

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

57+59
116
→

Handwritten initials

Name Ramendra Prasad

Mobile No. [Redacted]

Date 2/1/21

Signature Ramendra

1. Invigilator Signature [Signature]

2. Invigilator Signature _____

Section-A

1. NOT SPEAKING IS A CHOICE BUT
ITS REPERCUSSIONS ARE NOT

To speak up against injustice,
for the voiceless, the weak & petty.
Is upto you my friend,
you bear a great responsibility.
But if you dare ignore their cries,
their wails & pleas for mercy.
The burden of your cowardice,
on your heart will weigh heavy."

Often times we witness certain incidents in our lifetimes that seem highly unethical. But we are often in a dilemma whether to do anything or not?

Do we have enough power to influence change? Will they listen? Or sometimes out of sheer apathy, we ignore these incidents.

But doing so only perpetrates such incidents even more. The perpetrator feels empowered & the victims rights are grossly violated. Its repercussions are very much real & tangible. They are not a choice but a definite truth.

In this essay we shall look at philosophical basis of choice & its repercussions followed by real world

examples of the repercussions
of not speaking up.

ON CHOICE AND REPERCUSSIONS:
PHILOSOPHICAL MUSINGS.

— Each human is bestowed
with what we call "free will".

Our actions are for us to decide.

We may or may not act, it is
a choice.

But the repercussions of
our action or inaction are many-
fold. John Stuart Mill stated

that justice is the equitable
sharing of benefits & burdens.

If we don't speak up for someone
who is burdened it will be
unjust. Eg speaking up for tribal rights.

Further, Rights of the victims may also be violated, if we don't speak up. Eg. sexual assaults violates right to life & liberty.

The repercussions weigh on our conscience as well. We will be faced ~~with~~ with a crisis of conscience. Peace of mind will be lost, as -
"Clear conscience is the softest pillow"

Having discussed the philosophical basis let us now explore how this phenomenon manifests in our day to day life.

REPERCUSSIONS OF NOT SPEAKING

In society, we see various forms of injustice being committed against women, but we crush it aside. This breeds Patriarchy. Seeing eve teasing on the streets or sexual harassment in the workplace it is our duty to speak up.

Discriminations & atrocities based on caste are also on the rise. Eg. Lynching in Una district, of Gujarat. Not speaking will further deepen wounds of caste injustice. It will be entrenched in society as seen in Khas Panchayats preventing

Write
neat &
clean

inter-caste marriages.

The vulnerable sections bear the brunt of the repercussions. Recently we saw migrant crisis during COVID-19.

Their voices are hardly counted.

Many died of hunger & fatigue.

We need to speak up for these voiceless.

In political sphere, speaking up is an active component of a participative democracy. Speaking up against CAA/NRC allayed valid fears of the minorities. Similarly speaking up as Farm Bills voices concerns

of farmers of Punjab & Haryana
on a legislation which concerns
them

In economic sphere as well
pressure groups like FICCI,
CII, CAIT speak up & provide
feedback to the authorities.

Eg. on labour codes. This enables
the government to enlist
feedback for responsive policy
making & improving CODB.

Cyber space today is full
of trolls & anonymous users
who engage in cyber bullying,
fat shaming & stut shaming of
women. Not speaking up would

erode the moral fabric of society & lead to mental health issues like anxiety, insecurity & depression for the victims.

Similarly Polarisation of cultures is being witnessed fuelled by Hate speech & Fake News. Recently "Tamizh" ad was made to be pulled out for being "too secular". Speaking up can enable a culturally cohesive society.

Internationally as well we witness refugee crisis (Eg Rohingya, Syrians, etc), tensions

climate change, etc. We need to speak up on forums like UN, for a better future for humanity.

A WORD OF CAUTION

— Though speaking up has a host of benefits, we must exercise caution in our right to speak.

Unnecessary interference could be avoided, especially in someone's private life.

Speaking up on Jashant Singh Rajput case & Rhea Chakraborty is only leading to trial by media.

While speaking, we should

not base our opinion on
fake news & uninformed
 facts eg whatsapp forwards

Further the means followed
 for speaking up should be
 proper. We should follow non-
violent means & peaceful
protests to air our concerns.

SPEAK UP: FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Social media & digital
 platforms provide a great
 medium to create positive
 social change, which can be
 used responsibly. eg #MeToo
 against sexual harassment or
 #NotInMyName against lynching

Discusses
 Role of
 celebrities
 in activism
 Role model
 etc

incidents.

Further Behavioural change can also be achieved by speaking up on issues. Eg. push for a Swachh Bharat.

Each citizen can take initiative to speak up against injustice. Eg. on seeing or hearing Domestic Violence, we can press the doorbell to send a message.

