

(726)

GS SCORE

GS MAINS TEST SERIES 2021

ESSAY MOCK TEST - 2

Roll No. 36746

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 Priya Rani

Mobile No. _____

Date 26th November, 2021

Signature _____

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

Remarks

See A

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See B

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(a) It's choice, not chance - that determines your destiny

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
and sorry I could not travel both.

I shall be telling this with a sigh.

Somewhere ages and ages hence

would say I took the one less travelled by
and that has made all the difference

— Robert Frost

Good use of
poem to open
the essay

This poem 'Road Not Taken', symbolises
our life. There are always multiple choices
at each juncture of our life; but the
path we choose, decides our future,
our destination. Our choice makes us what
we are today and what we will be in
our future.

Our world as we see today are
product of choices made throughout the
civilisation. When Ashoka won Kalinga

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in this part)

war, he had two choices 'perighosa'
ie path of further war or 'dhammaghosa'
path of peace. It was his choice of
dhamma that made Ashoka - Ashoka The
Great.

One may be inclined to say that
Germany's attack on Poland was an event
that resulted in World War. But was it?
It was a series of choices in the world
since Treaty of Versailles that culminated
into second world war. These choices
explains how we see the world today -
power driven and hegemonistic.

Relevant
examples

Our life is a series of choices. The
choices of values in our life, choice of
what to become determine the kind of
person we will be. When we choose for
ourselves, it provides us with legitimacy
and self confidence to walk the path.

India, at the time of independence, had choices to choose its path - a peaceful democratic country or one embroiled in a civil war. It was a conscious choice by 30 crore Indians that we see India in present form - a dynamic, plural and continuing civilisation.

Both Zimbabwe and South Africa got independence - South Africa under Nelson Mandela went ahead to build a rainbow society, while Zimbabwe since 2000 has encouraged violence against white population. The result is South Africa is becoming economy while Zimbabwe surrounded by acute poverty and racial division.

Environment issues the world is surrounded with, are much result of human choices. It was our choice to move away from sustainable, non polluting

Although valid, first devised the question from an individual's point of view before moving to policy or collective decisions.

sources to unsustainable choices. This has landed us in midst of a climate crisis struggling to keep temperature below 1.5°C rise since pre-industrial level. Only when we learn to balance economy and ecology, can we can come out with a sustainable choice.

But as critical it is to make a choice for determining our destiny, equally important is how do we reach to a particular choice. So it important to make wise choices so as to reach our destiny.

Valid
Dimension

But how to choose is the question?
Ask yourself where you want to be in five years .. and understand what you value. and who you want to keep in your life. Don't sit back and let someone

use make choices for you, take the wheel and drive towards your own destiny.

Making choice is not always an easy task. We often become frozen in our decision making, feeling like the choice is out of our hands or part of some bigger plan that we aren't the director of.

But this isn't true, as it is better to make your own decision than let someone else do it for you.

good examination how to make decisions

How to reach decision? Gandhiji wrote about the need to introspect before a decision. What today's market analyst would term 'SWOT' analysis - Gandhiji called 'ATMA - NIRECKSHAN' in Hind Swaraj.

What if we still make wrong choice? It's okay, till we learn from such mistakes. These help us better our future choices and one of these choices

matter take us to path of glory. Gandhi in his book 'My experiments with Truth', talks about various wrong choices like smoking or going to brothel. But learning from these choices and improving upon decision made his MAHATMA Gandhi from Gandhi.

The next question to ponder upon is -
are all destiny driven by choices?

A poor family does not get a chance to choose between education of ^{their} child or use them as labour. If they do not work, there is a threat to survival.

Historically, what career one will choose was not determined by choices but on caste in which one was born.

Dalits were refused rights to choose. Even today the caste based manual scavenging highlight how choices determine our destiny.

Good reading of the question

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in this part)

प्रश्न संख्या
(Question No)

The plight of transgenders highlight how their basic right of self determination - i.e. to choose their sexual inclination is declined. Even if they choose, they are often marked for their choices in our society and disowned by their own family.

