Thus a person's ~~past~~ who analyses his backward life knows the situations when he is susceptible of making mistakes.

Hence it is necessary to assess the past so that to he / she can live the life forward more fully and productively.

After ~~we~~ taking into account ~~one's~~ importance of past experience to make choices regarding other's attitude and self analyses, another dimension to this is important.

Thirdly, in the arena of success and failure academically, one must learn from ~~his~~ the steps taken by him previously. To achieve something huge, it is unlikely that a person would do so at one go. He / she indeed has to cross hurdles, one of which includes not repeating the previous mistakes.

Thomas Alva Edison invented the bulb after nearly nine hundred failed attempts. He remarked that now at least I know nine hundred different ways through which the bulb cannot be made. He

applied this knowledge in the life that followed and ended up successfully inventing one of the greatest innovations of all time.

Fourth aspect that can be taken into account is in the domain of politics. The great political leaders always look at the history and its events so as to take decisions of present and future. Chanakya, the great advisor to Maurya emperor Chandragupta had clearly reviewed the past of the ~~Magh~~ Magadha Empire. He had assessed the problems that the people, ministers and other officials possibly pose to the hegemony of the king. He gained information from the reigns of previous rulers like Bimbisara, Ajatasatru and Chandragupta's immediate predecessor, Mahapadma Nanda.

He reviewed their strengths and weaknesses and thus framed the formal guidelines that a king should follow. ~~It gave~~ The book popularly known as 'Chanakya's Arthashastra' or 'Chanakya niti' elaborately ~~des~~ lays down the mistakes a ruler should refrain from, events that he should be cautious of ~~an~~ and more importantly, policies he should undertake in the present and future.

Mughal emperor Akbar whose childhood was spent mostly in exile due to Humayun's ~~defe~~ defeat against Sher Shah Suri, taught Akbar many things. He learnt from the backward life ~~about~~ about the traitors of the empire, nature of enemies etc. This gained him practical insights to rule rationally. Thus he ended ~~up~~ up being one of the ~~re~~ very successful rulers of

India. He also bore the title by many as a 'unifier', of whole India and ~~creator~~ an Empire builder. He also learnt how the Indian society as a multi-religious society and is therefore impossible to rule peacefully without support of all religions and ~~sectors~~ sectarian groups. He therefore adopted one of the most liberal religious policies maintaining cordial relations with the Rajputs, Marathas and other Hindu rulers. He also patronized Sikh gurus.

Thus his assessment of life and its aspects ~~in~~ looking backward, ~~in~~ helped him in living and ruling very successfully in the life forward.

To take an example from one of the most successful democracies, as it can be said that George Washington, the first President

of United State of America was a far sighted person. After the Revolutionary war of Independence and formation of Constitution, ~~He~~ he formed his cabinet comprising both Hamilton and Jefferson despite two being adversaries on the matters of Federalism. Washington tried best to mediate between opposing factions and could do so to great extent. It was because he knew the ~~real~~ antagonism ~~at~~ these two groups had in past.

Bardar Vallabh Dhai Patel knew the state of independent India. He was well aware of the threats that nearly to six hundred and fifty small principalities and kingdoms can pose to the newly independent nation. Thus taking experience from the past, he took the aim of

uniting the newly independent country. The result needs no evaluation. The shape and size of India, its unity in diversity is largely ~~credited~~ due to Sardar Patel's foresightedness, awareness and application of ~~to~~ past incidents to secure future peace.

Thus the statement becomes self explanatory why life must be understood backward and ~~How~~ we must be lived forward

~~we~~ life must be lived forward.
This statement needs further elaboration.

When we say life must be analysed from the point of view of past events, we do not mean that the person should ~~to~~ acknowledge his mistakes and keep fretting about it. In fact 'regret' or at least at

• times, 'too much of regret' becomes the main cause of one's downfall. Thus failed attempts, past mistakes etc should be taken positively. Even after numerous defeats, hope and courage must be endured. Life might give a person one hundred reasons to quit, but there ~~is~~ is always at least one reason to continue.

It is often said that —
'when one door closes another opens'. Sometimes we are often so ~~engre~~ indulged in regretting and repenting for the ~~problem~~ mistakes we did, we are often so engulfed in the events we have gone through, that we often forget the sunshine that awaits us in future. Therefore, it is said —
'Make hay while the Sunshine'

• Margarett Mitchell in her classic work 'Gone with the Wind'

had depicted on behalf of Scarlett
O'Hara, the classic phrase of all
times - 'Tomorrow's another day'

Therefore, good, bad or ugly, the
past, the life gone backward,
~~she~~ should be understood and
looked at to learn for future
not to regret in present.

There cannot be a more perfect
example for this than the
example of 'Mahatma Gandhi'.

In his work 'The Story of My
Experiments with Truth', he

clearly depicted how he
had adopted moderate and
recessive approach against the
British during events like
Beer war and more. However,
when it failed to work out,
he took to passive resistance
in South Africa learning from
his experiences.

