

# **GSSCORE**

**An Institute for Civil Services**

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## **IAS TOPPER'S**

## **TEST COPY**

## **RUPAL SRIVASTAVA**

**AIR - 113**  
**(CSE 2022)**

## **ESSAY**

**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 RUPAL SRIVASTAVA

Mobile No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Rupal.

1. Invigilator Signature \_\_\_\_\_

2. Invigilator Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Remarks

Dear Aspirant,  
you have quite well  
presented your ideas  
you have good writing skills. Continue  
the same.

### SOME SUGGESTIONS

- Discuss how due to chase of success by some  
is affecting the lives of many.
- Discuss the issues which hampers ones happy  
living.
- Discuss life is not just about animal  
existence rather it should be meaningful.
- Discuss how some people are denied  
their right to life due to blind  
chase of success.
- Discuss how for some success itself  
equates to happy & peaceful living.

In Essay 2

- Discuss the death of individuals, societies & nations caused due to blind love.  
Discuss the harms of it.
- Discuss the harms of excessive self love & how can it impact lives of the person as well as others around him
- Discuss along with hope, one is required to work hard too to change the fate
- How to regain & restore all three should also be elaborated.



## SECTION - A

1. The greatest art of life is how to remain perpetually inspired and motivated.
2. Life should always be at the top of our agenda, not just success.
3. A man with outward courage dares to die; a man with inner courage dares to live.
4. To love oneself is the beginning of a lifelong romance.

## SECTION - B

1. The truth - a beautiful and terrible thing, and should therefore be treated with great caution.
2. Life is a series of natural and spontaneous changes; instead of resisting them, flow with them.
3. The biggest accident of life - death of love, hope and critical thinking.
4. Enduring suffering proves you are still a man; pain is part of being human.

### Section A

2. Life should always be at the top of our agenda, not just success.

'Success is not final, failure is not fatal, it is the courage to continue that counts' - Winston Churchill.

These words encapsulate the meaning of 'life'. Life is a long journey through time and it has both ups and downs. These 'ups' make up

for the 'success' and 'downs' are treated as 'failures'. If we prioritize success only, we are bound to succumb to our failures. Therefore, the true agenda of our 'life' should be 'living the life' itself gaining experiences throughout this journey. ? Explain this

Life is a 'sequence of stages' through which a person goes. It begins from the 'birth' and continues till 'death'. It is a 'cycle' from being an infant, to an adolescent, to an adult, to a middle aged and then an old person.

Throughout these stages, there can be different agendas in the life of a person. For a child, the goal can be getting more 'candies'. For an adolescent person, the agenda might be meeting the



love of his/her life. For an adult, the agenda might be to have a good job. For a middle aged person, the agenda changes to supporting the family and children. And finally for an old person the agenda is to have 'good health' and 'die in peace'.

The 'bucketlist' of agendas also varies from person to person. For example, this paradox can be seen in the 'life of a poor farmer' whose main agenda is the fight for survival. His entire energy is dedicated to get those 'two times meal' for his family. On the other hand, 'a rich person' with all luxuries of life might be preparing for 'starting a new business' or travelling a new destination.

What all factors decide a person's agenda? Discuss it -

Success is one such agenda of life. Success is measured in terms of the 'milestones achieved' by a person. It is generally understood in terms of 'great accomplishments' made by us. In the present times, the meaning of success has been narrowed down to the idea of 'materialism' and 'victory over others'.

This can be seen in the 'rat race' prevalent in our society. The idea of a 'six digit salary', '12 digit bank balance', getting admissions in the 'top tier colleges' have been ~~idolized~~ by the society.

Even nations measure their success in such quantifiable parameters. The World Bank classification of countries on the basis of per capita income, the idea of being an 'XYZ trillion' economy are

Remarks



some notions of success in the international relations. Also, some countries measure their success in terms of territorial extent. These issues manifest themselves in the form of 'trade protectionism', 'waging wars' and 'mindless growth with inequalities'. Violation of human rights

The 'realist' view of success, whether in individuals, in society or in the nations has led to a 'blind race' behind the 'pseudo-glory' of life. They run after success because for them success brings 'power' and 'commands obedience'. For example, a tobacco company seeks to advertise its products through 'successful' brand ambassadors because it knows, they have the power to influence. Blind economic growth & unsatisfactory citizenry.

