

GSSCORE

An Institute for Civil Services

IAS TOPPER'S

TEST COPY

UTKARSH KUMAR

RANK - 55

ESSAY MOCK - 4



www.iasscore.in

GS SCORE**ESSAY MOCK TEST - 4**

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

EI-60

EI-64

Name UTKARSH KUMAR

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature Utkarsh

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

SECTION - A

1. *Not speaking is a choice but its repercussions are not.*
2. *In the era of post truth fact depends entirely on the power of man who can fabricate it.*
3. *Science never solves a problem without creating ten more.*
4. *To read without reflecting is like to eat without digesting.*

SECTION - B

1. *Mercy to the guilty is cruelty to the innocent.*
2. *Character determines destiny*
3. *People are not rational, they rationalise.*
4. *Prayer does not change God, but it changes him who prays.*

Science never solves a problem without creating ten more

" age 43, female, cough and fever for 3 days, RAT negative. But I think COVID: Attacking CT scan"

" Yes, COVID. Moderate stage. Inform if symptoms worsen".

The above is an exchange on Jammu and Kashmir's doctors whatsapp group. Over ten thousand patients are being monitored at their homes by medical staff. They have access to doctors in urban areas via social media groups. Social media has truly revolutionised communication.

But here is another exchange in Delhi earlier this year.

" Shaheen Bagh, tonight 8 pm. Ring lathi and bricks"

The perpetrators executed assault on peaceful

protestors. Social media allowed them to coordinate and implement their program.

Thus while social media solved the problem of quick communication, it has created new more including above.

In the coming pages, we discuss what the statement means. We see how science and technology have made our lives easier, but also posed new problems. We discuss the reasons for this and look at some solutions.

Meaning

Man is a curious being. He has always observed nature and recognize principles and patterns. The early man realized usefulness of fire and wheel. Newton recognized it was same gravity that made the apple fall and also governed motion of planets. Renaissance itself was a period of scientific discoveries. These made lives of human simpler - fire

Substituted
format
for intro

Avoid
repetitive
backgrounds

provided safety, wheel made transport easier etc. - But with each invention/discovery, problems arose. Fire could go out of control and kill and destroy. Renaissance discoveries led to industrial revolution and subsequently colonialism and climate change. Solved a problem, but created ten more.

Manifestation today

The IT revolution has improved decision-making and communication. India leveraged the IT boom to boost its software exports. Yet the same digitization has boosted cybersecurity vulnerabilities (India second most affected by cyber attacks). People's personal data often leaks and there are concerns of profiling.

Artificial Intelligence allows fast decision-making while considering millions of previous experiences. It has enabled fast search

Relevant
points

engines, gene sequencing and predicting benign/cancerous tumors. At the same time, data used is feared to have racial and gender bias. There is a fear of job losses and eventual fear of AI's world takeover (Elon Musk, Stephen Hawking).

Suitable
discussions

Gene editing allows us to better diagnose and fix diseases like Saas Syndrome, AIDS etc. We can develop crops with higher yields, pest and heat tolerance. Yet it has posed problems of natural biodiversity loss. The gene therapy targets in China (AIDS immunity) are believed to have developed mutancy.

Atomic research has improved our understanding of matter and the universe as a whole. Nuclear energy promises clean and renewable energy. Even a fusion reactor Tokamak is operational in China. The same nuclear science has armed nations with weapons that could destroy the planet within

minutes.

Nanotechnology has shown revolutionary new properties in materials. The magical graphene is the best electricity conductor, thinnest and yet the strongest material known. It holds tremendous potential for future. Carbon nano tubes are being used in sensors, rocket material, cleaning oil spills etc. At the same time, we fear nano-pollution, nano-particles crossing blood-brain barrier, nano-divide etc.

Similarly, space science has improved our connectivity and observational prowess. Moon house He-3 and precious metals, both of which could meet mankind's needs for coming centuries. But the same space can be weaponized, debris is growing rapidly (fear of Kessler syndrome), further private player participation can lead to unhealthy race.