Similarly, he ~~did the~~ followed this approach in India. It was due to these repetitive efforts, where he kept correcting the mistakes and innovating newer and more effective thought measures that he could win independence for us.

Therefore one must always take lessons from events that took ~~backdate~~ at a backdate so that he/she can make the upcoming life more productive and fruitful. Life's ~~most~~ motto should be remembered once and for always - It must be understood backward but lived forward.

Section B

Global politics of infrastructure and connectivity

- 1) No friends or enemy, only interest.
- 2) 21st c. power of nation assessed by his diplomatic actⁿ
- 3) World is a global village.
- 4) 2nd half of 20th c. → Cold war then unipolar, now - multipolar. Thus all in quest of building new actⁿ.
- 5) Regional hegemony emerged as the objectives who want to become global powers.
- 6) Reg. heg. → then connect & infra.
- 7) Credit imperialism - China. e.g. BRI, Hambantota port, Maldives, to mil. base at Djibouti, Nepal, Bangladesh, Latin Am, & Africa etc. Conn - BRI, infra - actⁿ.
- 8) 2nd - Bhutan, Ban, IMTh. Trilateral Highway, Africa → 2nd Tap conn (AAEP). Maldives etc, Iran
- 9) France in Afr. conn - Libya, Nigeria
- 10) Politics of conn.

is this primary goal today?

Infra.
 - ch.
 - and.
 - fr.
 - USA
 - etc.

Conn.
 - Credit imp.
 - become hegemonic
 - check balance of power → contain others
 - Global affairs of region → 2nd & Iran, US & Pak, Ch. & C. Asia

For trade & dev. and Iran + C. Asia, and ASEAN NE,

- No
- Hard power this is
- Deep pockets
- Soft power also matters like 2nd in Afr, & rare nations
- Friendly actⁿ need neighbours.

UN - multilateral → shld include everything

Global Politics of Infrastructure and Connectivity

In International Relations and Global politics today, "there are no permanent friends or permanent enemies. Only thing that is permanent is 'Interest'"

The second half of the twentieth century was predominantly guided by the cold war politics between the two super powers namely USA and USSR. After the latter's collapse in 1990, USA emerged as a ~~was~~ single superpower thus making the world unipolar for a while.

However soon there emerged many large economies and powerful nations with revival of Germany, development of Japan and fast growing economies like India, China, Russia, South Africa etc. Thus the world took the shape of a Multipolar Globe.

In such a competitive world, all the emerging powers aimed to extend their influence over the strategic and crucial spheres of the world politics. The dominant aim of the nations have become to widen their diplomatic ties since the power of a nation in twenty first century is not solely judged by its military strength but more importantly by its diplomatic and economic, trade relations with nations.

To emerge as the global power of twenty first century, the nation quests to ~~domin~~ exert its influence on as many regional groups as possible. Influence over the strategic regions gives the nation ~~to~~ weightage in decision making ~~power~~ and thus secures its interest in long run.

With the rapid advent of newer technologies leading to 'creative destruction', now we are entering the 'fourth industrial revolution' where the manufacturing sector has taken a front seat and will be rapidly modernized. ~~the~~ Expected use of Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Internet of Things etc will lead the ~~the~~ manufacturing sector expand at a much faster pace.

This has enabled the nations to reap benefits and increase their presence in the Global politics through infrastructure and connectivity. These two aspects have become pillars of the global politics today to a great extent.

Infrastructure and connectivity are established by sovereign powerful nations within and with other countries to ~~enhance~~ enhance

their regional presence and to ~~see~~ ~~see~~ economic as well as military and strategic interests.

Taking up infrastructure first, countries like China are seen as the major players in the international relations today.

Over the past three decades, China has tremendously ~~expanded~~ ^{increased} its

infrastructure links. Infrastructure here includes ~~financing~~ both in one's own country and the neighbouring and other friendly countries.

It is no secret that China's immense development that we see today is a result of its great investments on its own country. From seaports and airports to greenfield projects to development of infrastructure in human resource development like health and education, China has been excelling.

More importantly, this benefit of huge infrastructural developments has been extended by China to its neighbours in Central Asia. China aims to build roads, highways, schools and hospitals there. China has also made remarkable presence in the Indian Ocean region.

From building Hambantota port in Sri Lanka and bridges ~~in~~ in Maldives, China has also constructed many developmental projects in East African nations. Therefore the infrastructural diplomacy of China is neither new nor restricted to neighbourhood.

Similarly, France had also ~~increased~~ extended its influence in the North African region in its backyard by financing many infrastructural projects there. It had ~~do~~ undertaken so in Libya, Nigeria, Lebanon etc.

In order to increase its influence and enhance its position, India has also had undertaken necessary infrastructural projects. These can be seen in - Hydropower projects in Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh, India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway project, development of ports and their upgradation in Bangladesh to ~~enhance~~ enhance the connectivity with its North East Region etc.

India also has taken infrastructural projects in Maldives by ~~has~~ recently building their longest bridge. India along with Japan have taken several initiatives in this regard in the East African region.

