

GSSCORE

An Institute for Civil Services

**IAS TOPPER'S
TEST COPY**

RISHABH CHOUDHARY

AIR 28

CSE 2024

ESSAY

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Roll No. 101023

Time Allowed: 90 Min.

Max. Marks: 125

Instructions to Candidate

- Attempt any one essay
- The test carries 125 marks.
- Write the essay in about 1000-1200 words.
- 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 Rishabh Choudhary

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature [Signature]

1. Invigilator Signature [Signature]

2. Invigilator Signature [Signature]

Remarks

You have attempted the essay fairly well.

- Discuss how too many minuses can dent a person's spirit.
- Discuss how people get impacted harmfully.
- Discuss why do some people not learn their lessons.
- Discuss few imp life lessons which the contemporary times require.

Remarks

GS SCORE

- ✓ 1. We learn about life not from plusses alone, but from minuses as well.
2. Humanity is yet to resort to course correction despite many expressions of Nature's fury in recent times.

Thomas Edison, a name we all are familiar with. He is the person who is credit with inventing the light bulb. He was also the inventor of many ~~technologies~~ in the 20th ~~century~~ century.

Once upon a time, when a reporter in an interview asked Mr. Edison — do you regret enduring failure for so long? He asked this because Edison failed innumerable times before successfully inventing the light bulb. To which he replied — No, I don't. World knows the way to make a light bulb, but I know many ~~ways~~ of how not to develop a light bulb.

The given story of Edison has become too much used by aspirants, try to keep your ideas unique. It will arouse the

The story of Edison is testament to the fact that, we learn about life not from plusses alone, but from minusses as well.

Over the course of this essay, we will explore how we learn from plusses, how we learn from minusses, when we don't learn from plusses or minusses and what we should do to keep a growing and learning mindset.

PLUSSES : TEACHER FOR WISE

Plusses are the favourable conditions in life. They can be events of success - for instance consider joint declaration by leaders during G20 presidency. This is a plus condition for India. Plusses can also be times of good luck, for instance tense period of cold war - the period of animosity and hostility between two great powers - USA and USSR after the World War 2.

It was time ~~for~~ of good luck for China, which banked on the friendship of USA and used because of geopolitical reasons to develop its economic capabilities.

These conditions of Plusses provide one opportunity to grow and learn. The favourable situations gives us ~~exposure~~ to the best resources and talents in respective domain. For instance, consider example of a student who got admission into prestigious Indian Institute of Technology. These one will have the best teachers, best students and best facilities to learn.

Another reason why we learn from Plusses in life is that, it gives us motivation. An instance of success sets a benchmark and we stay motivated to aspire ~~for~~ something.

greater. The period of The Renaissance brought idea of humanism - i.e., to keep human as the centre of all decision making, unlike the Dark Ages where human were considered as subjects and it was all right to sacrifice them at altar of state or religion. These ideas set benchmark for the thinkers of enlightenment period like John Locke, Rousseau and JS Mill to develop comprehensive theories of democracy - where people are the ultimate sovereign.

Another case in point is ~~from~~ French Revolution of 1789 which was inspired from the American Revolution (1765-1783), where the people have overthrown the monarchy and established first republic in Europe.

MINUSES : TEACHER FOR HUMBLE

Minuses in life can be understood as situations of adversity, when one finds itself in unfavourable

or even hostile situations. Minuses can also be situation of bad luck. For example consider a person who is born in lower caste under oppressive caste system, or as a Black in America.

Minuses can also be situations of failure in life. When despite one's best effort - one is not able to achieve ~~success~~. Consider case of Magic Johnson, who failed multiple times before eventually becoming top basketball player.

Minuses can also be situations of wrong decisions. Some argue that India made a wrong decision by adapting to idealist foreign policy towards China, which became cause of war and our underpreparedness to deal with it in 1962.

Remarks

We learn from minuses as well, as these situations in life puts in conditions to introspect and ~~critically~~ examine our beliefs, actions and attitude. India's journey of course correction after 1962 and turning towards a more realistic approach to foreign policy is a ~~testament~~ testament to that.

The situation of minuses help us in course correction in life. For example consider case of Chauri Chaura incidence of 1922. Gandhi realised that masses were not ready to follow or ~~completely~~ understand understood his policies of non-violence and truth. Hence is called of the Non-cooperation Movement.

'Mistakes are portals to discovery', minuses in life help us ~~explore~~ new ways to do things or ~~attain~~ achieve our goals. Consider

Remarks

The case of Albert Einstein, who explored multiple stream of thoughts - is light a wave? is ~~light~~ light a particle? and ultimately reached to the conclusion that light exhibits both the properties in his photoelectric experiment, for which he got Nobel Prize in Physics.

Persistence is the most important quality for success, argues Swami Vivekananda. Persistence gives us ability to remain steadfast and endure hardship with a positive attitude.

