

GS SCORE

ESSAY TEST SERIES 2021

Time Allowed: 3 Hrs.

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 Faisal Khan

Mobile No. _____

Date 14/11/2021

Signature Faisal

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

ESSAY 1 → 60

ESSAY 2 → 64

ESSAY MOCK TEST - 1

Roll No.

57171

Max. Marks: 250

Remarks

Dear Aspirant,
you have
attempted the essay fairly
well.

The expressional skills
are decent.

Try to add more
perspectives in ESSAY 1

Also in Essay 2 mention
the demerits in a little
detailed manner.

Overall well attempted

GS SCORE**SECTION - A**

1. *Happiness is not something readymade. It comes from your own actions.*
2. *Impossible is just an opinion.*
3. *The decisions you make are a choice of values that reflect your life in every way.*
4. *Every man dies. Not every man really lives.*

SECTION - B

1. *Did we overlook recycling for profit?*
2. *Refugee demands the right to have rights*
3. *Sports for fraternity and brotherhood*
4. *Access to Internet as fundamental right*

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Section A

"The decisions you make are a choice of values that reflect your life in every way."

There is an ancient parable in America that we have two wolves inside us - good and bad. We cannot kill either but the one who we feed is the one who will grow inside us and shape what we become. Every second of our life we make a decision - consciously or involuntarily which decides our future and reflects our past and the present. Such decisions are part of our everyday life, social life, government policies be it at national level or the international level.

Well started

The value system in turn is shaped by our family, society, educational institutions, life experiences, beliefs, etc. among others. Many traditions value a spiritual existence over material existence while many do the opposite. This in turn

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4 shapes the value of the followers of such traditions. Similarly, one may come across a personal experience due to which their entire world view may change and would be in turn reflected in the decisions they take in life.

The best example of this is the life of Buddha who went into a state of existential crisis when he saw the sight of old man, sick man and started an ascetic lifestyle which was reflected in his clothing, food habits, thoughts, actions and beliefs. Such existential crisis has been brought among many individuals after the COVID-19 epidemic which saw many people leaving this worldly abode prematurely. This has triggered a series of resignations from the hectic workspace in the west and is being known as the Great Resignation wave.

Mention the values which helped shape the decision which Budhha took.

Elaborate the reasons behind the choices of resignation, why people are choosing to resign even during the crisis. What values are shaping this decision

Everyday when we wake up from bed, we have a choice - either to snooze the alarm and sleep more or rise up and

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work towards achieving the goals which are influenced by the values we hold. A person who values proactiveness, sense of responsibility and has a zeal to do something in life will start his daily routine as early as possible & try to complete it with full efficiency. whereas a person who has lost a meaning to life starts procrastinating, snoozes the alarm, misses the deadlines and eventually witnesses a deterioration in health and quality of life which comes with his attitude. Viktor Frankl, Austrian philosopher and neurologist in his "man's search for meaning" book precisely talks about this idea that "will to meaningfulness" is what drives people to be happy and efficient whereas absence of the same leads to depression, anxiety and a serious decline in the quality of life of such people.

You can mention some life stories of any famous personality while describing this instance of zeal.

Individuals like Malala Yousafzai, the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner, was shot in the head because she made the decision to not give in to the dictates of Taliban.

Remarks

It was only because she valued courage, education, women empowerment that she stood up and was shot at by the Taliban. Had she accepted submission, cowardice and status quo her decision towards responding to the Taliban ban on women education would have been of closing and hiding in her own house. Her decision was in a big way influenced by the family values she held. Her father was involved in education sector and had always motivated her to be less than males. As a result, she became what she is today. Her values are reflected in her actions towards promoting women education, gender equality, fight against extremism despite death threats.

Mention the importance of making the right choice not only for oneself but also for larger humanity.

