

# **GSSCORE**

**An Institute for Civil Services**

## **IAS TOPPER'S**

**TEST COPY**

### **UTKARSH KUMAR**

**RANK - 55**

#### **ESSAY MOCK - 2**



**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.

*(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).*

**Remarks**

E I - 51

E II - 61

112Name Utkarsh Kumar

Mobile No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Utkarsh

1. Invigilator Signature \_\_\_\_\_

2. Invigilator Signature \_\_\_\_\_

SECTION - A

1. *None other than we are responsible for peace and happiness.*
2. *"Being" gives more satisfaction than "winning".*
3. *Intelligence means our ability to respond to the present.*
4. *Life is a success when we realise its potential; it becomes beautiful when we feel it; and divine when we give.*

SECTION - B

1. *Suicide is a permanent surrender before a temporary problem.*
2. *Universal basic income is a beautiful idea, but it has its own moral hazards.*
3. *Value based politics is an unrealisable goal.*
4. *Industrial societies are lonely and poor.*

\* India vs China  
S-S were ①  
Ashoka: Dharma > Kalinga  
Akbar: Gujarat, Afghanistan frontier; yet Sulh-ut-hukm

truth, seeds

Gandhi: not for  
defeating

prefer  
doing  
this  
At the  
end

### ① Meaning 3 idiots

why there  
who try  
why?  
even if not in  
there can be last  
one true  
winner.  
but multiple  
can turn out  
better today way

2-3 winning → nothing more (false, interior  
to do pleasure)

being  
better versions  
of self

transient  
tournaments/victory > means  
war/generalized, this perspective  
requires conscious  
values  
+  
retrospection,  
awareness

### ② Challenges

③ How to

set goals  
correctly  
education

devote self,  
rather than  
focus on victory

Develop right  
values

journey of  
improvement,  
not series of  
wars  
long term  
greedy

### ④ Critical

→ winning: sign of being  
→ winning → being (e.g. Buddha's desire) → end vs means  
→ winning important for survival!  
1965, 1971

### \* Manifestation

#### Parliament

Debtors >>  
victory

Individual  
society  
nation  
mankind

Kurkku  
Kalani's family  
Rate

India: SS, consumer vs world.  
China: predatory economic, muzzle

"Being" gives more satisfaction than "winning"

suitable  
eg for  
the  
opening

It is 3rd century BC in Magadha. Emperor Ashoka has established the largest empire that people can remember. He had just won battle the war against Kalinga and added it to the empire. Yet he is unsatisfied; the bloodshed in the war shook him. He feels he was not being the best version of himself. He goes on to renounce violence and adopt Dharma: an ethical code of conduct based on peace, tolerance and love. Following and propounding Dharma gives him true satisfaction.

Centuries later, great emperor Akbar would win against Afghans, conquer Gujarat and safeguard empire against invasions of west. The victories leave him unsatisfied.

Remarks

Can  
avoid  
similar  
exp.

He would establish an ibadat khana for debates among learned men of different faiths. With the realisation that all religions have some core principles of love and tolerance, he would start his religion din-e-kali based on equality (sukh-e-kul).

That would help him be a better version of himself and ultimately satisfied.

These two events help us with our insight into what gives satisfaction. Winning a war/<sup>race</sup> may be the need of the hour to survive, but it is unlikely to bring satisfaction. Instead, we need to evolve, to become better versions of ourselves. That exercise in "being" would bring true and lasting satisfaction. Like Amit Khan's character says in '3 idiots' movie, "kabhi band, kabhi safalta jhak moche pachhe aayegi" (become capable, success would automatically find you). I think  
it may  
bring  
satisfaction  
if done  
ethically

Remarks

Moving forward, we discuss manifestation of this statement at different levels - individual, community, nation. We then discuss why this happen, and how we can make use of this in our lives. We discuss some challenges in adopting this mindset and conclude with some critical analysis.

