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ADVANCED INTEGRATED MENTORSHIP

ESSAY ASSESSMENT TEST-5

(To be filled by candidate)

Test Code : TC354

Name of Candidate : ABHISHEK SINGH

NEXT IAS Roll No. : AIM24GCL1035 **Date of Examination :** 20-11-2023

Exam Centre : Old Rajinder Nagar ☐ Bhopal ☐ Online ☒

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

This question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet contains 16 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

ESSAY

Invigilator's Sign. :

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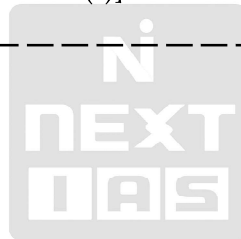
ed by the EXAMINATOR's response

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Marks Details [To be filled by the Examiner(s)]



Essay Question Number	Total marks

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



COMMENTS



COMMENTS



(4) The power to question is the basis of all human progress

Yuvraj Noah Harari in his famous book 'Sapiens' describes the trajectory of human progress. We have today dominated the whole earth & became the superior of all species. As per Harari it all began with the 'Cognitive revolution' which

happened due to Homo Sapiens unique ability to ask questions.

Humans think, ask questions & Cooperate to control the changes happening around them & within.

The above descriptions

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Page 4

Candidates
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forces us to ask further questions. like
what does human progress mean?
what is the present significance?
Do all humans have equal
power to question? To whom we
should ask the questions? & what
should be the question? What
happens when we don't
question? let us explore.

Questioning is as old
as human imagination. In the
Vedic times questions of child
'Nachiketa to Lord Yama' in
'Kathoupanishad' or the dialogue
between 'Crishi & Yajnavalkya'
in 'Brihadaranyak upanishad'
is testimony to this fact.

In the above upanishads we witnessed questions about life, belief system, religion, God, metaphysics & death. It has widened our scope of understanding.

Not only in vedic time but during medieval period fall of church & birth of 'positivism' happened due to questioning existing authority.

It brought renaissance & then the Industrial revolution in Europe.

'Positivism' refers to search for truth. perhaps first it was the 'Galileo'

& Socrates who questioned Church in search of truth. Galileo Challenged the 'Geocentric' view of Bible & gave his 'heliocentric theory'. Similarly Socrates questioned the existence of God & belief of people.

It is no surprise that both had to pay with their life for asking bold questions. But it is also true that they played unprecedented role in Human progress.

In the Eastern tradition, scholars like 'Buddha' evolved the method of Dialectics

which means 'asking questions' to gain knowledge. And this knowledge will lead to Salvation which has also been reiterated in Bhagwad GITA'S 'GYAN MARG' (path of knowledge).

Similarly Coming to Modern period, people ask questions to government, politicians in the democracy. Through this questioning the public servant is held accountable. For Instance Right to information act enables asking questions & reducing corruption in democracy.

Likewise, in the Scientific domain, scientists ask questions about existing theories & new discoveries. It was Einstein who questioned Newton's theory of gravity & gave his own theory of relativity which has broadened our understanding of time and space & opened new arena of Human progress.

Scientific way of looking at things has also brought progress at Societal level. when we question the evil practices of society like untouchability,

, manual encavanging, patriarchy etc then only we can remove them. we the new values of liberty, equality, fraternity & justice.

Values in society evolve with time as it is evident in acceptance of same-sex couples, live in relationships etc. Supreme Court has also given favourable judgments to bring societal progress for e.g. Joseph Shine Case (Abolishing Adultery).

Till now we have seen the benefits of questioning. But we have to ask whether all people have equal right to question?

In the present times, rich and powerful have more access to this opportunity than poor & destitute. Voice of marginalized section is not heard & even suppressed as can be seen in Caste violence, mob lynching, domestic violence etc.

Amartya Sen has called the above situation as "Lack of entitlements" among poor. He advocates for building Capacity of vulnerable section so that they can exercise their right to question in a democracy fearlessly. i.e. giving them the power to say that "Ballot is stronger than bullet".

Now let us explore what happens when we don't question.

We live in a post truth world where emotions and propaganda matters more than actual truth. Social media is ~~one~~ best example of that. People accept news without questioning the authenticity of source.

It takes only minutes to defame someone or cause a chaos through viral video. For instance recent deepfake video of Rashmika Mandhara caused great damage. Another example is of fake news of Palghar sadhus who were

lynched by mob without questioning the information regarding them.

In a similar way we don't question our Candidates in elections which has caused Criminalization of politics - 43% in 2019 LS election as per ADR Survey

Nowadays we do not question the environmental damage done by developmental activities or bogus claims made at United Nations Conference of parties at climate Summits.

Because of our ignorance

and inability to question we
today have put plastic bottles
on top of mountains & Carbon
at bottom of ocean. We today
have guided missiles but
misguided men

Hence it is the right time
to ask right questions & doubt
on things presented to us.

Rene Descartes once said "At least
once in a lifetime one should
question almost everything"
We should be sceptic but
in a balanced way.

We have to accept
what is right but have to
question what is wrong for

the human progress. But how.
Can we know what is wrong
& Right. It can be through
having strong knowledge of ethical
principles like Utilitarianism,
Deontology, Care ethics etc.

As discussed in beginning
Tural Noah harari has said
that questioning is necessary
for our very survival &
existence. John Locke has
called asking questions is
a Natural Right of humans
& we must use this right
for human progress

