NEXT IAS

ESSAY-Test 1
निबन्ध–परीक्षा 1
CSE 2024

कार्यालय के प्रयोग हेतु
For Office Use

निर्धारित समयः तीन घंटे
Time Allowed: Three Hours

अधिकतम अंकः *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 : YASHVI JAIN

Next IAS Roll No. : GSPM24A19148

Test Code → TC- 0 6 1   Date of Examination : 13/08/24

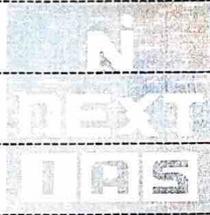Exam Centre :   Old Rajinder Nagar ☐   Jaipur ☐   Prayagraj ☐   Online ✓

निरीक्षक के हस्ताक्षर
Invigilator's Signature

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Student's Queries for the Evaluator (if any write them below)
wanted to know about flow & structuring the essay?

Evaluator's response

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

3

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				

2:02

ΓEXT IAS

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 moments of comfort & convenience but where he stands at times of challenges & controversy."

It's with a bag full of dreams and eyes full of hope that aspirants from all over the country make their way into the streets of Karol Bagh in Delhi to prepare for the prestigious UPSC examination. The sight of thousands of aspirants hustling in these streets is not uncommon here.

However, the recent incident of 3 students drowning due to overflooding of a library ~~here~~ is what jolted the country awake to the true realities of the condition of the students here.

Every aspirant leaving the <u>comfort of homes</u> and the <u>convenience of ignorance</u> came on the streets to protest for justice and demand for safe study & living conditions.

Not just the students but <u>renowned personalities</u> like <u>former IAS Manu Jain</u> ~~as~~ along with faculties and teachers from various institutes joined in leaving a huge impact demanding change and freedom from <u>exploitation</u>. However, those who chose to remain ignorant, remained so.

Hence, the measure of an individual is indeed derived

phone what choices one makes in terms of adversities & challenges. Does one choose to stand up and face them or remain silent.

It's very easy to criticize and comment on such situations from the comfort our homes but to actually stand up and raise a voice to change the ground realities requires courage and willingness to bring a change along with intolerance for injustice. Similar were the cases of Protests in Nirbhaya case & wrestler's protests.

In the recent modern world, the terms 'comfort zone' and "safe space" have become all too prominent that even in a burning world, people derive comfort from the heat. This reminds of the story of the

frog in a pot of water whose temper-ature is gradually increased. The frog keeps adjusting and finding comfort in the rising temperature, till it finally is burned alive.

Hence, our comfort may be protecting us mentally but in reality it may be doing more harm than good. If you aren't standing up for a batchmate being bullied with the thought that it doesn't concern you, then some day you might be in his shoes as well.

One should enjoy while we are enjoying comfort of life. At the same time we should be grateful for being blessed enough to have them. Standing in a provision privelege, we shouldn't shirk away from the responsibilities

when adversities arise. Like Gandhiji rightfully said, "There is no service greater than service to mankind." Gautam Buddha had a royal life laid down for him but he chose the path to spread peace and dharma instead in a world of misery.

Facing challenges & controversies is a subjective response of each individual. On one hand there are those who resort to self protectionist measures as seen in cases of hoarding behaviour during COVID-19 pandemic. On the other hand, there are those who believe that actual good is the one which is good for all, exhibited by our nation through project Maitri in distribution of vaccines worldwide during the pandemic.

Hence, instead of selfish & self centred responses in terms of challenges one should work towards conflict resolution that benefits all. Learnings from the lives of Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar who put tremendous efforts in improving the conditions of women by abolishing sati and allowing widow remarriage. going against the likes of Indian society at that time.

Furthermore, one should also have the courage to stand up for one self & one's beliefs, and self interests, not in terms of selfish gains but self interest. If one's suffering from discriminatory behaviour at work for being a women, one should raise a voice just like Rosa Parks did.

At the same time, how one responds to challenges is an

important factor in determining the consequence of the end result. On one hand. Gandhiji through his <u>non-violent Satyagrah</u> succeeded in sending the British back leading to independence, on the other hands, Hitler's attempt at purification of society led to mass genocide of the jews. violence does begets violence & Gandhiji was right when he said that "<u>eye for an eye makes the whole world blind</u>".