We learn persistence ~~in life~~ though Minuses only. Consider case of Nelson Mandela, who has endured and persisted 27 long years in prison to fight the apartheid regime in South Africa. When he was released, instead of anger or resentment ~~towards~~ the discrimination meted against him, he setup a truth and reconciliation commission for a peaceful society.

Remarks

LEARNING NEED MINDSET AND CHARACTER

Experience occurs to everyone, but not all learn from them. The situations of pluses and minuses in life are but opportunities and challenges, they are possibilities for learning. But learning requires mindset of a champion.

In situations of pluses in life, one may possibly develop ego and narcissism. Such situation inhibit the learning of individual, or society or nation as a whole. Consider case of IAS officer in Tripura - recently surfaced in news. He was found slapping people in public places for some reasons. These type of cases not just erode the ability to learn and develop but also create mistrust and anger.

On other hand pluses can also lead to carelessness and laziness in working.

why
does
it
happen
elaborate
a
bit

Remarks

Such cases limit the ability to learn. Palestine despite its ~~series~~ favourable geostrategic location during coldwar, failed to develop ~~it~~ itself in a way China did because it focused more on careless spending on weapons and was instead of investing energy in development.

Also, it is not necessary that adverse circumstance will always lead to learning. when one don't introspect and don't learn from mistakes - they are likely to repeat them. Karl Marx famously said - 'History repeats itself, first as tragedy, second as farce'. The rise of napoleon and authoritarianism after French Revolution is case in point when people didn't learn from revolutionary ideals.

Another case in point is Worldwar 2 after World war 1, where we failed to learn from the consequences of war.

The reasoning should be elaborated a bit

Remarks

Hence to keep learning we should keep exploring new stream of knowledge and seek new experiences in life. We should be cognizant of the pluses and minuses in life. Learn from experiences and keep growing.

In addition, experience is not enough to learn, especially in the modern world learning can be greatly complemented by use of technology. ~~With~~ Artificial Intelligence and internet can provide us multiple sources of information. We should also develop strength and courage to keep learning and not get overwhelmed by the adversity in life.

'Life is too short to experience everything' - hence we should also learn from pluses and minuses of others. This *Very good.* can be achieved through reading books, meeting new people and travelling to explore new

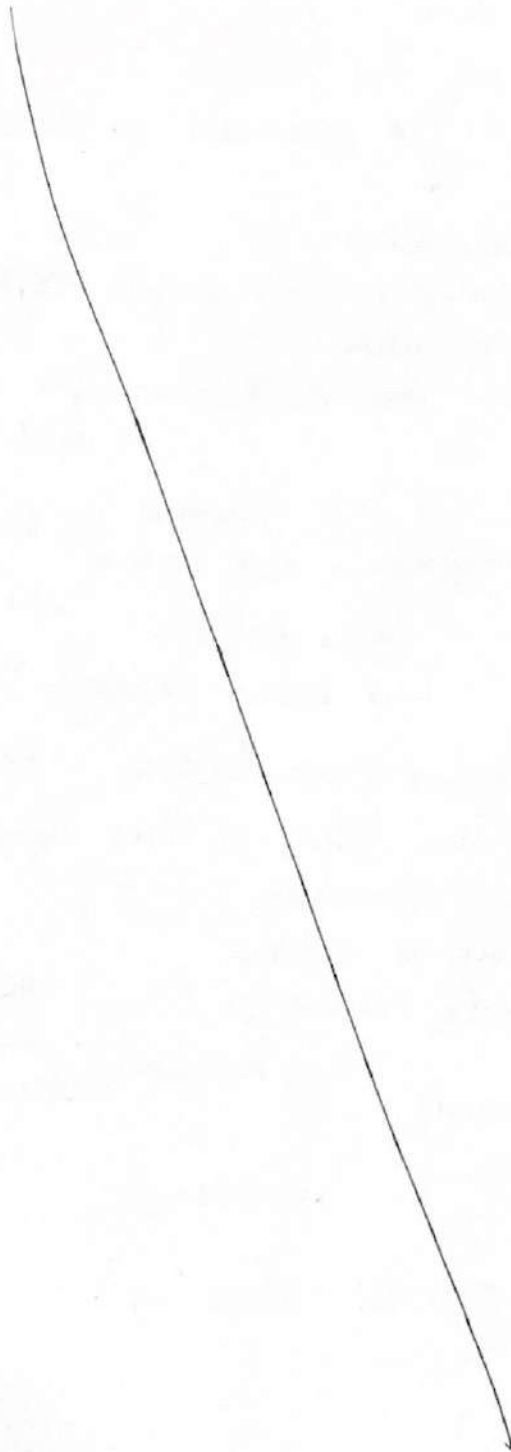
Remarks

Places and Perspectives on life.

Finally, the most important of all, we should have right ~~mindset~~, positive attitude and emotional as well as intellectual intelligence in life. The statement of Edison -

'I know multiple ways of not making a light bulb' is a reflection of that.

Remarks



Remarks

