



An Institute for Civil Services

IAS TOPPER'S

TEST COPY

SHASHWAT TRIPURARI

RANK - 19

ESSAY MOCK - 3

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.

(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 Shashwat Tripathi

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature Shashwat Tripathi

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

Remarks

SECTION - A

1. *A real champion is one who enjoys the art of competition and not its outcome.*
2. *Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.*
3. *Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift of God.*
4. *Science is a beautiful gift to humanity; we should not distort it.*

SECTION - B

1. *Situations do not make or break us; our choices and decisions do.*
2. *Man does not get two separate lives, one 'to struggle' and the other 'to live.'*
3. *Winners are not necessarily true and ethical.*
4. *People decide their own destiny; fortunes are made or unmade by karmas.*

Section - A

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.

A long while ago, Indian society was very different than that what is today. The 18th century in India was marked by caste oppression, untouchability, ban on widow remarriage, Sati and purdah system, and so on. Many scholars have even termed it as a 'Dark Age' in Indian history. But then came Raja Ram Mohan Ray, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, M. G. Ranade, Dadabhai Naoroji. These enlightened individuals reformed the society not by

Remarks

The above
reformers enlightened
the society with
their work

coercion, but by changing the mindset
of people and leading by example.

It is true that these practices
have not been totally eradicated, but
they are not the dominant practices in
our society today. Thus, it shows that

darkness can't be driven out by
darkness, but only through light
and enlightenment. The visionary leaders
act like harbingers of this light.

Darkness and light are
deep metaphors. The Upanishads
have used the term 'Tamas' and
'sattva' for them respectively. While

Remarks

Tamas refers to dullness, inactivity, fear, greed and vice. Sattva refers to inner peace, tranquility, positivity, spirituality, and virtue. It is in this context that light and darkness may be understood.

Mahatma Gandhi has long emphasised that it is 'the truth' that can defeat 'a thousand evils'.

Gandhi's emphasis on non-violence, Satyagrah, and courage ultimately

defeated the dark colonial rule of the British in India. While revolutionaries had always tried to counter 'force by

excellent
because of Gandhi's
non-violence, truthfulness
democratic values
are also of secular
in nature and in
12 yrs of independence
India reached to a
reasonably good level,
though certain opportu-
nities after 1991
where Pakistan
opted for ISLAMIC
Strategy Admin.

Remarks

The success of Pakistan is
no where near the success
rate of India.

Wherein the religion
policies are to be adopted
and military hard
a way in
Pakistan

force, they achieved limited success.

Only the light of Gandhiji's humane methods, could ~~set~~ set the sum of British complicity in India.

The triumph of light over darkness

is not just an adage. Antonio

Giamsci, the great political theorist, has highlighted that all battles are

war of position. It is about

hegemony of ideas

Hence, it is

only light that can build a counter-

narrative to darkness. Combating

darkness with darkness, would only

strengthen the hegemony of darkness.

Remarks

The Rwandan genocide of Tutsis vs Hutus, where close to 1 million people died, unfortunately reminds us that hate cannot defeat hate. A feud between some groups culminated into a civil war because none was ready for a compromise.

The Nazi Germany regime of Hitler ultimately became a victim of its own darkness. Adolf Hitler's philosophy of revenge and vengeance, highlighted in 'Mein Kampf', bred racism and moral corruption in the society.

Remarks

On the other hand, leaders like

Martin Luther King Jr. advocated for

harmony and mutual equality in

society. In his famous 'I have

a dream' speech, he urged Black

Americans to fight for equality but

without detriment to the fabric of

society. This was on Grandhi's line of

'Hate the evil not the evildoer'. They

were able to succeed and Blacks

were endowed with equal rights.

The Arthashastra of Kautilya

is a political treatise, that explains

why the king should be righteous.

