

GSSCORE

An Institute for Civil Services

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AIR 291

CSE 2023

ESSAY



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www iasscore.in

Roll No. _____

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.

ESSAY-1 → 50

ESSAY-2 → 50

(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 SACHIN RAHAR

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature Sachin Rahar

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

ESSAY-1

- Fair understanding of the topic ; but articulation of ideas needs more focus.
- Avoid touch and go approach.
- Need more conceptual clarity.
- Improve grammatical errors.
- Lacks logical fluency and completeness.
- Critical analysis is missing.
- Discuss various factors (including individual preferences, psychological influences, cultural context etc) pertaining to market value of goods or services.
- Explore it's implications for consumer behaviour.
- Economic conditions, prevailing trends & availability of alternatives can affect how individuals perceive the value of product.
- Bring out more possible dimensions to make it holistic & comprehensive.

ESSAY-2

- Fair understanding of the topic.
- Articulation of ideas has been done well.
- Content competency is also fine.
- Structuring is decent.
- However, bring more out more relevant dimensions to enhance richness of your content & make it comprehensive.
- Discuss the importance of humility in the process of continuous self-improvement.
- Provide examples of individuals who have demonstrated humility by acknowledging their mistakes & growing from them.
- Acknowledging ignorance can lead to deeper understanding of complex issues.

SECTION - A

1. *Sometimes it takes a natural disaster to reveal a social disaster.*
2. *Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.*
3. *Everything is worth what its purchaser will pay for it.*
4. *Geography has made us neighbours. History has made us friends. Economics has made us partners, and necessity has made us allies.*

SECTION - B

1. *The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing.*
2. *Discipline is the bridge between goals and accomplishment.*
3. *Justice has been a running illusion throughout the human history.*
4. *A friend to all is a friend to none.*

Everything is worth what its purchaser will pay for it.

Michael Sandel in his book 'What Money Can't Buy' talks about an Indian farmer who is facing financial crisis. His son is unable to pay for his tuition fee in his college. The farmer decides to sell off his kidney to pay for his son's college. He can survive on one kidney and his son could pay for his education.

The economics of the story though fairly simple is irrelevant to the larger question of moral dilemma. Should a society allow such transaction? Should the invisible hand be allowed to decide our moral question for us? Adam Smith might say, yes, but we don't live in 19th century. The complexities of 21st century raise a question Is there any limit to market economies? Can there be subjective valuation?

Simple & effective
start

The essay would try and answer these question. However, at best it could raise relevant question. On the face of it market has played highly beneficial role. There is also a general consensus amongst policymakers that capitalism is better than other prevailing economic model.

The Bright Side:-

President Reagan in his speech 'Tear down this wall' had predicated that capitalism in East-Germany would drastically improve

Not required
or it won't fit in context

Remarks

Try to be brief, compact & crisp.

Avoid unnecessary information.

its economy. Following this the economy of E-Germany grew over 250% in less than 15 years and Germany became the largest economy in entire European Union.

The market economy has increased the pie and lifted 250 Mn out of poverty in India in 10 years post Liberalisation. It has led to tremendous improvements in healthcare and education.

The life expectancy rose by 10 years since the establishment of market economy in African countries.

Highlight the role of demand & individual preferences in shaping value.

Further, it has led to improvements of technology from mobile revolution to computer to now Artificial Intelligence.

Not relevant

If all is so well then what is wrong with invisible hand?

The Flip Side -

To begin with, we answer it economically as Keynesian theory tells us that sometimes market cheats the supplier or consumer. These are called monopolies, where artificial demand or supply are created.

Valid point.

Secondly, information asymmetry ~~asymmetry~~ in market hurts one or the other party.

Johnson and Johnson group rose millions of dollars using traditional tribal knowledge. The real suppliers got pennies because their buyer was unwilling to pay them.

The scariest of all is deciding the worth of morality. As in Ancient Rome 'Gladiator's Game' at Colosseum was allowed because its buyers were willing to pay for it and decided the worth of a human life to zero and their entertainment.

This is similar to present day mechanism which decide the worth of climate change and environmental pollution. The victims of Bhopal Gas Tragedy got money in return as their value of their lives was decided by their purchaser, Union Carbide.

