

GS SCORE

ESSAY MOCK TEST - 2

Roll No. 18537

Time Allowed: 3 Hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

Instructions to Candidate

- Both sections are compulsory.
- Attempt one essay from each section.
- Each essay carries 125 marks.
- Write each essay in about 1000-1200 words.
- After finishing the first essay, attempt the next on a fresh Page.
- Any page left blank in the answer-book must be crossed out clearly.

(Examiner will pay special attention to the candidate's grasp of his/her material, its relevance to the subject chosen, and to his/her ability to think constructively and to present his/her ideas concisely, logically and effectively).

Name Umachrathi

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature _____

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

Remarks

E I - 63

E II - 59

SECTION - A

1. None other than we are responsible for peace and happiness.
2. "Being" gives more satisfaction than "winning".
3. Intelligence means our ability to respond to the present.
4. Life is a success when we realise its potential; it becomes beautiful when we feel it; and divine when we give.

SECTION - B

1. Suicide is a permanent surrender before a temporary problem.
2. Universal basic income is a beautiful idea, but it has its own moral hazards.
3. Value based politics is an unrealisable goal.
4. Industrial societies are lonely and poor.

B.3.

Value based politics is an unrealisable goal!

The Non-cooperation movement led by Mahatma Gandhi in 1920 was a mass movement of unprecedented scale. Equipped with novel tools of Non-violence & satyagraha hitherto unparticipated sections of India society joined the movement in large numbers. It two different ideologies put up a singular front. Several national leaders including Gandhiji himself was optimistic about achieving freedom worth in a year. However, Gandhiji suspended the movement abruptly following the violence unleashed by satyagrahis on police at Chauri Chaura.

Suitable example for the opening



try to keep it brief

The suspension of the movement received a lot of criticism including from his loyal followers such as J. Nehru & Bose. But for Gandhi the choice was obvious & straight forward. political action or politics deviated from values is not worth pursuing at all, irrespective of what the outcome is. Through this single act Gandhi established the importance of value based politics for once and all.

Remarks

As a Nation that considers Gandhi as father of nation, it is supremely important ^{for us} to understand what is value based politics and why is it so important. Having understood this, it becomes easy to grasp that it has become a nearly unachievable goal today. We must probe reasons behind this, and contemplate on how to bring back values in our politics.

Good formats for intro

Politics is about utilizing power for greater good. When this process is wedded with values all through, it becomes value based politics. It is about gaining power legitimately and utilizing it to improve the lives of all individuals, not few. It sees politics as a collective endeavour and public offices as offices of trust. Spirit of service is what drives people to hold offices of power. In short, Gandhi's political life is the best example of value based politics.

Good definition of key term

Remarks

Suitable
discussions

Such value based politics is important because it ensures that politics does not become an end in itself. It creates feasible ground for all citizens to have equal voice in politics. It doesn't stop at providing certain basic services to citizens, instead it makes empowerment of citizens the ultimate goal of government.

More importantly, value based politics fosters humanity and human values. Nelson Mandela's political struggle had no place for hatred. He believed in the humanity of those perpetuating Apartheid. It just had to be brought out. Value based politics would not leave any scope for human right violations in any form. It would quit in the most humane manner.

Despite the importance of value based politics, it has become nearly unrealisable. A cursory glance at the current situation makes it amply clear. Identity politics is winning across the world. The inflammatory speeches made by politicians during 2019 Delhi Assembly elections caused a communal riot in the heart of our national capital.

Remarks

The power of money in elections cannot be emphasized enough. It is difficult to decide which is more wrong, bribing the voter or the voter accepting the bribe. Several studies clearly indicated that candidates without financial resources stand no chance of winning.

It is no surprise that when a candidate comes to power in this backdrop, that power is rarely utilized to do good. Instead we witness apathy for the condition of needy. By all means those in power attempt to evade accountability and enrich themselves. the number of scams involving politicians and bureaucrats in India proves the point.

This lack of value based politics is by no means limited to national level. Take for instance the way China conducts its international relations today. It believes firmly in the principle of might is right and uses its economic + military power to overwhelm smaller nations.

