

Roll No. _____

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.

(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

Name Suman Sourav Mohan

Mobile No _____

Date 17/10/16

Signature [Signature]

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

SECTION - A

1. Health is not valued till sickness comes.
2. Everything is funny, as long as it is happening to somebody else.
3. Where words fail, music speaks.
4. Mistakes are always forgivable, if one has the courage to admit them.

SECTION - B

1. The question isn't who is going to let me; it's who is going to stop me.
2. Achieving life is not the equivalent of avoiding death.
3. The ladder of success is best climbed by stepping on the rungs of opportunity.
4. Never interrupt your enemy when he is making a mistake.

Remarks

Mistakes are always forgivable, if one has the courage to admit them.

The Oxford dictionary defines the word mistake as an act or judgement that is misguided or wrong. But mistake is never a continuum it is a final step in a decision making process. To put it precisely after a mistake is committed we cannot ignore it and move forward, either we take corrective measures or we bear the consequences. However the path we choose after the occurrence of a mistake is guided by very many factors. It depends on our ethical values, prejudices, attitudes, behavioural skills. It also depends on the magnitude, temporal dimension i.e. whether we would face the repercussions or leave it for later; circumstances and societal norms. Mistakes may or may not be forgivable after admitting but at least it creates a tipping point or.

Remarks

conducive atmosphere for reformation and pardon.

There we come to the concept of courage. It is defined as the spirit and willingness of an individual to go beyond his natural capacity to achieve an unfathomable aim or goal. It requires ethics, values, virtues, and inner strength. Gandhi's satyagraha, ahimsa stands for true embodiment of courage. To understand it better, Gandhi's ability to learn from mistakes requires courage. Be it admitting stealing from his father or failure to gauge impact of violence in his non-cooperation movement, he showed the connection between courage and ability to rectify mistakes. As a result an empire whose sun never set was driven out by a man who bore no arms!

Remarks

Ability to learn from mistakes and courage to admit them has been the only reason for mankind to survive from its evolutionary years. Man has continuously accepted mistakes, changed his approach and with courage took nature along with him for development.

From living in caves to the invention of wheel, to the cities of Indus valley civilisation, and recent day development, every mistake man has had courage to ask for forgiveness and build on it for his betterment.

Historically Ashoka realised that war was only cause for devastation, admitted his fault and set out for relieving the world from the scourge of war and immortalised his name. The Mughal rulers led by Babur realised their mistake of treating India as a land of plunder, had courage to change and established a four hundred year empire. But

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Historical analysis

Britishers could not realise their mistakes of imposing their despotism; never had the courage to admit their mistakes and ultimately had to flee the country which they had ruled for almost two hundred years. Internationally the renaissance and reformation movements learnt from the evils of church ^{of blind faith} reason ^{is for} the ultimate goal and set upon path of human enlightenment. British, french, american revolutions forced mankind to learn from mistake of despotism and subjugation and enlightened us to the concept of democracy. World War I and II made us realise the mistake of imperialism, colonialism and the horrors of Nuclear War and the courage to accept nuclear non proliferation, United Nations and diplomatic efforts to get peace. Thus throughout history we see the

Remarks

positive and negative effects of admitting
~~into mistakes~~ ~~and subsequently~~
~~into mistakes~~ ~~having~~ ~~the~~ ~~courage~~ to ask for
 forgiveness and proceeding for rectification

Scientifically, no innovation
 and invention would have been possible
 without the ability of scientists to
 admit mistakes and have courage to
 rectify them. Graham Bell, Thomas Alva
 Edison, Marie Curie, would have never
 developed the telephone, electric bulbs and
 cure for cancer ^{respectively} if they did not have the
 courage to ask forgiveness for mistakes -
^{Steve Jobs}
 Stephen Cook, Bill Gates, Narayan Murthy
 would never have become business
 leaders if they did not admit their
 mistakes.

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Politically if kingship and kingdom
 would have continued we would never
 have understood the power of
 democracy, decentralisation, empowerment
 If Adolf Hitler and Mussolini would not
 have failed we would never have
 understood how

annihilation can be brought about by -
dictatorship. Communism failures and
Corbachet's admittance to the ills and
 subsequent reforms brought to us the
 magic of capitalism and the positive
spin off of wealth. The 2008 economic
crisis, welfare crisis, Balance of payment
crisis, rising examples of inequality and
non-inclusive growth ~~go~~ make us
 realise the limitations of capitalism also
 and the courage to admit it brings to
 the fore concept of democratic inclusive
capitalism and the conversion of "public
trust" trusteeship model propounded
 by Landhiji. As a result the courage
 to learn from mistakes keep us on
path of progress.

Political
 angle of
 learning
 from
 mistakes

Constitution
 as a result
 of learning
 from mistakes
 of

Socially the "ills of caste"
 & segregation
consciousness made us to feel the
 grief of the down trodden and
 resulted in the constitutional

Beutish Remarks

protection for weaker sections such as SC, ST's, women. Excessive inequality colonial despotism made the founding fathers enshrine concept of fundamental rights & directive principles of state policy. If the constituent Assembly would not have realised the mistakes committed by Britishers and given us political, social and economic rights would we have been successful and united as a nation? Therefore mistakes of intergenerational magnitude can also be alleviated by having courage to ask forgiveness and rectifying the same.

Policy wise let us see the United Nations. From western centric model of top down imposed development ~~we~~ they have come to bottom up participatory development. From ~~good~~ governance to good governance. MDH to SDH, entitlement to rights based approach the United Nations has

policy changes for betterment after learning from mistakes time and again shown how its acceptance of mistakes and courage to change by rectifying has only resulted in a better world.

