

# NEXT IAS

## ESSAY-Test 1 निबन्ध-परीक्षा 1 CSE 2024

कार्यालय के प्रयोग हेतु  
For Office Use

निर्धारित समय: तीन घंटे  
Time Allowed: Three Hours

अधिकतम अंक: 250  
Maximum Marks: 250

### General Instructions

This question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet contains 32 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. 31-32) 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.

### सामान्य अनुदेश

इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यू० सी० ए०) पुस्तिका में 32 पृष्ठ हैं। प्रश्न-पत्र क्यू० सी० ए० पुस्तिका के अन्त में संलग्न है, जो अलग (वियोज्य) किया जा सकता है और उम्मीदवार परीक्षा के उपरांत अपने साथ ले जा सकते हैं।

रफ़ कार्य के लिए दो खाली पृष्ठ (पृष्ठ सं० 31-32) दिए गए हैं।

पुस्तिका प्राप्त होने पर, कृपया यह जाँच कर लें कि इस क्यू० सी० ए० पुस्तिका में कोई कमी न हो, फटा हुआ पृष्ठ न हो अथवा कोई पृष्ठ गायब न हो इत्यादि। यदि ऐसा हो, तो इसके बदले नई क्यू० सी० ए० पुस्तिका प्राप्त कर लें।

(To be filled by candidate)

All fields mandatory

(Inaccurate/Incomplete information may lead to delay in the evaluation process)

Name of Candidate : DIKSHA RAI

Next IAS Roll No. : GSMACT24A1593

Test Code → TC- 0 6 1 Date of Examination : 14/08/2024

Exam Centre : Old Rajinder Nagar  Jaipur  Prayagraj  Online

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Invigilator's Signature

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Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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प्राप्तांक के विवरण (परीक्षक द्वारा भरा जाए)/Marks Details [To be filled by the Examiner(s)]

	निबन्ध विषय सं० Essay Topic No.	अंक Marks	
खण्ड-A Section-A			
खण्ड-B Section-B			
सकल योग/Grand Total			

Your performance vis-a-vis other examinees-

Front Runner	Achiever	Aspirant

**EVALUATOR'S FEEDBACK: ESSAY SECTION-A**

Parameters	Exemplary	Good	Average	Needs Improvement
Understanding				
Coherence				
Lucidity				
Structuring				
Presentation				



**EVALUATOR'S FEEDBACK: ESSAY SECTION-B**

Parameters	Exemplary	Good	Average	Needs Improvement
Understanding				
Coherence				
Lucidity				
Structuring				
Presentation				



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## खण्ड-A / Section-A

- Q.1 If it costs you your peace, it is too expensive.  
यदि इससे आपकी शांति छिनती है, तो यह बहुत महँगी है।
- Q.2 In the flood of data, the thirst still remains.  
आँकड़ों की बाढ़ में, प्यास अब भी बाकी है।
- Q.3 A star has to burn to give light to others but that's what stars are meant for.  
एक सितारे को दूसरों को रोशनी देने के लिए जलना पड़ता है, लेकिन सितारे इसी के लिए बने हैं।
- Q.4 The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.  
किसी व्यक्ति का अंतिम मापदंड यह नहीं है कि वह आराम और सुविधा के क्षणों में कहाँ खड़ा है, बल्कि यह है कि वह चुनौती और विवाद के समय कहाँ खड़ा है।

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in the moments of comfort and convenience but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

The father of Ancient Greek philosophy, Socrates was sentenced to death for apparently misleading the youth of Athens. His well wishers and students arranged for him to escape the prison and thus evade the death sentence. It appeared to be an easy and obvious choice for him. However Socrates denied their request and instead chose to <sup>consume</sup> ~~drink~~ the poison 'Hemlock', setting a legendary example for integrity and moral uprightness.

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Adversity and inconvenient circumstances could not pollute his character and break his will. He could have comfortably chosen to escape but did not, as it would have meant compromising the very ideals he espoused.