Everything, including human lives as means is worth if the buyer pays the right value. This has all turned all of us to gangster of 1960s with their 'Make him an offer, he can't refuse' attitude. An innocent looking face stands

good point.

Remarks

The quote in the topic suggests that the worth of any goods or service is determined by the price a buyer is willing to pay.

at ~~Koro~~ Karol Bagh Metro holding two large LEDs with advertisements running on them. The market has decided the value of his work less than an advertisement on a stamposit. How convenient?

Not appropriate

Thus, as Michael Sandel points out, there needs to be a limit to ~~the~~ market in deciding values.

Limits to Market

Yuvraj Noah Hariri ^{about} talks social capitalism, where certain part of resource allocation is done on the basis of need rather than

Remarks

Explore the subjectivity of the value.

demand. The States must intervene to ensure just allocation of resources.

Further, policy makers must draw legislations to curb monopolies. The supra-National actors must strictly be made to abide the law.

Government's around the globe must empower the Gandhian 'Little Republics'.

The role of local governments must be expanded to empower people at the grass root.

Finally, everything should not be assigned any values. Certain things like human lives, dignity

Remarks

The interaction of supply and demand plays a vital role in determining prices. Explore this dimension.

and environment be kept away from market. Governments must intervene and stop the proliferation of market where it use humans as means.

Further, we must raise a public discourse and question our policy maker about steps taken to curb the ~~exploitative~~ nature of market.

Michael Sandel's problem with the farmer's dilemma in the beginning of the essay was not his decision. His decision was guided by his constraints. His problem was with the demand side of that transaction, where someone

Remarks

Discuss how brand advertising & sales promotion aims to shape consumers' perceptions & creates a sense of value that justifies the product price

is willing assign value to his grief, poverty and dignity.

His problem was with the notion that everything is worth something and buyer has the right to assign it.

Because, as John Rawls puts, certain things are inalienable to humans that even the possessor can't assign any value to it.

Conclusion?

50

Remarks

The only true wisdom is
in knowing you know nothing.

The more I know, the more
I know how much less
I know.

- Socrates.

One of the greatest
philosopher of all times, Socrates
when asked about his final
teaching by Plato, a night before
Socrates drank Hemlock, he
replied, his life is his teaching.
Further, his final wisdom was
that the acceptance of knowing
nothing is the seed of true
knowledge.

good intro

The essay ^{take} us on a journey of wisdom and limitation of human knowledge. It would also caution against the illusion of all omniscient knowledge.

Let us begin. Humans have come at a long way from jungles of Savannah to metropolis of Delhi or London. This has all happened by gathering knowledge then why does true wisdom lies in knowing ~~nothing~~? Do we not know almost everything?

Knowledge $\div$ The illusion of knowledge

When one thinks that ~~he~~/she has all possible knowledge,

it hinders their further improvement. The illusion of Trojans in knowing the strategies of their enemies, finally led to to their invasion through once believed unbreachable boundary walls of Troy.

Further, this also closes one off to outside world. Illusion of perfection does not allow one to change herself under changing circumstance. USSR suffered from similar illusion in 1980s when its leaders believed that their economic and political needed no changes. This led to its collapse.

good reflection

It can also to one's
total destruction. This superiority
complex blinds one in
belittling their enemies. Nero's
insatiable desire and his
illusion of knowledge led
to the total destruction of
mighty Romans.

This begs a question,
why is it that we can
not know?

Knowledge 2- The limitation to knowledge

The most scientific
reason that puts a limit
to our knowledge is our
instruments. Every instrument
we gather our knowledge
from has its own limitation.

Further, very specifically, this is known as 'Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle'. It states that one can not measure any set of information like speed and location with certainty.

Relevancy?

Further, what reduces our knowledge to nothing is the vastness of knowledge. To demonstrate this, we imagine a room full of sand particles, then the knowledge about ~~the~~ one single grain is equal to nothing. The size of observable universe is 13.4 bn light years and we have know idea how much universe is beyond that. Thus, our knowledge not even

Remarks

Examine the teachings of wise figures who embodied the essence of humility & knowing one knows nothing

equal to that grain.

