



An Institute for Civil Services

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Roll No. -

Nothing is absolute, subjectivity applies everywhere.

cc There are no absolute truths...

What we need is Incredulity towards Meta-Narratives

- Lyotard

Lyotard was a post-modern scholar of fame. He warned of the dangers of sweeping generalisations and absolute ideologies instead calling for anti-foundationalism and anti-universalism.

That's very true but too jargon laden as well - see if you can communicate the same thing simply -

But why was Lyotard so against absoluteness? Is nothing really absolute? Let's find out!

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Absolute truths are three ideas, values, statements and beliefs where humans or society reposes blind faith and total acceptance.

For example, God is considered the highest authority according to most religions.

Subjectivity on the other hand implies difference of opinion and perspectives on similar issues. The classic example is the "half-glass full" (vs) "half glass empty" anecdote.

suitable examples to communicate your point

All through history there have been some or the other universal dogmas or beliefs i.e. ideologies which have been used to articulate one's perspective and mobilise people around it. ✓

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While the Christians waged Crusades in defence of their absolute belief in sayings of Bible, modern day world sees Jihad by extremists from Islam waging good examples wars to create an "imagined Caliphate" in West Asia.

This absoluteness thus sparks - conflicts between individuals, societal actors like Corporates vs Government, between nations and Clash of civilisations.

An individual's absolute trust on his argument during a road accident gets infused into road rage killings / violence. A community's trust in its own superstitious beliefs / orthodoxy gets translated into our newspaper headlines talking of Khap Panchayat sanctions, honour killings, witch huntings in Manipur etc.

very well
but could
better explain
how it
happens!

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Similarly, at the border, perceptions varying of the line of control results into coercive violations and killings of millions / army men.

Thus, absoluteness of any kind seems to be causing weakening of social fabric and disharmony in the world.

Even Foucault, the great scholar of our times has analyzed ideologies and rejects

absoluteness or discourses. He argues that there are no universal principles. We live

in a social world where truth isn't discovered, it's fabricated. Nietzsche famously said -

that "God is Dead" and there is no universal morality. This is fine but avoid so many thoughtless

This can be analyzed even in our ideas to clarify / argue various walks of life.

The process also needs to be explained how absolute belief gets wired and finally converts into conflict. They aren't some - infants - foucault argued that truth is created by discourse

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Subjectivity persists at in religious beliefs -
while Jainism / Buddhism preach against
superiority of Vedas, Hinduism considers it
sacred. The caste system has been
interpreted by Manusmriti as a "Dharma"
or part of natural order while Ambedkar
called for "putting dynamite" on the very
same scripture. The concept of gender
is also not absolute - ask a rural
poor illiterate woman and she would justify
domestic violence by her husband in all
probability.

that shows
your modern
socio-eco
must know
that dalit
women working
as rural laborer
labor is more
exploited than
middle-class
urban housewife

Society has deep inter-linkages with
polity. Though the world was divided into
two absolute blocs of liberal West and
Communist Soviet Union during cold war,
its end led to Francis Fukuyama

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claiming the "End of History" as liberalism
as an ideology won. However soon,
this absoluteness was challenged by rising
Asian states; Islamic fundamentalism seen in
9/11 terror attacks and resurgence of Russia
and China.

good examples
Democracy which is often considered
the best political system is challenged by
statesmen like Lee Kuan Yew who called it
a "Western obsession". Even during the
inter-war period, whatever fascists like Hitler
did was absolutely justified from their perspective
but soundly condemned by the international
community.

The current globalization phase is
deeply contested for its impact. Some argue

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that it has led to "plutocracy" (Kamesh Thakur)
some others like Jagdish Bhagwati cite declining
poverty in China from 36% to 6% (1990-2016)
as evidence of its virtues. Thus, subjectivity
prevails here too.

it's an essay
and not a
journal article -
referencing can
be avoided.

But why then is absoluteness across
spheres existing?

Gromsci, the contemporary of Mussolini,
puts blame on hegemony or soft power
which is manufactured by the elites in the
society. The Ad-Industry is making human
a "One Dimensional Man". Whole consumerism
and materialism is being projected as the
absolute goals, its leading to false consciousness.

what has this
got to do with
absolutism?

Moreover, human by nature is a
social animal and tends to defend his
long cultivated social beliefs.

