

Subject: ESSAY

Name of Candidate SHASHANK TRIPATHI

Test Code 605

Schedule 2 pm - 5 pm, 14/11/15

Registration No. 16813

Place Mukherjee Nagar Time 2 pm

Module ESSAY

Classroom ☒

Distance Learning ☐

Classroom & Distance Learning ☐

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

INDEX TABLE

Q.No.	Page No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			

Total Marks Obtained

Remarks:

Signature of Examiner

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, ID Number and Test Code)
The Candidate should fill the index table, especially for him/her.
2. In the left margin, she/he should write only question number and in the right margin, nothing should be written.
3. The page number should be coded by the candidate himself and the range of page number related to the answer of the question should be used to complete the index table.
4. All Parts of the questions should be written at one place.
5. No Supplementary sheet shall be provided by the management. So the candidate is advised to accommodate required information within the space provided.
6. The candidate need not write anything in his/her answer that derogates the dignity of an individual or an organization.
7. The candidate should respect the instructions, given by the invigilator.
8. The Examinee has to submit the answer sheet to the invigilator after completion of examination.
9. However, he/she is allowed to take away the question paper.

Section A

3. Is Universal Health Coverage the right approach to address healthcare concerns in India?

"In a healthy body, lives a healthy mind." Truly, the development of a nation is a reflection of its social infrastructure that includes health and education. Probably with this concern in mind, India's policy makers have drafted a new National Health Policy which envisages UHC (Universal Health Coverage) for the citizen.

The draft National Health Policy considers right to health as a fundamental right. In the new Rights-Based Regime

of Indian democracy, it is only a logical extension of right to education, ^{food} health and legal services under Article 21 of Indian Constitution.

While this approach towards providing healthcare in India is definitely very relevant, there are some obstacles that need to be cleared. All of this will be discussed in the following paragraphs.

UHC as the right approach

UHC or right to healthcare is based upon the principle of inclusiveness. Inclusiveness in healthcare is what India must strive for. There are marginalised sections in India such as Scheduled Tribes and Castes, minorities

who do not enjoy proper access to healthcare. Provision of healthcare for them would be a great achievement.

Women and children are the essential component of our society who are in dire need of healthcare.

Although govt. has made some serious efforts through ASHA and ANM that come under NRHM, a lot remains to be done in achieving MDGs on health. Also, right to health will provide access to healthcare to the differently abled people.

UHC envisages an increased role of local self-governance institutions such as Panchayat in policy formulation and implementation of healthcare. Devolution of funds and responsibilities

will lead to evolution locally sustainable system of healthcare administration.

Rangrajan Committee report on poverty estimation clearly mentioned that millions of people in India come under BPL category every year due to high out-of-pocket expenditure on healthcare. Right to health will help in reducing the plight of people.

There is high level of regional and inter-state disparity in healthcare provision in India. While the northern states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar suffer in healthcare, southern states like Kerala and Tamilnadu

have exemplary record in healthcare administration to its citizen. Eastern and Central Indian states such as Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh are also lacking in access to healthcare. UHC envisages to plug these disparities.

Health insurance is another sector in which much more work needs to be done. Only a minuscule of Indian population has any kind of health insurance. Draft National Health Policy envisages universal health insurance coverage so as to minimize out-of-pocket expenditure.

Universal preventive care will lead to lesser cases of diseases.

Indradhanush Scheme for immunisation of children is one such scheme that promotes universal preventive care. Similar initiatives in TB Control Programme are required. Preventive care, if universal, would lead to reduced disease burden for India.

India is changing and along with that, lifestyles of Indians are changing which are posing newer problems such as psychological stress and reduced fertility. This aspect of healthcare must be focussed upon in sight to healthcare. Provision for mental health should be there.

Obstacles and Challenges in achieving UHC

There are infrastructural gaps in India's healthcare system - physical infrastructure and human resource infrastructure. There is a lack of well equipped PHCs and CHCs. There is dearth of trained nurses and doctors. With proper training and incentives, enough healthcare professionals can be prepared. PPP can be leveraged in achieving the required physical infrastructure.

There is a grave lack of awareness in people towards their rights and entitlements. Rights to food, education and legal services

are not being properly enforced as people themselves do not know about the law. Similarly, there is lack of awareness towards cleanliness, sanitation and health in people.

Schemes like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan may prove to be helpful.

A comparison of healthcare system of north and south in India proves that with similar resources, there is big difference in levels of healthcare. Many a times govt is accused of not allocating enough resources to healthcare. But the main problem here is that of faulty management and governance.

Corruption has seeped in our healthcare system and along with right to health, colluding nexus of private and public health sector needs to be broken down.

Similarly, large scale problems like environmental degradation and climate change may affect the healthcare system of the country. This should be taken into account whenever the final National Health Policy is revealed.

Thus we can see that the Universal Health Coverage approach is necessary, but not sufficient in itself. If willpower^{is there} and some

essential reforms are implemented along with the right to health, India's healthcare system will become a robust one.