### Why?

Firstly, a victory implies that we are the best of the competition. This would bring temporary pleasure, but may block our way of improvement. There is nothing more to do. However, the quest for "being" the best version of ourselves would bring improvements in our attitude, skills etc. As we become better, we would be happier. And we have future targets of improvement.

Secondly, there

The  
way  
looks  
a  
distinct  
into

Moving forward, we discuss manifestation of this statement at different levels - individual, society and nation. We then discuss why this happens, and how we can make use of this concept. We discuss challenges in adopting fair mindset, and conclude with some critical analysis.

At individual level, we saw Shokha and Akbar. IAS Ashok Khemka found the satisfaction in being a man of utmost integrity. He has been transferred 52 times in his career (many defeats), yet he has found great happiness.

At societal level, this manifests in our education system. Those students who study for winning the exams, frequently are not learning. There is a smaller section of students that find the joy in learning to satiate their curiosity, that enjoy solving problems. There is no doubt that latter.

Relevant points

Remarks /

would find greater satisfaction in life.

Avoid  
too many  
eggs,

At international level too, India has held victory over its western neighbour (1965, 1971, 1999 etc). For her, true satisfaction arises out of engaging with other developing nations to solve common problems. She founded NAM, Gr-33 group at WTO etc and pursues south-south cooperation.

In contrast, China's methods of engagement remain victory oriented (eg: predatory economics - foreign debt traps). She is feared, but also criticised. Her satisfaction would be less permanent.

### Why?

Firstly, winning implies there is little scope for improvement. This could bring temporary pleasure, but block all improvement. The quest for being is a journey of satisfaction without complacency.

Remarks

suitable  
discussions  
of  
positive  
side of  
failures  
  
 but  
link  
to  
the  
topic  
clearly

Secondly, in any war/competition, there can be only one victor. The quest for winning is thus going to leave disappointment in its wake. However there would be others who improve in the course of war/competition. Anglo-French rivalry saw Britain victorious more often, but both became global powers in the journey. Similarly competition in economy brings out best firms.

Thirdly, the prospect of defeat deters many from even trying. The fear of failure stifles many ideas. If the focus is to be given on best instead, one would learn a lot in the process, regardless of whether one wins. One would end up satisfied.

Fourthly, there is no end to victories. Even Napoleon suffered defeat at Waterloo after remaining undefeated for nearly 20 years. If goal is to remain undefeated, one is likely

Remarks

to develop a paranoia. One would focus on winning, not on improvement.

Finally, the quest for winning may see malpractices. We see cricketers indulge in doping, we see usage of chemical weapons to win. If a society, there would bring destruction, and not satisfaction.

### How to use this concept?

We then see that the satisfaction arises from quest of becoming our best versions.

To adopt the mindset, we need conscious efforts.

As always, it is easiest to inculcate these at childhood. Parents can help imbibe the attitude of improvement. But the most effective external intervention is education.

If we can cultivate curiosity, interest in visualising and solving problems, if we can

Remarks

you  
have  
focused  
only on  
failures

↓  
can  
explore  
more  
dimensions

expose them to the ideals of Gandhi and Vivekananda, students are likely to strive to those ideals. This quest would bring them improvement and satisfaction. It would also bring them laurels.

At individual level, we need careful introspection and realisation. At society level, we need role models and prominent leaders to trigger these conversations. Media can play an important role in narrating stories of failure and improvement, rather than documenting victories.

### Challenges in adopting this mindset

But inculcating this attitude would not be easy. As a society, victories enthral us, victories excite us. Thus we had Rome fighting it out in the Colosseum; we today have cricket teams battling in IPL.

Remarks

can discuss how it is easier to win through wrong means

In this backdrop, we have shortening attention spans. As a result, narratives are reduced to account of achievements. The stories of grit, determination, improvement find few takers.

Thus, ones falls on individuals to develop this mindset. This would entail going beyond popular narrative and discovering the nuance of improvement. That is hard.