Relevant discussion of why, values are difficult to maintain in politics

Good dimensions discussed

It is important to probe reasons behind falling values in politics. To begin with politics is understood as an end itself. It is about gaining power. Worse there is increasing perception that politics is incompatible with ethics and values. Fresh candidates and those in power see identity as easy string for mobilisation. The more one relates to these identities - caste, religion etc - the stronger they become and easier to mobilise.

In addition to this, the poor political literacy of voters is further helping the trend. Most voters simply do not realise the danger in accepting a bribe or moving to an inflammatory speech. Candidates with money and/or criminal background are seen as better at getting work done.

Further, the asymmetry in economic + social power prevents the alternatives to enter the political scene. Most public spirited individuals simply don't see politics as a ^{career} option because it's nearly impossible to gain power with commitment to values + spirit of service alone. Instead they focus their attention on trying to extract.

relevant discussions

accountability in whatever ~~little~~ accountability platform are available, often with little success. Deaths by murder of a no. of RTI activists, civil society members proves the point.

what ever be the reasons, the declining values in politics is giving rise to undesirable & outrightly dangerous outcomes. Firstly, both capture of power by few the democratic values in a democracy are threatened. Vote is coming no voice. Secondly it is increasing disharmony in the society. The minorities are overwhelmingly cliented in a populist political paradigm.

Thirdly, the empowerment of individuals taking back seat, while announcing feebles & temporary sops is preferred by those in power. The voters have no sense of connected with their elected representatives let alone extracting accountability.

The opportunistic cross overs or defections go unquestioned by public, as is the case in India.

Remarks

Can also
mention
has not
all
politics
is
value,
no

Finally it is a vicious cycle, that takes society backward. corrupt politics breeds more corruption and drives away ethical politics. It increases inequality in the society. Those enriching by misusing power continue to do so, while the poor continue to get poorer.

While it may appear nearly impossible to change the situation for better, there is still hope. The change starts from within in an individual. If each of us adheres to values strictly, we would also be value based voter, candidate or public office holder. This translates into value based politics. Further we must understand that politics is a collective endeavour - citizens have to be continuously taking part in governance, rather than simply voting once in five years.

Collectively we must develop tools to check unethical practices in politics. developing codes of conduct strengthening and enforcing Model code of conduct is a low hanging fruit. More platforms for extracting accountability are needed. Many countries successfully subverted economic power by adopting state funding of elections. In a democracy it is every citizens

suitable
discussion
of
way
forward

Remarks

responsibility to educate oneself about political values of a democracy - Liberty, equality, voice, dissent etc. and uphold them.

Satisfactory conclusion

As a society we are taking steps in the direction although baby steps at the ~~moment~~ moment. Increased civil society activism - The ~~demon~~ Jan andolan for right to information about government functioning for example, or the anti-corruption JCN andolan that led to establishment of Lokpal in India. They also have the demand for accountability. Further marginalized groups, youth are entering politics with hope to change it for better. All these are in the right direction to reestablish values in politics. It is only when each ^{one} of us walks in the footsteps of the father of the nation, that we can ensure that values are never divorced from our personal or political life.

Remarks

"Being" gives more satisfaction than "winning"

~~"The most important thing in the Olympic games is not winning but taking part. The essential thing in life is not conquering but fighting well & living."~~ — Pierre de Coubertin (founder of Olympic games)

"To win" is a commonly held value by individuals. It means to have a predetermined goal to achieve it. It involves competing with oneself or with others. Winning is seen as a pathway to success in life. The whole idea of ~~life~~ life is a race one must win, is not lost on us. "Being" on the other hand is less understood. It is about being present at each moment and being oneself. It cherishes life as it unfolds, without necessarily evaluating it in binaries. In sports analogy, it is about taking part rather than winning.

Good opening
→ brings out the essence of the topic.

Having understood the meaning of the two values, it is important to understand their significance individually & relatively. To win is important in life as it gives a sense of purpose, and direction. It results in satisfaction at individual levels, garners societal stakes. It gives the winner an opportunity to influence and make a difference in the lives of people. A Dalit woman winning a local body election makes her a role model for the community, and gives her platform.

