

ESSAY

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

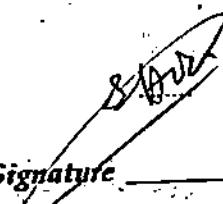
Instructions to Candidate

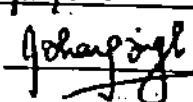
- Both sections are compulsory.
- Attempt an essay from each section.
- Each essay carries 125 marks.
- Write each essay in about 1000-1200 words.
- After finishing the first essay, attempt the next on a fresh Page.
- Any page left blank in the answer-book must be crossed out clearly.

60 + 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).

Remarks

1. Invigilator Signature 
2. Invigilator Signature _____

Name ISHAN PRATAP SINGH
Mobile No. _____
Date 27/10/2015
Signature 

SECTION - A

1. Education is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army.
2. We have guided missiles and misguided men.
3. Civilizations die from suicide, not by murder.
4. Our brains and our hearts are our temples; service to humanity our religion.

SECTION - B

1. A champion is afraid of losing. Everyone else is afraid of winning.
2. Its human who face threat, Earth has survived many catastrophes.
3. Being pro-market and being pro-poor is not mutually contradictory.
4. The use of space technology for national development.

CIVILISATIONS DIE FROM SUICIDE NOT BY MURDER

Civilisations are a product of human ingenuity. They reflect the ways through which humans interact with their environment, appropriate it to satisfy their primal needs of hunger, thirst and maintenance of organic being. And then later go for intellectual and aesthetic pursuits like arts, culture, drama, poetry etc. Humans make civilisations and beasts make herd because humans see material pursuits not as an end, but means to larger end. Welfare, fraternity, rational pursuit of reason are some of the ends which define human existence. But, that also means that humans seldom know the ultimate limits. They also might look inward and ironically the end which starts as pursuit of maximum liberty to all, becomes a myopic

goal of uninterrupted consumerism and search for similarity.
 Paradoxically enough, thinkers like Hobbes who believed that humans come together against external threats like war finally contended that they mostly die by inherent contradictions.

But, Hobbes was not the first nor he will be the last to think about origins & fate of civilisations. From time immemorial soothsayers, astrologers and Shamans predicted and thought about civilisations and their end. Machiavelli, Aryabhatta and Hegel laid emphasis on an enlightened ruler, a philosopher

king to channelise energies of masses while Rousseau & Aristotle laid emphasis on the capacity of masses. But, in spite of their differences they agreed that civilisations have

majorly internal contradictions to handle. Gradual decay of civilisation starts from that small spot of contradiction. A good ruler can at maximum delay it like Akbar did in case of

Mughals or Ashoka in case of Mauryas, but unless a society exercises its own demons the civilisation will be prone to destruction.

Though then the question arises, why is that internal contradictions are so hard to manage in comparison to external threats.

Firstly, external threats are visible & and explicit while internal contradictions are gradual and implicit. Environment is degraded

do you mean Charakya?

slowly until it breaks, intolerance is not visible easily but heads of armies coming for war can be noticed immediately from a distance. Secondly, it's easier to mobilise force against externalities. In fact in such cases people easily come together even resolving internal differences. In fact, wars have been used as a tool by tyrants to mobilise masses and keep civilisation together and Nazi Germany and fascist Italy are examples of how the boundaries of 'me' vs 'other' was used to keep

internal threats in check. Finally, and perhaps most importantly,

external murderers constitute a single entity of enemy while to maintain internal sovereignty, one has to contend with differentiated interests and stakes. How can you ask a poor to not cut woods in the forest? Can people rise above caste? These

questions are political and cannot be answered by brute force.

Can civilisations die of internal causes in general? but what are these causes? Any civilisation consists of two broad relationships, those between actors constituting civilisations and other between actors and nature. It is the pressures and tensions in these relationships that cause the whole thing to snap. Human Human interaction' cause include rise of tyranny stifling freedom of humans as a singular characteristics of Right to life.

Remarks

The great Roman Empire died of tyrannical rulers and religious orthodoxy. Weak political system and lack of decisiveness is on other side of spectrum. Internal feuds as in case of Egypt or class contradictions propounded by Marx, they represent the situations when human relationships are muddled. Modern day USSR collapsed because of internal opposition to imposed communism.

The other cause of decay is exploitation of nature. Unbridled consumerism takes havoc as too much is extracted from the nature. Many Islander communities suffered the face of defeat in front of nature reaching its limits. The great Harappan civilisation is often thought to have died because of massive flood triggered by reckless deforestation and uncontrolled urbanisation.