Infact even Japan had taken projects in India e.g. Delhi Metro, recent one for development of Bullet Train etc.

India has also undertaken projects in Afghanistan.

The reasons behind such projects needs to be carefully analysed. The motives are rarely humanitarian and most often diplomatic and strategically oriented. By undertaking such projects, the nation want to ~~for~~ achieve twin purpose.

Firstly, it wants to increase its hegemony, influence and presence in the region country.

Secondly, it wants to become a close observer and a party to the affairs of that region in long run. But the reasons are equally significant ~~to~~ that drive the interest of the nation to do so.

Moving on to Connectivity aspect of it, global politics today is largely determined by the trade relations and connectivity among nations.

'World today has become a Global Village' and therefore connectivity among nations becomes extremely important.

When 'connectivity' and associated projects in the world is talked about, one cannot refrain from mentioning China's - Belt and Road Initiative or BRI.

BRI aims to revive the ancient Silk route from China to Europe connecting many nations in between through multi modal infrastructural projects.

Today BRI includes nations from Central Asia, South Asia, East West Asia, South East Asia and even countries like Italy from Europe. This is a part of China's broader goals to enhance its economic, ~~to~~ diplomatic and political presence over these regions, as pointed out by foreign policy experts.

Scholars have often accused China of ~~leading~~ ~~cause~~ giving rise to 'credit imperialism' in nations.

China creates huge connectivity projects ~~for its own~~ and then has often ~~been~~ seen as leasing out for itself huge territorial gains, for instance - Hambantota Port of ninety nine years.

Moving ahead with more instances of connectivity projects, the reasons for these projects are at times purely to enhance trade and commerce. For instance, India has undertaken the development of Chabahar port in Iran so as to get an access through it to Afghanistan and Central Asia to enhance trade cooperation. This will help India bypassing Pakistan which is hampering its trade with Central Asia.

India Myanmar Thailand Trilateral Highway as mentioned before

is also a classic example to ~~et~~ enhance connectivity of the North East region. (NER).

Therefore connectivity becomes very important in today's fast moving globe. Many western nations like USA, France, UK ~~to~~ etc have also taken ~~for~~ connectivity projects in west Asia, Africa etc.

India has went a step ahead with launching connectivity project in the domain of Renewable, clean energy. ~~its~~ International Solar Alliance and its One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG) initiative, of which India is an architect, has gained immense popularity world wide. It also aims to connect South Asia, South East Asia, West Asia, Central Asia and Africa with real for Real time power sharing capacity build up.

These instances reveal how important infrastructural and connectivity projects have become in the Global politics. This also throws light on the fact that to enhance regional presence, ~~or~~ to contain other powers in the region and to play an important role in world affairs, emerging nations ~~is~~ are widely undertaking connectivity projects and infra-structural developments.

However, question often arises that ~~does this~~ is it 'only' this factor that determines Global politics? ~~is it~~ Are there no areas of cooperation and development of relations apart from ~~this~~ depiction of this hard power? ~~is it~~ Are there no place for nations lacking deep pockets?

The answers to these questions have been taken up time and again by political analysts.

It has been laid down that Soft power which includes people to people relations, cultural exchange, bottom up approach, skill enhancement of people, development in tourism, training and vocation, through student exchange programme etc ~~are~~ also play a very important role.

Classic example to elaborate this can be cited of Africa. China, having deep pockets and hard power have mastered dominance over many African nations through connectivity and infrastructure. ~~However~~ It has poured in a lot of money into those nations and also developed many projects.

However, those projects are based purely ~~on the~~ as per the needs of China itself in the long run. They aim to serve China's interest.

Moreover they ~~are~~ are at an elite level only where exchange ~~had~~ takes place among leaders only.

On the other hand, India had ~~to~~ steered its leert to establish its soft power diplomacy with African nations. ~~to~~ India had supplied them demand driven services or bottom up

approach. This means; rather than establishing ~~projects~~ many projects to fulfil its own interest, India establishes less projects but as per the demands of local population.

The development undertaken by India ~~to~~ involves people to people contact rather than elite level interaction only.

Similarly, India ~~also~~ has also provided them with training and skill development.

When China establishes a project in any country, it ~~only~~ creates employment for its own ~~native~~ citizens. When India creates a project in any country, it generates employment for the locals of that country.

Even a Chinese new editor once had mentioned that when it comes to soft power diplomacy, India enjoys more good will compared to China.

The case here is not only of China but ~~to~~ of any other western nation where diplomacy only takes place at higher levels. Shashi Tharoor had remarked that had power been judged on the basis of country's soft power, India would have been a world

superpower

Therefore, Global politics indeed involves hard power and deep pockets but one can never ignore the soft power and its importance in international relations and global politics.

~~Therefore~~ Hence, it can be stated that the global politics of infrastructure and connectivity is important but can bring true and most productive results when they will be accompanied by people to people relations, maintaining good will among nations and persuing a bottom up approach rather than top down model.