

ESSAY

Time Allowed: 3 hr.

Max. Marks: 250

Instruction to Candidates

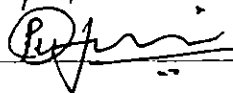
- Both sections are compulsory.
- Write three essays attempting one essay from section A and two essays from section B.
- Section A carries 100 marks and write in about 1000-1200 words.
- Section B carries 150 marks, 75 marks for each essay and write each essay in about 800-1000 words.
- After finishing the first essay, the other is to be attempted on a fresh Page.
- Any page left blank in the answer-book must be crossed out clearly.

(Examiners 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).

Name Pushkin Jain

Mobile No. _____

Date 22/11/14

Signature 

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

SECTION - A

1. Beware the barrenness of a busy life.

SECTION - B

1. Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choices, are prepared to choose wisely.
2. It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity.
3. Being pro-market and being pro-poor is not mutually contradictory.

Section A

1. Beware the barrenness of a busy life

One of the most common regret all old people on their deathbeds is that if possible, they would give anything to spend more time with their loved ones when they were young, and growing up. And it's not only restricted to some but almost all of us. We always try to run after targets and goals but in the meantime forget to enjoy and take care of the greatest gift given to us: LIFE.

No one in their life would have wished for a life ^{where} ~~which~~ almost everyone lives in a same, mechanical, monotonous way. None would prefer such a life where man becomes nothing more than a machine, which is nothing but barren:

One might argue that if life is barren, then one should leave everything & start a life of a hermit. ~~A better~~ But that's not the ideal meaning of busy life. One must ~~not~~ remember ~~of~~ that activity is not same as productivity.

Today ~~The life~~ The life which one is living is nothing more than a sum total of time & targets, profit & loss, assets & liabilities etc. The identity of a human is now being considered as a resource which is to be exploited and harnessed. Life's every decision and movement is becoming time bound and is calculated.

Right from personal level to highest level, work is taking priority and there is a continuous clash of ~~ideas~~^{ideas} which are seemingly opposite of each other. Hence, our so called busy life is becoming a conflicted life. Parents are not able to give time to children, not even to their spouse, etc. The work also bounds the person to follow a schedule and regulations thereby curtailing his individuality and productivity. In this process, man loses touch with reality and is just a means to fulfill someone's end. Doesn't it sound true ~~with~~^{for} all of us?

One may think that if complete freedom is given to individual, anarchy would follow. Agreed. But the way we all are living, isn't it itself an anarchy in minds? With no purpose, productivity, isn't life is becoming

more miserable day by day.

Dalai Lama once said that the most funny thing is that to earn money and some man compromises on his health. And then spends his money and time to ~~recover~~ restore the health. Isn't it funny and sad?

Thus, such a life is bound to become barren. India boasts of its demographic dividend. But every year, around 5 lakh suicides happen. ~~A~~ mostly in ~~adults~~ youth.

Isn't it sad that when one should be living life to its fullest, one is contemplating about suicide. Even if one may not take extreme step but today's generation has to battle constant anxiety and stress which culminate into depression.

Such a person not only loses his zeal for life but also his creativity, sensitivity and positivity. Every week, one person dies in USA because of gun attack. mostly the perpetrators of such crime are persons who have anxiety, stress

etc. Such cases are also visible in some other forms like road rage, murders out of rage, rapes etc. This shows that this busy life is after all not only barren but also dangerous for society.

Such an aimless life is completely different from Vivekananda's notion of success which was both achievement of goals as well as an inner satisfaction of growing from within. But today's definition of success completely aims at achieving their goals and not about growth of individual. Such a journey is always unsustainable and bound to stop abruptly sometime.

It is not that the problem of stagnacy is ~~the~~ ^{because of} busy life but the way we manage our busy life. It's the approach, implementation, the priorities given that are more important. and one ultimately responsible

One need to look from fresh perspective the whole notion of living this life. One need to remind oneself about the only certainty of life is death, which ends all possibilities.

The most important things to be cherished are one's health and one's loved ones.

That race would end sooner or later and then one realize the cost the person has to pay for that race.

Taking time for oneself, connecting with nature for nurture, doing what one loves is important to ensure that the sense of sanity remains in one's life.

And it would not only helpful for the individual only but for the employer too. Even the family & his loved ones would benefit from it. After all,

job is all about smart work apart from hard work. And so is life.

It's never too late to make amends, in life, to do something good. One must start as this is the only life that we have got and to spend our existence acting just like a cog in

wheel in a mechanical manner would
be a waste of the greatest gift : Life
~~The Present.~~

— X —

Section - B

Democracy can't succeed until those who express their choices are prepared to choose wisely.

The year was 1933. Weimer Republic was tottering. People were uncertain and in doubt. Then came a leader who instilled fear and hatred towards Jews in the mind of people. He won the election. And then began the most dark phase of oppression & destruction never seen before. The man was Adolf Hitler.

And he is not alone. Many names like Mussolini, Pol Pot, Qaddafi are there who demonstrate the danger of choosing a wrong person. It is said that power corrupts. But it is false. Power corrupts only those who are corrupt from the beginning. Here comes the role of people's choices.