But saying that only internal threats to civilisation are significant is an overexaggeration. As colonisation of America's destroyed the civilisation of Aboriginal red Indians and Mayan civilisation, shows that external intervention does play a role in the whole process. Natural calamities like volcanic eruption that destroyed Pompeii or epidemics which hurt Aborigines of Australia are examples of how some elements

does
not
qualify
as
a
civilization
but
still
the
example
accepted
as
metaphor

Remarks

beyond the control of members may knell death bell for the society.

Though, these elements don't exist in vacuum and act because there is lack of flexibility in worldview of actors. Colonialism prospered because traditional civilisation refused to change with changing times. Sometimes the local elites went in hand in hand with exploitators from outside. When sparta attacked the Greek city states, they engaged too much in negotiations.

Democracy is an ideal to aspire for but it was not right for those times. Often India and China are quoted as examples of civilisation with longest continuity: The

'Pashupatinath' of Harappa still finds a place in the hearts of Hindus and so does mother goddess. Harappans counted in rights like modern India did very recently in terms of

Apnas. It can be attributed to the fact that there was always respect for dissent. Whether it's Buddhism, Jainism or hugely materialistic Lokayatta of Charvaka, alternate views were respected. Moreover, the ethos of both civilisations gave respect to bonds between humans and that of nature. Animism in India talked of continuity between animate and inanimate while Confucianism in China talked about the

Remarks

love of kind. "Vasudev kutumbakam" or one large family view of world remains the hallmark of ^{these} societies.

The challenges to civilisations remain today as well. Development of transport, communication, global markets and institutions like United Nations have made world a single entity but the

threats remain. war, nuclear proliferation, environmental degradation and climate change are central issues of our time.

Growing intolerance has given rise to organisations like ISIS proving that internal feuds are pertinent in today's world.

Sectarianism and over consumption causing sea rises are immediate threat to humanity at large.

Since, the threat haven't changed, neither have the nature of solutions. The ~~the~~ option before the world is not whether to change or not change or act or not act but to transform

or die. A concerted effort going for international problems are needed. Several issues like arms proliferation, climate

change and terrorism have been on the agenda for years, but like Greek city states or the oligarchies of vaishali, the only thing that seems to happen is talk. To prevent us from

reaching their fate, we need to act, not from the top to

Remarks

bottom but bottom to top. Equity in Action, respect for tolerance and thinking in terms of larger humanity is major viewpoint that must be taken.

Perhaps, no other human can inspire this process except Mahatma Gandhi. His belief that eternal threats will be solved once we exorcise our own demons. His

focus on communal harmony, end to race, untouchability and consumerism which harms society as large

remains way more relevant today from even it was then. Change according to him was a constant.

There is no equilibrium between good ^{and} evil or life and death, but one of ^{these} side is always on assertion

Civilisations which become inflexible, wither away

and die are the ones who negate this truth. The

signs and voices of impending doom are always present from inside, but it depends on individual case to see it or neglect it in a barge of overconfidence.

fairly attempted
with good
examples,

but
conclusion
not clear

6.5

ITS HUMANS WHO FACE THREAT, EARTH HAS SURVIVED MANY

CASATROPHES

Charles Darwin, the great researcher did his research in Galapagos island and this identity defines these till now. These small, isolated group of corals is several thousand miles from any mainland in the midst of pacific ocean. But, they also present an interesting example of living entity and Earth's relationship. The isolation of this equatorial paradise gave it huge gift of variety of lifeforms but when Spanish colonists arrived, they introduced new pests like rats. Since the islands were so isolated and away from mainland, the local lifeforms have nowhere to go. They became extinct. The Human race is in the same situation, in the vastness of celestial space, they have earth as their tiny little galapagos. Like the lifeforms there, humans cannot migrate anywhere else. But, while the threat there was external, humans have consciously written script for their own doom.

The dichotomy of human nature interaction is visible from time eternal. In tribal societies, humans are considered to be part of nature, a single "mana", an impersonal force

Remarks

resides in all animate and inanimate objects. They see humans as one with Environment. It was with the coming of industrialisation that control over nature and domination became a keyword. Colonialism went for a 'civilising' mission. Pursuit of profits, big dams, spinning jenny and the ludicrous hunt of tigers by the Raj had a common underlining of consumption and disregard.

It was not till 1970s that Environment degradation came to fore. Falling crop yields, absurd weather events and the loss of productivity gave an economic signal to man when he had become naturally blind to state of environment. Rachel Carsons 'the silent spring' touched hearts of millions and brought anthropogenic exploitation of environment at centre of agenda.