However, one needs to know <u>which battles and challenges to fight for</u>. A lost cause might not be worth fighting for. One cannot be fight an elephant alone & expect to win. Every person needs to be <u>smart enough to choose the challenges in life</u> worth fighting for. and channelize one's energy in right direction. <u>Albert Einstein</u> dropped out of

school at 15 years of age and went forward to make history in field of science. Similarly, Japan after mass death & destruction in Hiroshima & Nagasaki worked towards developing themselves becoming one of the top 5 economies of the world.

However, one question still irks $\frac{z}{2}$ what stops people from leaving comfort and deal with issues? Perhaps it maybe the fear of failure or undesirable consequences. Another be societal judgement and lack of support. Patriachal nature of society subsumes voice of women, developed nations prevent developing nations from becoming developed, greeds prevents environmental conservation & public validation kills self confidence. Hence, one is unable to move forward to do better & be better and

react to accepting their conditions the way that they are.

Not facing adversities comes with its own set of challenges which leads to resorting to unhealthy defence and coping mechanisms. Guilt and regret are the most common emotions followed by grief, anger and feeling of revenge. Attributing one's conditions to extrinsic factors rather than accepting intrinsic battles that are to be done.

We need to realise that every action has its own consequence and one would have to live with those consequences depending on the our attitudes, beliefs and actions. Oppenheimer might be the father of the atomic bomb but had to forever live with guilt of causing mass destruction & death of thousands. if not millions.

Due to actions having consequence, the great personalities of Gandhiji & Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar ji are revered as <u>Mahatma</u> whereas <u>Hitler</u>, as mass murderer.

There is a dire need to inculcate the values of <u>selflessness</u> and <u>kindness</u> in each individual. Every member of the <u>society</u> should feel <u>responsible</u> towards oneself, <u>others</u> and the <u>nation</u> to ensure incidents like the one which happened in <u>karol bagh</u> are <u>never repeated</u>. Embodying of values of <u>service, courage</u> and <u>honesty</u> are necessary to face the challenges in life.

Learning from the buddhist philosophy of <u>middle path</u>, one needs to learn to <u>balance between comfort and confrontation</u> to lead a holistic and fulfilling life leading

to development of character of a
great man. To be sensitive
and selfless is what one should
shine for. as one of the 7 sins of
Mahatma Gandhi also talked
about ~~no pain with ple without~~
~~pleasure~~.

"No pleasure without a conscience."

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।

"A single drop never feels responsible for the flood"

'It's just one plastic wrapper'. 'It's just one cigarette', one hate comment, one bar of chocolate, one snide remark to a friend or just one bribe of Rs. 500. These are just some common phrases that plague today's society.

In a world of more than 8 billion people, if when every individual has the same thought

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process, they would never feel responsible towards their collective actions to oneself and others having large scale Impacts like that of environmental degradation, cyberbullying, obesity and corruption.

Just like one drop doesn't feel responsible for the flood, none individual feels responsible for them actions contributing to the bigger picture.

Now, why does a single drop NOT feel responsible for the flood? The reasons could be many but to cite a few, the most common is the bystander effect where an individual feels that it isn't his responsibility to help/better

the situation & someone else would do it. This starts a chain reaction whereby nobody takes a step forward. The increasing incidents of individuals not helping road accident victims leading to their deaths provides proof for the same.

Secondly, individuals have a tendency to focus on their selfish gains rather than others which comes at a cost. In the veil of acting in self interest, they forget about the floods they bring with them. Harshad Mehta scam and Vijay Malya's scam are known to all in this regard.

Lastly, lack of self awareness and an external locus of control where one blames others for the consequences of one's own actions

also plays an important role in preventing an individual from accepting responsibility. Littering on the roads while blaming the poors on the streets for uncleanliness is nothing if not hypocrisy.

Moreover, each of our action has consequences but we feel their scale is too small to make an actual difference. We tend to forget that it's only when every drop coalesces, is it capable of causing a flood. In the same way the collective ignorance or collective responsibility would determine the consequence of a single action.