Relevant point

Remarks

very
have
a
clear
distinction
between
interv.
nodes

make positive changes in society.

The value of "To win" is embedded with spirit of competition. It can bring the best in individual and society, raising the common denominator. One is motivated by mere possibility of winning. Districts perform better in practice when they are made to compete against other districts. Thus the attitude of winning ~~here~~ is largely beneficial. However obsession with winning and winning alone has its own pitfall.

suitable point

To begin with, when one is so obsessed with winning one forgets to enjoy the process. We forget to be in the present and engage with life. Instead we equate happiness with goals that have to be achieved at regular intervals. This goes against the wisdom that happiness is a habit we have to cultivate and being present is an important aspect.

good dimension

Secondly, it gives rise to unhealthy competition, or too much competition. It puts immense pressure on individuals from a very young age. It is not common to see parents not accepting anything less than

Remarks

Suitable
discussions
of
consequences
of
focusing only
on
winning

first rank in the class from children. This intense competition puts the winner on a pedestal & glorifies more than needed. For instance the Society put a very high premium on those who qualify the prestigious civil service exam. Such premium may come in the way of civil servant considering himself Servant of citizens. Instead it gives rise to unnecessary pride.

Thirdly, the value of "To win" tends to easily degrade into "To win at any cost". When this happens winning is treated as an end in itself. Morals are compromised for the sake of winning. For instance practice of bribing voters, defaming an opposition candidate become norms in elections. Incidents of malpractices such as doping at the highest level like Olympics is manifestation of "To win at any cost" attitude.

Finally it reduces the complexity of life and human existence into strict binaries. These is more to life than winning or losing. Individuals & society are on a continuous journey. Dorothy did not see independence as a matter of victory, instead he saw it as an opportunity for construction of our lives on more moral & humane lines.

Good coverage of idea of -being

It is in this context that "Being" becomes important. It allows us to be present at the moment and engage with every passing moment rather than ~~simply look for the "winning" day.~~ This in turn helps us appreciate little things in life, and learn while also learning & deriving happiness from them. This is how noted psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi defines happiness in his seminal work - FLOW.

Another advantage of "Being" is that it allows us to be ourselves, uphold the values we identify with at all times. When it is about taking part and not winning per se, there's no point in going through the trouble of cheating. Individuals don't ~~shed~~ morals at the drop of a hat when they are wedded to idea of "Being".

Similarly, it reduces the amount of mental agitation + frustration people go through in pursuit of winning. One develops a habit of accepting losses with equal stride. In such a scenario, ~~every~~ these couldn't be any failures, but only learning lessons.

Remarks

Relevant points
 →
 Can also discuss the positive impacts of failures

More importantly "Being" helps us define our idea of success, which is desperately needed in today's world. Success is not a goal that needs to be won. Instead it is a natural outcome of being oneself and pursuing a path that one considers worthwhile. If each of us is deliberate about choices at every stage, the race for amassing wealth would die down by itself.

Finally, it is not difficult to see how the value of "being" would help humans live in harmony with nature. If individuals engage with nature, cultivate a relationship with fellow species, nature can be made a friendly partner in development. The ~~nature~~ dichotomy of nature v/s development loses all value as being of human cannot be visualised in isolation from nature.

From the above discussion it can certainly be said that being gives more satisfaction than winning at individual level or societal level. However the idea is not to shed the value of "To win". Instead we have to incorporate being into the value of winning, so that winning leads to greater good in the society.

Remarks

Satisfactory
Conclusion

Concludingly, it can be said that the value of "Being" helps us become less judgemental about our selves or others and instead be more engaging. When incorporated in the value of "win" it makes us see every victory as an opportunity to contribute to greater good. And importantly it helps individuals to cultivate happiness irrespective of our "wins" or "failures" in one's journey of life. If Olympics which is the mother of all competitions/ is not about winning, then certainly our life too is not just about winning.

