



## 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.

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This is a scene from a dismal hospital in Champaknagar, Bihar. Two old men lay beside each other, in a quaint hospital room. Contrasting the dullness and eerie peacefulness of the hospital, is a narration by one of the men. Mohanji describes to his neighbour, how beautiful the world looks from his window, there are colourful butterflies fluttering around. Birds have started chirping on the lush green branches of huge banyan trees.

As the nurse comes in, excited by the description, she notices how the window overlooks nothing but a plain white wall. She smiles to herself, seeing Mohanji transform. He came in as a patient in disbelief, looking forward to his retirement, but having been diagnosed with the last stage of cancer.

Grumpy and with no hope left in life, we gradually came to accept now he couldn't change his situation.

Challenging himself, he transformed not only his attitude into a more positive one, but made the entire ward of Champaknagar full of hope, imagination & happiness.

The quotation in question, points out to two extremely important aspects of ~~full~~ leading a fulfilling life.

It talks acceptance and growth through change.

Acceptance is an attribute of the strong, as it involves not cursing your fate or luck but being grateful for what life has thrown your way. This is the first step,

accepting the variables in the situation as they are.

The next step involves an even harder challenge, the challenge of medging, pushing, encouraging yourself to rise up to the situation, even if it involves changing ourselves

The orientation needs to shift inwards, rather than outwards. As only internal changes will push our boat forward.

The statement can be simply explained through a childhood example of math problem. We can't go about changing the problem statement in order to arrive at an answer. Accepting the problem statement as given, the challenge is to tweak our approach, learn new concepts or change our attitude in order to find a solution

Siddhartha Gautama, all of age 27, experienced the miseries of the world. He was confused, annihilated and couldn't make sense of how the world worked. One night, he left his family, and rode out on his horse to take the shade of a Bodhi tree. Taking the world as it was, Siddhartha pledged to look into himself. In the process, he got transformed from a prince to the serene one. Thus, exhibiting the power of internal rather than external change.

A more recent example, can be that of B.R. Ambedkar. He was strictly against the policies of the Indian National Congress and even went head on into a passionate discussion with Gandhiji

on the issue of dalits. However, having exhausted all options of leading satyagrahas and making political parties, Ambedkar came to understand how he couldn't change the situation. So he changed himself, and decided to work with the Congress for the prosperity of all scheduled castes.

Amstrong Pame, passionate civil servant wanted to work for the betterment of people. For the same, he tried to build a road between two villages. However, there were problems in sanctioning of funds. Seeing how he wasn't able to change the situation, Pame challenged himself and crowdfunded the entire 100 km long project.

The common criteria, in all our individual personalities had been highlighted by Charles Darwin, centuries ago. A famous anthropologist, he gave the theory of "survival of the fittest". In his theory of evolution the key to survival and propagating your species was to accept the environment and focus on making adaptive changes to your own self.

As a society, we confronted the biggest challenge of the 21st century, when the Covid 19 pandemic hit us all of a sudden.

The initial response of governments involved not to assessing the intensity of the

situation, or using blockades or lockdowns to control the pandemic. However, once the spread of the pandemic became an accepted reality, what the world took on as a challenge was behavioural change within. When each individual changed the way they met people, conducted their work or how they bought groceries, only then did the control of the pandemic seem imminent. Not only individuals, families, societies & governments as a whole changed themselves to take cognizance of the situation.

This same hierarchy is seen to be affected another big change in our life - social media. Social Media, right now has taken over the lives of ~~many~~ a sizable

population by storm. Even after a group of veterans from the social media industry joined, tried to bring changes into how addictive it is, nothing changed. What has been called into action now, is our ability to change ourselves, to not give into temptations of the media, or check our phone every time it beeps. We need to change & rewrite our attention patterns and dopamine responses in order to strive & achieve our goals.

