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ADVANCED INTEGRATED MENTORSHIP

ESSAY ASSESSMENT TEST-4

(To be filled by candidate)

Test Code : TC353

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NEXT IAS Roll No. :

ATMGCL1035

Date of Examination :

15th Oct 2023

Exam Centre : Old Rajinder Nagar ☐

Bhopal ☐

Online ☒

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

This question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet contains 34 pages. Question Paper in detachable form is available at the end of the QCA Booklet which can be taken away by the candidate after examination.

On receipt of the Booklet, please check that this QCA Booklet does not have any shortcomings, torn or missing pages, etc. If so, get it replaced with a fresh QCA Booklet.

Four blank pages from page 29 to page 32 have been provided for rough work.

SUBJECT/PAPER

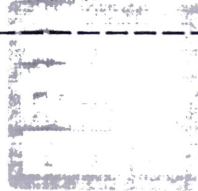
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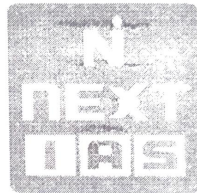
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Part - A					
Parameters		Good	Satisfactory	Need Improvement	Page No.
CONTENT	Introduction & Conclusion	☐	☐	☐	
	Argument & Dimension	☐	☐	☐	
	Examples	☐	☐	☐	
STRUCTURE	Flow & Coherence	☐	☐	☐	
	Connectivity	☐	☐	☐	
LANGUAGE	Grammar	☐	☐	☐	
	Spelling	☐	☐	☐	

Part - B

Part - B					
Parameters		Good	Satisfactory	Need Improvement	Page No.
CONTENT	Introduction & Conclusion	☐	☐	☐	
	Argument & Dimension	☐	☐	☐	
	Examples	☐	☐	☐	
STRUCTURE	Flow & Coherence	☐	☐	☐	
	Connectivity	☐	☐	☐	
LANGUAGE	Grammar	☐	☐	☐	
	Spelling	☐	☐	☐	

COMMENTS



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Write one Essay, choosing one topic in about 1000-1200 words each:

[125 × 1 = 125]

SECTION - A

- Q.1 A sign of intelligence is an awareness of one's own ignorance.
- Q.2 Inclusivity and plurality are hallmarks of a peaceful society.
- Q.3 The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.
- Q.4 The best way to predict the future is to create it.

A Sign of intelligence is an awareness of one's own ignorance

The wisest man in the west, Socrates, said that
"I know that I know nothing".

Similarly the Light of Asia, Gautam Buddha, said that
"Ignorance is the root cause of all evil". Both scholars have emphasized on accepting one's Ignorance to live a

meaningful life. Both have devised methods to become aware of one's Ignorance and have shown paths for moving towards intelligence. But before we dwell into details, Let us ask some existential questions.

What kind & forms of Ignorance do we suffer from?
What is awareness? and of what we have to become aware? . What are various signs of Intelligence? Let us explore.

There is almost a universal agreement among scholars & humanity that humans have a capacity, a limited boundary

of Imagination. An agreement that we humans suffer from ignorance. This ignorance can take many forms & can span across multiple dimensions.

Let us ask about our 'ourselves'. How much do we know of our own body, thoughts, feelings & emotions? In Eastern traditions it is considered that beyond body & mind there is an 'Atman' but in Western tradition body & mind are only realities. We do not have consensus about our own nature & existence. We are ignorant about true reality of our life.

Not only about our own nature we are ignorant about 'other person' living with us. We lack emotional intelligence & Compassion to understand pain of our fellow human beings. Plato has advised that "Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a harder battle".

Moving on, we are ignorant about society. We tend to reject, or accept our Customs, traditions without understanding the real purpose behind ~~our~~ ^{our} cultural practices. We hardly use our rationalism, humanism to solve societal problems. Raja Ram Mohan Roy was ardent supporter of relying on rationalism to look at

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Society & reject those values which are against human dignity? But how many of us are doing that? It brings shame to us seeing video of manipur girls being sexually assaulted on open streets. Cases of caste discrimination, witch hunting have made headlines everyday.

Our ignorance also extends to other domains. In politics, as per ADR Survey a Candidate with criminal background has more chances to win election.

[our ignorance] has caused criminalization of politics with 43% of Candidate winning elections in 2019 Lok Sabha (ADR Report) having criminal background.