Apt
Sikha

In administration, DBT allows us to weed out duplicities and diversions (Zislik case solved by Aadhaar usage: UIDAI). But it has posed digital exclusion, and errors in mapping bank accounts and beneficiaries (40% MGNREGS beneficiaries ~~did not~~ receive wage in Jharkhand: Jean Pierre).

But why does science create so many problems?

Firstly, science is only a tool. And it is upto us humans to provide it meaning. Even a knife can be used for chopping onions or people's fingers (custodial torture). It doesn't make knife ~~bad~~, but the knife-wielder responsible.

Secondly, the level of scientific progress is growing at an exponential rate compared to any point in ~~history~~. Horse carriages were the norm for millenia, regular

What's
the
issue?
Here!

cars have dominated past century, and yet electric and self-driving cars are expected to be ready in a decade.

Thirdly, the economic incentives are far greater today. Any invention can today sell to global markets, secured by IPR. Thus incentive to develop is high, overshadowing concerns of misuse.

Fourthly, any regulation or ethical discussion is seen as detrimental to the pace of growth. Despite ban on gene editing, Chinese scientist went ahead with it.

Fifthly, our ethical and spiritual progress have lagged. We have guided missiles and unguided men today (Martin Luther King). A materialist and consumerist society with short attention span is less capable to understand and discuss ethical dilemmas of Artificial Intelligence.

Repetitive
ideas
about
values

Sixthly, globalization has homogenised societies, eroding traditional value systems.

The family structure is declining, and there is overall decline in values. Parents are too busy, and there are no grandparents in a nuclear family to inculcate values in child.

Seventhly, religion has declined with rise in rationality and secularism (Nietzsche: God is dead and we have killed him.)

Traditionally, it has promoted concern for others over self-interests. That is no longer the case. Today religion itself is used to create technology problems like mob lynchings.

Finally, with the rapid pace, our legal safeguards have not had time to strengthen. In India, IT act is insufficient to tackle fake content on social media, the cybersecurity policy 2018 is not competent

to deal with latest ransomware attacks.

So, what are the solutions?

Firstly, it is scientists who best understand a nascent discovery. Their role is crucial in formulating safeguards. Asimov formulated famous guidelines for robotics, Asilomar gave his regulations for Artificial Intelligence.

Secondly, these are problems beyond capability of a single nation. Global bodies like UN can play important role in evolving regulatory framework. EU developed the data protection framework (GDPR), WEF has evolved the Blockchain bill of rights.

Thirdly, governments must act fast on reports from scientists and global bodies, as ~~also~~ also expert committees. The surrogacy bill, DNA banks bill have been pending for

Always
way
forward

Avoid
very
specific
solution

over 2 years.

Fourthly, many science problems can be tackled using science itself. To tackle fake news, we have fact-checkers (eg: factly) and recognized chatbots. Twitter prompts users to read content in link before re-tweeting it.

Fifthly, ethics and value discussions need to take greater importance in Govt. CSOs and private sector can take lead in organizing Seminars on burning ethical issue.

Sixthly, our education needs to realign with values and technology challenges. Delhi's happiness curriculum is inculcating gratitude and values in students. Kerala is organizing fake news ^{tackling} classes for students.

Seventhly, our higher education and specialization curriculums must teach individuals to consider side-effects of any

similar points

discovery and share them with mitigation strategies.

Conclusion

To sum things up, scientific discoveries are a natural feature of mankind's evolution. It solves current problems and makes our lives convenient. But the current pace and scale of discoveries has far outpaced our spiritual progress. It is this deficit that we must tackle, through multi-stakeholder collaboration and conversations.