The Indian example, is very relevant in this case. ~~that~~ The India of 80's was reeling under a current account deficit, foreign exchange imbalance and rising inflation. We had to foreign.

exchange for just two weeks worth of import. We had a socialistic orientation till then, however we understood the demand of the situation & pledged that we need to change ourselves. India, in 1991, under guidance of PV Narasimha Rao and Manmohan Singh pivoted from a socialistic country to a liberal & globalised India. Having ~~stood~~ risen up to the challenge, we now have the 3rd highest foreign reserves in the world -

On an international level, the world is reeling under a global climate crisis. The polar ice sheets are melting at an alarming rate and sea levels are seen to be rising. The IPCC

report states that even if all the Intentionally Determined Contributions are adhered to, a rise by  $1.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  is inevitable. Acknowledging this situation, where the world leaders refuse to accept how alarming the situation is, the entire humankind is challenged to bring about a change in themselves.

Greta Thunberg, asks us to act like our houses are on fire. We can no longer be complacent, & need to overhaul ourselves right from the smallest thing like turning off the tap while brushing to big picture things like forcing governments into moving towards a more sustainable future.

However, the problem at hand is not simple black & white & has its shades of grey. Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation, refused to change himself regardless of what the situation was. We see how he changed countries from South Africa to India, how Governor General changed from Haldinge to Maudsatter, but what stayed consistent were his ideals of peace and non violence.

Constancy of character is also a symbol of integrity and is reflected by many great personalities from Gandhi, to Nelson Mandela's 42 years sentence in jail.

Having highlighted that, the challenges of the 21st century are complex and require varied multi-dimensional approaches.

Every citizen of the country, irrespective of the disheartening situation the world over, should take it as a challenge unto himself to become a part of the solution. She should become a part of the solution, rather than the problem. From ensuring we have a solution to climate change to reducing intolerance between communities, all it takes is Mohan Ji's positive outlook towards - being the change, he wanted to see in the world.

Section B

Wealth is what you don't see

Sana wakes up early morning and as she feels the breeze caressing her cheeks, she decides to get into her slippers and takes a walk outside. She as she skips in frolicking manner, she hears the gushy sounds of the brook nearby. She extends her hand to feel the fluttering leaves as she sings a beautiful Konkani song along. Her pleasant dreamlike walk is suddenly interrupted by the disturbing loud noise of a JCB tractor. In a couple of minutes, the entire scenery is overpowered by an army of machinery. On enquiring, she found out how a new valuable mineral ~~had~~ had been discovered in her village. Sana is perturbed and musing it will make

make the village wealthy.

Sana is peopled & wonders what will happen to the wealth she knows, that of lush green grass, the fresh village air & the untouched, serene river water.

The quote in question, asks us to move beyond a materialist conception of wealth. Wealth is not just being able to possess hoards and hoards of money, but real wealth goes beyond. The tangible ~~is~~ ~~is~~ and currency might become a means to attain our ends, however they certainly are not the ends.

We need to start at the individual level. People nowadays are attracted by the lure of glittering shopping malls, big cars and swanky bungalows. However, these tangible representations of wealth,

can only provide us temporary satisfaction, & what we need is to introspect and understand the sources of real joy.

Gautam Buddha, was a wealthy prince and had all the visible luxuries in the world. However, what he lacked was the unseen ~~spiritual~~ spiritual wealth. It was the pursuit of this intangible wealth that he denounced all worldly riches and practiced meditation till he found the meaning of life through enlightenment.

Another contemporary example includes Arunachalam Pame, a supreme bureaucrat. For him, real wealth did not lay in the ~~foundings~~ ~~alto~~ salaries he was drawing or assets he created for himself but in the intangible goodwill that he

acquired by working for the benefit of people.

At the family level, it is extremely important to set our priorities right. A seemingly rich family, owning luxury cars and going on the biggest holidays might be quite lacking in the arena of values. They may feel that their wealth lies in being available for each other during tough times. Real wealth can be seen and felt in how a family treats its female members.

