



An Institute for Civil Services

IAS TOPPER'S TEST COPY

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AIR 95

CSE 2023

ESSAY



8448496262



iascore.in

Essay 1 : 59

Essay 2 : 55

UPSC

Please do not
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कृपया इस स्थान
में प्रश्न संख्या के
अंदर कुछ भी न
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Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
Content of the Question is more important than length.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को
इन खाली में
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(Q2)

Just because you have a choice,
it does not mean that any of them
has to be right.

Dimensions on
choices could be
weave
expounded.

In 1975, Cambodians living in
Phnom Penh were asked to carry some
essentials and leave their houses for
the countryside immediately. The country
had been taken over by Pol Pot and he
was pioneering a communist regime by
transferring everyone to agricultural work
and killing all intellectuals that could
relay this message to the rest of the
world. Amongst the Cambodians there was
a doctor who tried to hide his
identity to save his life and protect his
family. One day the doctor saw an
inexperienced lady administer a contaminated
vaccine to a sick child. The doctor had
two choices: One, correct the lady &
save the child by admitting he is a doctor

Flow
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Two, remain silent to protect his identity and let the child die. It was a difficult choice to make because both involved the loss of a life. In this scenario, neither choice was "right" or acceptable but the circumstances forced a decision upon the doctor.

Choice in War - A Test of Humanity

Just like Cambodia under Pol Pot, Europe under world war 1 and 2 faced similar choices. Hitler forced his officers to exterminate Jews or face the extermination of their families. The "choice" provided was no choice at all and officers carried out ruthless orders, putting aside their morality and sense of conscience. A similar fate reigned upon the civilian population. Neighbours were forced to question their conscience.

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प्रश्नों में
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when deciding to hide Jewish friends
in their homes. The choice lay between
two sets of lives - neither choice being
the right one.

While wars of the tangible kind
are now extinct, an intangible and silent
war continues to be waged in countries
worldwide. This is the war of poverty.
Today, especially after COVID-19 pandemic,
poverty has risen multifold and continues
to force people to make inhuman choices.
To feed one's own child or to feed an
equally hungry neighbour's child, to
send the girl child or boy child to
school, to spend on healthcare or on
education. None of the choices singularly
are adequate. None are enough to
end the cycle of poverty.

Such situations involve decision
making under physical or socio-economic
coercion such that free will is negated
and inhumane choices are made.

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Choice in Peace - A test of Genius

whereas war forces individuals
into an "either-or" situation, peace-
time allows for more space.

Choices are offered in all fields,
be it political, economic, scientific
or co-curricular, but it is the people
who look beyond the horizon that
excel. Choices may be 'more right'
or 'more wrong' than each other but
sometimes one must disregard these
choices and think outside the box
to reach the right destination.

Political Choice

At the end of world war 2 and
the beginning of Indian independence,
India was asked to pick a side :-
Communist USSR ^{or} Capitalist USA.

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Russia had been a close friend of India's during Indian National Movement years, so an anti-Russian stance would have been unacceptable. Similarly, the USA was the oldest democracy of the world and would make an excellent partner for the to newly born largest democracy. So an anti-USA stance was also not possible.

So India, along with nations like Egypt and Indonesia decided to set aside the given choices and create their own choice :- that of non-alignment to either power. This philosophy not only enhanced India's diplomatic status but also made it the leader of the third world nations.

Even today, India refuses to align with either Russia or Ukraine but instead follows a policy of all-alignment - being friendly with all nations by respecting the sovereignty of each.

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Economic Choice

In the same time period as the non-aligned movement, India was forced to make an economic choice as well - that of being a communist or a capitalist nation.

Once again, India made an independent decision. Knowing the benefits of both communism and capitalism, India merged the two to give rise to a mixed economy - a democracy with socialist ideals.

Over time, India ~~worked~~ adapted its economy based on global indicators and shifted from a protectionist to a liberal state.

Choices often come from without, but decisions are made from within. One must look beyond the choices to make the right decision.

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Scientific Choice

Science is a subject of unending
questioning and thinking outside
the box.