Thus destiny is result of not just choices, but also chances and situations in which choices are made. Also many a times choices of others snatches ~~choices of~~ our choices.

Valid
examples

The developed countries who industrialised first, choose indiscriminate emission for development. This has led to climate change, brunt of which is heavily paid by poor developing country, who are now posed with difficult choice of - removing poverty through development or environment protection. Even then the developed world urges us for choosing 'phase down' coal over 'phase out' coal in glasgow summit.

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So it becomes important to ascertain that people have the luxury of choice. This can be done by developing human capability as highlighted by Amartya Sen's capability approach to development.

Poor people must be educated, provided health facilities and skill so as to empower them to make their own choices. At the same time Nation must also enhance its capability through growth and development. It is India's and China's economic lift that they are able to fight for their rights at WTO, UN and for climate justice at COP summit.

Today world is in middle of a Pandemic of devastating scale. It is riddled with issues like Terrorism and rise of Taliban in Afghanistan. It is surrounded by refugee and climate crisis and growing unipolar world order tendencies.

Sufficient conclusion

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in this part)

These issues will be resolved only by
choices we make in coming years. These
choices will shape our new world order
free from terrorism and extremism, a
healthy world and realisation of rights of
refugees. It is these choices that will
determine destiny of the world.

Thus it is rightly said that in
moment of decision your destiny is shaped.
It is about the road you choose to travel.

- Apt reading of the question
- Examined the role of choices in our lives,
how to make the best decisions, the
role of chance in deciding our life.
- Give appropriate examples

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(b) "HOW DEMOCRACY DIES ?"

A tree can withstand graves of storm, most violent floods & severe famines if it has grown into 'holistic living system'. That is to say its roots are deep and firm, its trunk is dense and broad & its leaves

of functioning as photosynthetic 'food factories'. In all, the growth & survival of a tree is dependent on healthy functioning of its parts.

This analogy borrowed from Tatakes, helps us explain our democracy as a tree which requires strong institutions, participation, ethics among others. It must be watered and nourished with care so as to

keep its sustained growth and health. Faulting on these sometimes, lead to decline and even death of democracies which we will see through the essay.

Good use of analogy is introduced the topic

What is democracy? As Abraham Lincoln puts it - "It is a government of the people, by the people and for the people". Thus people are the sovereign in a democracy and provide legitimacy to the entire process.

Why do we need democracy?

Democracy is based on fundamentals of equality and liberty. It respects basic human rights of people. It provides a conducive environment where voices can be raised & true potential of individual can be realised. Democracy is not just a victory through ballot box but much more than that. A vibrant democracy is one with flourishing political, social and cultural institutions and a general adherence to democratic norms.

Adequate definition of the key concept

Democracy, as we know today, has developed over a long period of time, drawing on different kind of experiences and experiments.

There were significant form of political democratic practice in ancient Greece, from around 6th century. Also Vaishali in India, was world's first republic with its democratic Sangha, Ganas & Panchayat system.

relevant dimension

However, democracy in its present form, emerged from many developments - from English Magna Carta in 1215 to the French and American Revolution, to the spread of franchise from male to female in Europe and America.

After Independence, India marched at breathless speed towards democracy. It was world's first non western poor country to commit itself to a democratic way of governance with universal adult franchise to all.



But it is not that once democracy is established, it goes on forever without any effect. Many a times we have seen decline of democracy and even its death. But the question arises is, with all the safeguards and institutions, why do democracies then die?

This is a more extreme example of argument. I don't discuss the more common ones.

Democracy dies due to military coup (recent case of Myanmar) but it also dies: due to elected leaders who subvert the very process that brought them to power. (eg: Chavez in Venezuela). These efforts to subvert democracy are legal in the sense that they are approved by the legislature, accepted by the courts and may even be portrayed as efforts to improve democracy.

Democracies dies when one rejects the democratic rules of the game like violation of constitution, restricting basic civil rights, change the government through violent insurrections or attempt to undermine the legitimacy of elections. Recent cases of Myanmar & Sudan shows breakdown of democratic rules.