→ why is this short lived & not a parameter to judge success.

The problem of making success the top agenda of life is that it creates

a 'myopic' view of life. Such a view is reflected in the idea of 'Hedonism' where materialistic glory is the only goal of life. Such an attitude towards life leads to 'egoism'. It creates an 'air of superiority' among the people and a perception that 'what they command' shall be obeyed.

An example of this can be the dominance of United States over the multi lateral institutions and their rules like that of World Health organization, World Trade organization etc. This has distorted the international rules based order.

Surprisingly, the 'beauty of life' is that it is 'unpredictable'. The wheels of life 'grind slowly but grind fine'. Just as every wave has a 'crest' followed



by a trough, so is 'every success followed by a failure.' This failure might be in terms of economic collapse, financial bankruptcy, 'loss of a loved one' or any other 'adversity'.

A person who has only focussed on 'success' as the agenda of life will not be able to stand strong through the adversities of life. Such a person will feel 'dejected', 'depressed' and will showcase 'anger' and 'hatred' towards others.

however, just as confucius had said - 'our greatest strength is not in never falling, but rising everytime we fall'.

Similarly we should treat the failures and adversities as a 'blessing in disguise'.

- Discuss how life is taking a backseat.
- Why are people chasing materialistic success?
- Discuss the issues which arise due to it.

to reshuffle the 'bucketlist' of agenda of our life. This can only be done by developing a 'positive attitude' towards life and a 'Never say die' spirit.

Gandhi's journey in our freedom struggle is a perfect example of this. Despite repeated brutalities by the British government in all the movements - Non cooperation, civil disobedience, Quit India Movement, Gandhiji did not give up the 'agenda' of swaraj.

Therefore it becomes important to understand the 'real meaning of life' to make this life as the 'topmost agenda'.

It is said that 'it is not the number of years you add to life but the life you add to those years'. Hence

→ How are people in current times losing the motivation to live a meaningful life. Why is it getting affected?



the real meaning of life is 'growth' and evolution in terms of morals and values. Developing a strong character based on these morals is one of the agenda of life.

This strong character will help to resist against the negative externalities. For example, the life of former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam sets an example of such a character who is admired by all for his contributions to humanity through his simplicity.

Another agenda of life should be 'willingness' to be open to 'new experiences' and learn from them irrespective of the success or failure. An 'inquisitive attitude' should form the essence of life. It has been this openness to change by great administrators like TN

Shesham niko could overhaul the electoral process of our country by introducing reforms like 'NOTA' (None of the Above).

Life should be about enjoying the 'little things' in the moment. It should not simply focus on 'being', rather it should focus on 'becoming'. It will help in bringing the central focus to life once again. For example, great activists Kailash Satyarthi found the basic joys of life in working of child welfare and education.

This brings us to another agenda of life - service to humanity. This is because 'If I am not for others, then who shall be for me, If I am for myself, then who I am to me'

Remark

One of the greatest agendas of life is thus rising above the 'I' and embracing the 'We'. Great people like Mother Teresa set this example through her leprosy care centre in Calcutta. Even today, people like Armstrong Pame have showcased the highest virtue of selfless service by constructing the 'people's road' in the Manipur.

Having seen the real meaning of life and the agenda attached to it, it is now important to understand how should we set this agenda.

A change has to be brought in our 'value system' which has been marred by the 'chimeras of success'. This can be achieved through 'sensitive socialization' and value based education.

How the blind race to succeed is affecting people?



GS RE  
It has to begin from the schools and homes where children are just encouraged for better marks. A reorientation must be done towards other competencies—like the 'emotional competence', 'social competence' and spiritual upliftment.

It should be carried forward by the workplace environment where rewards on the basis of performance evaluation on targets are done. Example, shift to team based tasks where reward is for interpersonal developments.

