

G|S SCORE

An Institute for Civil Services

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TEST COPY

ARVIND SHAH

RANK - 123

ESSAY - 1



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Roll No. _____

Time Allowed: 3 Hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

Instructions to Candidate

- Attempt both essays
- The test carries 250 marks.
- Write each 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).

*52+50
Total*

Name ARVIND SHAH

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature Ashok1. Invigilator Signature 

2. Invigilator Signature _____

Remarks

1. Nothing is absolute, subjectivity applies everywhere
2. Life happens to all, only a few make it happen

① Nothing is absolute. Subjectivity applies everywhere.

Is there an universal truth? This question has been debated since the time immemorial. One of the wisest man to walk on earth, Socrates, says he knows that he doesn't know anything.

→ Does not relate to topic.

In this essay we will try to analyse if there is anything absolute in itself. What makes something absolute? We will also dwell upon the question why there is subjectivity? what are the factors responsible for subjectivity? We will also try to find out the history of the debate between subjectivism and absolutism.

subjectivity

Why the debate between subjectivism and absolutism

arises? → You have already mentioned questions in the preceding paragraph, no need to use it as a heading. Man, the most advanced creature of nature here has been blessed with best developed human reasoning.

Due to this capacity of reasoning, man tries to find patterns in the events in his life. Based on the patterns, he creates a basic framework, a 'System' in modern sense, where output and input are analysed. Based on his system of understanding, man, manytime claims that he has able to decipher the scientific linkage between input and output. Based on this so called 'Scientific system' he sometime predicts the future as well. When man claims that his system is absolutely correct with no possibility of error whatsoever, it is called absolutism.

In the ancient world, Greece and Rome were center of rationality. This absolutism traces its root from the same. This is also the phase where debate also started against absolutism.

Plato ^{was} the greatest disciple of Socrates, whom Plato calls wisest man on earth.

Based on his life long experience and study, Plato came up with idea of philosopher king.

He claimed that unless the philosophers are kings the predicaments of the society will not end. Thus philosopher king, who was supposed to be among the wisest of all, was endowed with absolute power. Plato explains that expert practitioner do not and should not be bound by the book on medicines. Hence king was above law.

In response of that his greatest disciple as well as greatest critic Aristotle says that theory of philosopher king is an ideal situation.

The real world is different. Neither it is easy to find such philosopher king nor it is true that

Philosopher king can not be corrupt. Hence Aristotle suggest to be worldly wise instead of being wise in the world of ideas. He further says that we can not sacrifice better in the hope of utopian best

Please maintain relevance to the topic

Example is too lengthy.
Has denied from the central theme

Remarks

Perils of objectivity - Claims of "Universal truth"

has not been free from greatest devastation. Many have claimed that there way is universal truth, the only way? Islam's jihad and Christianity's crusade has been the result of this type of thinking only.

Hindus also suffered from this absolutism when the Caste took the place of Varna, when birth \rightarrow How? started determining the worth. Atrocities of Elaborate.

Unimaginable magnitude has been done on the

Claims of universal truth. Currently the

attacks on minority for having different way of life, for eating what they shouldn't as per majoritarian doctrine, all of these can be traced to the idea of absolutism.

example is relevant but can be framed in a better manner

The main problem of absolutism is it divides which is ironic, because it stands for universalism. Hence absolutism can be seen as narrow, rigid and arrogant view of the reality.

Lacks clarity

Dark ages and Objectivity - Medieval ages were called dark ages where religion reigned supreme.

where kings has absolute right to rule, which were termed as divine rights. Hence we see that

Example is the idea of god has been also contributed to relevant absolutism. The birth decided the fate of articulation the child of slave was slave only. The king's son needs improvement will be king. All of these were principled also, con be better explained with a specific example.

upon the idea of absolutism that kings were the son of God. Since God has absolute power, king were also having absolute power.

With the coming of Enlightenment and Renaissance, the centrality of reason re-emerges. Again there is debate of what is universal truth. a whole new debate begins.

No need to go into such detail

Modernity and Universality - the strongest

Claim of absolutism and universality was by science. Science developed with the advent of reason. It was revolutionised by enlightenment that happened in Europe. The claims of Newton ~~were about~~ about universal law of gravity against brought supremacy to "as universal truths".

With the advent of post modern world that started after World Wars the universality of science again in question. The Gravity law, the law of motion has been questioned.