When the Church in Europe
mandated that the Earth was the
centre of the universe, the choice was to
either accept that as truth or face
the inquisition. Copernicus chose
differently - he presented the Solar
System - a heliocentric model. For
this, he was executed, only to be
proven right after his death. marking
has often faced the choice between
religion and science. But whereas
religion without science is subject
to blind faith, science without
religion can also be plagued by
immorality. Thus, the choice is
not between right and wrong but perhaps
between two rights or two wrongs.

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Life's Choices

For much of the Asian population, a child is either a potential doctor or a ~~potential~~ engineer, otherwise nothing. Various studies and innumerable examples present that the potential of a child to perform well in a specific position is ~~decided~~ not by parental prophecies but by personality traits and skill sets along with fields of interest of the child under question.

Ihigai recommends that one's job should be an overlap of various factors like feasibility, interest, skill and returns. The doctor - engineers dichotomy is thus a social construct and ~~wrong~~.

Similar dichotomies are forced onto various members of society as well. When M.C. Mary Kom - Indian

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boxer - ~~He~~ decided to get married - she was offered two choices :- one, become a mother, or two, remain a boxer. she chose differently ~~and~~ and became both a mother and a boxer going on to win the World Championship title yet again for her nation.

Choices are offered to people based on circumstances, established norms or existing socio-economic conditions. more often than not, individuals choose the "easy way out" or the lesser of two evils. However, it takes wisdom to understand that the choices one has need not be right and that another entirely new choice may exist outside the figurative box. In Buddhism this may be the 'madhyam path' middle path, in Jainism it is "Anekantvaad" multiple truths to one reality and in science, it is Eureka:- each involving the understanding of choice as a practice in humanity and "looking beyond".

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History is a series of victories won
by the scientific man over the romantic
man.

In the dystopian novel "Brave New
World", Aldous Huxley writes about
a new world in which people are
manufactured to fit their predetermined
lifestyles. Babies are engineered in test-
tubes and are created to fit into their
roles under the state. At the same
time, some places in this world have
been left untouched, allowing the
new world citizens to view the "nomadic"
life of the old world in zoo-like
zones. Aldous Huxley introduces one
of the old world citizens to the new
world. This "man of the past" is
shocked by the ways of the new
world and commits suicide at the end
of the novel, allowing the new world to

tried
world continue expanding and functioning.
Science thus trumps the romantic
notions of the old world - notions of
liberty and free will.

However, Aldous Huxley forces the
reader to question whether this triumph
is a victory in the truest sense. With
the ~~death~~ suicide of the nomad, values
of the old world also die and the world
goes on functioning on the "progressive"
principles of science, leaving behind
"romantic" ideals of society. It makes
one wonder whether a world without
romantic values is a world worth living
in at all.

In a similar way, history
has been a series of victories of the
scientific man over the romantic
man only for the world to realize
much too late that the victory was
no success at all, but a brutal
crushing of what makes us human.

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अतिरिक्त कुछ
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Renaissance :- The 1st Romance

Renaissance or "rebirth" was the golden age of medieval European history. Artists, architect and sculptors gave birth to artistic feats like the Great Dome in Italy. Ideas of liberty, equality, fraternity took root as did an energy to contribute to human progress. Great leaders patronized various artists and funded intellectual growth.

It was perhaps the Renaissance that fuelled scientific endeavours as well. There was a rise in exploration, questioning and rationality as the Church took backstage. With this development, people wished to expand and kings funded overseas exploration and mapping. And thus with rebirth came greed.

Need to
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The Portuguese and the Spanish set out to claim lands beyond Europe. Discoveries led to settlements and oppression of indigenous population. As the British followed suit in expansion, the world was suddenly a picture of the 'rulers' and the 'ruled'.

The ideals of 'liberty' and 'fraternity' did not apply to people of the uncivilized world. Racism, apartheid, discrimination and degradation became the norm as the colonizers espoused their theory of the "burden of the white man" and their noble mission of "civilizing" the uncouth.