In 1990s, Costa Rica entirely scrapped its defence spending and used it in education and healthcare. That kind of will power will be the key to achieving Universal Health Coverage in India. As a Sanskrit verse says:

"Sarve bhavanthu sukhinah
Sarve santu niramayah
Sarve bhadrani pashyant
Maa kashchid dukhbhagbhavet."

(May all be happy, may all be healthy and free of disease, may all think good of everyone, no suffering should be there.)

Section B

40. The Cold War is over but Cold War thinking survives

The end of World War II saw the beginning of another war. A war of ideologies - communism and capitalism. It was called Cold War as there was not direct war but the theatre of war was shifted to satellite states of USA and USSR.

The Cold War ended in 1990s with disintegration of USSR and integration of East and West Germany. Thus USA arose as the polarising agent of the world.

However, within 20 years of Cold War's end, a new situation is arising in the world which reflects the Cold-war era thinking and tactics. While Russia and China are on one side, USA is the reigning power.

Cold-war era thinking is evident in today's international politics in these terms - ideological war, intense competition for resources and market, strategic moves, polarization and satellite states, emergence of soft power instead of hard power, international forums and fight for Global Commons.

Ideological war

While the Cold War was a result of communism vs. capitalism, present world sees strife between democracy and oligarchy. China and Russia both are ruled by a handful ^{of influential} people with little voice to ^{common} people. Chinese polity is run by Communist Party of China while Russia is being run by a president who has oil and energy barons in his close quarters. Countries like India and USA are democratic and people have a voice in their policies.

Intense competition for resources and markets

Africa is witnessing entry of global players such as China, West and India

to compete for its mineral and energy resources and growing market. Conflicts in West Asia are also a result of this competition.

Strategies to secure interests

Just like ~~the~~ the Cold War, satellite states are being used to show power and encircling the competing state. Obama's "Pivot to Asia" uses Japan, Australia, South Korea, Philippines to militarily encircle China while China is encircling India through Maritime Silk Route, String of Pearls.

Russia used Ukraine and Syria to show that it is back in the game.

Such strategies are leading to polarization of world into groups similar to the cold War. Cold War saw NATO, Warsaw Pact and NAM. Today Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Trans-Pacific Partnership are there. NATO is still out there. China and Russia together are trying to form a bloc of Eurasia.

Soft power as an alternative to
hard power

Even, Cold War saw American cultural influence on USSR. This was the soft power game. However, today soft power has become much more important which

tourism, trade, cultural influence etc. Islamist organizations oppose the cultural influence of USA.

International forums

Cold War saw increasing influence of West on UN, IMF and World Bank. US ally Japan maintained supremacy in ADB. But, presently, newly emerging powers like Brazil, China, Russia and India have formed groupings like BRICS which are countering the monopoly of USA and Europe. AIIB and NDB are important initiatives in this direction. UNSC reforms are being demanded and reluctance of the big five may

lead to a conflict.

Fight for Global Commons

Weaponization of space is a big concern. US, China and Russia are mainly responsible for it. Cold War also saw space war between USA and USSR.

Ocean has immense mineral wealth. There is a fight going on to secure the resources of the North Pole between US and its allies and Russia.

Environmental considerations are evident with increasing tension and blame shifting between USA, Europe, China, India and other developing countries.

Internet is probably the most elaborate example of Cold War thinking where cyber war is being waged by USA and China against each other. US snooped on various governments of the world. Wikileaks and Snowden revelations are testimony to this. Instead of spying of Cold War, cyber snooping is being done.

In such tensed situations, there are multiple factors that offset and diffuse the possibility of another Cold War.

What inhibits Cold War

Cold War thinking, though persists today, is not seeing its manifestation very strongly. Ideological

war is in a diffused state. While china follows communist polity, its economy is mostly capitalist. There is no clear demarcation of capitalism and communism in present day world barring North Korea.

Economies of USA, China and Russia are heavily dependent on each other. High level of trade and investment is there between china and Japan as well.

Also, weaponary has evolved so much that even a cold war may lead to end of the world. It is a huge deterrence.

Global forums such as UN also have a role in diffusing tensions

among rival blocs.

Nations like India, Brazil
and South Africa have been mostly
neutral to Cold War and subsequent
Cold War thinking. They have relations
with USA as well as China and
Russia. Thus, a multipolar world
is arising which makes it difficult
for the rival blocs to influence
the whole world and take it
into their grip.

However, as we have seen,
USA and China are emerging as
global competitors and Russia is
getting back to its Cold War
era politics. Recent skirmishes

in South China Sea, ADIZ in
East China Sea clearly mark the
tensions between China and US
and its allies. Russia's accession
of Crimea and recent entry in
Syria are also not to be
ignored.

Though world has become
more ^{inter-}dependent, there is always
a possibility of Cold War thinking
being manifested into a Cold War.
It is the responsibility of emerging
nations like India and Brazil to
prevent this from happening through
pitching for UNSC reforms and
through pitching for a peaceful world.