Man is a thinking animal, endowed with higher faculties of cognition and ability to differentiate right from the wrong. However adherence to morals often goes for a spin in the face of challenge and controversy.

This essay is an endeavour to explore the how true character of a man comes out in the face of challenge and adversity, how people sometimes bend when faced with such challenges. Finally, It further explores the instances when people have shown character irrespective of the circumstances.

### Man in the lap of comfort

As children we often used to approach our parents with our demands based on how happy they seemed or how their mood was. It indicates how from the young age we have inculcated the perception that people are more likely to do good or help others when they themselves are in a comfortable situation.

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Thus it seems that it is easier to act ethically when one doesn't have to look out for one's own comfort or challenges.

For, a wealthy business it is relatively easy to do charity when compared with, let's say, a hungry street dweller.

Lack of challenges and adversity engenders a congenial environment for people to adhere to virtues and moral principles. It is said that, "for a hungry man, god comes in the form of food". Hence it may seem unjustified to expect a person struggling with basic necessities or dealing with a crisis in his own life to act virtuously.

However, integrity demands us to act morally even when faced with adverse situations

### Morality at times of challenge & controversy

Viktor Frankl, narrates his experience as an inmate in a concentration camp in his book, "Man's search for meaning in life". He argues that man is capable of finding his purpose and calling, <sup>even</sup> when ~~when~~ enduring dehumanising and excruciatingly painful sufferings. His grit and true character is most visible during such adversities.

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Great personalities, throughout ~~the~~ history have time and again showed conviction and integrity despite adversities.

During the civil war in USA, Abraham Lincoln showed immense courage of conviction in leading the country out of possible disintegration while not ~~to~~ cowering down to the demands of southerners to retain the inhuman practise of slavery.

Similarly Nelson Mandela, was born in the royal family of his community. He could have easily chosen a life of comfort by participating in maintaining the status quo. However he ~~lose~~ chose the path riddled with uncertainties and demanding huge personal sacrifices on his part. He spent his youth years in jail <sup>just</sup> for a cause he held to be his purpose - dismantling of apartheid regime. His exemplary life is a shining example of how true character of a person is really visible in not so convenient circumstances.

Back home, the legend of Maryada Purushottam Sri Ram ~~exp~~ exemplifies the same spirit. He had shown his pure character and ideals ~~but~~ even while he embarked upon the challenging banishment to the forests.

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Another such instance we find is in the life of Gautam Buddha. He voluntarily chose to give up his life of comfort and convenience <sup>of his palace</sup> to embark on his journey to find the ultimate <sup>1</sup> truth. It was while he was facing physical challenges, while roaming in the wilderness that he was able to formulate the philosophy of one of the greatest Religions, Buddhism.

Fast forward to the freedom struggle we find innumerable instances of great leaders displaying great courage of conviction during adversities.

Mahatma Gandhi could have chosen to continue with his practise of law quietly, minding his own business as a loyal citizen of the Raj.

But instead chose to not ~~not~~ only challenge the injustices of the British Colonial Govt but lead India to Freedom. Even after ~~the~~ India got Independence, he didn't dwell on ~~the~~ the comfort and celebrate. Instead, on the day of Independence he was working tirelessly for Hindu-Muslim unity and stopping the communal frenzy.

~~The~~ Having discussed the instances when great men didn't compromise the values and morals and thus their character in the face of adversity, lets explore how challenging circumstance sometimes <sup>rob</sup> men of their morality.

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The disrobing of Draupadi, as narrated in Mahabharata is a tragic tale of how great men, known for their uprightness failed to stand up for the honour of a woman, publicly disrespected by Duryodhana and his brothers.

Similar cowardness was displayed by some upperclass landowners who sided with the British Colonial govt when faced with the prospect of losing their property and wealth.

In every day life too we constantly see how people's adherence of moral principles is contextual.

