



VISION IAS

www.visionias.in

ESSAY

Name of Candidate	SHIVANG SRIVASTAVA					Test Code	2323		
Medium Hindi/Eng.	English		Registration Number	9	6	2	6	0	5
Centre	Online		Date	0	7	0	9	2	0

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 रसाही 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

(4) Someone is sitting in shade to-day, because someone planted a tree long time ago.

India today, boasts the capacity of a Nuclear triad and the recent Moon landing reflects its space prowess. While the former is oriented inwards, to secure comfort in terms of security, the latter is oriented outwards and display ambitions of a billion plus nation.

But for us to enjoy benefits of nuclear and space power, it were some pioneer individuals, like Homi Jehangir Bhabha and Vikram Sarabhai who laid seeds.

They planted the § saplings of scientific temperament and scientific institutions. Today, after around seven decades, the § saplings have grown into a tree and are bearing fruits (positive outcomes) and shade. (comfort associated with outcomes)

It is wise enough to understand that comforts which we see around us, isn't result of some sporadic chance event or a transcendental blessing. It is the result of trials, tribulations; penance and persistence of countless individuals, in past.

In fact it is true for very civilizations which we

inherit across various parts of world. The advancement of Human civilization, the sky-scrapers, cultural refines, sophisticated way of thinking and preservation & transmission of knowledge, all are result of efforts of our ancestors among Homo-sapiens and their precursors.

For instance just imagine the difficulties of life today, had our ancestors in Homo erectus, been unsuccessful in controlling or mastering the use of fire!!

Similarly, in political context, the rights and the freedoms we enjoy today, were not naturally given to all mankind in past.

It was because of visionaries of past in form of drivers of American Revolution, french revolution, Russian revolution, that these rights have entrenched themselves as part and parcel of all the civilized nations.

For instance sanctity of freedom to express, is still best manifested in lines of one of the pioneers of this right.

"I may disagree with what you say, but it will depend to my death your right to say"
- Voltaire

Moreover, in context of India too, we must not take comforts of today 'for granted'.

as there were too many people who planted the sapling of free, modern and progressive nation even at the cost of sacrificing their own lives.

For instance, the fact that we breathe in an independent, sovereign and a free nation, is direct result of sacrifices made by countless freedom fighters like Bhagat Singh, Mahatma Gandhi; Subhash Chandra Bose etc.

socially, our society, just a few centuries before were ridden by multiple social evils like sati, caste discrimination, degraded status of women in general and widows in particular.

It was because of both vision and effort along with courage of individuals like, Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Jyotiba Phule, Savitribai Phule, Sri Narayan Gunturam, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar etc., that such social decadence has been eliminated to a great extent.

In terms of our economy, we count India 3rd largest economy in purchasing power parity terms. This is a great progress considering the low of BOP crisis, 30 years back.

This won't have been possible unless the sapling of liberalization, privatization and globalization were planted

by the then finance Minister
Sri. Manmohan Singh along
with Prime Minister P. V. Nar-
simha Rao.

Even in context of Inter-
national Relations & security the advantage
India enjoys in form of
Strategic autonomy, is result
of vision of Non-Alignment
made by our first Prime
Minister Sri. J. L. Nehru.

Further in context of
Ethical and moral epistemology,
today we have countless of
ethical principles and teachings
of individuals to look up
to.

These refinement in
knowledge and ethics, is

direct result of sincere indivi-
dual efforts to seek truth
and have courage to practice
it.

Socrates drank poison
to convey the significance of
upholding truth, while Buddha
did an intense 12 year
penance, to give to the
world values of Buddhism.

However, despite so
many saplings being planted
in past, as we look around
the world today, we find
regions with absence of shaded

→ Absence of shade and the
scorching sun

world today dealing with
multiple problems. There is

issue of inequality between people, regions and communities, and the contemporary progress seems to magnify it.

There are socio-political problems in form of polarisation, rising hatred, xenophobia, protectionism, religiousophobia, gender based violence etc.

Environmentally, there are concerns of rising temperature, melting glaciers, increasing frequency of disasters etc.

Individually, rising consumerism and culture of commodification & materialism has led to individual moral decadence.

All the above problems and others, beg a question, 'what we ought to do?'

The fact that we have enjoyed the shade of trees planted by our ancestors, it is our responsibility to give back the same shade to present and future generations.

→ Planting a sapling in present context.

To address the contemporary challenges, we need to broaden our horizon and take a birds eye view of Humanity.

This would help one to look beyond one's selfish interests and convince one to

have courage to make sacrifices for society and future generation.

To be a Kailash Satyarthi or a Malala Yousafzai, one needs to see beyond oneself.

Politically, there is need to promote politics of progress and unity over politics of polarisation and division. on the face of it, it seems to be a duty only of political leaders, but in reality it is equally duty of every individual who is part of political process.

Environmentally, there is quite literal need to 'plant a sapling', so that future enjoys not just shade,

but also clean air, sufficient land & water resources. There is need to promote sustainable development to ensure intragenerational and intergenerational equity.