### Critical analysis

However winning can spur people on to push their limits. Thus we see times in races on track and water decrease year-on-year. In such a case, winning becomes a habit, a state of being. It would bring a high level of satisfaction. One need only look at Michael Phelps, Virat Kohli.

Remarks

Suitable  
Conclusions

To sum up, 'being' is indeed a greater source of satisfaction - reliable, lasting and true. If we can instill the mindset of being as our goal, we should be closer to satisfaction and success. Currently it is largely up to individuals to cultivate this mindset.

If we can make it part of our conversations at societal and institutional levels, we it can truly elevate our progress.

Remarks

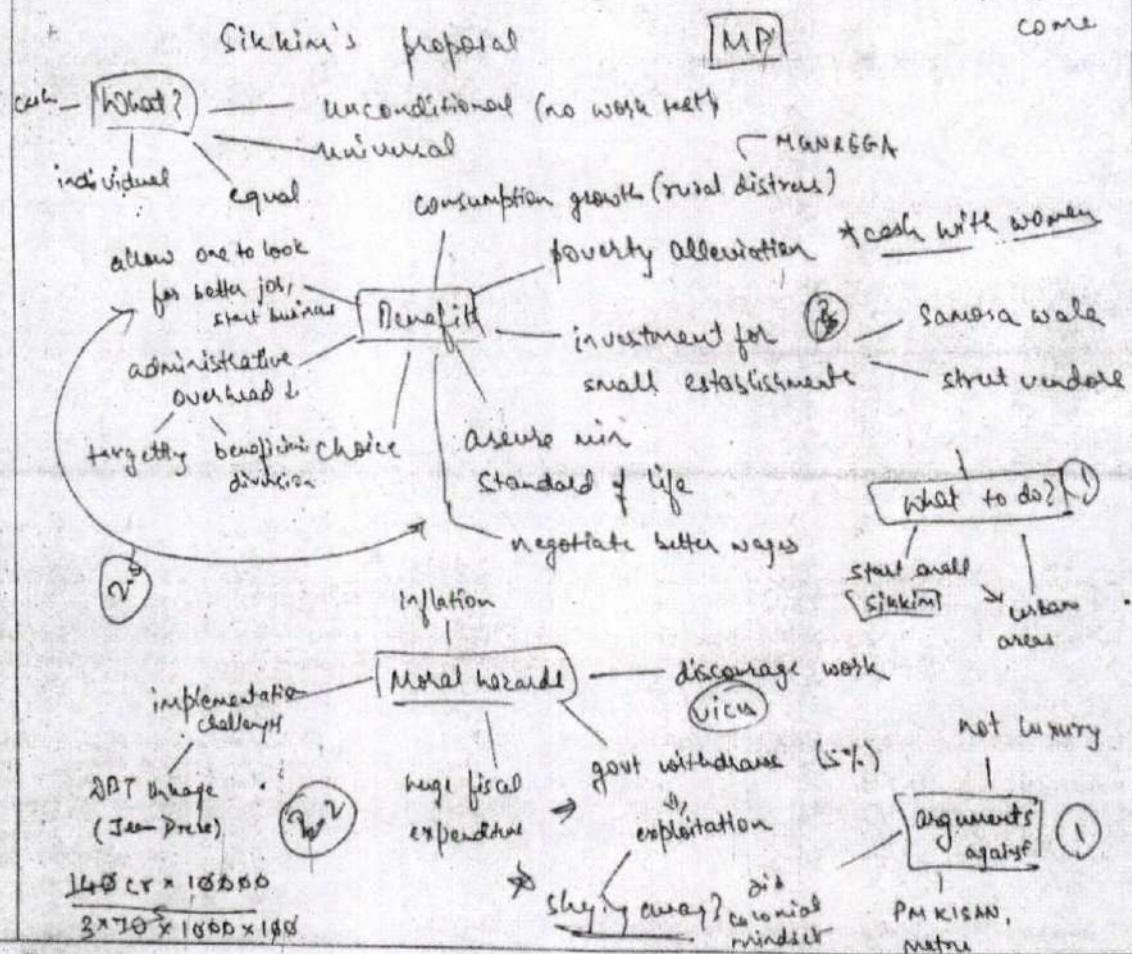
UBI: beautiful idea, also moral hazards

~~Poonam:~~ worked at apparel factory; kicked laid off  
~~Rani~~  $\Rightarrow$  working as agricultural labour

Reshma: daily wage; feels knot in chest;  
 ① cannot get it checked: wage less than household.