Similarly with rising digitalization, due to our ignorance the cases of fraud (digital theft) is on rise. we are not able to spread proper awareness about digital security.

In Environmental domain, Our ignorance seems to be at peak level. We have caused a complete disbalance between various forms of life. Covid-19 is the recent example of our ignorance. we have put Carbon dioxide in bottom of ocean & Plastic bottles at the top of mountain without worrying about disastrous consequences it may bring.

After above discussion, let us move to ^{next} question. What is awareness & what do we have to be aware of?

We have to be aware of previously discussed Ignorance. We have to be aware of disastrous impact of our actions on others & life on earth.

We have to be aware about why we act the way we act. The Great Buddha has said that root cause of all our actions are desires. He advocated for 'Controlled desires', to follow middle path. Today we have created

guided missiles but misguided men because of our inherent greed. we have to become aware of this 'greed' which can make our lives miserable.

Socrates have emphasized on becoming aware of one's ignorance because it makes us humble and prepares us for the learning & correcting our mistakes. Socrates gave the method of 'Dialectics' which means questioning everything to gain knowledge and through knowledge one can remove his/her ignorance.

on the same line

Aristotle goes one step further and says that not only knowing but we must apply that knowledge & incorporate that knowledge into our personality. Aristotle further states that this makes the person intelligent. So As per Aristotle, A sign of intelligence is not only being aware of one's action but apply that awareness into action to improve our lives.

Intelligence should be used to solve the challenges faced by humanity today. Not only problems of outside but the

Problems going on within human mind can be solved by being aware of one's ignorance.

How to become aware?

Buddha said to follow eight fold path to live a correct life and through that awareness will come. He also gave

Vipassana meditation technique which can be used to understand the nature of thoughts & events in life. This meditation teaches that "Everything is temporary in our lives". Our thoughts rise & dip like waves in the oceans so there is no point in getting carried away with the emotions as it is temporary.

Awareness Can also be increased by expanding our viewpoint about life. We should travel more, read more books, maintain a diary for observations etc. These small activities ~~change~~ our viewpoint about ourselves & about life.

When we observe closely we realize about how much we were missing earlier, we realize the depth of our ignorance. We realize that we are just the drop in the ocean, we are like speck of dust in this cosmos and then slowly we find ourselves light & our miseries fade away.

The true intelligence which comes through awareness is not easy to achieve. This journey of self discovery is difficult & arduous. We may get lost in this process. But we must take our first step because

"Journey of thousand miles must begin with the single step." When Buddha was about to achieve 'Mahaparinirvana' he said to his followers "Be your own light, & create your own path."

May be that is the lesson for all of us to move from ignorance to intelligence.

Write one Essay, choosing one topic in about 1000-1200 words each:

[125 × 1 = 125]

SECTION - B

- Q.1 Not all who wander are lost. (CSE 2023, PYQ)
- Q.2 A single drop never feels responsible for the flood.
- Q.3 Science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.
- Q.4 There is no such thing as a good war or a bad peace.

Q → 1 Not all who wander are lost

The life tales of Bhagat Singh has been precisely written by Bhagwati chandra Vohra in his book 'The philosophy of Bomb'.

Bhagat Singh was an highly educated, intelligent youth in his twenties.

If he had wanted he would have easily lived a life of government employee & would have led a Comfortable life. But Bhagat

Singh decided to find a bigger purpose in his life & when he found it in ending the suffering of Indians through Britishers, he was unstoppable.

People considered him mad for wandering into uncharted territory. But it ~~was~~ was Singh who made the 'deaf hear' by throwing a bomb in assembly.

What better example one can have than Bhagat Singh who perfectly symbolize the adage that 'Not all who wander are lost'.

Above anecdote forces us to ask certain questions. What does wandering mean? What is being lost? What are the consequences of wandering? Is it

always good? what qualities one need to have for wandering & not getting lost? who actually gets lost? and many more questions. Let us explore.

The Confusion & debate between whether to follow a set well defined path or to explore unexpected territory is as old as human imagination. There are two major schools of thoughts on this.

first school is of essentialist scholars like Aristotle, St.

Augustine, Immanuel Kant etc. They argue that one should follow an ethical path in life. one should explore things

on a well defined path . one should respect traditions, culture and conventions in living life.