A witness when threatened for dire consequences turns hostile. A civil servant chooses to collude with corrupt politicians when faced with the prospect of shunting or frequent transfers. A bystander chooses not to help a dying <sup>road</sup> accident victim to avoid uncomfortable visits to police stations.

These instances are indicative of weak moral integrity displayed by people. When ~~everyone~~ <sup>everyone</sup> ~~people~~ starts ~~behaving~~ anchoring their moral decisions, it opens flood gates of chaos in the society.

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Perils of Contextual morality

German Philosopher Immanuel Kant in had espoused the deontological theory of ethics which calls for doing the right thing irrespective of consequences. The first imp categorical imperative he talked about was to only such things which are universally applicable thereby highlighting the perils of "morality according to self interest".

One should not compromise their ideals just to be comfortable and avoid challenges. Contextual morality is not only detrimental to peace and order in society but also for an individual's own self satisfaction. Evading responsibilities and duties based on <sup>in</sup> ~~dis~~ the context of challenging circumstances leads to crisis of conscience and cognitive Dissonance.

Swami Dayanda saraswati highlighted this while propounding the concept of "Knewer-does split". When one proceeds to ~~go~~ commit an immoral act even while being aware of it being unethical, faces disharmony in his soul.

~~Therefore~~

Thus the perils of ~~moral~~ conditional morality has been comprehensively dealt with by philosophers, all advising against it.

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The Right Approach: Moral Integrity

Integrity is the highest value, the ~~status~~ <sup>virtue</sup> of virtues.

A man having the value of integrity adheres to his virtues irrespective of whether he is in a comfortable circumstance or is facing challenging situation.

The ex-Prime Minister of India is an epitome of sticking to his values in crisis as well as convenience. He continued to be humble, <sup>and righteous</sup> during freedom struggle, when his family was barely able to make two ends meet ~~and~~ as he did after he became Prime Minister of such a large country as India.

Similarly APJ Abdul Kalam didn't compromise with his ideals and values in comfortable circumstances, when he was the president of India as also during challenging circumstances when he was struggling in his personal life.

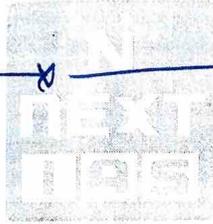
The two examples of great statesman of our country signifies how integrity is a choice. A man is perfectly capable of being uncompromising in upholding his character irrespective of the situational context. As Sartre argues, a man

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has freedom of choice, he is equally responsible for the exercise of his choices & their circumstances.

Under Challenge and controversies ~~also~~ it may seem to be prudent to compromise on the duties & morality. However as Thomas Jefferson said, "On matters of style, swim with the current, on matters of principle, stand like a rock."



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### खण्ड-B / Section-B

- Q.5 Civilization begins with order, grows with liberty, and dies with chaos.  
सभ्यता व्यवस्था के साथ प्रारंभ होती है, स्वतंत्रता के साथ बढ़ती है, और अराजकता के साथ समाप्त हो जाती है।
- Q.6 A single drop never feels responsible for the flood.  
एक बूँद कभी भी बाढ़ के लिए खुद को उत्तरदायी नहीं मानती।
- Q.7 Never does nature say one thing and wisdom another.  
प्रकृति और बुद्धि अलग-अलग बात नहीं कहते।
- Q.8 Present demonstrates the lessons of history, albeit the hard way.  
वर्तमान इतिहास के सबक को दर्शाता है, यद्यपि कठिन तरीके से।

Civilisation Begins with order, grows with liberty and dies with chaos

Modern humans, evolved around 70,000 years ago, human existence has thus been only a tiny part of existence of the universe. Still shorter has been the existence of civilisation which began around 5000 years ago. But since then humankind has made rapid advances in ~~the~~ terms of our ability to manipulate the physical world through sophisticated technologies. This ability to have a sense of control over our environment and well being is both result of and reason behind civilisation.

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In this essay we will explore the ~~origi~~ origin of civilisation, its evolution through growth in liberty, ~~and~~ ultimately <sup>we will</sup> deal with the probable causes of its demise and how to avoid them.

