

NEXT IAS

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ADVANCED INTEGRATED MENTORSHIP

ESSAY ASSESSMENT TEST-1

(To be filled by candidate)

Test Code : TC304

Name of Candidate : RITIKA CHITLANGIA

NEXT IAS Roll No. : AIM24GCRA075 **Date of Examination :** 15/7/23

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.

Two blank pages (Page Nos. 15-16) have been provided for rough work.

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.

SUBJECT/PAPER

ESSAY

Invigilator's Sign. :

Kindly do not write anything on this page and also do not soil it.

For Official Use	For Official Use
Signature of Examiner(s)	

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

Essay Question Number	Total marks

COMMENTS

NEXT IAS

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

The candidate should read the under-mentioned instructions carefully. Violation of any of the following instructions may entail penalty in the form of deduction of marks, cancellation of candidature, debarment from further Examinations.

1. Write your Roll Number and other details only in the space provided in the Question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet for the candidate.
2. Do not write in the QCA Booklet anything other than the actual answers of the questions such as couplet, obscene or abusive expression, etc., nor put any sign/mark having no relevance to the answers.
3. Do not make any direct/indirect appeal/ threat to the Examiner.
4. Do not write answers in bad or illegible handwriting. Such answers may not be evaluated.
5. Write answers in ink only. Do not use pencil for writing the answers. However, pencil may be used for drawing diagrams, sketches, etc.
6. Do not write answers in a medium other than the authorized medium in the Admission Certificate. Do not use mixed language, i.e., authorized and unauthorized media together, for writing answers.
7. Write answers at the specified spaces (right below the questions) only. Answers written elsewhere at unspecified spaces in the Booklet shall not be evaluated.
8. If you wish to cancel any work, draw your pen through it and write 'Cancelled' across it, otherwise it may be valued.

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

[125 × 1 = 125]

- Q.1 The middle path is the only road to harmonious living.
- Q.2 A ship in harbour is safe, but that's not what ship is for.
- Q.3 Technology is a useful servant but a dangerous master.
- Q.4 Patriarchy is the least noticed yet the most significant structure of social inequality.

Q1. The Middle Path is only road to harmonious living

The eve of 15th August, 1947, a new country but an ancient civilization, emerged from the darkness of colonialism, into the twilight of its tryst with destiny. The entire world, engaged in the depth of a cold war, waited keenly to see the scales tip in favour of either power bloc with the addition of this new country on the map of a bipolar world.

To everyone's awe, a new colour was added to the map, to mark the beginning of Non-Aligned Movement, the middle path between the capitalist United States of America and the communist Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

As Buddha said, "Middle Path is the only way to wisdom", it essentially means the path of balance between the extremes of life, to build a harmonious living. It involves surpassing the absolute good and the absolute bad, to carve out a life, of profound peace and productivity.

From sardar Vallabhai Patel to S. Jaichankar, these great leaders have taught the world, how the path of balance, realism and principles, can lead to concretising one's place, amidst a bedlam of chaos and competition.

This essay will examine various extremes of common life and the ultimate middle path, to live a harmonious life.

The very first dimension revolves around prioritising the self or society.

The eternal debate surrounding the development of an individual and welfare of the society, has gone through various interpretations.

Personal Development, including physical, intellectual and spiritual is essential to live a peaceful life. It includes educational empowerment, health, prosperity, freedom of speech and expression and many other non-negotiable rights.

On the other hand lies the overall collective welfare of the society.

To understand, our country's constitution enables one to practice, profess and propagate one's religion, however, sensitising the malpractices to public health, order, security and safety of the society, reasonable restrictions are imposed. Hence, this encapsulates how

rights of an individual and the well-being of the society can be harmoniously constructed. The way our constitution-makers have balanced Fundamental Rights along with Directive Principles of state policy, is another beautiful example of harmony between personal and societal development.

Another aspect of the same coin can be relevant in the domain of economic growth along with human development.

As someone said, "While wantlessness is utopian, materialism is a chimera".

