

G|SCORE

An Institute for Civil Services

IAS TOPPER'S

TEST COPY

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**AIR - 164
(CSE 2022)**

ESSAY



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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 Anurika Raina

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature Anurika

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

Remarks

Dear Aspirant,

You have good writing skills.

Also you have presented the ideas fairly well.

However you should stress upon discussion on varied aspects of the topic to present a complete picture.

- Discuss why there exists a need to master others what can be the benefits (if any) what all kinds of strength is needed for it socio- eco- pol- intellectual etc.
- Discuss the harms where mastering over others leads to their enslavement.
- Why is self control needed?
- How can the current world benefit from it?

Remarks

In Essay 2

- Discuss what other freedom apart from bodily autonomy are needed for women.
- Present a perspective where you discuss how women violate their freedom
- Discuss the topic in the light of beauty contests
- Discuss when women do not want to undergo vasectomy
- Refused contraception as husband doesn't permit
- Talk about sex workers.
- suppression of sexual desires as it is considered inappropriate for women.
- you can talk about virginity test,
you have written the essay quite well.

SECTION - A

1. *Symbolism exists to adorn and enrich, not to create an artificial sense of profundity,*
- ~~2.~~ *Mastering others is strength; mastering yourself is true power.*
3. *Insanity breeds insanity.*
4. *Freedom does not mean free for all and everything.*

SECTION - B

1. *The limits to growth have arrived, we need more of other things than material progress.*
2. *Political parties no more represent a set of values and principles, but just a platform for succeeding in the business of politics.*
- ~~3.~~ *No woman can call herself free who does not control her own body.*
4. *Parents and teachers are the greatest change leaders.*

P.T.O .

U.P.S.C.

SECTION 'A'

2. Mastering others is strength,
mastering yourself is true power.

It is about 2500 years ago, somewhere across the mountains and forests in modern day Nepal, a prince leaves his palace in the middle of the night. He starts on a journey of introspection, contemplation and hardships, leaving behind luxuries of authority and commandment.

This path would lead him to become the "Buddha" or the "Enlightened One". He realised the illusion of strength over others and ventured out in search of truth — to conquer your own self. → how?
and
which episode
of his life
showed
this aspect

The Yajur Veda has given us a clause replete with clauses where he was

U.P.S.C.

the wisdom of the age - "Aham Brahmasmi" or "I am the Universe".

It means that divinity exists within ourselves. Mastery of the self is the mastery of the forces of the universe.

We see this maxim often repeated in the anals of myths and legends. Whether it was Hercules who despite phenomenal physical strength had to find true power within himself or Ayin who could only become victorious after deeply questioning himself and seeking guidance for the inner peace — Heroes became heroes ultimately not just by overcoming external obstacles, but by overcoming themselves.

Good
mention

Even history reveres the greatness of men who could go beyond their instinct to subjugate others and rise above goals of mere strength of

Compare { them with the rulers who showcased their strength in subjugating others } muscle. Akbar The Great or Ashoka The Great aren't called so only because of their massive empire building capabilities.

Akbar's Ibaadat Khana was a place that enriched his soul, and made him go beyond himself and towards Din Gah.

Ashoka was disillusioned by the necessity of brute strength after the Kalinga war and found respite in Dhamma. He became truly powerful once he realised the humanity within himself.

Work on paragraph structuring - Entire

idea of this page is written in a single paragraph. It should be divided into two.

U.P.S.C.

Our national struggle for independence has been a great teacher of philosophy. The absolute strength of the coloniser lay in harsh subjugation of the natives. However our freedom fighters tapped into the true power of Indians and led us towards spiritual and actual emancipation. Surobindo Ghosh catalysed the idea of "Bharat Mata" and revived the confidence of Indians in the inherent potential of their nationhood. Mahatama Gandhi turned the suppressed to Satyagrahis. The brute muscle flexing of the imperialists was overcome by the sheer force of the awakened Indian, and today we have our freedom.

U.P.S.C.