It is not as if this is the first time that any change is being witnessed by earth. From being separated from revolving gaseous mass to cooling down to present inhabitable phase, earth's story is story of massive ~~and~~ catastrophes. Alternative ice ages, volcanic eruptions of magnitude seen in decan traps, meteorites hitting the earth and plate tectonics forming great mountain ranges is a central aspect of dynamism of earth and critical

Remarks

events. While every time earth comes out to be rejuvenated, it the life on earth which faces challenges. Dinosaurs collapsed but earth created new forms of life, Sabertooth and woolly Mammoth were made extinct while tigers and elephants survived. Earth comes out unscathed, it is the ~~life~~ lifeforms that change.

Humans are no different. They depend on earth for their survival. Not only resource like oxygen, water etc are necessary for survival, the so called quest for "economic growth" also begins from surplus extracted from earth.

We are in fact a part of this unique planet and nothing we do is out of its bounds. It is a unique living space for humans and there is not any other in sight. Scientists search for drops of water while the humans as civilisation neglect our water bodies, pollute our oceans and put waste in our lakes.

This creates an impression that earth is indeed big and humans are too small in comparison. It is indeed true.

Romantics of 18th century spoke at length about how they feel tiny in front of a force of nature. Big lofty mountains, deep valleys, unending plains create a sense of awe. Humans

Remarks

Not only ~~are~~ ^{humans} are small in terms of size, they are small in terms of geological time scale as well. In billions of years of earth's existence, humans as we know it have been there for around 20,000 years. That is ticking of second in geological clock. Dimensions of catastrophe is also different when it comes to the planet and human. Earth has seen several hundred or even thousand degrees of temperature change in ~~its~~ its lifetime but the agenda of IPCC and UNFCCC is to limit rise to 2°C only. It is nothing more than a small twitching on planetary scale.

Not only the threats for humans manifold because they are ~~are~~ small but also because they know so very little about earth. Scientists have not been even able to dig deep enough to cut across the crust inside earth. The largest that a human race has reached is 10 km. Looking above, humans can be labelled as cosmically blind. They have not looked beyond a small part of universe. This creates a feeling of vulnerability, ~~are~~ humans exists as tiny civilisation on tiny planet which they don't know a lot about. New

Remarks

Species are discovered everyday and New feedback mechanisms in Earth's system discovered. What if the Gulf current stops yesterday? Or poles are reversed or volcanic eruption occurs which yields so much aerosols that Earth cools itself but destroys life as we know it.

But, humans seems to have not taken note of this highly asymmetrical relationship. Before Earth or Cosmos bring any catastrophes, anthropogenic climate

change is taking legs to the sea. Oceans are rising threatening coastal areas, vegetation belts are shifting, disasters are way more common and food security is a big issue in modern world. Unbridled consumerism and the quest for more threatens the very survival of humanity.

Humanity is behaving like a dog who is chomping a fake bone, his mouth is bleeding but it is taking real pleasure in its taste. Humans are not only a threat to themselves but to ~~the~~ their planetary brethren. Animal extinction, deforestation etc. are causing new dangers as humans forget that they are part of a larger, organic relationship and don't exist in isolation.

Remarks

Is this not a threat to "earth"? Probably not the planet entity because it is known that it will regenerate and create newer forms of life. But, this statement is not totally wrong. Earth is not a mere material entity as such. It is an organic bundle of relationship for us. It is "mother" earth which is not defined by presence of chemical elements but by human relationship and natural brotherhood. Humans are probably the first species on earth to possess rational reasoning and thus make sense of this beautiful world. Maybe, it was created so that a reasonable mind can see it in full glory. Climate change and environment declaration is not a threat to planet earth but surely to earth as we know and can experience.

So where lies the silver bullet to this problem. ~~As~~ As it was stated earlier, solution to problems lies inside the planet itself. Earth has humongous capacity to heal. Once humans stop exploitation, IPCC has stated that earth will gradually heal itself. But, if the boundaries are broken, Earth will heal herself but humans may be destroyed in process. There are several committees

Remarks

→ Discuss aspect of → previous extinctions in detail → provide more data on
- Climate change.
→ Discuss care of Nuclear

which exist in a positive relationship with earth.
For Example: Bishnois of Rajasthan helped in environment conservation. Maldhari tribes of Gir forests had huge role to play in conservation of lions. Aborigines of Australia know the pond areas in great artesian basin. But, perhaps most importantly we need to redefine development and ask the question, development for who. If humans don't stop their exploitation, resources won't be left. Already it can be seen in case of petroleum resources. The recognition that Growth has limits will be an important step in altering our lifestyle.