- Appreciable effort. You tried to cover several dimensions of the key ideas.
- The arguments were brief, connected and varied
- Can try to have a clear distinction between the intro & body.

→ can discuss points like .

- Failure has positives too
 - indicates that you tried
 - pushes you to make more effort
 - makes you modest
 - helps you analyse your shortcomings.
- Need to encourage social change that is more tolerant of failures
 - where success is also dependent on your inner peace)
 - mental & physical health.

Essay I

- Good attempt. The essence of the topic has been explained well. The essay is multi-dimensional.
- There is an organic connectivity in the arguments - good flow.
- Can discuss points like
 - There are still leaders and officials who have kept the values intact.
 - Politics needs a change of image to attract citizens who are ethical.
 - Character of the candidate must become an important measure while voting.

Remarks

Remarks

Value based politics is an achievable goal.

① what is VBP & its benefit. ✓

intro - Gandhi
Chauhan Chawala.

② why is it diff. to achieve? -

G3
3

③ problems as a result of unethical poli;

18
9

④ how to achieve value based poli?

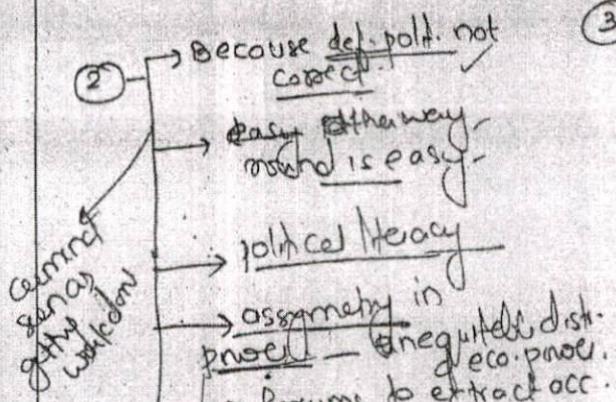
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⑤ changing scene

6

3 4

2a



- ③ → democratic values
 → capture of power →
 → disturbance in society
 → majority rule
 → corruption
 → poor std. of living
 → vicious cycle → baseless
 → unethical norms.

- value based individual
 → no voter or elect. date
 → conscious voter →
 → code of ethics
 → strengthen MCC
 → Extracting accountability
 → young & youth in politics
 → state funding of elect
 → Germany countries contributed money

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Remarks:

Conclu: pol. = people -

intro: The NCM led by Gandhi → major mem unprecedentd
 acco... diff. - New poli.
 Gandhi himself declared th
 But he i... the -

~~Bridge~~
~~Gandhi's~~
~~be value based~~
~~non-violent~~
~~non-violence~~
~~acute bias & form~~
~~to bring back life~~

Value & Gandhi's acc. 1 Gandhi's politi life
 sums up def. of value based poli.
politics as means to end → greater good
 for people, the -

→ what is value based poli → in comp
 with → a man. ~~that is also~~
 learns b/w these two
 how best how to ref
 etc.

→ why is it

- doesn't become end in itself
- achieves its goals
- empowers it gives space to all
- appeals to humanity in other
- relies on humanity
- defeats evil
- better outcome.

poli → wholly poli
 Govt power →
 Citi in peace, h

Being gives more satisfaction than winning.

Intro.: Deal with winning & losing

1. what do you mean to win?
→ why is it important?

satisfied
gives societal stds
opportunity to influence
→ make diff. in pp's life
win @ any cost

2. Why pitfalls of this winning attitude?
→ too much competition
→ winning becomes an end in itself

3. What is it important to be present?
→ its benefit.

→ More present
→ enjoy life as it is - let it unfold without being
too judgmental.
→ no judgment about others.
→ more happy & whole life.

4. Balance of both.

Being
yourself.

Olympics - the mother of all comp is not that
funny, then life is not as we

To win:

→ have a goal, achieve it → success
Compete against yourself
dov. being on the act
vs. about also being present - fully
present - honest life as it
confidentially with others
and exclusively it with
it's own being one self.