Today, inspiration flows in from throughout the world in forms of lives lived in the mastery of oneself. The world of sports is one such sphere that presents a plethora of these groundbreaking narratives. The stalwarts have rigorously trained, practised and perfected their skills to reach the heights of glory. The sports field is a level playing field where it doesn't matter where you're from or who you're related to, what matters is how much you've worked on yourself, how much you've mastered yourself and your craft. Mind over body and not body over mind.

ADVICE 1 - Avoid underlining so much

However, this logic when stretched poses a different form of challenge. In a growingly individualistic society, mastering yourself shouldn't be seen in isolation from others. This clear binary between mastering others and mastering yourself does not take into account the element of togetherness. why the collective aspect stressed upon?

Hannah Arendt, a postwar philosopher defined true power as "empowerment". She said that "power" is generated when people act in concert with each other.

Mastering oneself is hardly possible without the collective action. A supportive family that acts as the foundation and first

sense of belonging for the individual is usually the most instrumental in the effort to master oneself. It inculcates values and spurs character building that are crucial steps in the path of self awakening.

Modern philosophy with communitarians and social liberals emphasize on the importance of community and society in giving a platform to the individual. Without this base it is very difficult, if not impossible for man, who is a social animal according to Aristotle, to find himself. It is only through the prism of a connected world that we realize

our true power.

In contemporary times with the rise of globalization this notion of connectedness is ever more important. The transnational nature of threats today can only be tackled with a united front. The era of mastering others through cultural supremacy or mastering oneself through hyper nationalism or isolation is gone. In the wake of the Climate Crisis, transnational organized crime, terrorism and the rise of cross border trafficking, only a global effort through an awakened civil society can rise to the challenge. With the ideals of "getting better"

together "and "Build Back Better" we can redeem ourselves and engage in our own empowerment.

Empowerment, indeed is true power. Not just the mastery of the self, but the development of capability in all those around us, so they are too empowered to master themselves. True human potential can only be reached once we acknowledge our interconnectedness and interdependence, and strive to enhance not only ourselves, but humanity itself.

SECTION 'B'

3. No woman can call herself free who does not control her own body.

lets take a trip around the world and visit lands of "freedom and democracy"

Susan, a highschool student in Dallas, USA, is a victim of incest and is forced to carry a child against her wishes because of the "Heartbeat Law" in Texas. → explanation 1-2 line

Shakti, a daily wage labourer from Bhagalpur, India goes home every night to her sexually abusive husband because there is no recourse to marital rape in India. what it means

Sara, a farmer's daughter from Alexandria, Egypt suffers from severe medical complications because

U.P.S.C.

of undergoing female genital
mutilation as an infant.

Sasha, a single mother of 3
from Odesa, Ukraine earns a
living by using her body for
surrogacy while her sister Sofia
has been trafficked to Western
Europe long before she was ever
a teenager.

These stories are not mere
hypothetical theatrics, but an
everyday lived experience of
women around the world. Women
of so-called free countries —
which begs the question —
are these women really free?

What is freedom? A question
that has plagued political thinkers
from time immemorial. Is freedom
independence? But independence

You have started the essay quite well.

The stories are well in sync with the

topic theme. Also it has been written very creatively which makes it an interesting read.

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from what? Is freedom liberty?

But liberty to do what?

Simply put, freedom is the ability to make choices. It is the capacity to decide for oneself and live according to our own wishes.

In this context, without the absolute control over their own bodies, women cannot be expected to be free in the true sense.

In Indian Mythology, Sita despite being the wife of God's reincarnation — had the power of decision to separate from her husband and the freedom to raise her own children.

Ancient Indian society upheld the dignity of choice for women, reflected in the practise of "Swayamvar" to choose their

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own husbands. Even women saints like Anva and Spala were revered and respected for their knowledge and the freedom to live a life of asceticism.

However the medieval times came as a dark phase in the history of women emancipation. The "burdah" system which began as a means to protect women robbed them of the public sphere and took away their freedom.