With these changes, an individual can develop a critical thinking attitude in life to judge his actions. A strong 'moral compass to guide towards 'living the life' and not just 'living for success' is essential.

*Society's obsession with materialistic success, its worship of celebrity should be avoided as it creates*



undue pressure on impressionable minds.

to however, one question needs to be addressed. Should success be completely off the list of agenda of life?

The answer is a 'no' but with a pause. Success is essential in life because it acts as a 'constant motivation' in life. But what we must focus is how much of this success has given us lessons for life.

It is then we realize that mere success is not important. It the spirit to 'strive for excellence' that matters. This excellence will help us to grow in all the dimensions of life. That we need is the 'will power' to put 'efforts'. This has been said in the 'If' by Rudyard Kipling - 'If you can fill the unforgiving minute with 60 seconds of distress -  
run, yours will be the earth and everything in it'.

Add that in many projects where huge resources are put success should be assured. Also success in terms of policy matters

### section-B

3. the biggest accident of life - death of love, hope and critical thinking

The general meaning of life is understood in simple cycle of 'born - work - live - die'.

With this notion of life, we often equate the accidents of life to events like death of a loved one, sudden financial crisis, some natural disaster or may be the end of life itself.

These 'accidents', however, reflect the 'momentary' nature of life and our myopic view about the purpose of life. The real meaning of life is to 'enjoy this journey' of 'becoming' a better human being. It is the transformation from simply being a human towards 'being humane'. In this journey, any accident which hinders

*Intro could have been better.*

process of 'becoming' should thus be termed as the 'biggest accident of life'?

'Love' is a universal feeling found in all the living beings. It is a feeling of 'compassion' and 'belongingness'. From being as simple an emotion between a mother and child; to being as diverse as love for nature or as strong as love for our country, love can take many forms.

The importance of love in our life is that it 'weaves' bonds of affection amongst the society. It creates a sense of harmony in the minds and hearts of people. This can be seen in the Indian culture of 'Vasudev Kutumbakam' which considers the world



as family.

It was this feeling of 'love' for humanity which led to global coalition for vaccine development in the world through the 'Vaccine maitri' program of India in these testing times.

Love adds to an element of empathy in the decision making and thus helps in 'sensitization' towards the challenges of others. This has been reflected in the careful formulation of policies for tribals like the Forests Rights Act of India which balances the livelihood needs of the tribals with the concern for environment.

Love can either be one sided or two sided and each has its importance in our life. 'Loving someone deeply gives you courage but ~~being loved by someone~~ gives you strength'. It gives us the courage



to face the world, courage to build relations and at the same time the strength to face adversities of life.

the biggest accident thus happens when we lose love from our heart. This can happen either due to some external factors - like 'betrayal' from a closed one, victim of 'hatred' from the society or 'being manipulated' by people for their personal gains.

For example, a victim of mob violence can lose the feelings of love for others because of being punished for no fault of his.

Similarly, one can experience 'death of love' due to internal factors. A weak moral fabric which is unable to distinguish

between the feelings of 'possessiveness' over 'love' can eventually see the death of a beautiful ~~emotion~~ of life-love.

When such an accident occurs, it creates 'havoc' in the life of the individual and also on the society. This accident manifests itself in the feelings of 'egoism', 'communal hatred', 'caste ~~based~~ prejudices' and a self-serving attitude.

Such tragedies can be seen all around us. Example, the instances of riots which show decline in the love for humanity. The rise of terror groups like ISIS show decline in love for the nation. The constant environmental degradation shows the ~~decline~~ in love for nature.



the feeling of love is very intricately linked to hope. It is the love which empowers us and strengthens the feeling of 'hope' because we tend to look for something better in every adversity.

hope is the feeling of having 'faith' and 'belief' in the cycle of life. Rabindra-nath Tagore had beautifully described the hope as - 'faith is the bird that catches the light and sings when the dawn is dark.'

hope helps to develop a positive attitude in life. It enables us to look at the 'bigger picture' of life. hope instills a feeling that no matter how many adversities come in life, we will always come out



stronger.

