

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.

Essay
#1

There are some things you learn best
in calm, and some in storm

Aman and Rajesh were com-
paring their marks from their
final graduation examination.

Aman boasted about how he
managed to score well despite

not studying seriously the entire
year. After assessing the state

of an ambivalent Rajesh, their
teacher Ms. Lata explains to them

about how things differ in
degree and kind, in terms of

what we learn, according to

the kind of situation or condition

we're exposed to. She talks about

the sheer ~~use~~ shutdown of normal fabric of our lives due to covid-19 and resulting unpredictability of inter alia, seats in colleges ^{and} jobs in the market, that have made people like Aman study hard, no matter what their normal approach is.

Many such situations remind us of Sabine's words, "every thinker and learner is a product of his times and conditions." It's been observed on multiple occasions that different things are learnt in a more conducive manner, depending on the prevalent 'atmosphere',

Periods of calm

The moments of calm and peace enable the human mind to be free to think intellectually, assess things with reason and analyse matter comprehensively and effectively.

A student giving due amount of time to understand concepts and do an exhaustive preparation of thoughts is likely to cover depth of knowledge.

Civilisations have learnt across interfaces of social sciences and natural sciences, different things.

Glorious Revolution in Britain made John Locke and J.S. Mill come out with extensive thoughts on

liberty and rights, They're able to learn about such aspect of human nature only because they witnessed a calm intellectual phase of societal change. Similar environment was provided by in 19th century USA and Japan leading to rapid industrial growth.

The Indian subcontinent also provides innumerable examples, including rule of Mauriyas and Guptas, where mass scale learning and propagation of ideas of philosophy and science happened because of calm, conducive and enabling environment.

In contemporary times, there's no better example than New Zealand

and Nordic countries. Due to relatively more calm and peaceful situations, these regimes are able to prioritise and focus more on technology, social infrastructure and democratic strengthening of society. In such peaceful and serene environment, humans are able to focus extensively on developmental aspects of life and are enabled to stimulate their learning in that direction.

Stormy realms : Still lot to learn

A number of things are learnt in less peaceful, aggressive and unstable situations, which are not normally tapped into by human brain and psychology during

periods of 'calmness'. People learn about a different side of human nature and worldly things. They are conditioned to think on their feet. A student rushing through his/her syllabi during last few days before exam to extract maximum output out of constrained situation, is one such example.

Organisational Behavior theorists have explained about this so-called 'survival instincts' and 'realist' nature of humans and societies, which developed only because they were forced to deal with harsh situations, outside their comfort zone. Multiple wars and power struggle across

the globe during ancient, medieval and modern times have resulted into discoveries, inventions and upgradations of policies, technologies, thoughts and ideologies.

In contrast to Glorious Revolution, the Puritan Revolution enabled scholars like Thomas Hobbes to envisage a strong absolutist state and concept of duties of citizens. Unification of Italy and lack of strong ruler in turmoil made Machiavelli articulate one of the best works on statecraft. In India too, the constant struggles have conditioned the learning across various walks of life. Mughals and Marathas were able to

make strong technological advancements due to the very need of strong weaponry.

Even in contemporary times, we see countries like Israel making exceptional progress in techno-military capabilities due to the 'stormy' environment they are living in. Almost all major powers like China and India have taken strategic decisions, ranging from nuclearisation to space technologies, rooting from the face of instability and threat of ~~not~~ 'wreckage of calm'.

Is there a Ricardian equivalence?

Economist Ricardo said that even in a 'calm' market, people tend to contemplate and have more fearing a 'less calmful' environment in future. An equivalent can be seen in other realms too, which is even more evident in contemporary times. A calm situation doesn't make people complacent and they tend to 'prepare' for relatively worse outcomes too. Similarly, the 'stormy' situations make people yearn for a 'calm' period and they learn and prioritise things to enable a conversion towards

stability. Recent impeccable developments and efforts towards mitigation of climate change impacts is a case in point. So along with the skill sets and thoughts required to live in the 'calm' or 'storm', another major part of learning is how to move back and forth between such situations realistically and in a sustainable manner.

We find that situations of 'calm' and 'storm' are indeed the biggest teacher in a society. Had it been just 'calm', the human would never have explored

the walks of realism, smartwork,
urgency, power politics, ~~and others.~~
'Storm' like situations also enabled
a rapid, never-seen-before advancem-
ents in sciences, just because
of the survival instincts, rightly
explained by Herbert Spencer's 'survival
of the fittest'. Similarly, without
periods of 'calm', the precious
commandments of societal discourse
like liberty, reason, rights and
justice would never have become
a reality. Similar to these
unparalleled evolutionary learnings,
there'll be numerous others to
follow in the future, as the
variants of 'calm' and 'storm'

change and present new case-in-points for humans and societies.

Ms. Lata's explanation of human psychology and concept of learning depending on the situations one encounters has left the kids enthralled.

They leave, with quite an energy, for putting extra efforts in their Ph.D. applications as number of seats have tremendously decreased!