Valid argument

Democracies die when there is denial of legitimacy of political opponents branding them as existential threat or brand them as criminals disqualifying them from political process. This was seen when in 2018, Maldives President Abdulla Yameen declared a state of emergency and ordered the arrest of number of politicians and officials including two judges of supreme court of Maldives (including chief justice Abdulla Saeed) and former President Abdul Gayoom.

It also dies when there is readiness to curtail civil liberties, including that of media. Recently Erdogan (Turkey) accused journalists of propagating terrorism. When such view becomes public view then it becomes easier to justify action taken against them.

When toleration or acceptance of violence becomes okay, democracies die. Subversion of one of the finest constitutions, the 1919 Weimar constitution, was not just because of Hitler, but also because of people's acceptance of his violent ways.

Valid argument

Democracy declines when there is improper functioning of institutions. In Pavngate scandal, MLA's were found watching porn in front row of assembly while it was in session. Judiciary politicisation when it is not independent as in case of USA where it is elected.

Democracy suffers when there is widespread inequality in society and fight for meagre resources. Sudan, the newest country's march towards democracy has been stalled by acute poverty, inequality and hunger. It is difficult to preach democracy to hungry stomach.

could also discuss procedure and substantive democracy

Recently, Sweden's V-Dem institute, said India had become electoral autocracy. Under such criticism it seems natural to ask this question: How well has democracy worked in India?

Clearly, the basic norms of democracy in general have been followed. The attempt to suspend democratic rights as happened during emergency in 1970's, have met with immediate rejection in electoral voting. This shows people's strong belief in democratic norms.

Recently, a migrant worker was arrested in Qatar for highlighting their plight. At the same time in India, we have great degree of freedom of speech to even criticise Prime Minister through cartoons.

In Myanmar and Nepal, one loses its citizenship if marries person of another country, while India right to Marry anyone is a fundamental right. Russia outlawed same sex marriage while Indian judiciary scrapped section 377 recognising LGBTQ rights. This shows in general respect of rights and choices in India.

Non acceptance of electoral result seems to be a common in world's oldest democracy (USA) where supporters attacked the Capitol. In India there is acceptance and trust in free and fair electoral result.

In India, we had first female Prime Minister in 1970's, whereas even in 2021 Samoa country shows unacceptance.

towards elected female prime minister Naomi Matafa. The Parliament house got locked so that the lady could not take oath as Prime Minister.

India has an independent judiciary with wide judicial review power, huge diversity of population living peacefully together, has extreme right to left ideologies in same parliament, there is freedom to express and dissent as seen in year long farm protest. Considering these, terming India as an electoral autocracy is far fetched.

But certainly democracies around the world including India is not perfect and has its own imperfections. But we need to work on it to strengthen it further.

We need to champion Public discussion and debate which has been part of our tradition since Ashokan times who hosted the largest Buddhist council ever. Public should be part of discussion of different

Relevant aspect

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law making which makes laws more inclusive.

Media is the 4th pillar of democracy needs to be strengthened and not used for agendas. It must not toe the government line and must highlight the diversity in society.

On the political front - we need inner party democracy and reduced criminalisation of politics. Various checks and balances must work in tandem to hold the institutions accountable. Also political participation of underprivileged sections and women must be improved to take democracy to new heights.

Having said that, one must understand that changes in democracy occurs in sequential process rather than an avalanche. Most important is to understand that we do have certain issues which need critical and reasoned scrutiny. At the same time, as an Indian, who

Good enough
conclusion

is part of a vibrant democracy, must be proud of our democratic legacy as we celebrate our 75th Independence year -

AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV: We together have ensured a sustained growth of our democratic tree with collective efforts of all.

- Discussed many important dimensions but essay needed a framework.
- Delineate your arguments using sub-headings
- Discussed democratic institutions very briefly. could have probed those further.

↳ Public participation, ~~or~~ free media etc. needed more attention

↳ substantive democracy: climate change, abject poverty, social exclusion etc.

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