Raju: migrant worker; lacks documents  
 $\Rightarrow$  no social security.

② Context: Norway, Finland studies. ES 2017: idea  
 electoral issue in 2019 elections (AYAY). where  
 time has come



Remarks

Universal basic income is a beautiful idea,  
but it has its moral hazards

Rani works at an apparel factory. The factory is making losses and lays off many workers including her. With limited job prospects, Rani is forced to become an agricultural labourer, working at low wages.

Relevant examples but avoids too many.

Reshma is a daily wager. One day she realises her chest pain is due to a knot in the region. She has heard that this needs to be examined urgently. But going to town to see doctor would mean loss of her wage for the day. Her child would sleep hungry.

Raju moved to Mumbai from a small village in Nanded. While he is earning enough to meet daily needs, he has no job security. A sizable chunk of income goes on food. Govt provides social security including PDS but

Remarks

Raju doesn't have the necessary documents.

~~Sam  
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interv  
lly  
indicati  
briefly  
the  
argumen  
to be  
discussed  
in the  
essay~~

Universal Basic Income (UBI) promises to be the silver bullet for Reira, Reshma and Raju; and millions of others like them.

Studies in Norway and Finland have concluded that UBI offers benefit disproportionate to expenditure. Similar study in Madhya Pradesh shows potential. UBI was a significant issue in Sikkim election, 2018. It became a flagship promise in 2019 Lok Sabha election under 'NYAY' name. Economic Survey 2017-18 calls it as an idea whose time has come.

So what is this much hyped solution? UBI is a universal, unconditional cash transfer to all individuals. An equal amount of cash is transferred to all residents, regardless of economic levels, whether they work or not, regardless of age.

~~Relevant  
discussion  
of  
key  
term~~

Remarks

sex, caste etc etc. That sounds simple, but how does it solve our problems?

### UBI - panacea for poverty alleviation

Firstly, UBI provides cash to the needy. They can spend that on education of children, better nutrition, healthcare of children and self. This is important when we consider that 70% healthcare expenditure is out of pocket.

Secondly, this assures a minimum standard of life across the nation, cutting across socio-economic and geographical barriers. The ideals of equality and justice ~~can~~ <sup>may</sup> be fulfilled.

Thirdly, this allows an individual to stay out of work. She ~~can~~ look for more lucrative opportunities or start her own business without worrying where her family's meals will come from.

Suitable points for UBI

Remarks

can  
avoids very  
specific  
points

Fourthly, this money can act as investment for street vendors and similar establishments. A wandering hawker can instead setup a more permanent shop, and improve earnings.

Fifth, this money in hands of poor is likely to be spent immediately. This can lead to consumption driven growth, amidst rural agrarian distress (like MGNREGA acts as stimulus in economic slowdown).

Sixthly, the poor can negotiate better wages with their employer. They now have a good alternative to bargain with.

Seventhly, with cash in hand comes power of choice. Thus instead of a paternal approach to poverty alleviation, an empowered approach is presented. A poor can dream of putting his child in private school.

good  
points

Remarks :

Great Idea!

Lastly, but probably most importantly, UBI removes the targeting overhead in a scheme delivery. The costs of beneficiary identification are saved, we need fewer personnel to deliver the scheme to poor. Diversion will be no concern — everybody is receiving it anyway. With digitisation, geps and errors can be easily identified and fixed.