Jewellery and expensive cars, mean nothing, if what is lacking is love and respect for the women of the family.

As a community, we need to reorient our focus on right things.

Health is often seen as visible and physical maladies and the entire focus is often on the primary, secondary & tertiary aspects of the same. However, in the age after the covid 19 pandemic, it is imperative to shift our focus to aspects of Mental Health. It is not a visible part of our well-being, however that doesn't reduce its significance in any way. There is a certain taboo attached to the concept of mental health, however if we broaden our perspectives & take a holistic perspective towards wealth, we will understand how the unseen aspect, very well has a deep influence on the seen.

While, health is an important parameter of wealth, it needs to be supplemented by other intangible factors.

Education is all the right to education act is measured as per the physical infrastructure present, or the no. of teachers, or the gross enrollment ratio. However, a true measure of educational wealth is not measured by the length & breadth of the tangible books on the bookshelf, but the intangible ideas that are sparked in the mind. Curiosity quenching and critical thinking, are crucial but invisible parts of our education system. Education, as demonstrated by Gandhiji in Tolstoy farm experiment

also is about the holistic development of the child, about understanding gender roles as well as the values that go inside.

Introducing a ~~wealth~~ <sup>caste</sup> dimension to the same, we understand through the life of Ambedkar and more recent examples like Suraj Yengde that they didn't aspire for a life of ~~wealth~~ tangible wealth but instead vouched for respect and a life of dignity. Both intangible measures, but ~~that~~ real forms of wealth. even now, the policy

~~at the level of the~~  
focus remains on material benefits to the scheduled caste. However, the real battle stands by aiming a decent life of dignity, & everything else comes after that

In a democracy, real wealth does not consist to sprawling parliamentary buildings or bulky constitutional books but on the quality of debate being practiced by the members of Parliament. It lies in the real implementation of laws and addressing the needs of the poor. All intangible aspects, but not any less in importance.

Communal harmony is another invisible aspect of the wealth of a nation. It can be seen in the marvellous religious buildings erected but only in the powerful tug between a Sikh and a Muslim as they meet before Eid or Gurbekab.

Climate change is reorienting our focus to the intangible aspects of wealth. The world and governments across the country are only focused on the increasing visible wealth in the form of rising GDPs and maintenance of dollars and severe foreign exchange. What is not seen, however, is the completely changed status of underwater wealth, the rapidly melting glaciers, the extinction of species and the threatened population due to an increase in water levels.

The need to go beyond the visible aspects requires deep introspection & concentration on the

aspects that really matter.  
Buildings like Antilla and  
hundreds of housing complexes might  
signify the pinnacle of urbanisation,  
however underneath this development,  
the ugly face of industrialisation  
shifts our focus from our natural  
and irreplaceable wealth.

However, wealth is not  
only intangible and a prerequisite  
of growth & development today is  
achieving a viable income level.  
With the number of urban slums  
rising, and people taking footpaths  
as their home, their needs to  
the focus on providing them with  
the tangible security of 'roti,  
kapda aur makaan'. It is then

when we might be able to catapult to the next stage of development.

Delhi govt's education system, is a case in point. It focused on providing the infrastructure, along with smartboards and a high quality of teachers.

Only, then did it revert its focus on the happiness curriculum.

The happiness curriculum focused on the intangible aspects of wealth, that of a peaceful mind.

The story of Midas, is an important moment of reckoning. A king who wished for a golden touch, ended up converting everything he

transformed into gold. He realised how gold bank however valuable, didn't signify real wealth & longed for the ~~old~~ hug of his daughter. Only when he converted half his kingdom to gold, did he realise the futility of this wealth and focussed on real wealth like happiness, love and compassion.

The story of Midas, should be revisited by governments all over who in their race to becoming the richest are seeing all source of real wealth. In a race, to achieve the highest GDPs, they are making depriving many like Sana, of their real assets and wealth.

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