Doing this, we can ensure the concept of justice or Dharma. In Mahabharat, the Pandavas & Kauravas & even elders like Bhishma were silent on droning of Draupadi. They had to pay repercussions

in form of war. Let us hope that we are able to maintain a just society by speaking up, as -

"Dharmo Rakshati Rakshitah"

(Dharma protects if it is protected)

5#

- #> Discuss how silence can set you free.
- #> Advantage ^{& disadvantage} of being silence
- #> How being silence is detrimental to justice delivery system.
- #> How to break balance b/w speaking & being silence.
- #>

Remarks

Rema

Section - BCHARACTER DETERMINES DESTINY

There was once a king with an enormous kingdom. He decided to divide his empire equally among his two sons. While the elder son of commendable character was able to double his empire, the younger son was not so successful. He had a weak character & lost all his fortunes.

Yes, this is the story of the Ambanis & the empire is none other than Reliance Industries. We see that Mukesh

Remarks

had character traits like integrity, humility, & hard working nature. Avil, on the other hand was of easy-going & framing loving character. He would spend time socialising with the rich & famous & ended up making poor investment decisions.

Hence we see that character builds destiny of a person.

In this essay we shall analyse the philosophical basis of character & destiny.

Then we shall see how this phenomenon manifests in real

Also ~~is~~ its not only character that determines destiny. These are other factors as well.

Remarks

Rema

Life.

INDIAN PHILOSOPHY ON CHARACTER AND DESTINY

Indian philosophy puts great emphasis on character of a person. Character is said to be prime ornament, i.e.

"Sheelam Param Bruhmanam"

Even the foundation of "Dharma" or what ought to be done lies in character of a person. ~~Even~~ Mahabharat says that irrespective of birth in high or low class, it is character that determines a person, i.e.

"Vrittam eva Vishishyati"

Remarks

One might ask - how does character determine destiny?

Well, character determines our actions & efforts. These efforts are the basis for fructification of destiny. There is a Sanskrit saying that "deer does not fall into the mouth of a sleeping lion". One has to work & strive towards creating destiny.

Further in the theme of good v/s Evil, we observe that one with good character always wins in the mythological stories.
Eg. The epitome of good character,

Rama, defeated Ravana, the epitome of greed & lust.

Let us now see how this philosophy holds true in real life as well.

CHARACTER DETERMINES DESTINY:
REAL WORLD INSTANCES

Contemporary society abounds with such examples. Nawazuddin Siddiqui was a small time artist who would only get "5 second roles". But he had humility, patience & sincerity. He would put so much practice behind those 5 seconds that he got noticed by Anurag Kashyap & the rest is history.

Similarly former Captain M.S. Dhoni is known for his calm & composed gentlemanly character. "Captain Cool" was able to use these characteristics to win World Cup.

In the Corporate World, Elon Musk is well known for his character & impeccable work ethic. He would not only give orders but would work alongside his team by placing his desk on the factory floor. His success in companies like Tesla & SpaceX are no fluke.

Similarly Narayan Murthy is the epitome of honesty, integrity & generosity. He has not only built a trusted brand for Infosys, but also engages in huge CSR activities.

Character also helps to deal with adversities. Arundhati Singh was pushed off the train by robbers & both her legs were amputated. Because of her strength of character & optimism & determination she has now scaled peaks like Mt. Everest, which is not an easy feat even for able-bodied.

Remarks

Similarly Sindhubai Japkal was deserted by her husband & left to die. She became a destitute. But she had immense empathy for the fellow street children. Based on will power, determination & grit, she today runs several orphanages & is known as "Mother of Orphans".

Hence character is seen as a solid bedrock on which destiny is built. But it is not the sole determinant. Other materials are also needed to build a palace of one's dreams.

Good Point

OTHER DETERMINANTS OF DESTINY

Destiny is a complex amalgam of factors. Along with character, luck also plays a major part.

Eg. Elon Musk in initial stages had money for just 4 test launches. The first 3 had failed. Had the 4th one failed as well, we would not have had Space X.

Similarly one must determine the correct field for them as per their character. A person with non-violent character can't be expected to become War general.

Further, character determines the attitude. But it should be complemented with aptitude as well. All may not have aptitude for all spheres. It is said -

"One should not judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree"

FORGING AHEAD TOWARDS A BEAUTIFUL DESTINY

One should strive to build a strong character. With the right effort we can develop traits. One can start with small habits.

Also discuss how attitude determines our destiny

Eq. "One Good Act per Day" to inculcate sympathy in one's character.

We can also imbibe character from great people, gurus, etc. Reading biographies of great people can help us emulate our role models.

