

GS SCORE

GS MAINS TEST SERIES 2021

ESSAY MOCK TEST - 2Roll No. 57171

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).

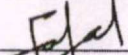
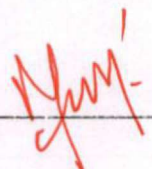
Remarks

Sub A (60)

Sub B (63)

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Date 25/11/2021Signature 1. Invigilator Signature 

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SECTION - A

1. *Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere.*
2. *Strength and wisdom are not opposing values.*
- 1:50 3. *It's choice - not chance - that determines your destiny*
4. *Character is a journey, not a destination*

SECTION - B

1. *The world is hard-wired for cyber resilience*
- 1:20 2. *How democracy dies?*
3. *'Electoral autocracy': The downgrading of India's democracy*
4. *Regional-parochialism has invalidated the concept of India being 'indestructible union of destructible states'*

Section-A

It's choice - not chance - that determines your destiny.

Homo sapiens perform various voluntary and involuntary actions every second of their life. The Act of kidney processing fluids or blood vessels taking blood across the body are not by choice but a fix rule of evolution that would make it happen for life to sustain. However, there are various other voluntary acts which we perform which are a matter of choice. From a platter of choices, we pick what we want and see them shape our destiny accordingly. Be it at personal level or societal level.

Indian tradition and various other traditions have long believed in the idea of fatalism. That humans are driven by nature and have no free will. People accepted the things as they were and allowed them to shape their destiny. However, ~~soon~~ there were some who always

Remarks

Good introduction
Discusses the
new concept
key concept
(choice)
is in our
life

believed that human actions are purely a making of their own and they can use them wisely to shape their destiny in a positive way. This became more evident during the reform movements across the globe. Many reformers emphasised the need to exercise their choice and shape their destiny.

During the Dark Ages in Europe, the Church's dogma of fatalism was rejected by the likes of Galileo, Copernicus, Rousseau, Paine, etc. The same was the case in India during the Bhakti and Sufi movements and later during the British when doctrines like "God help those, those who help themselves" became popular.

The advent of science and technology has removed the shroud of mystery over many things and has made people empowered to make choices. The fear of unknown has been taken away by the huge advancements in modern world.

Take the case of farming. In the past,

Valued
innovation
of
history &
philosophy

Remarks

farmers dependent on the nature and rain gods for sowing / harvest. Any erratic rain would damage the crops. So, developed the worship of rain gods to be benevolent on humans. However, today things have changed by satellites and fast computer systems. IMD weather forecasts are used by many progressive farmers to plan their harvest seasons time and this has greatly affected their benefits from agriculture shaping their destiny to a more prosperous future.

Apart from the awareness about the fact that choices are present with us, we also need to have the courage to make brave choices. As many a times, we lack courage due to fear of failure or opposition from a powerful authority figure and hence we don't make the required choice.

Mahatma Gandhi had moved to South Africa for a personal professional work. However, he faced racial discrimination there first hand and decided to take a stand and face the mighty British.

Remarks

Valid argument

when he was thrown out of the first class compartment of the train in South Africa, he could have remained silent and moved to third class as was ordered to him. But he showed courage and decided to protest. That is how he inspired other people there to oppose the British oppression. The result was the ultimate freedom of the Indians under British rule and reforms in South Africa too.

When we make brave choices we inspire others also. ~~note~~ This acts as a multiplier and tries to change destiny of large number of people. It was when Gandhi showed light that the masses also decided to exercise their choice of opposing the colonial regime and it ultimately led to India's freedom. This inspiration travelled to other parts of the world where Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King took inspiration and many more have taken inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi to exercise the choice of opposing racism.

Relevant argument

Remarks

and ensuring that UN Declaration of Human Rights which promises equality is followed in both letter and spirit.

"No one is too small to make a difference" as said by Greta Thunberg should be the guiding light when a person exercises choices. This would give the motivation to exercise choices wisely and shape the destiny.

Even a small act of not littering the street can play a big role in shaping the destiny of a nation. This is evident in the case of Singapore. There are strict laws against littering public spaces. All the citizens follow the laws in both letter and spirit. For an individual, it may be just a small wrapper of chocolate but as a whole nation it not littering means saving the cost and headache of cleaning the streets of Singapore. Also, it promotes a sense of responsibility and promotes a law abiding attitude among the citizens.

Remarks

Don't drag one argument

This has cascading effects in other sectors like policing, taxation, etc. When people follow law, there is harmony and progress in the nation. All these acts have shaped the destiny of Singapore and transformed it from a small city to one of the world cities of the globe.

When making a choice, one should try to think of long term consequences and not merely short term. For any choice to have a positive impact on our destiny, it has to be well thought off having long term benefits.