Thus, we must have gratitude and be thankful to our ancestors for what we have, as it won't have been possible without their sacrifices.

At the same time we must be cautious enough to not destroy what we have & also thoughtful enough to multiply positives for future generation, so that, they too when sit in shade, would be thankful to us.

⑧ It is the mind of man alone that is cause of his bondage and freedom.

Consider the story of two metaphorical frogs who fall in a vessel filled with warm milk.

While one becomes depressed and accepts it as his fate, ultimately drowns and dies, the other frog avoids his mind to be taken over by defeatist thoughts.

Rather he paddles through persistently and turns milk into curd. The thick curd allows him to jump over the vessel towards life and freedom.

The difference between the two frogs was only of their mindset, which resulted in freedom for one and bondage for other.

The Human mind (or mind in general) is a powerful instrument that constantly determines our internal state of being, which becomes the reason for our mental bondage and freedom. Mind accomplishes this in multiple ways.

Mind determines one's Aptitude, which refers to one's skills, knowledge and competence to do work.

This aptitude in turn

determines one's freedom.
A person with greater degree
of formal/informal education
and skills, would have
more freedom to determine
the condition of their work
as per their liking.

On the other hand
an illiterate, unskilled person
is more vulnerable to be
exploited, as their freedom
is bounded by lack of
competence.

It is for this reason
Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, outlined the
need of Modern education for
dalits to liberate themselves
from years of slavery.

'Education is like honey'
milk, whoever drinks roars'

- Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

Apart from aptitude, mind also shapes attitude. The latter refers to our pre disposition towards objects, events and people in life.

A mind with positive attitude doesn't bog down easily by failure or harsh times, and looks for opportunity even in crisis.

For instance, during covid-19 pandemic, positive mental attitude, was key to recovery of patients. Further, positive individual mental attitude reflected in positive social attitude, that led to initiatives like oxygen langar, use of social media to secure

beds, medicines and other nece-
-ssities for needy.

On the other hand,
negative attitude destroys the
morale of individuals and
society, that become reason
of their bondage & failures.

For instance, one of
the significant strategy of
warfare is to destroy the
morale of enemy nation, th-
rough use of psychological
warfare. Low morale of ene-
-my leads to tactical mistakes
and even surrenders. The
British-Argentine war was a
case in point.

Moreover, mind gives
one the ability to reason
with their's and other emotions.

This is the Emotional Intelli-
-gence (EI)

Persons with high Emotional intelligence are aware of their emotions and have ability to regulate them based on circumstances.

For instance, in case of panic during exam, a person might crumble mentally and fail to recall knowledge and commit silly mistakes. However, a High EI person, being aware of panic and its negative impact, would first calm himself down, and focus first on low hanging fruits and then go for difficult questions.

In fact, the episode between Krishna and Arjuna

on battlefield of Kurukshetra is exemplification of this idea.

Before Krishna's exposition of Greta, Arjuna, felt the bondage of kinship with Kauravas, made him depressed and prevented him from raising his weapons against them.

However, Greta made him realise his Duty (Karma) to act righteously (Dharma). It was in the mental liberation of the idea that 'he was entitled only to action and not to its fruits', that he was able to fight fearlessly.

→ Inculcating the freedom of mind

The first aspect of mental freedom, is building one's knowledge and skill set.

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, in his wings of fire, highlights how being constantly updated about recent knowledge & advancement about one's field can help to broaden one's dimension of personal freedom.

The second aspect is value development. Value based in spiritualism rather than materialism, helps an individual to realise, that ups and downs are part of natural

course of life. However as spiritual beings, it must be our effort to maintain 'equanimity' in all circumstances.

The 'goods' shouldn't fill us with based pride, the 'bads' shouldn't depress us.

Moreover, another aspect is to be able to relate oneself with a bigger cause or more grand reality of life.

For instance, Shagat Singh in his Jail Notebook wrote:

'Kurah khaq hai Gardish mein,
Tapish se meri.
Main woh majnu hun,
jo ~~ja~~ jindan me aarad rha?'

The urdu couplet means

the heat (enthusiasm) in my
body fills the environment
with Ashes, I am that
romanticist, who was free
even when he was in
chains.

Probably, he was more
'free' in a dependent India,
than most of us could be
in an independent India,
As he was free in his
mind.

This freedom comes with
courage, and the courage
came with larger cause
of 'liberating world from
exploitation of man by man'

Another key aspect of
a free mind is acceptance

of the position life put you
in. This, acceptance is not
giving in to the circum-
stances, but it is a more
wiser embracing of diversity
that exist in life.

For instance, Stephen
Hawkins was paralysed from
head to toe, but rather
than being dismissive of
his situation and being
bitter, he accepted the
reality. This acceptance made
him go beyond, and use
his only functioning facul-
-ty, 'his mind', to explore
mysteries of universe.

What he explored about
universe, most able bodied,

So called 'free', might never be able to.

Thus, success & failure, slavery & liberation, bondage and freedom, is all in mind. This is what made Rabindranath Tagore invoke - 'where the mind is free and head is held high
•••• into that freedom,
O' mother, wake my nation
up.'