Only then could we achieve collective welfare

" Sarve bhayantu sukhinah,
Sarve santu niramaya,
Sarve bhadrani pashyantu,
na koschid dukh bhag bhavet"

(Happiness to all, mitigation of their ills)

Satisfactory
Closing

Character determines destiny

He was the son of a boatman. There was no money at home. He performed odd-jobs for financial security, including newspaper distribution. He could not read but looked at the images in the newspaper and struggled to identify the alphabet. The exercise created a man of dedication and curiosity.

His family was poor, but they had more outsiders than family at meals. He learnt love, charity and compassion. From his father, he learnt devotion and tolerance for other religions.

In short, he built a strong multi-faceted and effective character through the struggle. He would go on and lead ISRO and DRDO to new heights. He would be key to Pokhran nuclear test. He would become the first person in India (President),

Relevant opening example but can keep it brief

and would be hailed as people's President.
 He would receive 40+ honorary doctorates
 from across the globe, and have multiple
 institutions and even an island named
 after him. Yes, President Kalam!

— The character developed in hardships
 took him to unforeseen heights of ~~attain~~
 success, determined his destiny.

But, what is this character? And what
 is a good character?

Character refers to the ethical image of a
 person. It has two components - values and
strength. Former refers to the traits that an
 individual cherishes and follows - integrity,
 honesty, transparency etc, while latter refers
 to the extent of following the values. An
 individual could profess honesty, yet bow
 down to political pressure to indulge in
 corruption. Such a person has a weak character.

Suitable
 discussion

key
 terms

Intro
was
too
long

A good character is comprised of ethical values and strength (commitment) to those values.

In coming pages, we witness manifestation of the statement. We analyse how character shapes destiny and how to develop the character. We also look at some challenges in character-development and conclude.

Manifestation

Ashoka had conquered and built largest empire known to mankind. Yet the violence shook him. His ability to recognise his mistakes and be guided by people's welfare made him the legend he is. That is why every kid in India knows his name, and not other militarily accomplished rulers (like Ajatshatru).

Buddha and Mahavira questioned existing societal beliefs and dogmas. Their simple teachings found takers. ~~It~~ It was their

Relevant
examples

strength of character that made leaders of people (eg: Buddha - Angulimal incident).

Centuries later, Rakha Bai questioned her marriage to older man and got it annulled (Rakha Bai case, 1885). Her efforts led to age of consent act. She was among the first woman doctors and a prominent activist for women.

In post modern India, everybody recognizes T.N. Seshan's name for his integrity and dedication to his duty. His character made him fearless and usher in electoral reforms (EPIC MCC etc).

Of particular note is Chanakya's search for future king of Magadh to avenge his insult. He identified young Chandragupta Maurya as an effective candidate, for strong character and conduct. Chanakya knew that he could train him in art of governance and court intrigues but could not significantly change character.

similar but avoid too many similar examples.

How character determines destiny

Firstly, character manifests in one's attitude. Kalam's dedication made him work 18 hours a day. Thus character can create positive attitude and improve individual's productivity.

Secondly, character becomes one's identity. Such an individual generates trust in his words. When Gandhi called for public support to civil disobedience, saying British ~~days~~ were numbered, people believed him.

Thirdly, strong character brings social influence and persuasion. Anna Hazare's success in Ralegaon Siddhi led to effectiveness of 2011 protests and Lokpal act.

Fourthly, strong character attracts others of strong character. Gandhi attracted Gokhale's attention back in South Africa itself. The latter wisely advised him to spend a year travelling in India before voicing public opinions. Gandhi

Suitable
dimension
discussed

also interacted with Einstein and Tolstoy. These interactions doubtlessly improved his world view and shaped his destiny.

Fifthly, character provides fortitude to survive adversities. Viktor Frankl documents that he found hope even in Nazi concentration camps (Man's search for meaning).

Sixthly, every individual achieves some achievements in life. Whether the individual evolves towards greater goals, or is complacent by the achievement - is determined by character. Louis XVI had a chance to transform France (as its king) but his weak character resulted in his guillotining during French Revolution.