What reduces this tiny knowledge that we gather to complete nothingness is perception.

Kant in his famous work,

'Critique of Pure Reason' points

out our inability to know anything. He says everything we know is filtered by our brain and the reality could be completely different.

good observation

Okay, once we know that we really can not know anything, how is it making us any wiser?

Knowledge 3 - The true wisdom -

Accepting our limitations makes us an empty vessel

which can collect knowledge from everywhere. J.K. Rowling, one of the most successful writers had the humility to improvise looking at her critics. In 1997, she was living on government support and her manuscript was getting rejected from every publisher. However, she kept improvising until Bloomsbury accepted it.

Valid instance.

Further, it provides us with flexibility and liberty to change according to circumstances. German troops in World War II were given strict rules for their strategy 'Blitzkrieg', however allied troops were given flexibility. The result was fall of third Reich.

The most important result of accepting our limitation is that it makes us virtuous.

Empathy generates that we are as much flawed as the other person. Thus, it make us understand other people's failures.

In ^a cult classic novel 'To kill a Mockingbird', this lesson is reiterated multiple times by Harper Lee. Scout, the protagonist keeps repeating that to really understand other's we must slide in their and jump under their skin and realise ~~we~~ they are equally scared, anxious and embarrassed.

Discuss the paradoxical nature of wisdom & how true wisdom often lies in embracing our limitations.

Remarks

Thus, the true meaning of wisdom in ~~nothing~~ knowing nothing is in ~~accepting~~ others lack of ~~knowledge~~ and not judging others. To live our lives with Shayadvade Philosophy of Jainism, is the true wisdom.

Thus, the wisdom in knowing nothing is in Socrates belief that 'knowledge is virtue', knowledge that one knows nothing is the highest virtue'. ~~act~~

Highlight the importance of humility as a catalyst for growth & learning, not as a hindrance.

SB

Remarks

Remarks

Remarks

The true wisdom is in knowing that you know nothing

Greek Philosophy

Socrates More I ^{gain} know knowledge, the dialectical method more I know about how much I don't know..

Kant

Jain Shrayadwad perception

John Bernard Shah

Intro - Socrates . ✓

Body

The essay deals with the wisdom that lies in knowing sure that we are limited

Illusion of knowing -

1. Close off ourselves to the outside world.
Eg: USSR.
2. Superiority - fuels destruction
Eg: Nero's downfall.
3. Hinders further improvement
Eg:

Limitation to knowledge

1. Limitation of instruments -
2. Vastness of knowledge - universe
3. Perspective - Kant -

An old owl sat on an oak tree,
less he spoke, the less he spoke, more he heard, the more he heard, the less he spoke. Let us all be like that old owl

'To kill a mockingbird'
Harper Lee

↳ lesson - to know one must step into other's shoe, must slide under their skin

Conclusion

↳ Knowledge is virtue
↓
↳ An unexamined life is not worth living

praveen
praveen

Remarks

- Wisdom - J.K. Rowling
1. Empty vessel - improved
 2. Empathetic towards other ignorance - J.K. Rowling
 3. Gives us flexibility + freedom.
 4. Emotional side - Harper Lee.

Everything is worth what its purchaser ^{will pay for it} is ~~willing~~ to pay.

Michael Sandel - what money can't

Buy ↓

Organ donation
for education,
is it ethical?

Should we let mkt control ~~us~~ everything?
Should the invisible hand be allowed every

Premise - Everything can be bought for the right price. 1960s cult classic line from 'Make him an offer, he can't refuse'.

On the face of it

Yes - it has been beneficial, after the fall of Berlin wall → capitalism has been accepted philosophy - world econ
↳ Improved healthcare
↳ Resource allocation.

Random outline -

1. Roman Colosseum
colosseum

क्या हम चीजें खरीदें
जा सकती हैं?

Should we let markets into every

Way Forward -

① Technical capitalism
② Keynesian Role of state must be expanded to control supra-national.

③ Amal Nath Kaur in

his Book Homo Deus

↳ calls [social capitalism]

④ Gandhi's 'Little Republics'.

⑤ Public discourse.

Remarks commodification of human ⑥ Kant - legislation