These benefits make UBI a beautiful idea and resulted in clamours to implement it. However it does not come without its moral hazards.

### UBI — moral hazards

The foremost concern is that an assured cash in hand may discourage people from engaging in employment. They would be

Remarks

good discussion  
of challenges

incentivised to act lazy and entitled.

Further, the greater cash in hand could lead to vices of gambling, alcohol and drugs. This has happened when a society suddenly has money - Punjab post green revolution, Janata with cyber crime money.

Secondly, a universal cash transfer would be fiscally expensive. A transfer of ₹ 10,000 /year would require about 5% GDP. To meet this, state would need to withdraw almost all subsidy schemes. This is seen as state shying away from its responsibilities like keeping ~~free~~ schools for free education.

Thirdly, state withdrawal could leave people to the mercy of private sector. The goods and services delivery may be adversely affected particularly in remote locations.

Remarks

suitable points

Fourthly, with more cash in hand, everybody would wish to avail better services. This would drive up costs in economy. If inflation is high, it could undo benefits of cash transfer.

Fifthly, there are concerns in implementation. Economist Jean Dreze's research shows that 40% MGNREGA wages were sent to wrong bank accounts. Further there are still pockets of financial and digital exclusion in India. They may be unable to enjoy benefits of JBI, but would suffer from withdrawal of other govt initiatives.

While concerns of inflation and exclusion are significant, the concern of loans and vices is less probable. This is because cash transferred is merely enough to meet basic requirements. An individual becomes lazy or vice-ridden when one has extra to spend.

Remarks

con  
discuss  
together  
with  
other  
points  
for  
way  
forward

Studies at Norway and Madhya Pradesh have indicated the same. Nevertheless scheme on pilot basis would help better to understand.

The concern of exclusion can be resolved over time as local authorities fix bank account linkages, and telecom and internet penetration improves.

Further, India has already been experimenting with cash transfer scheme like PARAKISAN and PM Matru Vandana. The learnings from there would help mitigate many concerns.

Thus the benefits seem to be substantive with arguments and solutions to overcome most moral hazards. So how should India go about implementing it?

Remarks

## UBI - how to implement?

Relevant dimensions covered

We can start with regions with surplus revenue like Sikkim (hydro-power surplus) and ya. Pilot studies there could help improve our understanding.

If indications remain positive, we  
(better awareness, connectivity)  
 could roll out in urban areas first.

To keep it limited in beginning, we could  
 target using SECC.

Based on learnings from limited rollout,  
 we could extend to universal basis.

To sum up, UBI promises to be  
a beautiful silver bullet to poverty. But  
 it has its moral hazards. However most  
 of the hazards seem to have a solution.

Inflation remains major hazard though, and  
 would need to be handled proactively by

Remarks

Satisfactory conclusion

RBI. A limited roll out on pilot basis would help realise which benefits and which hazards materialise.

On a concluding note, Rani would be free to start own boutique or look for better paying job. Reshma would be free to get herself examined without worrying about her child's meals. And Raju would have social security without need for any documents.

- Good attempt, you have brought out the essence of the topic. Both dimensions - 'for' & 'against' UBI have been discussed well.
- Can work on the structure of the essay. Try to divide the essay distinctively into intro, body & conclusion!

Remarks

can enrich the essay by discussing

→ Pros

- Reduced need for multiple programmes
- Reduction in corruption

→ Cons

- might enjoy leisure more than work
- may lead to populism

Remarks

Essay I

- your essay is uni dimensional - focuses only on winning & failures. You haven't discussed the idea of 'being' clearly
- Flow of the essay is fine but make sure the link between your points and the topic is clear.
- Can discuss points like
  - Meaning of being
    - spiritual - I am the way I was made by god
    - philosophical - I am free to determine who I am
    - a satisfactory win is when we retain our 'being'
    - Our adaptation & adjustment to being is not unethical if done with right intent

GS SCOR

Remarks

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**RE**

*Remarks*