Essay
#2

Legislative measures, ^{alone} are not enough
to ensure women's safety

Twelve year old Ashna, her
mother and grandmother were at
a women empowerment seminar
celebrating twenty five years of
Beijing declaration for women.

During the talk about women
safety and legislative interventions,
a quote by Susan Moller Okin
caught the eyes of ^{these} three generations
of women.

"The state appears male to me"

The quote along with the idea
of ineffectiveness of legislations

and codified instructions resonated with these three women at different levels. Innumerable number of cases of women safety issues including the recent barbaric acts of Hathras were still afresh in their memories. Many such seminars and efforts are being put by radical and contemporary feminists concerning due justice to women's issues on a comprehensive basis, ~~much~~ and not just by legislations.

Though legislations have been appreciated from time to time for introducing protective measures, they're not at all enough

because of deeply entrenched views,
perceptions and norms, as are
argued by various thinkers.

Women safety issues

The so-called incarnations of goddess
'Sita' or 'Aphrodite' ~~or~~ are not so
venerated in actual scenarios.

Ever since the beginning of times
and much more in contemporary
circumstances, women have experienced
hardships across the globe. This
tragic starts right from the
confirmation of girl child. Due to
preference of a male child, femal
foetus face the challenge of
getting murdered even before stepping

into this world.

Then comes the issue of sexual harassment in multiple draconian forms. Women face it at schools, colleges and at workplace. Child abuse problem has cursed the society in unexplainable degrees, bringing ~~into~~ ^{even} stars like Kevin Spacey to the ugly end of their careers.

These issues of rapes and murders have risen in recent past across the globe. There have been increased instances of genetic mutilation, acid attacks and honour killings in various perverse forms.

Legislative measures

Ever since the rise of feminist and human rights ideologies, there has been interventions by countries in varying degrees, towards solving women safety issues. There are strict guidelines and procedures for sex determination of child, like PCNPDT Act in India. Child abuse is a crime in almost all major countries and has been prohibited via legislations.

Criminal Justice systems of various countries have legislated strict punishments to sexual offenders and persons convicted of mutilations or harassment. In India,

We have Domestic Violence Act 2005,
Prevention of Sexual Harassment
Act and Juvenile Justice Act, along
with their amendments, to perpetuate
strict code of conducts against such
barbaric crimes. There have also
been multiple interventions for
facilitation of benefits to old age women
and attack survivors. There are also
guidelines like Supreme Court of
India's 'Vishakha Guidelines' which
show the right path for such
legislation.

Are legislations enough?

The sheer number of cases seen
every year show that legislation

are not enough to ensure women safety. We have comparatively higher success of legislations in other ills of society like untouchability and minority issues. But the basic structure behind women safety issues, as argued by scholars like Mary Wollencraft and Sarojini Sahoo, is much deeper and institutionalised to be shaken by mere legislations..

As discussed earlier, there have been legislative measures towards almost all societal ills concerning women safety, and are even implemented to an appreciable extent. Still, there is a certain

"disability" which women face
while exercising their rights
and utilise such legislation.

Simone De Beauvoir talks in
her masterpiece "The Second Sex",
how women have been reduced
to a subordinate species in this
'gendered society'. Despite all legislations,
women are often in two minds
while confronting their so called
'superiors'. As Forault explains,
the concepts of gender, sex and
roles of male and female have
been perpetuated down the ages
through careful 'discourses', which
has created a male hegemony.

In India, the concept of 'sati savitri' is in dissonance with a women confronting men through legislations. No matter how strong the legislation is, a fair proportion of society sticks to the customs and traditions and stay quiet.

There have been numerous instances of women keeping shut or even committing suicides instead of exercising their enablements, just because the societal stigma holds them back.

The number of women coming out during #metoo movement to share their experiences, show how

deep the problem is. Along with customs and beliefs, the fact that women have been subjugated towards subordination deter them from raising their voices. A woman not believing in traditions will still think twice before complaining against her boss, who as per statistics is mostly a male.

Males are also envious of any change of order, as argued by Simon De Beauvoir. The great psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud talks about "castration complex" and how men have 'chills' just thinking of a change in the situation where they are dominating.

All such arguments make an unarguable case-in-point, of how deep structural and ideological changes are a must, in order to effectuate legislations in letter and spirit. As Jean Paul Sartre exclaims "we need to tackle essentialism to enable existentialism", there's need to re-orient the thoughts on essence of woman and embrace their existence as an equal human being, capable of doing wonders and making the world a better place. There's a need for change of perception, right from

a female focus to how people perceive a female peer. Awareness and empowerment campaigns need to be more contextual and multi-faceted. Hence it's high time we assess the performance in the past, on the 25th anniversary of Beijing Declaration, an chart of an effective roadmap.

As Ashna, her mother and grandmother sign membership forms of an NGO towards end of the seminar, they promise themselves that they shall not give up their efforts to make their respective social circles a better place for women, who had "no choice in determining the sex type"

of their birth, but who can trespass
the barrier of gender to do wonders!"