It is often said on billboards "protect mother earth". It is true earth is indeed a mother but what humans forget is that earth is also their master. Earth as a planet is a human master but earth as a civilization is human mother. ~~until~~ Till we treat it with respect, earth will show us her motherly face but quest for dominance will bring the darker side to the fore. Galapagos islands today are brimming with wildlife after conservation and careful planning. But, sadly Earth has no external agent to look after and humans need to forget individual differences and set their own house in order.

Remarks

Conclusion → "Protect Mother Earth" working upon
 (Earth as planet) vs (Earth as civilization) → Galapagos Island (discovered) place to live if we are destroyed.

GS SCORE
 ESSAY TEST SERIES 2015

① Galapagos Islands: home to several species → Couldn't survive outside it & Died.
 Couldn't swim anywhere.
 ↳ Colonist → Spain
 ↳ rats → predators.

◦ climate change
 = ~~20~~ 2°C
 the Earth has seen way more

We have nowhere else to go. Nature is our master as well as caretaker.

② History of human Earth Interaction
 ③ History of Earth → Ice Ages / Plate Tectonics / Meteorites / Volcanism of Deccan
 Formation / Dinosaur / traps.
 ④ Examples from history → Carboniferous fossils in Australia/India

⑤ Why do we depend on Earth → essential resources
 ↳ Development → initial surplus comes from
 ↳ Our living space
 Femi's paradox
 ↳ Is there any other planet / do we have tech

⑥ Earth vs human - small.
 ↳ Feedback Mechanism
 ↳ Aerosols can cool it in a matter of few hours
 ↳ Dimension → 2°C → its 60%
 ↳ we are seconds on geological scale.
 ↳ Solar wanders / Movement of Landmass

⑦ Yet threats to Earth's → Consumerism
 ↳ Global warming / Extinction
 ↳ Climate change / wildlife / Urbanization

⑧ Why do we call it threat to Earth → Earth as an organic entity
 Planet as we know it → human given

Remarks
 Both → Ability of Earth to heal itself. We cannot create but only

Conclusion: Change: the only constant. If the civilizations become a static state they will wither away & die and that's best for society

Sup. Gandhiji - Darwin. A new internal to humans

Intro

①

Civilisations product of human ingenuity. How humans interact with their environment, adjust to them, appropriate it for primary needs like thirst and hunger and then go for aesthetic pleasure. They are humans who make civilisations & Humans who destroy them.

- Karl Marx
- Pitrim Sorokin

Greatest paradox: Hobbes said states/civilization develop to protect from external war and threats → Threats come from inside.

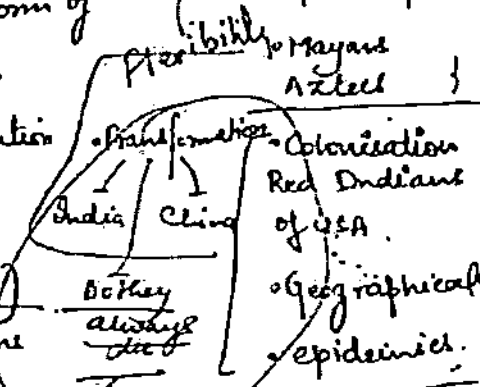
- Roman Empire Tyranny
- Religiousness
- Greek City States

Historical Anecdotes

→ Human civilizations have risen from the ashes of dead. Taking nutrients in form of material culture + values, norms etc.

②

Why do they die! → source of contention
Machiavelli, Aryabhatta etc.



③

Internal vs External Sovereignty
Murder vs Suicide
External Rivalry → threat → Easy to mobilize → use force
Internal contradictions → Insecurity → Difficult to handle → simply cut life → No compromise

Pursuit of Reason
Closeless to nature & to other humans
Then also lack of flexibility of Adjustment
Insecurity to protect

④ Intro

⑤ History

⑥ Internal vs External Sovereignty

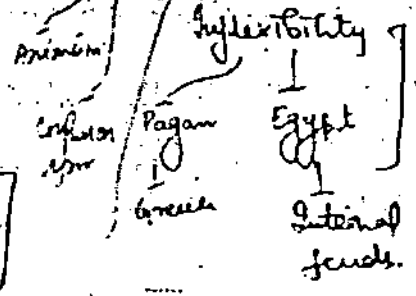
⑦ Internal: suicidal Cause

⑧ Are they always internal

⑨ Negation of statement

⑩ There also challenges are largely internal

⑪ Present context → Terrorism → war environment



⑫ What to do, Remarks

⑬ Conclude.

Why states die → Nature vs Human → Consumption → Over Exploitation
→ Human vs Human → Tyranny → Religious Inflexibility
don't sleep under the rug (Not me)

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