Remarks

Rd

He explains that 'Yatha Raja Tatha Praya' (Like king like people). Thus, the King should always maintain dignity so that there is order in society

Good

Grandhi
He preached non-violence and practiced

In the 21st century, many virulent forces are trying to promote

'an eye for an eye' philosophy. The

Marxists have proliferated nationalism

among the discontented tribals. But

they must decide whether change shall

be brought by the 'bullet or the ballot'

now it is in few hands and it is the opinion of the chatting police that they give salaries to poor tribal boys & recruit them (fact or fiction?)

Similarly, trade wars, protectionism

terrorism, xenophobia, mob lynchings,

human rights abuse show how the

Remarks

Trade wars & protectionism are related to the world economy

but terrorism, xenophobia & mob lynchings are definitely dark issues related to

Selfishness is again related to some persons or a part company only. That is not to be confused with selfishness which is not darkness in

global order and nation-state order are at threat due to the binaries of 'us' vs 'them'. This is rooted in darkness and selfishness.

The philosophy of 'Clash of Civilisations' as propounded by Samuel P. Huntington ^{is} being used to by some to justify these deplorable acts. We must recognise that whenever self-interests are given priority over collective interests, a social breakdown occurs. Therefore, what is needed is 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' and enlightenment in society.

Remarks

When 'Gurukul' [†] Rishabhdev Singh
 declares 'where the mind is without
 fear and the heart is held high', he
 emphasises that humans must focus
 on self-enlightenment which is
 the panacea for combating all
 darkness.

Reminders
 Figure

At the societal level, education
 is a weapon that can help
 eradicate children. It can free
 society of evils and corruption. (A.P.J.)
 Abdul Kalam once ^{said} ~~mentioned~~ that if a
 society is to become corruption free, it
 is the mother, father and teacher that

education can
 not only corrupt
 and help with
 grow

Dr. Kalam

Remarks

can act as the 'guiding light'.

William Shakespeare once remarked, 'All things are ready if our mind be so'. Thus, it is not too late to act. The 'collective conscience' of society needs to be propelled in the right direction for eliminating all darkness.

Asto Ma Sadgamaya
Tamo Ma Jyotirgamaya
Mrityor Ma Amritamgamaya

(Lead me from unrighteousness to righteousness, from darkness to light, and from mortality to immortality).

Remarks

King ASOKA was many years and in there was many soldiers but their fathers killed around of his victory - but ASHOKA lost the philosophy of PEACE - Buddhism is invisible, Gandhi said crime against women and children is darkness, reduce these types of crime through various methods - the good method that our countrymen provided that many which is light

Which even help eradicate the darkness is light.

Section - B

Situations do not make or break us;
our choices and decisions do.

1. 200,000 years ago, the ancestor
of Homo sapiens, Homo erectus walked
on this earth. The situation was
very difficult for it. It was not
at the top of food chain, the food he
ate was rare and perishable and
hunting animals was not easy. But
then a major decision was taken.
Homo erectus decided to use stones
as tools. No other animal or species
had done it so far. Homo erectus
also decided to control fire, when

Remarks

other animals used to frighten away from it. ✓

Fast forward to 70,000 years ago, humans ate cooked food, they hunted in groups, the brain size

increased and they came at the top of food chain. All this led to

the emergence of Homo sapiens sapiens from Homo erectus via evolution. ✓

Hence, the choices and decisions of our ancestor 200,000 years ago,

made made us what we are today. ✓

Human history is replete with such examples of how our choices and decision shape our future. ✓

Remarks

History is evident that how people took decisions, which might have resulted in good or bad consequences. All decisions may not be right - the policy of EXIM has proved fatal to India's economy since 1985-90.

The 'freedom struggle broke many fighters. But Jawaharlal Nehru chose to never give up. His book 'Discovery of India' embodies his resoluteness even after spending a situation of years in jail. But he stood by his choice of socialism and decision to oppose British imperialism. Ultimately, he became the first Prime Minister of independent India.