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Thus, the society in ancient Sparta glorified
war even though peace/love are considered
universal traits in modern world.

The reason for such absoluteness
may lie in the pursuance of "power".
There is a knowledge - power connection. Every
theory is said for some purpose and for by
some person. So, Brahminical superiority
was maintained via caste rigidity and even
the Britishers maintained "white-man's burden"
theory to justify their rule over India.

But is the skepticism towards all that
is absolute correct? All of us may agree on
certain absolute principles such as empathy,
love and peace. These are hard-wired in
us from birth. Gandhi considered non-violence

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as the 'absolute creed' for which he suspended
the Non-Cooperation movement post-Chauri Chaura.

Similarly, human rights such as
right to life, freedom of speech and
equality are a moral guarantee in most
cultures / political systems.

everything from
divided
human rights

Absoluteness is rooted in Scientific
theories. Science tells about truth and false.

has it that
also been
challenged?

We are all made of carbon, any doubts?

However, even the staunchest science
theorists will agree that even science goes
for constant revisions in postulations.

inference?

Newton's theory was revised by Galileo. → Example?
Even the subverted concept of Black Hole was
defied with the Messier 87 photograph recently.

Now since, there is no absoluteness
or minimal absoluteness, given the negative
impacts (violence, conflicts etc.) that we saw,

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Vasudhaiva
Kutumbakam

how can individuals, society, nations come
to terms with subjectivity. Is the
term 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' totally elusive
given the 'subjectivity in opinion and perspective'?

The world needs to accept the
fact that subjectivity exists. Without accepting
the issue, we won't be able to deal with
it.

Once, there's widespread agreement on this
fact that there's 'no absolute fact', there
needs to be cultivation of toleration and
acceptance of the other. Toleration isn't
weakness. It represents strength of one's
personality and openness to new ideas which
enriches all cultures.

Bhola is the 'guiding light' of the world
as it has managed to accommodate diversity
of unimaginable proportions under a single
national identity. or a multi-nation state?

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Educational institutions should profess 'value pluralism' i.e. acceptance of the existence of equally right values which might seem conflictual. On the other hand, there ^{also} needs to be 'intolerance' against evils such as violence, discrimination, hate, crimes etc.

aren't they also worthy of empathetic analysis?

Multi-Culturalist ideas need to be adopted by political systems such as in West to solve the minority issue and refugee crisis. There needs to be more democratic sphere where people interact with each other and resolve conflicts. Only with exchange of ideas and more communication our societies/cultures would flourish else even the Romans saw their empire crumbling due to dogma.

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Religions have taught of 'Anekantavada' and 'Middle Path' to avoid extremes to get harmony in society.

Let's all unite by our acceptance of subjectivity rather than fight on the existence of absoluteness. The world of today presents equally truthful ideas/values/ideologies. We can all move together in the 'search for truth' by accepting each other's perspective & leaving behind dogmas.

The day then is not far when the utopianism of 'Vasudeva Kutumbhakam' will convert into reality.

There are 5 major remarks:

1. you are using too much of jargon in an exam meant for generalists
2. you are remaining largely in the domain of political science and philosophy
3. You haven't probed the reasons and origin of 'subjectivity' much.

X
4. you haven't critically reflected adequately on problems with too much subjectivity

5. Finally, you haven't made a strong case in favour of a workable mix of subjectivity & objectivity.

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Life happens to all, only few make it happen

Back in 18th century, there existed a sleepy town in the hinterlands of present day USA. The family by the name of Franklin had 7 children with one particular short-statured boy who was among the youngest among the seven.

The boy struggled with his limited means, received education in a local school and was often teased by his friends.

But he was not like any other. He possessed a kind of perseverance and passion few around him know. At the day's end, he would open his diary, record his good habits and bad habits during the day like reading books, showing

13

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punctuality, being humble etc. Then he would sleep with the resolve to make the next day better.

Throughout his adult phase, as he struggled with odd jobs like a newspaper printer, he never forgot to improve and learn each day. He grabbed on opportunities, expanded his networks & self-taught himself.

Slowly, he gained membership of legislature of American State, his scientific papers got published, he jumped into the American Revolution related activism and emerged as the most talented leader and father of Modern America. His name was Benjamin Franklin!

Thus, despite odds and circumstances, he built himself and made life happen! Not just for himself, but for his country!

