



An Institute for Civil Services

IAS TOPPER'S

TEST COPY

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RANK - 19

ESSAY MOCK - 1

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).

RemarksName Shashwat Tewari

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature Shashwat Tewari

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

SECTION - A

1. When we cannot make life better on earth, what is the guarantee that dreaming about flying cars, humanoid robots and populated cities on Mars would make it any better
3. Man's emotions are the slaves to his thoughts, and he is the slave to his emotions
2. The greatest dishonesty is when our insides don't match up with our outsides
4. Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing

SECTION - B

1. Privatization is not always the best economic policy
2. Urbanization is not only simply expanding the area of cities
3. Inequality is a poison that is destroying livelihoods, dignity, peace, and amity
4. No matter where you stand politically, it is important that you should participate in the process of politics

Section - A

1. When we cannot make life better on earth, what is the guarantee that dreaming about flying cars, humanoid robots and populated cities on Mars would make it any better

60,000 years ago, Homo sapiens, the newly emerged Hominin species, had high aspirations. Life in East Africa was very tough for it. Back then, man was not at the top of food chain, there was warfare among the clans, and hunting large animals was difficult. To ameliorate his situation, Homo sapiens dreamt of colonising distant lands. Therefore,

Remarks

the 'first man' migrations or the first wave of Out of Africa migrations was carried out.

But little did Homo sapiens realize that life did not change much. He still had to fight the Neanderthals, he still had to hunt for a living, and still was not at the top of the food chain. Though new territory and better tools were invented that led to more material prosperity, but at the same time, tribal hierarchy also developed and the inter tribal conflicts did not stop. Similarly those that were left behind in East Africa,

Keep your introduction short. It should either outline your essay or refer to the thematic questions

Remarks

life did not change much for them.

If we fast forward to the 21st century, this Homo sapiens again has high aspirations. The population explosion and pressure on earth's resources, makes man think that inventing humanoid robots, flying cars, and colonizing Mars will make life better. But is it really so? Are we learning the correct lessons from human history? And more importantly, when we are not able to make life better on earth, how can these aspirations would make it any better? This essay aims to find

The question wonders the usefulness of technology in solving our problems. There have been innovation other than the ones the question probe how they made life better for humankind whether it's discovery of fire, invention of wheel or medicine.

Remarks

some clinching answers.

Today, life on earth is never
nursed. Some might say that we
are in the age of greatest prosperity
of mankind. We have excellent transport
and communication, the internet is
making the whole world a 'digital
village', per capita income is rising,
and democracy prevails which gives
voice to each individual.

However, at the same time,
environment degradation is at an
all time high, inequality is rising,
widespread biodiversity loss is there,
land is getting degraded, climate change

Remarks

Sufficient
examination
of the
problems on
earth.

is leading to declining productivity in agriculture, de-globalisation and protectionism are rising, and natural resources are getting depleted. Moreover, social values like empathy, compassion, respect for others, and collectivism are declining.

This led many to believe that new technology like humanoid robots and flying cars may be a gamechanger. Robots will help in increasing production, carrying out medical interventions like surgery, and labour in hazardous activities. Flying cars are envisaged as ending

Remarks

the malaise of traffic jams, and when in an era of better transportation.

Some like Elon Musk of SpaceX, and Jeff Bezos of Amazon and the space company Blue Origins, assert that in lieu of increased challenges on earth, we should populate cities on Mars that will ease pressure on earth.

But will that be a panacea?

The answer is subtle. Though in some aspects they might lead to more prosperity like robots doing manual scavenging, flying cars leading

The problems you listed like inequality are socio-economic issues. Has technology solved those problems? Can it be relied on to solve all our problems?

Remarks

to better integration, and colonising Mars leading to more minerals and easing some pressures on earth. However, they will also have negative fallouts.

Robots will lead to more job losses for the workers and weakening of the social fabric by emergence of a social order where emotions have little place. It will also exacerbate the burgeoning inequality.

Flying cars would further lead to loss of biodiversity as man will also colonise the habitat of birds, which is the sky. Further, only the rich will be able to afford

Can we say that tech has limits? That it can't solve all ethical, moral issues. That humanity must work on better resource distribution and revamp its social

values to eliminate its evils?

Remarks

such technology.