It was this 'hope' in the 'never ending cycle of time and life' that has helped the world rise through the dark times of World War I and World War II which brought endless casualties. In the recent times also, the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic helped to strengthen the feeling of 'hope' as the vaccines were developed and cure was possible.

However, holding on to hope might not be easy as said. Sometimes when there is 'darkness all around' it is difficult to find the light at the end of the tunnel. It is in these times that people lose hope.

Also, repeated failures in life break the self-confidence of a person and he tends

to lose hope. For example, an athlete after missing in various Olympics tournaments might lose 'hope' in the achievement of victory.

The real accident then happens when we lose hope. It is said that the toughest battles of life are fought in the minds. Once hope is lost, it becomes very difficult to win over these challenges of life because it is the 'fear of unknowns' which overpowers us.

Once we lose hope, we also limit our vision of our life to myopic thinking. We cannot think of the 'endless possibilities' that life has to offer. In these moments of lack of faith in oneself and one's own ability



do we miss out the 'spirit of critical thinking.'

'Critical thinking' refers to reaching the root cause of a ~~situation~~. It can be achieved by the 5 golden 'W's - 'why', 'when', 'what', 'where', 'who' and the 'how'. They help us to evaluate any process or object critically by examining it from various dimensions and developing an opinion.

Critical thinking is necessary for the functioning of an independent thought process. It helps us to overcome any influential or biased decision making in the heat of the moment.

For example, often we perceive the



poor people as 'lesser mortals' and backward. A critical thinking will actually help us to understand that their poverty is not ~~an~~ innate evil. It is the <sup>6</sup> fault of the society collectively which could not help in overcoming inequalities.

Critical thinking also prevents the development of slavish tendency and blind obedience to orders. It develops a rational mind with a 'spirit of enquiry'. For example, the refusal to political patronage by a public servant shows his critical thinking of ~~the~~ outcomes of corruption.

However, critical thinking is not easy to develop. Most of us are only

at the 'super-structure' of our thought process and fail to analyse the 'deep rooted structure' of thoughts. We generally observe the 'observable patterns' but not heed to the 'causal factors'. This then brings a tragedy to our life.

In words of Socrates, this tragedy has been defined as 'An unexamined life is not worth living'. This is because life is a journey which is 'understood backwards' but 'lived forward'. A critical thinking helps to 'learn from our mistakes', then 'unlearn the misguided notion' and 'relearn' the approach to life.



An example of this can be the life of gautam Buddha and his 'enlightenment' where he learned that excess 'desire' is cause of suffering, 'unlearned' the 'rush for desire' and then 'relearned' the path of 'salvation'

These ~~three~~ values of 'love', 'hope' and 'critical thinking' add meaning to our life. Without them, life is like a 'lifeless' log of wood. They enrich the human thinking to go 'beyond its capabilities' and unleash the 'power of free mind'.

While all accidents can be covered and insured, the death of 'love', 'hope'



and 'critical thinking' is very difficult to recover.

It becomes essential to understand the 'purpose of life'. Life is a 'journey' of 'experiences' and is often 'unpredictable'. The feeling of 'love' helps us to cherish these experiences. The feeling of 'hope' helps to be 'accepting' towards new 'experiences' and the 'critical thinking' helps us to 'take a lesson out of these experiences'.

You have presented your ideas quite well  
However the intro could have been better.

Throughout the essay you have creatively played with words which makes it an interesting read. Continue the same.. However a little more effort is needed on substantiation of ideas.

Further discussing about issues link present mention of recent crisis situations. Also showcase how critical thinking can help to put love and hope in the best direction.

You can discuss how hope shouldn't become an excuse of inaction and being only dependent on others and fate.

Hope with good strategy and action is essential.

Discuss critical thinking should not rule out emotions.. It should be a good mix of logic and emotions. Love should be channelised towards the right person and right objective. When misplaced love is there it can harm the person and people around.

Try to add variations. It will give you edge over others.

You have good expression skills, brainstorm more to generate alternate perspectives.