Finally as Lincoln says, character of individual determines what he does with power. Nehru cultivated democracy in a poor nascent nation, while Hitler created fascism and brought destruction for Germany and rest

Relevant
but
in case
of
too
many
points,
learn
to
prioritize

of the world.

Truly, knowledge without character is a deadly sin.

How to develop character?

We look at the individual ^{level} first. Firstly, he should practise introspection on his values, actions and the result (Socrates - unexamined life not worth living). He would realize what values and goals work for him.

Secondly, he should practise above value and build consistency in his values and actions. Andrew Carnegie realized when he was 30 that he wanted his wealth to create education for those who couldn't afford it. He left innumerable legacies for America including the prestigious Carnegie Mellon University.

Thirdly, he should be open to criticism without being easily swayed by it. That will

Autobio
way
forward

build effective values and strong character.
Willingness to learn from own mistakes helps. Edison failed 1000 times before inventing bulb and lighting up our live.

Good points

Fourthly, one should get out of own comfort zone and have different experiences. Volunteering at nearby schools and charities opens one's mind and builds character. So do solo trips and treks into wilderness.

Finally, Atmanirbharata builds character through financial autonomy and independent decision-making. College students can take up additional responsibilities (like teaching assistant, student leadership, internships and freelancing).

Challenge in

At the societal level, parenting becomes important. Kalam's parents taught him compassion and tolerance. That made him effective leader.

Societal influence plays important role too.

Glorification of corruption forces young to inbibe it into character. We end up with civil servants with weak character.

Education is most effective as it shapes young minds at an early stage. A values based education with community engagement can build strong character. Further education can expose young minds to powerful thoughts of successful leaders like Vivekananda.

Finally, society can recognize and appreciate men of character. Such felicitation encourage recipient while also inspiring others. Jindal crusader against corruption award and Ramon Magaysay award to IAS Ashok Khenka testify to his character while also encouraging young civil servants.

Relevant
but
try to
not
discuss a
single
dimension
too
much.

Challenges in developing character

Firstly, character development is a ~~slow~~ ^{slow} process with little immediate reward. This can be difficult in fast paced world with shorter attention spans.

Secondly, it requires will power to sustain one's values, and not profiting out of opportunities. Many of our politicians jump ship readily, displaying a weak character.

Thirdly, the apparent hypocrisy in society could discourage youth. We profess hygiene and litter streets. We profess equality and witness manual scavenging.

Fourthly, loosening one's morale could bring short term rewards. A civil servant could witness plum postings, rise in wealth. The consequences take time to materialize. But the character loss cannot be made up. Grandhi's "when character is lost, everything is

Suitable
best
challenges
can
be
discussed
before
the
way
forward

lost."