Scientific superiority meant that drain of wealth from India, slave trade from Africa to America and the smart tactics of spreading disease (small pox) amongst the indigenous - thereby killing them off.

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Like George Orwell's Animal Farm, the world was ruled by people who believed that: "Some men are

"All men are equal but some men are more equal than other men."

Science triumphed the romantic ideas of liberty, but was it true victory? Colonialism lead to oppression of man by man, unequal distribution of wealth and even caused the first world war leading to more death and destruction. In essence, humanity took a huge step back for which various countries are paying reparations till date. Science may have had an upper hand but it was a hollow achievement.

World Peace:- The 2nd Romance

With the end of world war 1 and 2, humanity promised a deep conviction to

You started a
different
idea &
pretty well
but got
short on
completion
of scene.

with
less or
fewer
distinction
mostly of
material
w.r.t
them
to provide
a convincing
end to
diversion

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remain peaceful. The United Nations organization took birth, peace was made between warring countries. There was a common sentiment of cooperation and peace at all costs, a step towards dialogue and unity.

With such romantic ideas taking root globally, one would wonder why a cold war ensued, or why the Korean war and Vietnamese war took place. The answer lies in science - the development of nuclear weapons. The Cold war was not just a race between economic ideologies of capitalism and communism but also an arms race. The anti-war sentiments were gone as USSR and USA fought proxy wars throughout the globe and the United Nations became powerless. Once again, scientific endeavours pitted humans against themselves, forgetting the ideals they had only just formed.

Relativity
with
them
could be
enhanced.

Nuke.
A strategic
solution
for
romantic
sun of
peace.

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And yet again, science's victory was no victory at all. It succeeded in creating yet another generation of grief. In fact, science became its own enemy as one new achievement forced scientists in the rest of the world to follow through to remain equal in nuclear capability. The world was one bomb away from oblivion, all because romantic ideals of world peace did not match with realpolitik realities and were quickly trumped by scientific options.

Although the romantic ideals of the Renaissance and world peace were short-lived, there is one romance that has outlived all forms of science and has taken shape in Shakespeare's plays as well as the writings of great individuals like Tolstoy and ancient India's Kaṇva.

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Free will - The 3rd Romance

Victor Frankl, a Nazi camp

survivor famously said:-

"They can touch me

they can break my body, but
they cannot touch my soul."

An individual free will - their
independence of thought is an age-
old romantic notion as well as a
truth of human-kind. It is what
makes mankind different from animals -
our conscience, our thought, our
imagination. It is the talisman of
all situations. Colonialism may have
crushed bodies but our independent
will pushed the oppressed to rebel and
won them independence. Similarly,
the same free will allows people to
trust their leaders in maintaining

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world peace & supporting the downtrodden (refugees and poor). This symbol of our humanity remains sound and ensures the triumph of good over evil.

It is tempting to say that this will ensure that humanistic values will always last, but science may have found a way to get beyond our conscience as well.

With the advent of genetic modification technologies, like ~~CAS~~ CRISPR-CAS9, it is possible to change the very genetic makeup of an organism. GMOs are not uncommon and have led to the Green Revolution and food and nutritional security in the recent past, allowing the world to progress socio-economically. But if this technology were to go out of hand, who is to say it won't cause destruction similar to colonization and nuclear war?

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This is the world that Aldous Huxley painted in his novel "Braie New world" many decades ago - a world of designed babies and scientists "playing God". this is precisely the world we face in the near future. If left uncontrolled, gene modification technology could wipe human conscience and produce humans without the genes of humanity - crushing the final and strongest romantic notion of free will.

It is time that the romantic man speaks up to the scientific man and reminds him that they are not fighting each other. Instead they must work hand in hand to ensure scientific progress as well as retention of values of the old world. We must not watch the romantic side of humanity commit suicide, if we want a victory in the truest sense.

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Use your knowledge to create more ideas & dimensions.

Good connected well with theme.

Decent attempt.

given your style of flow of writing is very good.

Short & sweet.

in depth thought process would be a good idea to essay.