They argue that life has a well defined (pre defined) meaning & purpose & one should stick to it .

Second school of thoughts, on the other hand, is led by existentialist scholars like

Friedrich Nietzsche, Sartre, Derrida etc. They argue that there is no well defined path &

no pre defined or well determined meaning or purpose in life. They call for Journey of exploration, self discovery, deconstructing

the existing beliefs, customs
e.t.c. • Nietzsche even says
that "Man is something to be
surpassed" which essentially means
to question everything, every
value system. This second
School advocates for "wandering
in life" for search of truth
which is unique for each &
every one of us.

Following the above Second
School, let us see examples of
those individuals who took on
the journey of wandering & how
they were not lost.

The best example is
from 5th century BC. A young

Prince who was about to become king decided to leave everything & set on a wandering streak to know ultimate truth. Prince

Siddharth wandered for six years, faced innumerable difficulties, learned countless lessons and finally attained 'nirvana'. He found the purpose of his life and dedicated rest of his life solving people's problems & educating.

It shows he was not lost, though he wandered.

Similar to above we can take example of recent modern time. M.S. Dhoni was a ticket collector in Railways. But he was never happy. His passion was cricket, but there was

high chance of failure in his cricketing career. His family was against his leaving of Safe Government job. But Dhoni listened to his heart & decided to wander after his 'true calling'. 'The rest is history.' He emerged as best cricketer in Indian history. He wandered but was never lost.

The above stories are of Success. But many a times people who wander actually get lost. Some keep on wandering throughout life without achieving any success. we don't hear their stories. It is because we humans suffer from a "Confirmation bias". We hear overhighlighted stories of few people & tend to generalize.

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into a rule or norm.

For instance we do not talk about stories of struggles of thousands failed startups but tend to generalize success of one successful startup. we don't talk about struggle of V.D. Savarkar or the struggle of South African cricket team who are famously called 'Chokers' in cricket world cup.

So, if we follow above point of view, Does it mean one should not wander? . what if one fails? what is the worth of our efforts? .

To understand above question let us take the example



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from Mahabharat. 'Abhimanyu', the son of Arjuna, was sure that he doesn't know the skill of fully breaking "Chakravyuh" created by 'Kauravas'. Still he went to fight, to wander the war ground. He fought with all his might. Because he considered "fight as an end in itself" he never cared about final results.

Today we ~~remember~~ remember Abhimanyu not because whether he won or lost, but "because how courageously he fought the battle".

Similar is the life of

Wandering. Shri krishna in Bhag-
wad Gita talks about doing
one's duty without worrying
about results of the action. Our
full focus should be giving
our best without thinking
about winning or losing.

finally, we should know
what qualities one should have
so that our 'chances of getting
lost' in 'wandering journey' is
minimized.

To start with, one
should have courage. plato
has called courage as one of
his four Cardinal virtues. Courage
helps us in following other
values. It is about looking

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in the eyes of fear. It gives us strength and concurs with Vivekananda's message of "Strength is life & weakness is death".

Other than Courage we also need Temperance, the middle path approach.

Buddha and Aristotle have emphasized on this quality. It helps us in keeping our minds clear & focused. It

prevents us from useless indulgence. It helps us in taking a balanced decision which doesn't harm someone disproportionately.

Extending above quality, we need Compassion to understand others. Plato has said, "be kind".

for everyone you need is fighting a harder battle. In our journey of wandering we shouldn't hurt anyone.

And finally, we need strength of 'character'. Having poor character is a gandhian sin. When character is lost, we almost lose the strength to wander.

Using above qualities we are most likely to put our best efforts in our journey of Self discovery or wandering.

Wandering makes us strong & turns us into 'Organic Individuals' (Antonio Gramsci). Those who wander

have courage to fight social evils. for eg: organic individuals like Razo Ram Mohan Roy fought against 'Sati' & made this world a better place to live.

Finally, if we take the message from 'Isha Vasha Upanishad' which says "put your all efforts in your life's purpose and don't be greedy ('Ma Groadha')", we can live a life of wandering & not get lost.

In this journey of wandering, no matter what the consequences are, we will turn out to be a better person because as Khalil Gibran has said "Time's test of coal is diamond".