Another example from history which vindicates the essay topic is the life of Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi was always a keen observer, rational thinker and a person who valued humanity over caste, religion or gender. These values which

Remarks

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he ~~she~~ practised & preached were manifested in his life especially the key points of his life where he had to take decision which in turn would affect the destiny of the masses who followed him.

starting from his journey in South Africa, when he was thrown out of the train for travelling in his first class compartment Mahatma ~~Gandhi~~ chose not to be silent and focus on his law assignment in South Africa so that he could make a fortune. Instead he chose to rise up against the ~~British~~ for he was fearless and never greedy. He started the satyagraha against the mighty ~~British~~ and eventually won.

These values were reflected in his life even later when he gave up the practise of lawyer and adopted a modest life with his stick and khadi clothes.

Gandhi was a humanist and rational person. His decision to revolt against the

Remarks

British in South Africa never ever made him promote hatred towards the Europeans. He always preached - 'Hate the evil but not the evil doer'. He wanted to argue his case on rational lines and not merely emotional lines. He made the decision of using reason and non-violence over emotions and arms.

These values were reflected during his freedom struggle in India. He conducted enquires during Chauri Chaura satyagraha, Kheda satyagraha, he called off non-cooperation movement after violence in Chauri Chaura since he always preached ahimsa. He called for abolition of untouchability as he valued humanism over conservative dogma.

Not merely at this individual level but also at the societal level, the decisions which we make reflect our lives in every way.

Take the case of India especially general India during elections. Most

* Also add how his right decisions were effective &

add how still

his values are endeared.

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electoral observers and psephologists have argued that Indians "vote their caste, they don't cast their votes". The decision by the electorate to vote on caste/communal lines reflects the overall working of their lives.

Even today, dogma of purity and pollution is followed by rural India. Lower castes are often segregated and live in a separate corner of the village. There are numerous cases of violence / lynching of a lower caste groom riding a horse as it is a privilege of only the upper caste people. The conservatism is not merely limited to caste but gender also. Despite the 33% reservation in panchayats to women, the power is exercised by their husbands. This is called as panchayat pati phenomenon.

The value of conservatism, blind practise of patriarchy influences electoral as well as the personal and societal lives in such places.

Better would have been you first mention all the right choices taken by individuals nations etc across various sectors and then you segregate the ideas of all negative choices and decisions made and how they affect the lives.

Remarks The impact of all these wrong societal notions and decisions should be elaborated a little bit. Mention the value crisis & how

At the international level, decisions of the nations are also reflective of the choice of values of the nations. Take the case of America, it preaches human rights, democracy, women equality, climate action but itself follows a double standard in enforcing them at their home and outside.

USA policy decisions are reflective of these double standards. like the invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq were not mere driven by concerns about global peace and democracy as they have claimed more lives than they had saved. Rather the hidden motive was to take control over oil resources in Gulf, counter possibility of Russia in controlling Afghanistan and sell more arms to the region.

These values of profit motive, narrow self interest, materialism are reflected in almost all the policies of the USA. On climate change, USA has failed to

Remarks You can discuss that Individualism is a safeguarded & protected value in American culture in contrast to Collectivism. Hence

most of its decisions are based on its choice of the value of Individualism

provide climate finance or technology. In following UNCLOS treaty on global commons like sea, it has never ratified it and has only preached its enforcement over the South China Sea to countries like S. China. On agricultural issues, USA has opposed India's National Food Security program citing world trade despite the fact that it is alleviating poverty in India.

Lastly, even at the corporate level it holds true that decisions are a choice of values reflected in the overall corporate work ethics. During lockdown, many corporates had cut down on employees through mass layoffs. However, many corporates like Tata refused to layoff workers. The decision to not fire employees at such crucial stage reflects the value of compassion and humanism which is held by the company. Its motto is "Values stronger than steel" and the company is known

Remarks

values of compassionate Capitalism can be discussed here

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for various employee centric welfare measures including bonuses as well as philanthropy. Recently, Jamshedji Tata was declared to be the biggest philanthropist of 20th century.

To bring about change in an individual, policy or society there is a need to inculcate values which are needed to address various problems in the society.