Democracy is considered the best form of government. Because, it is through the people, the government is elected. It's the popular choice. But what if choice itself is wrong. Hence, Democracy is after all not that best. as above examples show that.

Democracy, in principle is the symbol of faith in people and their choices. Thus, everything comes down to choice. It's the choice that decides future of not only the person but also of whole nation.

India, the land of diversity has been a proponent of democracy. It is the largest democracy in world. But many differences bind us and divides us like caste, class, language, religion, gender etc. These are dividing lines which have the potential to destroy the fragile and developing secular fabric of our country. Hence, it becomes more than important for people to choose such persons for rule who would uphold the constitutional values instead of destroying it. The menace of corruption, black money, money capitalism etc are few of the problems affecting our country. Hence, the need to elect wise & honest people next is not only in India but globally too is more important than ever.

Around 30% of India's parliamentarians have some form of criminal case pending against them.

Therefore, it's important that we should make our choices wisely. else we would be ruled by goons.

A question is generally raised that why people express their choice unwisely. The tones which decide us also unites us in a different manner. The ability of uniting different sections of society catering to the needs of the political parties aids them. Also, in a country like India where around 37 million people are below poverty line, any freebie which alleviate their suffering would automatically gain their votes.

Political parties are also aware of the social issues of Indian society. They deftly manoeuvre the opinion of the public by hate speeches and distortion of facts.

eg: 1933 Germany Elections
The rise of media and its penetration into the masses have many advantages like the empowerment, education etc. but they also have a flip side. Such type of information goes viral and try to colour the consciousness of masses. Thus, it is undoubtable truth that people need to express their choice wisely.

However, its not only the duty of the public themselves to know the right intention of contender. Government too and its all 3 organs have a moral ~~affair~~ obligation to guide people to express their choice wisely.

Supreme Court, Election Commission have enacted RPA & various guidelines to conduct elections fairly & freely. In past the notification on declaration of assets and income etc help people in understanding the intention of the candidate. Also ruling on bribes have also put a check on misuse of funds and false promises.

~~Thus it is~~ The process of ensuring the choice is wise is a dynamic and ever continuing. Its a herculean task which must be a joint mission of both public and other watchdogs like judiciary, media, civil society etc.

① If above process take place properly, then only can we say that Lincoln's slogan of democracy as 'For the people, for the people & by the people' don't remain just a ~~reality~~ dream but gets converted into reality.

— X —

② It has become apallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity.

We all have read in history that atomic bomb killed around 1 lakh people in Hiroshima Nagasaki. We all are aware of destruction caused by poisonous gases in holocaust in second world war. If we read more, one might come to the conclusion, that with increasing technology, our humanity is decreasing.

Science and Man have a relation since beginning of homosapiens. Whether it was use of fire, invention of wheel, or starting of agriculture, science has played an important role in man's survival, evolution and his domination over nature.

Past two thousand years are years of developing technology year by year, century by century.

Today technology has enabled us to reach from nanometers to lightyears. Man has reached uptill moon, mars and have explored depths of ocean. Advancements in communications, transportation, space and machines are nothing short of magic we have read in ~~for~~ our epics.

However, if we delve deeper beyond the glossy achievements of technology, we would find growing destruction, pain and destruction of nature. Scenes of burning children because of Napalm in Vietnam war, or dead in Bhopal Gas Tragedy shows that all is not well with technology.

Its true that science has elongated the life expectancy of humans but have also provided many avenues and options to kill each other; and that too at a mass scale.

Science & Technology's greatest bone on mankind is the advanced weapons. Blind arms race led to world wars. Nuclear race is preparing ~~to~~ us for

next phase of destruction whereas thousands are dying ~~etc~~ every year because of hunger in Africa.

Modern development uptill 20th century meant complete domination over nature whether by any means. Today we are reaping its effects in form of global warming and greenhouse effect. Add to it, the apathy of developed nations ~~to take~~ which makes them to pass the blame on others instead of taking any concrete initiative.

Growing technology ~~for~~ and a lust for more has ~~to~~ made us ~~to~~ pursue our quest without any care about the consequences. This proves in our killing of animals for our personal gratification; clinical trials on animals for beauty products; or increasing industrialization at cost of deforestation and care of planet & its other

Inhabitants.

There are rumours that deadly viruses like small pox and polio are being kept in labs of some nations which are to be used as biological weapons if required.

This and many instances are nothing but examples of man losing his humanity with growing technology.

However, one needs to know that the blame of losing humanity must not lie on technology. Because technology is value neutral. Science is value neutral.

Gravity can be used to develop technology of sending both satellites in space as well as inventing ballistic missile. Hence, it's not the technology who is responsible but the man himself who is implementing such technology.

It is true that with time, destruction has increased. But, one should know that technology has just provided an option.

Ultimately its the man himself who decide whether to pursue science for gratifying his need or satisfying others need.

Until and unless, man learns to become responsible for his actions and instead of passing the buck on others for destruction tries to find an everlasting and sustaining solution to the problems surrounding us, survival of mankind is next to impossible.

— x —