Thus, it becomes crucial for every drop to recognise its responsibility

* Boond Boond se banta hai sagar

(every drop joins in to form an ocean) Therefore, it is <u>small efforts</u> leading to <u>tremendous transformation</u>. If every one of the 1.4 billion Indians started throwing trash in bins, we would never need <u>swacch Bharat abhyan</u>. If every individual started <u>respecting women</u> in the society, the whole society would <u>flourish</u>. If every individual became <u>empathetic and kind</u>, mental health of each & all would improve.

~~Our This makes~~ This reminds me of the childhood <u>fable</u> of the <u>crow</u> & the <u>water pot</u> ~~&~~ where by slowly adding stones to it, he raised the level of water & quenched his thirst. He would have lost hope but he realised the <u>significance of his small steps leading to success</u>. Even Amitabh Bachan recognised the importance

of one deep through his tagline "Ek boond zindagi ki" which has helped eradicate polio from India.

Accepting responsibility makes one a _reliable_ and a _trustworthy_ individual. It improves _interpersonal relationships_ and the _quality of life_. When each one gets is sensitive to their actions and words, it _reduces conflicts_ and hence _conflict resolution_.

This wouldn't just benefit oneself but the _society_ and _nations_ as a whole. The constitutional principles of _equality_ and _liberty_ would be upheld, the chances of war would be reduced & one would feel the safe in one's own nation. Many living upto the principles of _vasudhaiva kutumbakam_ (one world, one family)

However, where a drop doesn't feel responsible for the flood, it can also have drastic consequences. Selfish interests overtake welfare hampering the growth and development of an individual as well as the society. It was a spat between a hindu & muslim that led to the muzzafarnagar riots of 2013, only if they had accepted responsibility for their action, the scene would be quite different today.

Furthermore, it leads to erosion of moral values where which brings us to the case of Pooja khedkar who was stripped off her rank & barred from civil services for falsifying her documents.

When we don't assume collective responsibility in the society, we widen the gap between the rich & the poor

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capitalism remains on a rise whereas socialism as envisioned by Gandhiji starts taking a backseat. In such a scenario, it's no surprise than Oxfam report points towards the richest 1% holding more than 40% of the country's wealth.

climate change & global warming are the consequences of lack of individual efforts while governments can't be solely blamed for lack of mitigation measures. We, as humans living on this planet often forget our responsibility towards it when we aren't mindful of our action. Use of highly polluting vehicles, polluting rivers, excessive use of plastic, littering are just some activities we carry out on day to day basis without thinking the harm it's causing in the bigger picture.

This brings us to the question of what can be done & and what

should be done?

"Be the change you want to see".

One first step is to stop being mere spectators and critics but actually practice what one preaches. If you're against bullying, stand up against it, against discrimination, don't make fun of your North Eastern friends, against corruption? Don't take a bribe. Start small, big changes would follow. One action of Rosa Parks led to an entire movement against discrimination of blacks.

Practice self retrospection, it helps generate self awareness & attain actualisation as also mentioned in "Maslow's heirarchy of needs". It makes an individual more mindful. Mahatma Gandhi, with his one ideology of non-violence ended the colonial rule. Gautum Buddha with his philosophy of middle path taught

the importance of a _balanced life_. These are the _self actualised individuals_ who were capable of bringing massive changes because they felt a sense of responsibility towards others.

Like I mentioned, a drop can form an ocean but at the same time, it can cause a flood. it depends on the _course of action_ it chooses to take. _Constructivism_ and _destruction_, both are in the hands of the drop. _Post independence_, on one hand _India_ lead to _prosperity_ through its ideology of "_Unity in Diversity_", on the other hand _Pakistan_ is still struggling for more political and economic stability.

"_The Butterfly Effect_" is a

beautiful concept that states that the entire world is <u>interconnected</u> & that <u>one small occurrence can</u> influence a much larger complex <u>system</u> such as a 'butterfly flapping its wings is capable of producing a typhoon elsewhere.

Hence, it's important to realise that every drop has an <u>important</u> <u>role to play</u> in causing a flood even if it might not feel so. we might not be able to make every drop or every person feel responsible but if we all start small and start with ourselves, we would atleast be able to <u>prevent</u> the <u>floods</u> or if not, atleast seek <u>shelter</u> against it.