

## Essay

Time Allowed: 1½ hrs.

Max. Marks: 125

### Instruction to Candidates

- Attempt one essay
- The test carries 125 marks.
- Write the essay in about 1000-1200 words.
- Any page left blank in the answer-book must be crossed out clearly.

54 Bansal

well-written but i felt as if ' Gandhi' was also the topic as you have devoted so much space to him avoid such tendency, else you could have got 60.

(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).

54  
M/My

1. Invigilator Signature \_\_\_\_\_

2. Invigilator Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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Date 24/09/2015

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1. Character determines destiny.

2. Truth is lived, not taught.

Truth is lived, not taught.

A common saying in everyday parlance is "preach only what you can practice" but a

fairer reading would suggest that it should say "just practice and there will be no need to preach". Truth is often cited as the

quintessential of virtues but what separates

it from other facets of ethics and morality

is that it's a way of life. It is not

reflected in pompous speeches and talks of

resolution, but it is best represented in

everyday dealings lives of great thinkers

from times of Socrates, Copernicus and

modern day Martin Luther King Jr., who

makes the ultimate sacrifice of life while

pursuing truth, teach us and inspire us now

than any ~~type~~ philosophical discourse on righteousness and morality. Like you can't teach the smell of recently moist earth or taste of food coming from mother's own kitchen, some facets of life just cannot be bound into words and analysis or put into framework of rules and regulations. They are best experienced through life.

Gandhiji called his discourse with truth as "an experiment" because he realized that truth is not cast in stone. It is lived and relived by adding new experiences and changing nature of environment what may be called harmless yesterday, may become sin tomorrow. As an example we can take use of cars in modern cities. It may have been an harmless activity a few decades back but it is now harming environment. Thus, quest for truth requires dialogue with oneself and it requires an higher conscience

to do so. Teaching is static but learning is dynamic. A lived truth will be more adjustable to changes, since will be steadfast and unqualified.

Moreover, Truth is not only about sticking to it when times are good. It is also about sticking to it in times of adversity. Nelson

Mandela lived in prison for more than a couple of decades but held his faith in pieces of truth intact. No teaching can engrain it so deeply that confidence remains unshaken after so much of opposition. It can only be lived. Modern psychological researches have shown that actual experiences are way more lasting than words of wisdom. Satguru's or guru's truth is not a weapon of the weak but strong and this strength is best derived from inside not from outside teachings.

If there was ever an example of truth well

lived as a community, our freedom struggle  
 will count as one. It was not based on  
 lofty philosophical teachings and principles,  
 but was led by a gentleman with a stick  
 and khadi clothes talking about a commodity  
 as small as a pinch of salt. We as a  
 community and nation faced adversities,  
 cold repressions of the British raj, but came  
 out stronger everytime. Since our Satyagraha  
 was a living philosophy, we had dialogues  
 within ourselves and changed with changing  
 realizations. We exorcised our own demons  
 of untouchability, women subjugation and  
 social evils like sati, ultimately emerging  
 as a society which completed its own trials  
 facing uncomfortable truths inside and  
 making peace with itself truly deserving  
 independence. What holds for a nation holds  
 for an individual as well. Its only after  
 living, experiencing and attending to  
 inner contradictions that an individual

becomes a real satyagrahi.  
 And what does it leave, an eternal legacy.  
 Unlike books and teachings which might rotter  
 away with changing times, a truth well  
 lived is an eternal example, beyond comparison  
 it inspires generations and brings concrete  
 changes in society. If a person preaches truth  
 but practices otherwise, he or she will be  
 called a hypocrite. When 16th century church  
 taught compassion but persecuted hundreds,  
 history labelled it as a hypocrisy but when  
 Gandhiji gave up his elaborate clothes and  
 came out in khadi, it put pearls of sweat  
 on the face of great British Empire leaving  
 an eternal legacy not only in vestiges of  
books and accounts of history but ingrained  
 in the minds and hearts of generations  
 to come.

It is often said that some principles are  
 eternal and truth well lived is surely one

of them. What is true then is true today too. Today we have Godmen being convicted in criminal cases in one hand while politicians talking about secularism and Accomodation but using foul language and uncivil behavior in parliament on the other. While the environmental crisis looms large the developed countries preach and teach sustainability to developing countries while going along with their own consumerist lifestyle and quest for domination.

What is the way out of this quagmire? Since truth cannot be taught should our schools and families do nothing about this moral and intellectual crisis? The answer is sure they can and sure they must. Of ten international problems and crisis have roots in individual morality. If our kids who become Presidents and politicians, leaders and members of commissions. Through this sure they can reverse and gain truth in the

consciousness on their own but they can  
 teach lives of those who have. They can  
 inculcate richness. It was during  
 school time only that Gandhi found the  
 satisfaction one gets from speaking the truth.  
 Such behavior should be encouraged and  
 not be spared in families and educational  
 institutes. Small activities make truth a  
 life habit. Prime Minister talks about  
 switching of lights and helping victim of an  
 accident. Though it is true that truth is best  
 lived and not taught but sense of responsibility  
 can be surely be taught.

Once inculcated it will solve many problems.  
 Media and courts will self regulate themselves  
 and sedition won't require laws to enforce.  
 Plea bargaining in courts will become a  
 culture if the citizenry of a country start  
 living truth. From the chapters of Gita  
 talking about "Karmayogi" or the Bible's  
 talk of "the righteous", it is recognised  
 that the best is the one who lives,



Learns and experiences the glory of truth.  
Teachings and preachings will come, prosper  
and wither away, but the one who takes  
truth as life goal will and shall remain  
a part of history and inspiration forever.

Present context:  
 Less Abstraction  
 Politics  
 Environment

present  
 Developed  
 Developing

often said  
 "Easier to Preach  
 than to practice"  
 Truth



Self Regulation  
 Media

Weapon of  
 strength  
 Truth is lived

ROUGH

① Truth in face  
 of Adversity

Ingrained  
 values.

got taught.

② Changing facets  
 of what is true.

My Experiments  
 with  
 Truth

Importance  
 of conscience  
 only comes  
 with  
 experience  
 & life well  
 lived

Inspired  
 life becomes  
 An Example  
 if Not you would  
 be called Hypocrite.

③ Living what  
 you preach  
 is best Example

Gandhiji Raja  
 Harishchandra.

- 1) Mother Teresa
- 2) Nelson Mandela
- 3) Martin Luther King
- Tr.

④ Only skills and knowledge can be taught  
 but not a way of life.

In fact truth is best reflected in day to day  
 dealings.

⑤ If truth is lived legacy lasts forever -  
 life becomes a book on Ethical framework.

Bad Examples: cheating bodmen.

⑥ Since Truth cannot be taught -> values of  
 school! what do they teach  
 Analytical framework

Gusta Karmayogi + Bible -> The Righteous