Child marriage, dowry, sati pratha and the deplorable condition of widows made marriage an endless journey of oppression and subjugation.

Women were pushed into the domestic realm and lost their voice in society, the effects of you can highlight the famous Rukmabai

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which continue to form hurdles in the quest for freedom of women and their empowerment.

Gender based socio-cultural norms of today can be traced back to the times of the voiceless woman. How can the woman of today call herself free when she is dependent for her survival?

Women constitute about 20% of the labour force in India today. The financial dependence of women in the contemporary materialistic society relegates them to the status of second class members in their own families. [Elaborate]
 This leads to the cascading effect of son meta preference and problems like - female infanticide and foeticide — where having a woman's body is seen as having

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no value — or early dropping
out of school where women don't
have the freedom to pursue
education at par with their
male siblings — or even health
issues like higher incidence of
anemia and malnutrition as
women don't have the freedom
to consume according to their
needs like men. are the last ones to eat
Their body needs nutrition
These realities are ever present
because patriarchal customs and are
mindset does not see women considered
not important
with agency over their own self.

The ₹19 trillion worth of unpaid
care work done every year by
women in India is proof of the
culturally embedded "women's
duties" without the corresponding

notions of women's freedom and right to choice.

This is visible not just in social norms but also unfortunately

in the form of laws and political decisions. With merely

14% women present in the Lok Sabha and the global average of 23% women parliamentarians, the decision making pertaining to their own bodies has been out of the reach of women.

Whether it is the reversal of Roe v Wade and loss of the constitutional right to abortion in the US, or the lack of legislation surrounding marital rape in India — signifying a woman's body as the "property" of the husband — women need a

seat at the table especially for the issues that they have to suffer through. Without the freedom to impact laws that determine ends for their own bodies, how are women expected to be free?

The UN declaration on body autonomy and the war cry of 'My body My choice' has brought to the front the normative ethical dictat of Immanuel Kant — that human dignity is the categorical imperative. Humans are ends in themselves and should not be seen as the means to an end.

Our bodies are an inalienable part of ourselves,

the central tenet tied to our dignity. Robbing women of the ability to take decisions for their own bodies is akin to robbing them of human dignity.

A world where Susan has the freedom to live a life without a forced pregnancy, where Shakti has the freedom to ~~pass~~ live a life free from her abuser, where Sara has the freedom to live a life without unconsensual medical mutilations and Sasha and Sofia have the freedom to not use their bodies as a means of livelihood — That is the world where women can truly call themselves free.

Well written

mastering others — strength

yourself — true power

In
Med
Mod
Soc
Fut
Nat
Int

Buddha — left luxury

Dhamma (Ashoka)

Gita —

Shambhalism^m

Soc
Pol

Hercules

David & Goliath

Env
Eco
Cul

leg
Hist

Akbar — soterope

Din-i-lati

IR
Sec

Shivaji

Ihsasat Khan

Power? ⇒ Hannah Arendt

Freedom Str empowerment → community based individualist society

↳ mastering yourself doesn't happen in isolation.

atomistic man

embedded self

Family → Society → Nation

community

Getting better together

Build Back Better

Climate change

Terrorism

Transnational Org crime

MNCs Civil soc

David Goggins

Usain Bolt

Kobe mamba mentality

source of inspiration

W W Helen Keller Malala

W W —

no woman can call her
not control her own life

UN decide for bodily autonomy.

Anc - swayanvar
Draupadi Sita
Medusa

Med - Purdah Saty
Child ma Da
widow

Marital Rape Sexual contr
Genital Mutil car
Abortion Roe vs Wade
Surrogacy Personal

Gender Budget

Female fo
inf

Soc - edu" literacy

Eco - Chipko Morn
Water crisis - fetch
Energy crisis → fi
in

Econ - FLFP → 20% →
Econ str → fin

Simon de Beauvoir

cult - unpaid work £19
care work double

IR - Masculinist cross bo
slavery walk free

Sec - feminist Foreign Policy