Colonising Mars may also appear as a ~~dream~~ utopian future,

but the reality is that it might become a private property of a few. It might not be accessible to every human. Moreover, all the

7.5 billion humans can't be

relocated to Mars. Mars can only, at

best, be a fortress for some elites.

If humankind wants to make life better, we must make it better here on earth. Erasing our responsibilities towards our planet can't be sustainable.

Remarks

At this point in time, humanity is at a crossroads. We need to take urgent steps like equitable distribution of wealth, protecting the multilateral order, poverty alleviation, mitigating the risks of climate change, making agriculture more productive, beating the environment pollution, and so on.

We also need to build trust in our society where all humans are treated as equals, and there is no discrimination on the basis of caste, class or religion. We also need to protect our social values

Good argument

Remarks

and family systems. Integrity and honesty also needs to be promoted among the youth.

At the same time, "humanity can definitely benefit from new technology. Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, 5G telecom services, Internet of Things, driverless cars, Genetically Modified crops, and space exploration like Mars mission, should be leveraged for human welfare. But as Jawaharlal Nehru once famously wrote in a letter to Aldous Huxley on industrialisation, 'I believe in the

Good enough suggestions

Remarks

machine and would have it spread in India, but I also believe in the social control of it. Thus, any technological aspirations have to be grounded in the aim of social welfare.

— Making life better on earth is imperative today. In the anthropocene epoch of 21st century, where humans shape the earth, it is important that 'sustainable development' should be our motto. We should also be guided by Grandhiji's concept of 'Sarvodaya' or welfare of all humans.

How can we improve use of tech?

Remarks

Avoid such
hyperboles

The ^{motivation} psychology of Homo sapiens
is the same today as 60,000 years
ago. It again is facing challenges
and has high aspirations. This time
we must learn from the course
of history and strive towards
the collective good of all by making
this earth itself a paradise. As
Robert Frost remarks, 'the
woods are dusty, dark and deep,
... but I have miles to go before
I sleep'

Good
conclusion

Remarks

In depth analysis
on last page.

Section - B

3. Inequality is a poison that is destroying livelihoods, dignity, peace, and amity.

The latest Oxfam Report (2018) gives the appalling figure that 1% Indians hold 73% of the national wealth. The global situation is also not any better, with economists like Thomas Piketty highlighting that inequality is at an all time high.

This inequality has become a malaise that is destroying livelihoods, human dignity, peace and amity.

Good use of stats to open your essay

Remarks

Historically, the earliest form of economic organisation in humans was hunting and gathering. Back then, there was no inequality, and as Karl Marx calls it, it was a stage of 'primitive communism'.

After agriculture was invented 10,000 years ago, we saw sharp rise in inequality. The surplus produce led to birth of civilisations like Nile Valley & Indus Valley civilisations, social stratification was also born. In India, the caste system emerged that led to social, political,

Rem.

Remarks

and economic inequalities.

In the 18th century, industrial revolution occurred first in England, leading to a surge in production and material ~~prosper~~ prosperity.

But it also led to 'haves' and

'have nots'. The workers lost control over the means of production and did not have even voting rights.

In the present time with globalisation as a reality, this inequality has been further strengthened.

On the one hand we have owners of Multi National Corporations with

Examination
of the
evolution
of inequality
is longer
than
required.
Examine its
relevance.

Remarks

~~names~~ their names published annually in Forbes Magazine, while on the other hand, we see death of tribal children due to malnutrition.

Before beginning your analysis, examine the keywords in detail. Could explain equality in terms of fairness or rationality, etc.

Inequality is having a ~~deep~~ deep disturbing impact on livelihoods.

Post 1991 economic liberalisation in

India, the rising inequality has led

to 'informalisation of jobs' of in India.

The quality of jobs is also an issue.

Further, automation which is being

done by firms to cut cost and

increase profits, is also leading to job

Remarks

losses on a massive scale.

Examining the intrinsic worth with respect to human dignity, why its inequality is acting like a poison. inseparable from equality. We see the pauperisation of the lower economic strata people and their increased marginalisation. The Article 14 of our Constitution that gives right to equality is also violated by the rising inequality. Tribal lands are being usurped by big mining corporations and they are being evicted, that violates their dignity. Similarly, inflation is also rising

Examining how various inequalities perpetuate each other. For instance, Dalits will find it harder to accrue wealth.