### The time before civilisation: CHAOS

Before reaching the age of civilisation, humans eked out a marginal existence, lacking the sense of superiority and strength over environment and other species, characteristic of present times.

<sup>Initially,</sup>  
A People depended on gathering food and scavenging ~~initially~~ with development of tools, man became hunters, but still lead a ~~new~~ hand to mouth existence characterised by Nomadism. There was lack of certainty and, thus ~~order~~ a constant struggle for survival.

As Thomas Hobbes, in Leviathan, expressed, ~~the~~ human life ~~was~~ existence during that period was "nasty, brutish and short": lack of political authority, laws and general rules and regulations aided in the selfish instincts of humans resulting in a society wherein each band was suspicious of the other. ~~This was~~ <sup>this</sup> lack of trust and social cooperation.

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lead to chaos and general lack of order.

**Age of Civilisation : characterised by order**

As humans began domesticating plants and animals, their population grew. The provision of surplus food enabled people to live in permanent settlement. This was the beginning of the arrival of order in human societies.

Man became capable of indulging in other occupations ~~as~~ as food was now not the only thing to be worried for as settled agriculture lead to enough foodgrain production with fewer hands.

Thus began the specialisation of occupations such as ~~as~~ metallurgy, pottery, trade, jewellery making, etc. The simultaneous development of ~~writing~~ written language gave a major push towards the development of civilisation.

Thus - these enabling circumstances, led to the development of state, political institutions, law and thus order in social life. People were bound in what so called "social contract". Social relations were characterised by respect to ~~pea~~ each other's rights and voluntary commitment to adhere general rules and regulations.

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Celebrated author, Yuval Noah Harari in his book "Sapiens", argues that people's ability to cooperate with each other on a large scale is the most significant reason behind relative success of humankind as a species. Civilisation ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup> characterised by such cooperation. ~~and~~

The famous ~~down~~ <sup>value</sup> planning of Indus Value Civilisation signifies the importance of order which came along with civilisation. As people began cooperating at a large scale, the progress in society witnessed an ~~extra~~ exponential pace. Within 5000 years of the beginning of civilisation we have been able to set foot on Moon as have we taught machines how "to think".

≡

### Civilisation Grows with Liberty

As the <sup>human</sup> civilisation progressed humans <sup>became</sup> got increasingly self capable in fulfilling their basic ~~p~~ needs. Sophisticated technologies of agricultural production, storage, trade and division of labour pushed humans towards realising higher order needs.

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People began to wonder about philosophical questions such as what is meaning of existence? Is there a higher power above us? What happens when we die?

• This curiosity to unravell the mystery of human existence led to the development of Religion and Philosophy.

The Vedic texts and upanishads, written thousands of years ago grapples with these questions. However free flow of ideas and philosophy is ~~based~~ conditioned on the presence of liberty.

Socrates, the venerated Greek philosopher had to die due to his "eccentric ideas".

Similarly Copernicus ~~and~~ Galileo and numerous other such "eccentrics" faced persecution for espousing ideas and scientific facts which were against the predominant & prevalent wisdom of the Time.

This led to stagnation of Civilisation in the medieval period, called "Dark Ages" in Europe. Civilisational progress was gasping for the breath of liberty!

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The fresh air of liberty swept through Europe and subsequently most of the world, ~~was~~ during Renaissance and scientific revolution.

From the invention of spinning Jenny and Powerloom to spaceships and Chat GPT, humans were able to achieve such dramatic technological progress due to Freedom - freedom to express, innovate and pursue one's ideas and conventions.

Liberty also led to political progress.

From the Glorious ~~was~~ revolution of 1688, the ideas of liberty and limited government gained pace. American Revolution led to establishment of the first democracy in the world based on the foundation of rights of 'men'

Again, French Revolution, remarkably spread the ideas of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity which became rallying call later on ~~is~~ for many colonies struggling for independence.

