



VISION IAS

www.visionias.in

SUBJECT:	Essay	Test Code:	1	7	5	3		
Name of Candidate	Anoushka Sharma							
Medium Hindi/Eng.	English	Registration Number	1	0	4	0	2	13
Center	Online	Date	1	8	1	1	2	1

INDEX TABLE				INSTRUCTIONS
Q. No.	Page No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	
				1. 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 आदि)।
				2. All questions are compulsory. सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
				3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
				4. Answers 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 medium other than the authorized one. प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
				5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
				6. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off. उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।
Total Marks Obtained:				
Remarks :				

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 & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi- 110009

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.

1.
Section A

Destruction breeds Creation, If something falls apart that leaves room for a new beginning

Years ago, a young UPSC Civil Services aspirant was preparing for the exam wholeheartedly. But despite multiple attempts, he could not get his service preference. Despite fasting failure, he did not lose hope. He practiced law and worked as a public servant in the form of a legislator. Based on his progress, he became the President of India. The story is about none other than our respected President Shri Ram Nath Kovind.

Despite life not turning out as he expected, he did not fret over his failures. He used it as a stepping stone towards his success. Society is wary of destruction but what it ignores is the plethora of new opportunities which become available with fresh beginnings.

In this essay, we are going to see how India has evolved over the years from destruction of practices & processes. This would not have taken the shape it did without the changes in the International area. But despite positivity about new beginnings, caution has to be exerted for not causing any such destruction which is irreparable.

Social Aspects

The Indian society evolved from the Indus valley civilization to the Mughal Sultanate with various changes in customs and practices. But this involved incorporating certain ills which harmed society such as caste divisions, sati and dowery among a few.

Caste emerged as a division during the Rig Vedic Age which led to Segregation of Society based on varna.

As this system progressed over the years,

it took various negative overtones. Firstly, it curbed intercaste marriages. Secondly, it curbed social mobility and prevented change of profession, thereby limiting freedom. These curbs created insecurity and fear which disrupted peace and growth. Therefore, destruction of caste segregation through constitutional reforms and efforts of social workers was a positive step in the direction of growth. Article 14, 15, 17 of the Constitution ban discrimination and untouchability. Social workers such as Jyotiba Phule and Gandhiji spread awareness about the harmful practices of castesism. This led to a reduction in caste inequalities.

Similarly, women faced a downgrade in their status from the vedic Age. They were not allowed to attend gram sabhas, they had to hid their face behind Purdah and were not allowed

to study. They were even expected to follow their husbands after death by committing Sati. These practices were responsible for the poor social status of women. These were reduced by the efforts of various reforms starting with Raja Ram Mohan Roy. He advocated female education and the ill of following practice of Sati. He used Upanishads to bring about a change in mentality. Similarly, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar worked for female education by opening Bethune school for girls. Similarly Savitribai Phule worked for widow empowerment. These social reforms made people realize through their consistent effort, the fresh dawn awaiting them once they destroyed the tradition of Sati, dowry and caste divisions.

India - Humble Beginnings

India also has seen growth despite several destructive practices such as communalism

, economic subversion and failure of economic ideologies. Despite failure, India has worked hard to get something positive from the negative beginnings.

On the eve of 1947, India was struggling to curb the rising communal sentiments across the subcontinent. What concluded in Partition of India and Pakistan is besmirched with the tragedy of communal riots all over India. For a young nation with limited resources, Indians came together to help the new refugees. Indians worked together to start their lives from scratch despite being a victim of communal disharmony. This was accomplished by acknowledging the spirit of secularism. In our constitution, secularism is a part of the Basic structure. Though, there are cases of communal violence even after 1947, what has changed is the ability and understanding to take quick, decisive actions to stop it.