Indian education system has a small component of moral education but we need much more emphasis on value education by changing the curriculum, promoting collaboration, respect towards each other, selflessness, compassion among others.

regular workshops, role playing, motivational sessions should be conducted by the government and private organisations to inculcate these values. Indian bureaucracy if would become humane, citizen centric, sensitive, impartial, honest would

Remarks

~~mention some role model bureaucrat & his efforts for public welfare. You can stress upon his values shaping~~

start working in much better way and would be able to achieve the goals of good governance and meet the targets set under the Sustainable Development Goals.

As Albert Einstein had said, "Try to become a man of values rather than a man of success". When we realise that so called success is contingent upon values we would be able to achieve our goals much easily. As APJ Abdul Kalam had said, "When there is ~~and~~ harmony at home, there is order in nation. When there is order in the nation, there is ~~peace~~ peace in the world".

The Concluding lines should reiterate the main topic theme.

THINK ON THESE LINES TOO

- How values are shaped? You can discuss the Nature Vs Nurture debate
- Mention cases of ethical dilemma affecting decisionmaking
- Discuss its importance in public policy making & governance
- Mention the factors which limit effective decision making even when values are ethical.
- Mention how sometimes wrong decisions are undertaken even when values & intentions are pure
- What do in situations of diverging values & differing decisions.

} This conclusion has become too common for any topic

Section BSports for fraternity and brotherhood

In our busy schedules today, sports especially cricket and football have emerged to be a good excuse to take a break, sit together with family time and friends and spend quality. Often we hear the office announcing a leave for India-Pakistan cricket match or for the clubs being full of crowd during UEFA football matches.

Sports have been generally considered as a leisure activity where since the ancient times people would come together & watch ~~with much pleasure~~ and excitement. Be it the gladiators of Rome or ~~cricketers~~ of India.

Even before cricket came there were many fun games & activities played by them.

In today's world, work pressure has increased tremendously which is leading to isolation, depression, weak familial ties, less time for family among other things. This has affected the

The intro needs attention. Try to add some element of interest to immediately grab the attention of reader.

Remarks

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social bonding which people enjoyed earlier. Humans being gregarious animals can't survive alone and often loneliness, depression becomes common in such cases.

sports as an activity which can be watched by the viewers gives time to relax, finish the work early and reach home on time. This promotes social bonding and fraternity among the society. The post match discussions never end and again become a way of interaction.

Fraternity and brotherhood are two cherished values which bind people together and create a feeling of "us" from "me". This promotes selflessness, compassion, empathy among other things. The values which are needed today to solve global problems of climate change, world peace, reducing inequalities, racism, hunger, poverty, etc.

sporting events like Olympics, World Cups, Asian Games, etc promote these values

You can discuss the era of Doordarshan where television was very rare and how people used to meet up at place of relatives and friends to watch matches. The same can be seen during contemporary times at tea stalls and big cafe and restaurant

Remarks • You can discuss how solidarity matches bind people & countries alike!

of fraternity and brotherhood.

During Olympics, tourists from across the world come together in the host country. This creates a mechanism for people to interact and discuss a range of issues apart from sports. During London Rio Olympics 2016, many Russians and Americans met together. This created a way of knowing the "real" other rather than the "ideal" other as shown by propaganda channels or media driven by vested interests. Such events act as diffusion of tension among the nations. The sport tourists move back to their countries and spread knowledge about the adversary nations reducing tensions. These actions play a crucial role in changing public opinion and consequently policy bringing peace and collaboration.

Good mention

However, this demands that sports are not seen as a way of defeating the other teams and the ~~common~~ spirit of sportsmanship is present during such events.

Remarks

Incidents of fans turning violent during sport events can defeat the spin offs which come from sports. This requires that the narrative in home countries of teams is positive and decent not depumanising the other.

sporting events not only reduce tensions among other nations but are a good excuse by the head of the states to come together and discuss peace and solve bilateral issues promoting brotherhood and fraternity. Ping Pong diplomacy by China or cricket diplomacy by India-Pakistan have acted as a good starting points to reset the ties and start afresh.