The idea of understanding of elements and what constitutes elements has also been changing. All of this leads to think, is anything universal at all?

Nietzsche
Nietzsche in his famous statement says God is dead, and thus truth is also dead.

No one can understand the truth because there

Please improve paragraph formation. Your inference from the example should be what we think is truth is actually manufactured.

Our Constitution is also modeled on

clearly expressed this central idea that there is no central

truth. Hence Constitution makers called our

Constitution a living document, whereas as the

idea of truth changes, changes in constitution

will also be done. Our Constitution is

called post modern Constitution because right/suitable

it accepts that there is no universal truth, the

that there is no ideal way of life, that contemporary

they there is no perfect religion. Hence

Our Constitution goes for multiculturalism —

it promises us a secular, democratic republic

where liberty and freedom to all will be

ensured.

Constitution

is less

about

true

and

more

about what

is considered

according to

time

contemporary

while there is no denying that there is
no universal truth or an absolute truth. There
are some ideas which appear as universal.

The idea of compassion, freedom of expression
and protection of Human rights has been
treated as Universal rights and has been
declared in UN declaration of human rights.

Thus → Concluding paragraph does not seem
as said by Gandhi, every man ^{is at center of power with concentric circles of} _{preceding}
influence. Every man is the center of his own paragraphs
truth. Imposition of truths of one to another will
be denying the basic human dignity. At the
same time, we must be aware that so many
perception of truths are bound to collide with each
other. We must pay heed to what Buddha
says that middle path is what one should
follow. Extremism of both side leads to
endless loss and perils for humanity. As we have
seen in terms of fascism which claimed that

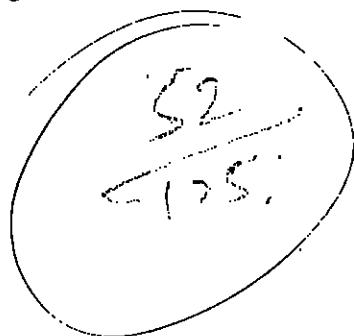
These
inherently
have
subjectivity

Vague
argument

their way of life was supreme, and thus minorities were proscribed. On the other hand Communism, which claimed about an alternate truth a classless society, which also resulted in absolute horror. Thus the middle direction is what we should aim for where reason is valued. Rules are followed but at the same time subjectivity is respected.

Avoid introducing new examples in the conclusion.
Please work on ^{structure of the essay} and give more suitable examples.

Presentation is neat but legibility can be improved.



(2)

"Every one has two life, ~~second~~ Second begins when we realise, we only have one left" — Confucius

good quote, suitable to topic

Elaborate on the quote in brief

What is a good life has been central question of humanity. The debate traces back to ancient world where Socrates asks this question - what is good life and tries to find out. ^{but please give heading first}

Socrates has been called the father of ethics and idea of good life has become central to ethics.

The topic is not about a 'good life'. It is ... about overcoming obstacles and grabbing opportunities despite adversities

In this essay we will try to find out answers to many questions about life. like?

what is good life? how to lead good life?
how ethics and good life are connected? and the prime question of ethics 'What one ought to do?'

What is Good Life?

Every rational person, in search of this question has been dwelling since evolution of world. The Hindu idea of good life

Remarks

Can be traced back to Rigvedic era when nature was worshipped so that nature doesn't harm humankind and humans can live good life.

Similarly Christianity traces their idea of good life to the teaching of Christ - compassion to other human being, doing no harm to others, be true to society - all of this has been considered building block of good life.

Philosophers on the other hand have taken a little different idea about good life than religion. As per philosophy good life is when you do the right things in right manner. When you know the ultimate truth, then only it can lead to good life. Buddha, for example traced the root of sorrow to desires. Hence ending the desires is the way to good life. Good life for follower of Hinduism is when you achieve moksha, after going to the other purushartha of human — Brahmacharya, Grihastha, Vanaprastha, then the final Nirvana comes.

This has deviated from the topic.

Hence the idea of good life has been interpreted in many ways and hence the suggestions to achieve good life are also fairly different.

State and good life — evolution of state also traces its root in the quest of good life. Hobbes in his Leviathan, suggested that Life in the state a war of nature, was nasty, brutish, poor, and short. Hence when there is no state good life is not possible. Thus the idea of state comes. But role of state in good life is also contested. Many have argued for police state where state ensures the safety of life and property, while others see the greater role of state and advise the state to go for capacity building so that there is equality of opportunity = a welfare state.