Similarly, the economic destruction of India by the British was taken up as a opportunity for change. Through consistent promotion of India as a raw materials exporter, India was downgraded from 'Sone ki Chidiya' to a deindustrialized nation. Our agriculture was commercialised such that we had to depend on food imports even after our Independence. We were heavily reliant on USA for food aid under PL-480 Programme and due to this we suffered from food scarcity. The situation in 1960s was so grave that we were faced with oil crisis, food insecurity and BOP crisis. But instead of being bogged down by things falling apart, we worked on Green Revolution. Through green revolution we increased our food production from 75 MT in 1966-67 to 125 MT in 1972-73. This was done by utilizing new HYV seeds and increasing fertilizer use and irrigation.

Therefore, India went from being a food importer to a food exporter.

Another challenge which was thrown at us in the form of BOP crisis of 1991 was met with a change in market strategy. From following socialist policies, we took a step towards capitalism in the form of LPG Reforms of 1991. This helped India to grow through export promotion, increasing interconnectedness and currency devaluation. These reforms provided an avenue for growth by learning from failures of our past ideology and incorporating changes from other ideologies.

Therefore, destruction in the form of our economic capability was used as a learning experience to move forward for growth.

Current Scenario

As the world masked up, the pandemic unmasked. COVID-19 has changed our lives in many ways unfathomable and

Caused destruction worldwide. Pandemic has caused deaths, loss of economic revenues and put a stop on growth. Despite not facing a pandemic of this scale, the world geared up to face this challenge.

Usually, vaccines take 10 years for formulation but through international collaboration, we were able to come up with a vaccine within a year. Previously, despite being the largest supplier of generic vaccines, our own indigenous vaccine was missing. But pandemic provided us an opportunity to develop our own indigenous vaccines such as Covaxin. In terms of education also, the online education was relatively unknown but due to the sudden shift to online medium, various changes were incorporated. Government school teachers went on home surveys to check on the progress of education, in addition to utilizing online resources for teaching. Therefore, despite a small invisible virus

Causing destruction everywhere, we as a society has taken up the challenge to incorporate new changes.

Destruction for change - A Necessity?

But despite all the aspects of growth from destructive beginnings, we need to exert caution that no irreparable harm is caused.

Nature, has provided us with various resources since stone age. Had it not been for fruits and animals, early hunter gatherers would not have survived. Had it not been for rivers such as Indus, foreign invasions would have been more frequent. But despite gaining so much from nature, we have started misusing resources. Today, the world is plagued with pollution, melting glaciers and zoonosis due to human activities which is harming nature. Therefore, steps need to be taken to reduce unsustainable practices. Conservation is the need of the hour, without reaching for irreparable damage to nature.

Similarly, increasing intolerance is a key issue in India. Despite our constitutional morality, increasing cases of cow vigilantism, riots, etc are causing a dent on our social fabric. Therefore, steps need to be taken to reduce intolerance through adequate education, awareness about consequences of intolerance and increasing social interactions. In a recent study, it was found that despite 80% of Indians showing tolerance, majority favoured separate lives and living based on religion. Ex-people from same religion staying in a specific neighbourhood, etc. This highlights how India is neither a melting pot nor a salad bowl. Therefore, we need to curb our majoritarian streak and increase tolerance and acceptance of differences.

Internationally, the world has witnessed the world wars. The second world war ended with the dropping of the Atomic Bomb on Nagasaki and

Hiroshima. Despite claims of USA of trying to end the war early, the question which needs to be pondered upon is did we need such a drastic step to bring about a new beginning. The end of the world war though celebrated worldwide was scarred by the destruction that Japanese had to face. The repercussions of the destruction are still felt by Japanese in terms of their physical and mental health. Therefore, the world needs to exert caution given the rise in the growth of nuclear weapons.

Future Steps

As the world becomes more integrated due to globalisation, we need to take steps to not forget our identity due to increasing globalisation. Though change is needed in our social aspects, instead of drastic measures, gradual steps should be taken for growth.

