

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.

(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 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.

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

made the ultimate sacrifice of life while

preaching 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. Satyagrah or quest for 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
- ④ J.K.

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.