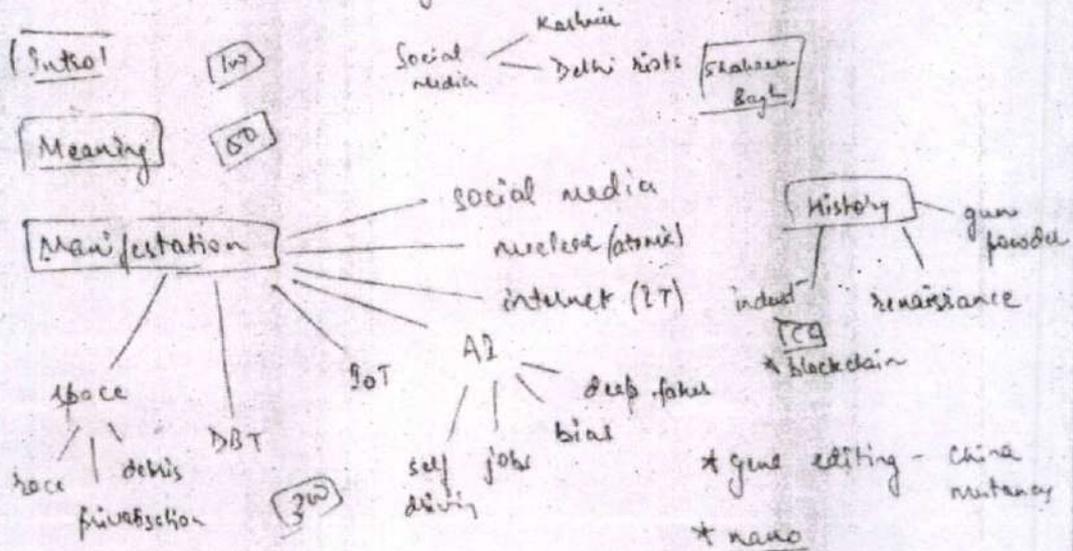
Conclusion

A strong character ~~can~~ results in great achievements in life and satisfaction. But it can be difficult to cultivate at individual level. Society needs to play an important role in building institutions that encourage character building.

Our future Gandhi's, Einstein's, Raghuram Rajan's, Terry Thomas' shall emerge from current young generation. Provided they build the right character.

Satisfactory
Conclusion

Science: never solves a problem without creating ten more.



Why? (200)

- ① Science is a means, a tool.
- ② Spiritual/ethical progress (MLK)
- ③ India: family & values
- ④ legal progress
- ⑤ high economic incentives (JPR, global)
- ⑥ Religion ↓ (Nietzsche)
- ⑦ Speed of progress: exponential
- ⑧ Regulation, ethical questions: slowing down

Conclusion (100) ⑨ Inequality
Society / nation

Solutions (200)

- ① Govt regⁿ: gene editing, GMO
- ② scientific consensus: Asitama
- ③ global bodies: blockchain bill of rights (WFP)
- ④ Value in education: Delhi
- ⑤ Promote ethics in speculation *debates
- ⑥ technology solutions: fact checkers
- ⑦ CSO role - Raajit Singh Dhillon

Character determines destiny

* * Gandhi: if char is lost, everything is lost

Intro: Kalam (10)

Meaning

What is character?

Value

Strength/consistency

impact on life decisions

* knowledge without character

Manifestation

Modelo Yamunaji

* Charanya - CGM

Rudra + Meenavira

Ashoka

150

Obama

Babar

Seshan

Ashok Kumar

150

Raksha Bai

Threads

how character important?

- decision-making + sustain success
- identity + trust
- role model + self-seen
- influence + role leader
- inner strength

slow

will power
social pressure

Challenges in Developing character

no immediate negative (cor)
apparent hypocrisy

How to develop character?

150

200

Society

recognition

Individual

100
strain in relations

family
socialization or corruption

open to introspection
great people
Atmanirbhar (self)

Conclusion

100

- 1) Ignore
- 2) Tangle
- 3) Fight
- 4) Win

future Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Tessa Thomas, Einstein.

personal integrity
(create consistent set of values to guide decision-making)

* experiences
voluntarily / solo-tips
out of comfort zone (public speaking)

* Andrew Carnegie: 30

* belief in self, courage of conviction
 Khanka

* questioning dogmas, existly practiced:
 Vidyalaya

Remarks

Remarks

Essay I

- Appreciable effort, you have brought out the meaning of the topic well.
- The format you followed was good but in case you need to add more layers to your essay, try to discuss the dimensions / arguments like benefits & issues separately.
- Prioritize your points and avoid dragging / repetition of arguments.
- Can discuss points like
 - long term impact of any new development must also be researched before launch
 - Can collaborate with humanities (sociology, political science etc) to understand this long term impact.

Remarks

Essay II

- Good attempt, you discussed the key terms - character and destiny - and the link between them well.
- Your essay covered several dimensions - had a good structure and flow
- However, you can learn to not explain any dimension too much - learn to prioritise the points. Otherwise the essay can look repetitive.