As Winston Churchill said, 'A good war should never be wasted'. He urged people to take positive steps regardless of the adversity of the situation. But caution^{is} needed to not focus on destruction, because as Nelson Mandela ~~said~~ rightly said, 'An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind'. Therefore, for positive change, increased positive collaboration and coordination is required, as seen during the COVID Pandemic.

Section B

8.

A powerful process takes care of progress, productivity and profits.

A young king once ruled the Indian sub continent. Based on a pendant for innovation, he took some drastic measures without consulting his advisors. He moved his capital from Delhi to Daulatabad. He started using a token currency to pay his soldiers. And instead of taking a safer defensive stance, he took offensive steps towards foreign invaders. This king is none other than Mohammad Tuglaq. But the step he took backfired tremendously. Many people lost their lives in the shifting of capital. Inflation and currency manipulation thrived and the soldiers due to frequent offensives were left battered. This highlights the issue of not having a strong process. This caused disharmony, economic losses and discontent in people.

A process is as important as the end. If the process lacks coordination, collaboration and meticulous formation, then it can cause more harm than benefits.

The world has been witness to several strong processes such as environmental conservation, freedom struggles and the growth of governance models. But it has also witnessed several failures due to flawed process making such as the United Nations' current situation, the recent COP in Glasgow and the rising poverty & inequality.

Historical Perspectives

India was a colony under the British for almost 200 years. But the realisation of need for freedom started after the mid 19th century. Initially the struggle was articulated by the Moderates and then later on the struggle was coordinated by Gandhiji. The process they followed differed in its approach as well as results.

Moderates used newspapers as a way of communicating with masses. They believed in the provident mission of British and therefore utilized only constitutional struggle. They even underestimated the ability of masses to struggle leading to alienation from them. The result of this process was the freedom struggle being deflected from the moderate stance by 1920s.

They could not effectively understand the masses, thereby leading to lesser reforms.

On the other hand, Gandhiji first took a year to understand the real situation of India. He toured the country and was a part of various struggles such as Champaran, Ahmedabad and Kheda, which helped people understand his methods of Satyagraha. Gandhiji was focused on uniting people and reducing discrimination. Till the end of freedom struggle, he did not change his principles of tolerance and Satyagraha. This resulted in India getting

independence in 1947 with the active collaboration of various stakeholders such as peasants, women, businessmen, workers, etc.

Therefore, we are witness to the end of a strong process which has resulted in a sovereign, secular and socialist India.

India, that is Bharat

On the eve of Independence, India had the choice of choosing authoritarian system or a democracy. Given the poverty, illiteracy (85%) and rural economy (85%), many people urged for authoritarian beginnings. But our constitution makers were clear about adopting a system 'of the people, for the people and by the people.' This has resulted in India being a sovereign, democratic republic which believes in equality and diversity, as highlighted in our Preamble.

As a democracy, we ensured a rigid constitution amendment process,

So that basic principals were maintained. Therefore, many constitutional amendments demand voting by special majority and some also require a President's Assent.

This has helped prevent too frequent amendments as evident from the fact that in the last 70 years, India has witnessed only 100 amendments. This is a achievement of our process which has ensured that uncertainty is reduced and various stakeholders are considered, thereby increasing productivity.

In addition to a strong amendment process, India also has an independent Judiciary to ensure that justice is upheld. Our Judiciary through its considerate discussions have prevented major changes to our constitution. Ex - In the Keshwananda Bharati case, by a 7-6 majority, Basic Structure doctrine was developed to ensure that certain basic tenets are not changed. Similarly, as a

evolving institution, judiciary has ensured through various cases such as NALSA Judgement, Nantej Johar case, Shah Bano case, to update the constitution and ideology of the people. This would not have been possible without a strong process ensuring its independence and powers of review.

India also has a federal structure which ensures that wishes of different states are respected. Similarly, the 73rd and 74th amendment were a step further in decentralisation. The federal structure has ensured that states and center have different arena of operation as evident in the 7th schedule lists. It has also allowed for different taxation powers to collect funds for spending. It is the taxation powers of states w.r.t alcohol, land and fuel which gave the states the required funds during the pandemic for spending on the health infrastructure. Therefore, a strong process ensures that

profits are maintained, progress is ensured and flexibility is provided for customised response.