Philosophers like Rousseau, John Locke and Voltaire had a major role to play in the political revolutions across continents. They argued for the quintessential respect ~~turn~~ to rights and liberties of men.

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§ Liberty Preamble of India, not disconnected from the context, espouses the liberty of thought, expression, belief faith and worship.

Similarly the liberty to movement both within & outside country eventually led to Globalisation and the world becoming a Global village. The progress of civilisation gained from ensuring free flow of ideas and people.

Multiculturalism and multiethnicity has been only possible because of people's liberty to choose and conserve their identities and affiliations.

However, Despite all these advantages of liberty, it is not an absolute right.

### Absolute Liberty: Recipe for chaos

~~Liberty is the ability to do what one~~  
Liberty is generally explained to be state of absence of external constraint. But one should not get entangled in such simplistic view of liberty.

The constitution of India also mentions limitations to liberty in the form of exceptions to Freedom of speech and expression. §

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John Locke, in "On Liberty" had explained the axiomatic principle on liberty - The Harm principle. One's liberty is limited by the prospect of causing harm to others.

This liberty as a concept demands mutual respect of others' rights. Thus both absence of liberty and ~~presence~~ pursuit of absolute liberty is harmful to the progress of civilisation as it leads to chaos.

~~Chaos~~

Chaos unchecked leads to demise of civilisation

In the absence of proper checks, regulations and cooperation among people, suspicion and derision is born.

A civilisation, while thrives because of order and stability, gets threatened due to lack of it.

Chaos ensues when people start practising liberty in absence of social context.

The purported liberty to practise one's own religion without respecting right of others to do the same led to mutual war of attrition during Crusades.

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One of the most inhuman episodes which threatened humanity and thus civilisation was the period of world ~~war~~ <sup>war</sup> II when Nazis in Germany denied the most basic liberty - right to live to a whole section of the population. 6 million Jews were exterminated in concentration camps through heart wrenching and bone chilling methods.

The world realised the need to establish order post ~~war~~ world war 2 and took various steps to check chaos. United Nations was institutionalised and Universal Declaration of Human Rights delineated the baselines below which no society ~~was~~ is supposed to fall.

### Contemporary threats and how to deal with them

The contemporary challenges of terrorism, religious extremism, human trafficking, instability and war are all increasing the chaos, collectively humanity faces.

While a bit of chaos is needed for progress, there needs to be concerted efforts to conserve & protect people's liberty and check chaos.

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Global institutions like UN, WHO, FAO as well as countries themselves need to act responsibly to resolve conflict & foster harmony.

Indian philosophies of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (oneness of humanity and nationalistic boundaries) and sarva dharma sambhava are • guiding lights for world peace and civilisational progress.

"We need to learn to live together or we will ~~perish~~ perish together"  
— Carl Sagan.

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Space for Rough Work

Intro → ~~Att~~

Examples

- Socrates - Hemlock
- Abraham Lincoln
- Bhagat Singh
- Savithi Bai Phule
- Vinoba Bhave
- Mala Yashzai.
- Mehsa Ammini

Philosophies

- unexamined life
- Self Actualisation - Maslow
- Leadership.

Astarak has to burn to give light to others but that's what stars are meant for

→ Tank Man - Tiananmen Square.

Counter

- Ethical Egoism
- Not always →

Intro - Viktor Frankl.

→ Counter perspective

Socrates unexamined life

ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in the moment of comfort and convenience but where he stands at times of challenge & controversy

Space for Rough Work

Ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in the moments of comfort and convenience but where he stands at times of challenge & controversy

Intro - Viktor Frankl - man's search for meaning in life.

Human in the lap of comfort and convenience

Anne Frank - Despite All this, I still believe in goodness in people's heart.

Men in comfort and convenience

Ata can be altruistic, when content. -  
• wealthy Buzman indulges in charity.

Bending morality during challenges →

- Draupadi cheer Haram.
- Disrobing of Draupadi
- Freedom struggle - Landowners favouring British.
- Witnesses becoming hostile

→ |