After independence, Indian freedom fighters like Nehru, Gandhi, Patel, Maulana Azad made a choice to make India self-reliant, develop its own institutions. As a result,

IITs, IIMs, CSIR, IISc, universities came up across the country. This started creating a talent pool in the country to steer the economy and promote progress.

Good argument

Exam
relevance

However, many countries like Pakistan thought short term and became dependent on foreign aid and institutions across their country. This never made their economies sustainable and self-reliant. They had weak institutions due to constant interference unlike India where Supreme Court, Election Commission of India, etc. were allowed to flourish and it made India a much more stable democracy and a growing economy.

This visionary approach should be the basis of policy making across the world as it would shape the destiny of the entire globe.

Today, climate change or terrorism has become a global threat which requires coordinated effort. The choices made by global heads should be inclusive so that it benefits all and is not merely in unsustainable self interest. If the western world makes a choice of providing \$100 billion funding as promised

Remarks

long back under the Green climate Fund then it would shape the destiny of earth by playing a ~~as~~ the role of catalyst in limiting temperatures to 1.5°C from pre-industrial levels.

Presently, the western world has made a choice of not being inclusive in their climate action policies. This is leading to droughts, floods, submergence of island states like Tuvalu and destined a gloomy future.

The choices in everyday life are enough to change ~~the~~ ^{our} destiny. Government has promoted ~~the~~ campaigns spreading equality across the ~~world~~ ^{to} country by the use of B.R. Ambedkar. However it is upto the individuals to make it a success or failure. Everyday we have the choice of treating the person we meet purely in human terms and not based on his/her caste or religion. Only we as an individual can exercise this choice and

wrap up this aspect

Examine examples where even personal choice is considered.

Philosophical questions, arguments & examples should consider an individual's point of view.

Remarks

make the world more egalitarian society.

It's choice and not chance that shapes our destiny. To exercise choices there is a need to remove 'unfreedoms' from our lives so that we are in a position to make well informed choices. Prof Amartya Sen, nobel laureate, emphasised that to ensure development we have to remove such unfreedoms - poverty, illiteracy, gender discrimination, social discrimination, fear, etc.

Acceptable example
~~Some~~ The New Education Policy 2020 tries to promote an education system that is inculcating values and not merely rote learning. Values which would make us courageous to explore what we want in life and knowledge which empowers us to recognise that we have choices and these choices would benefit us only.

Apart from education, there is a need to focus on the individual as an independent entity. Society should not bind anyone

Remarks

in fixed roles due to patriarchy, caste discrimination, religious discrimination. Rather it should allow people to make choices, no matter how unconventional so that people take control of their lives and shape their own destinies.

Government should focus on rule of law, decriminalise politics through fast track courts, transparency in electoral funding and provide economic support through schemes like stand up India, Start up India, etc. to allow people to make choices.

Seemingly
conclusion

Destiny of an individual or a nation is in her/his hands only. This truth should be acknowledged sooner lest it may be too late. For the time which has passed away never comes back. We as a collective and as an individual should hurry to ~~bring~~ take control of our lives and shape our destiny. Because if not us then who?

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- Discussed how choices are common, courage behind choices/decisions, how to make decisions. Could have added how even chance has a part in determining our future. It's vanity to assume we control everything.
- Be mindful of how examples are used (see Pg 10)

Remarks

Section-B

How democracy dies ?

Democracy has been described as the least worst of all forms of the government across the world. People may have issues with democracy but such issues become grave with other forms of government be it monarchy, dictatorship or communist regimes. Just like everything else in this world, even democracy is not permanent. It is a state which nations have struggled to achieve and sustain.

Good enough
unless of
the key
concept

Democracy refers to the form of government where people chose their own representatives through voting. They have an active say in running the government indirectly. In the past, democracy was sustained through limited franchise rights - limited to the wealthy few but today all the citizens above a certain age get this right to vote in democracy.

Remarks

Small forms of democracy existed in the past especially in tribal societies where citizens through local village assemblies had a major role in running their government. This declined during the medieval ages when feudalism grew and power was concentrated in the hands of a few. However this phase of feudalism/monarchy remained for many centuries. It is only in the past few centuries that democracy has made a comeback globally and is the most preferred form of government. However, the democracy across the world faces several challenges which affect its survival.

One of the most ironical thing about democracies today is that they are won by parties who may win in the first past of the post system but don't even get majority of votes in total. This was true in the case of Donald Trump where the absolute number of votes

Relevant argument

won by Trump was less than Hillary Clinton but despite that he won the national elections due to the design of democracy in USA which counts the representatives supporting a candidate. This is true in the case of India also. Parties with 30% vote share lost in states like Uttar Pradesh while those with 32-33% won disproportionately large number of seats.