Before moving ahead, explain your understanding of the phrase - 'made life happen' -

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Though a good example, you cannot afford to use 2 pages to start the introduction.

Though, life in the form of birth happens to all humans, why are there only few Benjamin's, Gandhi, Torres?
Does life happen to all truly?

We may argue that not all are fortunate to get a life worthy of its name. clearly -
Some are unlucky and born as differently abled. Some lives are ended in the wombs by feticide and some female children face the horror of infanticide by their unwilling parents.

Even after crossing the hurdles of mortality, not all get life in equal measure.
Economic Survey 2017-18 talks of "unwanted girls" born due to Son-Meta preference and thus facing neglect in education, nourishment and career.

In next 3-4 paragraphs, you should make your theoretical argument also.

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- Debt often leads to bonded labor and trafficking where freedom of an individual which is basic essence of human life is snatched away.

The present day ad-industry has its own way of curbing true choice by developing false needs of goods and values.

But the inspiring stories of Helen Keller, (differently abled), Indira Gandhi (female), Rajnikanth (earlier a bus conductor) show how few individuals brave all circumstances in what all conserve under their way to truly make life happen. braving all circumstances?

Life happens when one achieves individual success, pride, respect and glory?
Life also happens in enabling the other individual by empowering him.

This is a crucial aspect.

This needs clear, detailed discussion.

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Stalwarts of fame made not only their life happen, but brought prosperity to an entire nation or steered the world to a better path.

History holds important lessons and is often told in reference to such individuals such as the Mauya empire, B.C era as Before Christ, Gandhian phase of independence movement and so on. This shows their importance as 'guiding lights' to human race.

The lives of Gautam Buddha and Mahavira made life happen by wandering and contemplating the "Truth" to make society peaceful.

Traits define such great figures. Lincoln for example, showed "fortitude" while signing the Emancipation Proclamation to outlaw slavery.

That doesn't add much value if you keep repeating this statement without explaining its meaning.

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Mother Teresa had utmost empathy for diseases (leprosy patients for example). Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Mandela showed awesome inspiring "leadership" skills to sway masses towards the goal of FREEDOM.

Administrators like E Sreedharan gained the repute of 'Metro Man' due to his sincerity and no non-sense attitude.

On the other end of the spectrum, the prodigies like Da Vinci and Picasso were gifted with 'creativity' while Einstein had an 'IQ' few could match which led all these individuals to make life happen!

The common thread running through all ~~the~~ ^{such} stories is the existence of a positive attitude towards life, perseverance and hard work and passion to achieve a noble vision.

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However, What makes the other 99% fail to make life happen?

avoid such
quantitative
figures in
such sub

One may attribute it to genetic traits (such as high IQ of Einstein) & not favourable as nature is random.

Others may argue that circumstances such as extreme poverty, birth in a black family or low caste or hindered by geography such as North-Eastern region.

True, is there a 'level playing field' between an American white male born to Bill Gates and an African black female born in War-torn Sudan?

On the other hand, it's equally true that 'making life happen' is not reserved for only few individuals who gain limelight.

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Even a poor man toils throughout the day in the agricultural field with utmost honesty to make two meals possible and to get his children educated.

Isn't he making life happen in his own way? Are soldiers on the borders or

security guards at the colony gates not enabling others to make life happen?

Needless to say, some achieve more than others and for the right reasons.

So it's prudent that the individuals learn from the history and try to imibe positive traits and methods to achieve similar results.

Only then will society move towards the path of success.

Firstly, individuals need to gain objective understanding of their reality, their

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Strengths and Weaknesses. Then they
can begin developing positive habits.

As ~~As~~ Benjamin Franklin said

"Excellence is not an Act,
It's a daily habit."

is it quote of
Franklin or Aristotle?

The role of State is very
crucial to remove the external and
internal impediments facing the citizens.

Here, you can reflect
success/failure
of nation state.

The state should build capacity via
investments in education, health, infrastructure,
skills etc. The case of South Korea
where 94% of citizens are skilled leading to
prosperity and corporate giants like Samsung and
LG proves that state have crucial role
to make life happen to its citizens.

However, Civil society and corporates

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have to share the burden equally with
the state. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's
exemplary work in Africa in fight against HIV
proves that individuals who've made life happen
to themselves can extend the helping hand
to others left behind for society to progress
as a whole.