Remarks

whose main impact is borne by the poor. Crony capitalism and nepotism, fuelled by inequality, is also vitiating our democracy.

The world peace is also being destroyed. We see how inequality in access to power leads to

suppression of minorities. The Nazi

Germany regime of Hitler wanted to exterminate Jews. Similarly, the

powerful countries like USA act as 'international bullies' and wage

proxy wars like the Iraq War.

This inequality in global order is

Try using
neutral
language

Remarks

leading to polarisation of masses, rise of terrorism and radicalisation, and risks a nuclear war.

Inequality is also antithetical to amity and brotherhood. It leads to social conflicts like Dalit assertionism in India to break the traditional shackles of suppression.

The ongoing wave of deglobalisation and protectionism is also a product of rising inequality which got manifested in 2008 global financial crisis. The yellow vests in France, the rural worker in

How is Dalit assertionism a social conflict? You seem to be positioning it as the party at fault here.

Remarks

USA embodies this discontentment. It is also breeding Xenophobia where hate crimes are rising across the world as people blame the problems created by inequality on immigrants and 'outsiders'.

Sufficient examination of unity.

Then the question arises that if inequality is bad, why is it rising? The answer lies in the fact that, first, the structure of our economy that is based on capitalism leads to inequality, and second, inequality is required in some domains.

Remarks

The sociological thinkers
Davis and Moore have highlighted
that inequality is not only
inevitable but it is essential. It
motivates individuals and gives
them incentive to work harder.

For e.g. USA and the erstwhile
USSR were superpowers. But USSR,
that aimed for a classless society,
could not give incentive to individuals
for innovations, unlike the
capitalist USA, and ended up
in famines, food shortage, political
suppression of those who dissented,
and so on.

Remarks

However, the words of Davis and Moore are valid to only the extent ~~that~~ when inequality doesn't lead to hierarchy. As per Amartya Sen, when capability deprivation happens, human beings are marginalised.

Thus, the inequality in access to health and education, relative poverty, and lack of capabilities can never be justified.

Hence, inequality to the extent of giving incentives may be accepted, but the fruits of development need equitable distribution.

Good argument

Remarks

as indicated by our Socialist
credentials in our Constitution.

The discrimination based on
caste inequality, the oppression
of the poor and vulnerable,
gender inequality, inequality in
wealth needs to be urgently
acted upon.

Steps like progressive
taxation, reforms in our
economy, affirmative action for
the vulnerable, better access to
quality health and education
is the need of the hour.

Examiner
current
policies/
programmes
you think
have worked
to curb
inequality

Remarks

Good
enough
suggestions

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Grandhyi's concept of Trusteeship,
 where the rich is seen as not the
 owner but the trustee of the
 means of production, also needs to
 be promoted. It will usher in greater
worker welfare as envisaged in
our Directive Principles for State Policy.

We must ultimately recognise
 the dangers of the poison of
 inequality. Great movements like
French Revolution, American Revolution,
 the Freedom Struggle in India has
 have proved that the masses will

Rem

Remarks

against inequality one day or the other.

Rousseau once remarked,
 'Man is born free, but everywhere
 he is in chains'. The chain of
'inequality' today has to be
 broken by building a just,
humane, emancipatory and
equitable social order. Only then
 will we be able to achieve
'Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas';

good enough
conclusion

Remarks

In-depth analysis
on next page.

- Since equality is an important keyword, examining its definition in detail.
- Briefly referenced equality of opportunity.
- Could explore more dimensions.
 - ↳ How inequalities perpetuate one another
 - ↳ Deeper examination of dignity and socio-economic in equality.
 - ↳ Examine current policies and their ^{extent of} success
- Offered good enough suggestions

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Section A

- Since Science / Tech is one of the keywords of the question, begin your essay by listing its benefits and contributions.
- Listed the threats from science.
- Attributed problems on Earth to human misdeeds.
 - ↳ could add that Science has its limits in solving ethical, moral, social issues like caste & race. So humanity must step up to eradicate these problems.
- Could offer more solutions
 - ↳ Tech should be made accessible and inclusive to all, without the constraints of commerce or politics.

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