Society and Good life — society can be called the biggest factor on how we perceive what a good life is. For some the freedom to speak

(What we want, freedom to go where we want and freedom to do what one desires is part of good life. At the other hand, for some good life is when society is cohesive, like a community, where one takes care of other.

Many of the time the expectation of the society has resulted into narrow sense of good life. For a student getting good mark is treated more meaningful than following his hobbies. For a household getting her girl married early is considered meritorious than letting girl get higher education.

Hence society, many a time has been responsible for erosion of good life. Under the heavy burden of societal pressure, man has turned into a machine - sacrificing his creativity, his hobby. Man forgets what it likes to be a happy man. It seems that actual purpose of life is lost somewhere

Stay relevant to the key words

Schools and educational institutions has also played enormous role in shaping our idea of a purpose of life.

~~Habit learning versus Creative learning.~~

~~Jobs which pays well versus Jobs which satisfies~~

~~You. The hobby that make you happy versus the ritual that you do to make society happy~~

~~All of these has resulted into an endless~~

~~to explain quest in the human mind. A struggle that~~

~~has some~~

~~refused to stop. At one side man wants~~

~~bring majority to be happy, at other he tries to be rich~~

~~changes in because society expects it from you, because~~

~~their lives society will respect you for that.~~

The whole idea of a life with a purpose has seen much more debate since

the advent of modernity. With the coming

of enlightenment - we found multiple ideas

of happy life - Individualism vs Communitarianism,
Capitalism vs Socialism, Nucleus family vs
Joint family, Love marriage vs arranged

This example

could have been

used well All of these has resulted into an endless

to explain quest in the human mind. A struggle that

has some

refused to stop. At one side man wants

bring majority to be happy, at other he tries to be rich

changes in because society expects it from you, because

their lives society will respect you for that.

Both your essays have used similar examples.

of happy life - Individualism vs Communitarianism,
Capitalism vs Socialism, Nucleus family vs
Joint family, Love marriage vs arranged

All of that has resulted into endless debates and man is more confused than ever. He wants to be happy but he wants to be rich also. He wants to be individualistic where his freedom is secured, at the same time he longs for empathy of a fellow human being. He wants to own his property without interference at the same time he desires that no man remains without property, no one sleeps hungry. This is not true for all people.

Thus the need arises for a balance.

A balance similar to what we are witnessing in economic sense where Capitalism incorporates socialist idea. Where police state become welfare state. In our personal life too, we must aim at balancing. Work so that you have enough, enjoy at the same time.

As Buddha says follow the middle path and maintain the work life balance

Deviation:

Remarks

Good life at personal/Ideological level -

In ethical sense, the idea of good life can be summarised in the words of Gandhi - Good life is when what you do, what you say and what you think are in sync. To achieve that we must rely on truths and truths alone. As it is said "you don't have to worry when you tell the truth." When we lie, when we hide the reality, it takes a lot of torturing and causes great worry and stress. Hence two to stay happy purity of thought and purity of action both are needed. We can take reference from Gita, where it is suggested to focus on work instead of worrying about result. Thus without being prejudiced, without fear, doing our duty will result into Good life.

Thus human life is precious gift of nature. If utilized best, it is extremely meaningful. But if not utilized best

Conclusion
is
not
suitable
to the
topic.

efficiently, it is a great waste to whole humanity. We have to synchronise our thoughts, actions and purpose so that the life we endeavour upon becomes a worthy, fulfilling, happy one.

You seem to have misinterpreted the topic. Hence, the examples are not relevant. Please try to use diverse examples, from various fields like society, economy, politics, while analysing each dimension in relation to the main theme.

50
125:

3

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Remarks

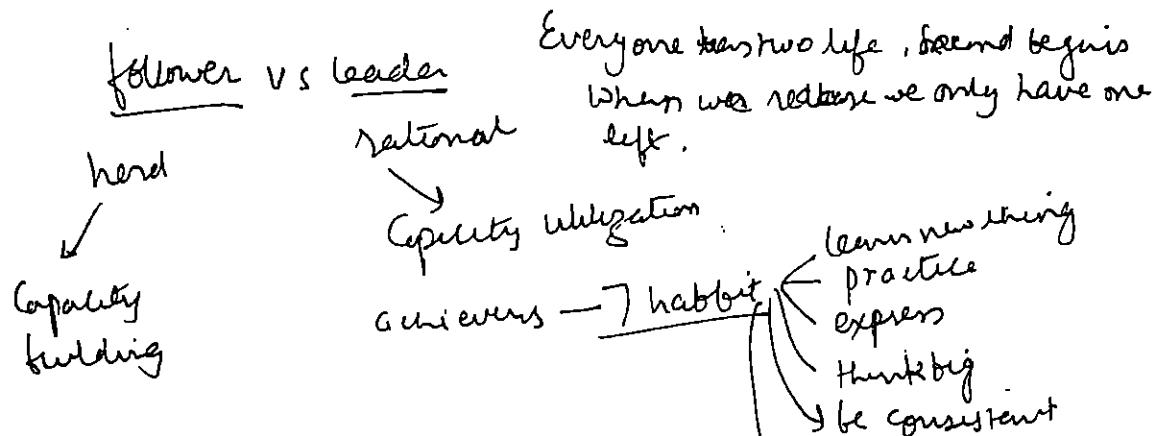
Remarks

Remarks

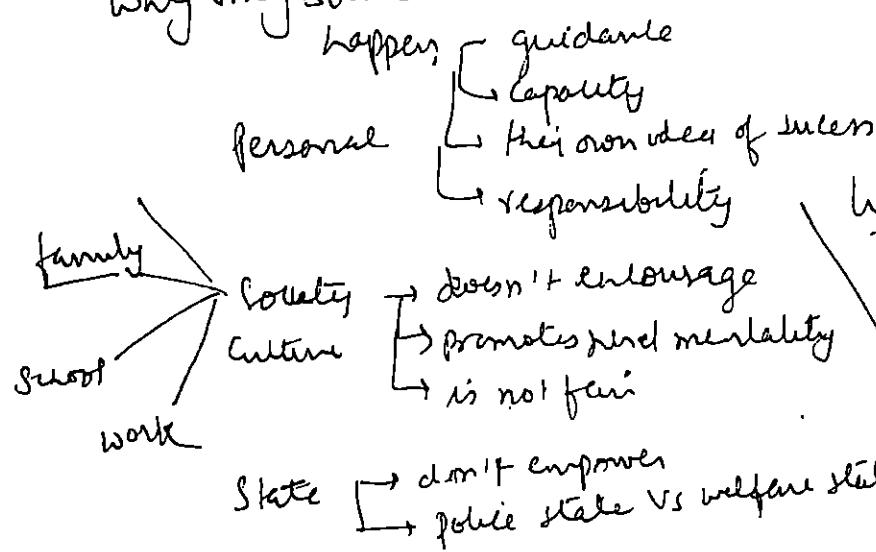
Remarks

life happens to all only a few make it happen

Everyone has a reason, Only some try to use it



why only some make it



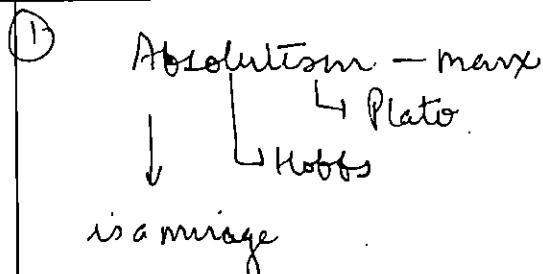
What is a good life

↳ Socrates

Good life is only
when what we
think, what we
do and what we
feel arise in
harmony

↳ Gandhi

Religious — repressive, stops thinking



Idea vs Mater

What might be the best in ideal world is not possible hence best practice.

Absolute is absent

What is absolute -
narrow, arrogant, rigid
sense of reality of word

→ History has shown that unexpected event are not that unlikely.

→ Culture of open reasoning
↓
Truth has many faces.

Can't leave better for the hope of utopian best

Sovereignty

Theory vs Practical

We can't leave the present best practicable to the p best possible

Why subjectivity comes

- Everyone has their own idea of best
- Gandhi - man has center of power within circle of influence
- Postmodernism → Every truth is manufactured → Nietzsche, Foucault
- Socrates - wisest man - because he knew that he knew nothing
- Subjectivist → multiculturalism
- Constitution sent 95: living not a rigid UCC
- World - fast changing ff
↓
changing nature of world
- Society → Can't have absolute view →

Forms of absolutes

- fascism → my way is the only way
- Uniformism - UCC
- Lynching, Crusades, jihads
-

Love, compassion, Human dignity
are absolute