Economic Processes

Despite growth and aim to achieve the ₹ 5 trillion economy, India is plagued with poverty and inequality. According to the Oxfam report, it would take a millionaire a few seconds to earn what he lost in the pandemic, in comparison to a poor person who would take decades.

This highlights the highly unequal society in India. The process of growth has been flawed due to inadequate spending on education and health, poor job creation and concentration of wealth.

India spends just 1.5% of GDP on health and 2.7% on education. This has caused poor health infrastructure which was crippled by COVID-19 and poor educational outcomes. This low spending

has led to poor human resource developm-ent and opportunities. In addition to low social sector spending, India has struggled in job creation which has led to jobless growth and casualisation of labour. In the recent PLFS survey, LFPR is only 40%, thereby highlighted low productivity despite a demographic dividend. All this is witnessed while the top 10% of population has captured 60% of wealth in India. This inequity has led to increase in luxury spending despite poor social parameters. Therefore, if COVID 19 has to be effectively dealt with, then a strong process like the Atma Nirbhar Package is needed which can help curb inequality and promote job creation through infrastructure development. Only a strong process can help increase profits and productivity.

Conservation Efforts

From understanding the repercussions of our actions on environment, we held

the first Rio meeting in 1992 which helped increase the international collaboration. This meeting helped build UNFCCC which gave us the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Climate Deal.

In the Kyoto Protocol, developed nations pledged to curb emissions while not burdening the developing nations. This was to ensure their economic growth was not hindered. But despite good intentions the process failed to curb emissions and this resulted in the move towards a new mechanism in the form of Paris Climate Deal. In the Paris Climate Conference, the nations agreed to give \$100 Billion every year to developing nations but due to lack of effective regulation, the nations have failed to do so. India on the other hand due to its strong awareness and processes has already seen huge progress on its Nationally determined Contributions. It has enhanced

its renewable energy capacity and also reduced its emissions intensity. This was achieved through awareness and climate conscious steps. These strong processes have also helped India to formulate International Solar Alliance and Coalition of Disaster Resilience for greater progress on sustainable practices.

Future steps

In order to insure equitable growth, we need to insulate our processes from bias and vested interests. We need to focus on increasing welfare for as many as possible by having a collaborative approach. This can be ensured by decentralised decision making at the local level and increasing coordination at the international level.

For any process to yield results, stakeholder involvement is very crucial.
Ex - Feedback on draft policies and public

consultation as a part of EIA. Therefore, more awareness generation and participation can help ensure good results. As India has successfully demonstrated through Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan its ability to maintain clean sanitation, similarly, we can further strengthen our processes to ensure steady growth towards the goal of a ₹ 15 Trillion economy. As Mahatma Gandhi rightly preached means are as important as end, our focus should be on making our means more powerful and equitable.

1. Destruction breeds Creation. If something falls apart that leaves room for a new beginning.

Social → sati → widow empowerment
→ female education
↳ dowry

Society

National → India at independence - Partition.
→ LPG Reforms

International → Pandemic
→ wars - Germany
↳ fall of soviet

Counter → ENV → need to stop destruction
→ Japan - atomic bomb
↳ India's economic subversion
↳ secularism

A powerful process takes care of progress, productivity and profits.

Atmanirbhar Reforms → infra - fisheries, honey bee
→ coal - auction
↳ MSME
↳ export promotion

Environment → COP - Paris
→ Kyoto Protocol
↳ failure of net zero.

History → Mohammad Tuglaq - failure vs Khilaji
↳ Gandhiji vs Moderates.

Social → poverty vs inequality
↳ slow judiciary - leading to delay

Political → federalism
↳ rigid constitution
↳ independent judiciary