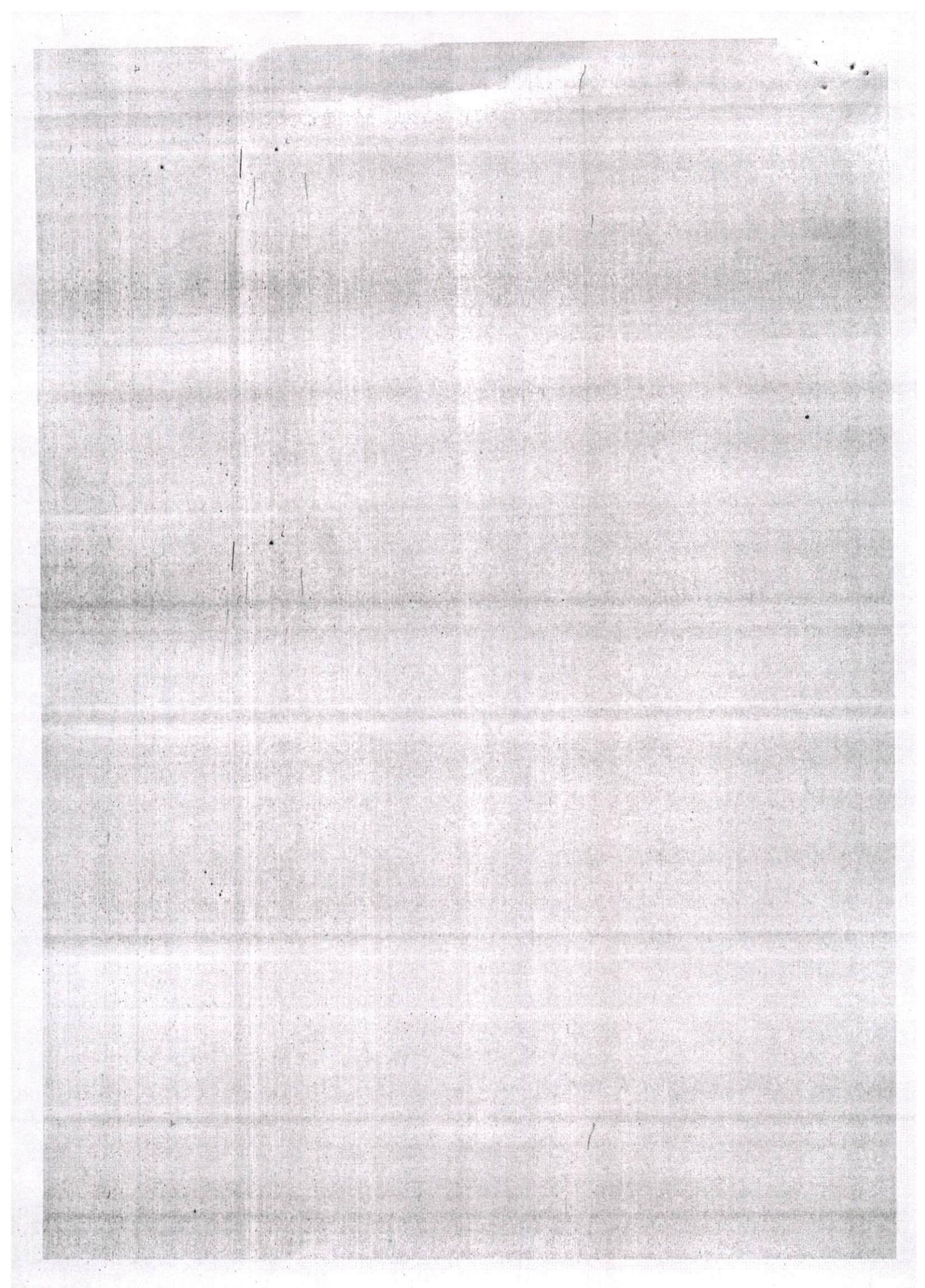
Honesty
is
the
best
policy

Remarks

G.W.

GS SCORE

Remarks



RE

GS SCORE

Remarks

GS SCOR

Remarks

GS SCORE

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Remarks

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20

Remarks