Such a system of electoral politics may make democracy unrepresentative and raises questions on the legitimacy of the governments across various democracy.

Even if the democratic electoral system is in place it may lead to very less involvement of the citizens in the day to day functioning of the government.

Recently, the Chief Justice of India C.V. Ramana said that merely choosing the candidates during election doesn't ensure democracy. It can be ensured

Remarks

Good argument

only when there is active involvement of citizens in the governance of the country.

Today, the common man is not associated actively with governance of the country both by design and by his own disinterest in the governance process. Bureaucratic approach into the government ensures that rules are given more importance than the citizens and even public interest at many a times.

Take the case of 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Act 1992. They provide for creation of a District Planning Committee which would collect the plans from the gram sabhas and create a common plan for the entire district which would ensure bottom up approach to planning which would be more inclusive. However, not even 50% of the states have made the District Planning Committee functional let alone use it for planning for democracy.

good reading of the question

Citizen's disinterest becomes clear in the voting patterns across the country. A 52% voting in Lok Sabha 2019 for Mumbai was a record. When half of the people don't care about democracy, why would democracy care for its citizens. This disinterest is further seen in law abiding status of Indian citizens. Hardly 5% of population pays income tax in the country as a result India's tax-GDP ratio is only 11% whereas this is as high as 17% in OECD countries.

Valid argument

Chanakya had famously said that "Kosha moola danda" i.e. power of the government flows from the revenue. When the people don't pay revenue, the democratic government would itself fail.

Another important pillar of democracy which affects its performance is the legislature - Parliament and state assemblies both. On an average, it takes Rs 2 crore/day

to run the Parliament but the output from the same has declined progressively. The sitting of Lok Sabha, bills referred to the Parliamentary committee, etc. have declined and the role of legislature has ~~been~~ become void in the recent times. There is no other institution which can take the role of legislature and its weakening makes the democracy crawl on a wheel chair as it loses power in one of its foundational pillars.

The third pillar of democracy - judiciary has performed better than the other two - executive and legislature in countries like India but its own challenges remain. There are more than 3 crore cases pending with Indian judiciary which seriously affects the rule of law.

Rule of law is a fundamental doctrine in a democracy as it ensures that government runs smoothly and also that human rights like the fundamental democratic right of equality is protected.

Could probe on the importance of an independent judiciary

in the democracy. Gunnar Myrdal in his book "Asian Drama" quotes the poor "rule of law" as the key reason for poor governance in Asian countries like India. There is no point of calling a country democracy when it is there only on paper but not enforced by the machinery.

Lynching, mob justice, discrimination are crimes which are killing the democracy day by day.

Apart from rule of law, another aspect of democracy of today is "one man, one vote" but not "one man, one value" as quoted by B.R. Ambedkar. He argued rightly so that unless people view each other as equals we cannot call ourselves truly democratic. The narrow values of caste, gender, race, religion put different people at different pedestals and create a superficial democracy which

Remarks

Valid
demonstration
could probe
substantive
democracy

exists on paper in letter but not in spirit.

Of all these ~~most~~ diseases that plague democracy one ~~is~~ which is the most worrisome is the role of press. The press has done a complete role reversal from being a critique of the government and voice of people to the voice of government and critique of people.

This is similar to the ~~the~~ party press era in the United States which was present about few decades back. Then the press would support a political party openly and was patronised by it but today ~~the~~ press supports the government but secretly. This fools the people in the democracy and misguides them weakening the democracy.

To strengthen democracy we have a long way to go and many sacrifices to make.

It should start from raising awareness among the masses especially children

Remarks

Good argument could reflect or dangers of an unfair press

about the importance of democracy and the perils of not having one. The tales of Nazi Germany, dictatorial Arab regimes and African countries should definitely raise the horrors among the people about not having a functional democracy.

Mock Parliaments should be conducted in the schools so that there is inculcation of democratic value and importance of elections among the people.

Good enough conclusion
Electoral reforms like fast track courts for eliminating criminal tendencies in the electoral process and cap on funding of elections by political parties should be put to make it a level playing field for all.

A healthy discourse by promoting transparency in media houses about ownership and management should be ensured so that this powerful tool of modern times is used to ~~star~~ energise democracy and not kill it.

Democracy need not die unlike the mortals who run it because ideas are bulletproof, humans are not. The idea of democracy is deeply rooted in the conscience of people would play a major role in solving problems of poverty, inequality, hunger, climate change, urbanisation, world peace and would ensure a ~~life~~ quality life for all.

- Apt reading of the question.
- Defined democracy, the key concept.
- Examined importance of institutions, dangers of an apathetic public, alluded to sustenance of democracy. could have probed some of these arguments but more.

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