However, taking decisions is and making choices is not easy. Machiavelli in 'The Prince' highlights that deep introspection should be done before taking any decision. Else, our

What may come
Indian
the Indian
leaders
during
British period
Took decision to fight
it out on freedom
They succeeded
Gandhi ji
Nehruji

Machiavelli

Remarks

decisions may break us.

One must
know the enemy's
plans & intentions

Sun Tzu, the great Chinese military expert, also points out the importance of taking prudent decisions in adverse situations like war. He must always be two step ahead of others in decision making and we must also gather information about the decision of our enemy.

Bureaucracy
should take
decisions to be
honest &
transparent

In modern times, the governance of entire nation rests on decision making by the bureaucracy and the political leaders. They must be guided by compassion, empathy, transparency, accountability, honesty and integrity in their choices. Collective

Remarks

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welfare must always be our guiding light.

Today, the environment is in a degraded situation. Climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss is a grave danger to nature as well as humanity itself. The UN report highlights that the future generations lives will depend on what decisions and choices are taken today.

In a similar fashion, in the scenario of deglobalisation today where every country is only thinking of its own interest, the choices that we make are crucial. Either the global multilateral order may collapse or we can strive for global equitability.

future generations depend on the decisions taken by the present generation

Utopian idea

Remarks

Distribution of wealth.

Hence, the choices must be made keeping in mind generations. Myopic view should never be used to take decisions. For e.g., B.R. Ambedkar not only fought for Dalit rights, but he also tried to institutionalise the change he was seeking. It finally led to an egalitarian Constitution.

Good decision by Dr. Ambedkar to uplift the poor Dalits

It is also important that we stick with our decisions. Abraham Lincoln faced the tough situation of American Civil War. But he decided to not allow the secession of the Southern States. Despite facing many challenges, he was firm. After prolonged struggle,

Remarks

Rem.

he was able to preserve the Federal Union,
modernized the U.S. economy and
strengthened the Federal government. It was
his courage of conviction in decision making
that made America a superpower.

The deciding
factor by Lincoln
made USA a
strong
country

When decisions are taken for
only self-aggrandizement, regardless
of the situation, it breaks people.
Chandla Kocher gave loans to Videocon
in an episode of Conflict of Interest.
She was the CEO of ICICI bank, an
enviable position. But her choice of
giving primacy to private interest
ultimately lead to her sacking and
even a CBI probe.

bad
decisions
lead to
disaster

Remarks

In governance also, we are seeing a culture of apathy and paralysis in decision making. As per PM Modi, we need to transform bureaucracy from ABCD Culture (Avoid, Bypass, Confuse, Delay) to ROAD culture (Responsive, Open, Accountable, Dedicated). It is vital to improve decision making.

Only then, will we ^{be} able to capitalise on our demographic dividend situation. Decision making also needs to be decentralised with empowerment

Remarks

R

and more devolution of powers to Gram Sabha and Panchayats. Active participation of citizens in decision making will help ameliorate the situation of the nation.

Constitution has provided the decentralization of power. Right way of people's participation will give good results.

The world is also at a crossroads today. With the refugee crisis looming large, tensions in Middle East, and Global warming, we are in a perilous situation. All of us need to act. Humanity has to be protected. In such a scenario, we must be guided by 'Sanskrits' as the welfare of all.

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people collectively need to take decision in the interest of the humanity.

Remarks

Grandhi once gave us a Talisman
He remarked that see the face of

the poorest man and then assess
whether our decision will benefit him.

This should be our mot motto

It will invariably help all on this

globes.

The Homo sapiens, sapiens of

must not disappoint the

species of tomorrow through his

decision.

— good content

— but most of the examples are not
up to the mark

X

— life is full of choices; choices shape up our life; choices are
foundation of your life; we should make good choices.

— if a choice went wrong, don't get disheartened and
continuously feel for that, by wasting time etc. one

should not feel much, we should move on and achieve it.

— Problems are opportunities in disguise

— taking risk is not carelessness.

Remarks