This can be understood in the context of aiming for GDP growth through promotion of manufacturing, extraction of natural resources, market competition, private ownership of property and ease of doing business,

along with distributive justice, purchasing power parity, poverty alleviation, inter and intra-generational equity, sustainability and inclusivity.

Even in this domain, Indian economy, is also a melting pot, as initially it started as a socialistic democracy, but later opened up the economy through LPG reforms in 1991. Today, government policies like SVANIDHI, PM-Mudra Yojana, PM-KISAN, Vijwala Yojana etc. are all directed towards achieving growth with human development, for a peaceful and prosperous society.

Having considered the economic dilemma, the most contemporary debate revolves around environmental determinism and possibilism.

The debate revolves around questions like resource utilisation versus resource conservation, infrastructural development

against environmental protection,
modernity versus traditional rights etc.
This can be exemplified through the
recent debate around widening of roads
in uttarakhand, a Himalayan state,
for strengthening pilgrimage tourism.
While building roads can lead to
economic benefits, greater ease to tourists,
modern amenities for locals, it also
raises salient questions with respect
to fragile ecosystem, prone to floods,
landslides, avalanches, land subsidence,
biodiversity loss and much more.
In this regard, formulation of a well-
balanced policy, based on Environment
Impact Assessment, inclusion of tribal
representatives, economic expertise and
local involvement, is the way forward
to a harmonious life.

Coming to the geopolitical middle ground,
India's foreign policy is a master piece.

In this chaos of conflicting and
cross-cutting multilateralism, it is
evident that our world is heading
towards a polarised reality.

In this context, India being invited to
G-7 meeting and BRICS summit in a week;
hosting G-20 as well as Shanghai
Cooperation Organisation in the same
year; envoys being sent to the USA,
along with China; is nothing short of
a massive feat in following the middle
path. The erstwhile British colony is
now well on its way to become the
global leader, by following a path of
balance and harmony.

Now, coming onto the last yet the
most crucial aspect of today's world,
that is, technology.

with its ever-growing presence in our lives, balancing the banes and boons of technology is inevitable for a peaceful civilization.

The positives like AI in education, health, medicine, transportation, content-generation, logistics, agriculture etc., needs to be balanced with negatives like cyber frauds, digital divide, internet shutdowns, deepfakes, dark patterns, ethical dilemmas and data privacy. As the quote says, "Technology can be a useful servant, but a dangerous master", carving out a well-balanced mechanism is key to happy living.

Therefore, the aforementioned dimensions are only a few domains, wherein following a balanced approach, can yield great dividends. This can be

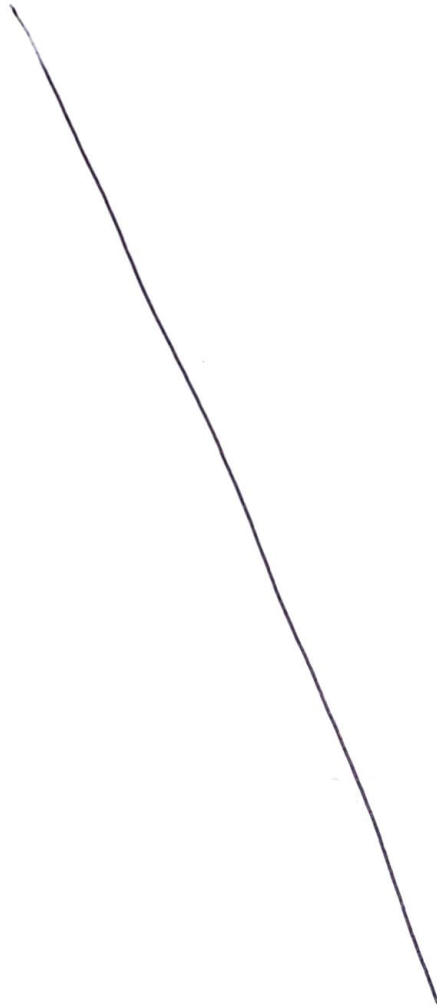
quaged with the successful examples of countries like Japan. Despite being the victim of fiery volcanoes, earthquakes, nuclear disasters, fascist leaders etc., it has still been able to carve out a balanced niche in fields of economic growth and human development; technological advancement and protection of traditional lifestyle; modernisation and environment conservation. Scandinavian countries like Norway, Finland, Denmark are other note worthy winners.