Corporates need to reform their
internal functionalities to blow the 'glass ceiling'
and give equal opportunity to all people to
make good out of their lives. They have
a role in environmental management and
sustainable development for long term vitality
of earth.

The combined efforts of all actors
will lead to true meaning of life unfolding
for most in our society. And with

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Each individual outdoing ^{himself} himself, expanding
his frontiers of excellence and gaining
success, the whole society will
prosper. Life then will truly happen to
all and all will be capable enough to
make life happen to themselves.

55

cc "In the string lies the success"

- X
- ↳ Again, you have focussed less on examining the link between various facets -
 - ↳ Here, don't carry the term 'making life happen' and 'life happens' throughout your essay without explanation
 - ↳ Focus more on various reasons of difficulty in explaining immense possibilities life provides -

Intro →

Benny Franklin - Father of American Revolt

Child in TN - Abraham Kalom

Backward town
Poor family
Boy & old sheets.
Grit, hunger, dead books,

S
P
E
C
L
V
I
S
S
Q

Life happens → To some
→ To all

In human form
Birth. Criminal? speaks?

Disabled / Affected
Mortality
Infanticide / Feticide

Gender discrimination
or colonialism /
Love of freedom
Bonded labour.

Ad-Industry ~ Together.

To some

Make it happen?

Christ, Columbus
Traits
(Science)
Charles Darwin
(Rock)
Startup
Elon Musk

Saints (Catalpa, Mahatma)
Courage, Empathy, Leadership
Lincoln (H. Tolosa)

Intelligence for Creativity
(Einstein) (Da Vinci)
Newton Picasso
Charity Bill Gates / Warren Buffett

#Startup #Asian Prangi
#India success, respect, glory

Make it happen

For community

For nation → Churchill
Gandhi

Living → Entrepreneurship
Passion/Energy
Perseverance
+ Noble vision (Peace in World), Abraham Kalom

PM Modi
A Swachh Bharat

Administ?
(Churchill)
E. Sri Lankan
vined Rai.

Leave word
mentis
Box-Bankers
Leaving / Hard work
Self-teaching - Elon

• Why only a few? ←
 • Do all make it happen? ←
 • Why not?

only few

Indiv traits: Genes
 Past experiences:
 Tabula Rasa
 Parenting: security, male, white
 Circumstances: ↑ ↑
 Disaster ← North East
 Case for family
 struggles for it eff? health
 Not in limelight

All make it happen

Goldwors, ~~doctors~~,
 ASHA workers,
 security guard,
 farmer: Agre.com.

What to do?

Learnings?

Conclusion

→ Individual

→ ~~State~~

→ Role of State ... Capacity building

→ Infrastructure to connect places.

Redistributing wealth & health

Skills (e.g. India vs 99% S. Korea)

- vs China

→ Role of Civil Society & Corporations

→ ~~Diff.abled~~

→ ~~Cham~~

→ glass ceiling

→ CSR + charity

→ CER

→ ~~Cham~~

Conclusion:

- India Paying

- Dastardly Manly

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Nothing is absolute, subjectivity applies everywhere.

Absolute → Ideal/Ideology
Incredibly towards meta-narratives.

Lytton -

- x absolute truth,
- x naked, glasses of culture,

Foucault

- discourses - limit of common sense
- Madness, prison, science - rationality denied.
- knowledge - power connects

Nietzsche → God is dead

- superman
- will to power -

Marx - false consciousness

- Groomer - hegemony - soft power
- Herbert Marcuse - "One d man"
- Arendt → Banality of Evil
- Communitarians → non self-enclosed, bond, x universal truth.
- Asian value debate
- Value pluralism by Isaiah Berlin

What?

No black & white but shades of gray.
Lack of understanding of the other
↳ Racism (USA), Casta (Ipl) Gender

- Inc. + natn -
- fely. + science - = anti-f...
Against Ideology

Why?

Shows how

Pre-C

What to do?

Concl

Value pluralism

Tolerance + Mult-G

Democratic Deficit ↓

Social Construction

Demo, plural, Value delighted?

Vasudeva Kantambakam

Anekantवाद

Middle path

Edm schools

Some Objective truths

Human Rights

Values hand used against fascism

Imparting Core Policy

Problems

Out information

Possession critical school

Swornal

Facts

LC

Korner

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