Further, meditation, mindfulness & reading of books like Gita can also help develop traits of calmness, empathy & integrity.

Following this, we can build strong character that will not only shape our destiny but also of others.

around us. As rightly said by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam -

"Where there is beauty in character there is harmony at home. Where there is harmony at home there is order in the nation. Where there is order in the nation, there is peace in the world."

Good way to Conclude

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- # Discuss how character is built.
- # Discuss whether -ve traits of character also determines destiny.
- # Elaborately discuss other factors which determines the destiny.

Not speaking is a choice
But its reper. are not.

ML. King "injustice"

"Dharmo"

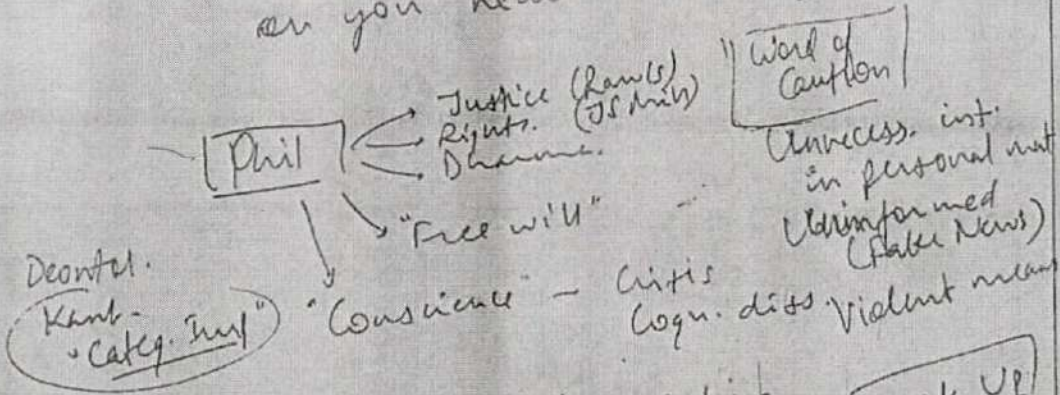
→ To speak up for the voiceless,
for the weak & petty
for injustice, that plagues the Earth.

Is upto you my friend,

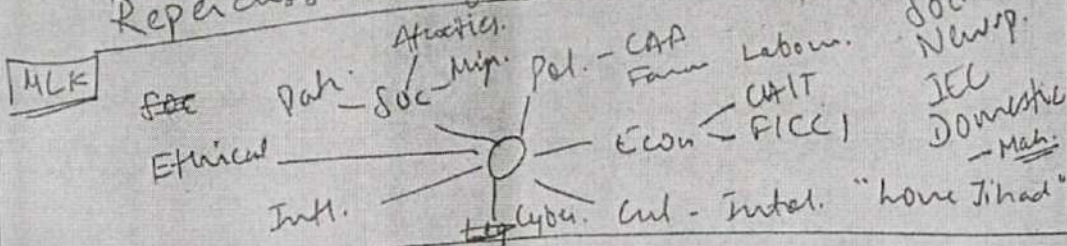
you bear a great responsibility.

But if you dare ignore the cries,
the pleas, the pleas for mercy.

The heavy burden of your cowardice
on your heart will weigh heavily.

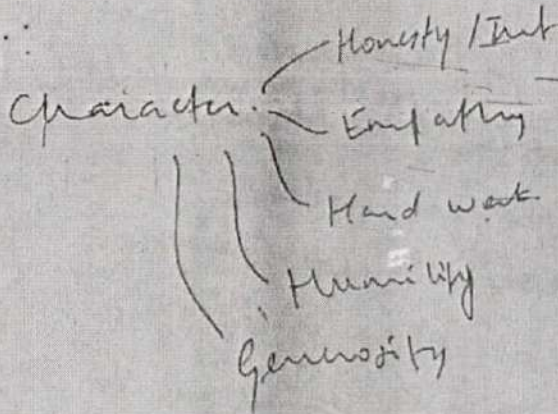


Repercussions of not speaking



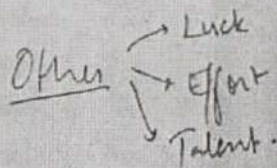
Character Determines Destiny

Ambanis.



- ① Elon Musk
- ② Narayan M. Munshi
- ③ Satish Malik
- ④ Jirakutni Singh
- ⑤ Nawazuddin Durrani
- ⑥ Dharmu Motani
- ⑦ Ishikawa

Sanskrit: → Acharak Puranas
 → Shreem Bhram Bhushanam
 → Udyaman hi Sidhyante



(Way F.) → One good Act.
 leads
 credit.
 Small habits.
 Beauty in char.