Apart from the international relations, sports often bring the citizens of a country also together. Hosting events like Olympics or Asian Games require massive spending for infrastructure development. The economic expenditure in turn brings more jobs for the people

Remarks

promoting prosperity and conflicts over limited resources which has led to regionalism and anti-migrant attitude in some places like Mumbai towards North Indian migrants.

It is not only jobs but a sense of pride and responsibility which a global sporting event brings. Volunteer activities speed up when an event has to be organised. Youth, students, civil society starts volunteering when it is a matter of reputation of their country in hosting such events. Be it in hospitality, cleanliness, greening the city, etc. This was witnessed on a large scale in London 2012 Olympics as it has strong culture of volunteerism. The collaboration brings people together creating perpetual bonds of friendship among them.

Sports have a component of associated glory in winning the event. When a team wins it looks as if

Remarks

You can talk how people come together doing gajras & hanans.

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all the followers have won. In the case of a diverse country like India, promoting as well preserving pluralism is a ~~sine qua non~~ sine qua non. Global sporting events provide a good opportunity for the same. When Mary Kom won gold, all Indians took pride in her glory and also embraced Manipur, her home state, as well as her. This definitely was a dent in the negative image of North East Indians in the minds of some Indians who preach racism and call names. The racial discrimination faced by the North East Indians in India is a documented fact by the Bezbawah committee. Sports gives an opportunity to end this scourge on humanity.

Sports can also be used as a good way of promoting brotherhood in conflict prone areas especially in places where riots/tensions arise. A composite team having players from all social groups who have a tense relationship

Remarks

You can discuss how football is being popularised in many of the north eastern states and naxal prone areas. Sports is a very good way of channelising negative energy and bring in people together.

with each other makes them realise how similar they are and how interacting with each other douses the fire of hatred they have towards each other.

Apart from the psychological benefits of sports, there are some physiological benefits too which promote brotherhood and fraternity among them. Physical activity is associated with release of dopamine which is called the happy hormone in the body. It brings a feeling of good happiness among the person. Reversely is true, if there is no physical activity. There is release of cortisol in the body which promotes stress, depression. } Good.

So, sports can be promoted as an effective tool by the government to promote social capital through brotherhood and fraternity. It can play a major role in the success of Fit India movement which is being promoted by the government.

Government should develop infrastructure at district, state and national level

Remarks

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to promote sports in the country. The habit sports should be seen as a profession which requires tax breaks to sponsors and identifying talent and nurturing them through championships like khelo India school games.

Mauryana government has played a major role in the success of many Mauryana sports persons. Other states can learn from the state and develop a sporting culture elsewhere too. You can discuss how it is helping

Apart from health, adequate nutrition of all children by POSHAN Abhiyan, sanitation through Swach Bharat Mission, coaches, medical professionals for sports & injuries should be developed among in the country to promote sports is break the stereotypes, patriarchal mindset

sports should not be merely seen as a pastime but an essential part of human life which brings good health, world peace, economic growth and most importantly it helps in achieving the noble Constitutional ideals of brotherhood

Remarks

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and brotherhood. This would ensure tranquility in the society and people would be focusing more on fighting challenges of global warming, extremism, inequality rather than fighting physical and mental wars with each other.

EXTRA VALUE ADDITION

- Can talk how sports encourage healthy spirit of rivalry. You can discuss how cricketers defend their opponent team sportsperson from abuse & attacks.
- You can give example how India gives infrastructure for training of Afghani cricketers.
- Role of IPL in binding & brotherhood.
- Can discuss the role in incubating democratic values, & integration. You can give mention of the symbolism behind 5 interlocking rings of Olympic games.
- You can discuss there is no language barrier.

Also add the negative issues affecting the spirit of sports - betting, fixing, doping, racial abuse, favouritism, infighting among teams, Xenophobia, violence.

Remarks