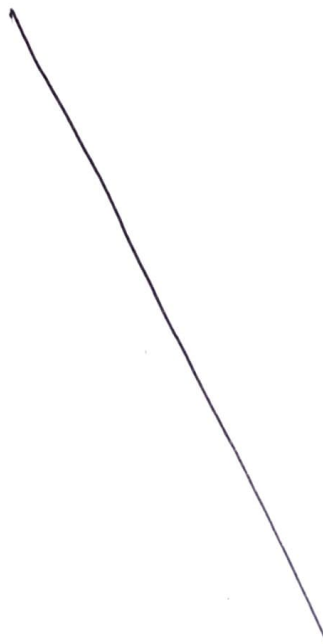
Nonetheless, despite numerous advantages of the middle path, there are certain spheres like terrorism, war, genocide, and other areas, where following the middle path is not the way to achieve harmonious living. These are evils which should not be accepted in the 21st century, and need to be resolved immediately.

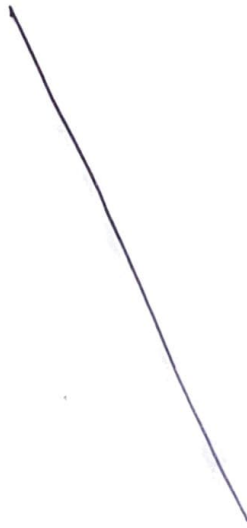
Hence, the relevance of following the middle path in today's increasingly diverging extremes, has become all the more important. Balance is the fertile middle ground, from where the garden of prosperity, peace and positivity, will bloom.

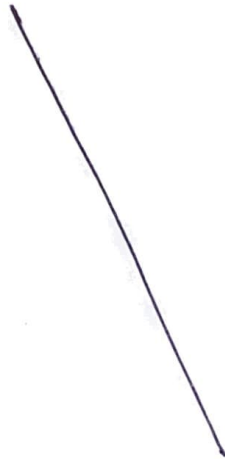
As Paulo Coelho said, "there lies the middle path, where there is no joy, nor sorrow, but only profound peace".

Thus, that small, new country, which was born in the midst of massive troubles, today, being the most populous nation, will find its way to a harmonious living, if it continues to follow the middle path.









Space for Rough Work

Middle Path is the only road to harmonious living → start with anecdote or eg - eg of some country.

Intro: We have to find a middle path, where there is neither joy, nor suffering, only profound peace. → Historical examples - Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, S. Jaishankar. ⇒ 1½ pages

Areas where can follow the middle path. (Don't make cheap sectors)

② Economy - while wantlessness is utopian, materialism is chimera. ⇒ 1.5 page

→ Middle path b/w economic growth & social wellbeing = Harmonious living.

① Individualism v/s socialism. Health care, youth
↳ personal dev. ↳ societal development
↳ individual freedom ↳ collective welfare ⇒ 1.5 page
Eg: FR & DPSP.

③ Determinism v/s possibilism. ⇒ 1.5 page ⑤ Geopolitics
Eg: Dam construction v/s tribal rights & env. destruction. eg: India

middle path = Hop & go determinism - Griffith Taylor.

④ Technology - useful servant, dangerous master.
Benefits of tech. ⇒ middle path. - 1.5 page
Challenges of tech. 6 pages + 1½ = 7.5 pages

Examples of countries who have followed middle paths = Japan, Scandinavian countries. = 1 page.

Drawback of middle path = inconclusive. Eg: Terrorist groups (complete elimination) poverty alleviation

Conclusion - add Paulo Coelho's quote here.