From ruthlessly exploiting the natural resources with impunity i.e. environmental possibilism to accepting climate change, global warming and absence of sustainable development man has indeed traversed a long distance. The Paris climate change accord would not have been possible without the historic acceptance of developed countries for their mistakes and courage to walk on a path which is equitable and takes into consideration the developing and least developed countries.

Judicial learning from mistakes foundation stone of liberty, equality & fraternity is the living embodiment of accepting mistakes and correcting them with courage. Our judiciary has

Remarks

many a times reversed its own judgements and admitted its mistake and took corrective measures. Right to free speech, cornerstone of basic feature, expansion of right to life, decriminalising suicide, has been hallmarks of judicial courage to admit mistakes and remedying them. This transformed into judicial activism has provided democracy a new meaning.

rally USA ^{not} admitting its mistake of interfering in other's affairs, cold war has resulted in, Iraq war, vietnam war, Afghan war. and loss of countless lives. However the same USA has admitted its mistake of alienating Cuba and the subsequent rapprochement has led to a waterhed moment in USA-Cuba and international diplomacy. It shows if we are learning from our mistakes, admitting them we would get forgiveness and progress in life.

Remarks

From terrorism to climate
change, sectarianism to regionalism ~~the~~
~~no~~ problems have arisen because of
our inability to admit our mistakes,
have alone having courage to admit
them; Global hunger, malnutrition,
illiteracy, riots, atrocities on minorities
and unnumberable have been due to
our inability to admit mistakes done
by society, polity, bureaucracy and
greed. So what is the way forward?
When is the tipping point that we
start admitting our mistakes and
have courage to seek forgiveness and
take remedial measures as a whole?
 The answer lies in the great battle of
 Kalinga. When Ashoka saw the great
annihilation and destruction caused
by his greed for territory he became
a pacifist.
 Therefore the scourge of
terrorism, nuclear weapons, growing

Remarks

chasm of economic & social inequality, riots & violence in middle east, depleting earth's resources, rising pollution & poverty are pushing us to the tipping point.

The choice is with us, But how? The answer is trusteeship concept of Gandhi with sarvodaya, contentment, & non violence. Development of each man according to his capabilities and his freedom to make choices for his development as propounded by Amartya Sen. Let us unite as global community and treat the mistakes of poverty, inequality, hatred, sectarianism, economic chauvinism, illiteracy, hunger, ruthless exploitation of earth's resources as our common mistakes. Then we would definitely see empowerment, literacy, peace, sustainability, brotherhood, good governance and sustainable development as means for asking forgiveness. The choice is ours.

Are we ready?

Remarks

The ladder of success is best
best climbed by stepping on the
rungs of opportunity

A pessimist sees the
difficulty in every opportunity;
an optimist sees the opportunity
in every difficulty. These immortal
words said by Winston Churchill
brings to the fore the impact of
seeing opportunity as an incentive
to progress higher in life. Man is
by nature timid and consequential
~~He~~ when faced with an emergency
or crisis he prefers an astute approach
and ~~not~~ concerns down. This is also
postulated from laws of science which
state a person continues to be in a
state of inertia or motion unless acted

Remarks

upon by an external force. In the same manner when a person is overwhelmed with failure, he is helpless, distraught and doesn't see ~~the~~ or seek the external motivation which make him visualise the opportunity in his failures. This external motivation or force which makes him ~~motivate~~ go or rise against the tide is his values, morals, courage, conviction and his family bonds. They make a person see the darkness in light.

Coming back to the story of Churchill, when Britain was being bombed by the German airforce, everyone thought ~~the~~ Germans would win in no time. But Churchill saw the opportunity in the ^{impending} defeat. He calculated the faults in the German bombers; gave confidence to his army and ~~imro~~ gave a war cry. By bolstering his defence, he ensured the

might of german air force was
 vanquished ~~by~~ ^{and} going back to
 his strength of naval warfare.
 Therefore it suggests that falling
 back on strength's makes you see
 the opportunity in defeat.

Human society since evolution has
 passed through a lot of hazards. Fire,
 Snow, rain, ice, animals have always
 threatened his existence. However, he
 made peace with his enemies, domesticated
 animals, used fire to cook, took help of
 nature and forests to build his own
 life and ensuring a civilisation. This
 shows that art of making peace with
enemies also makes you see opportunity
 in failures and ~~to~~ visualise success.

Remarks

History & culture
 History has many examples of failures
 being translated to success. Maharana
 Pratap saw his young child eating guava
 seeds and saw it as an ~~op~~ motivation
 to embark on a mission to defeat Akbar.
Ashoka saw the horrors of war and ~~saw~~
 felt peace as the long lasting solution
 to ^{the} greed for human & territorial conquest.
 In Bhagavad Gita Krishna exhorts Arjun
 to fight for his kingdom and prosperity
 and he amply states, that the world
 may forgive the vanquished but history
 would never forgive a coward. Mahatma
 Gandhi, saw the opportunity of popular
participation, satyagraha, ahimsa to
 counter the mighty British empire.
 Jawaharlal Nehru saw the indigenous
skill of Indian people for progressive

economic growth & age old virtues of Indian
non interference & peace as a means to
bolstering NAM and fighting imperialism
 & colonialism in the guise of Bipolar Cold
World. Lal Bahadur Shastri foresaw
 the might of traditional agricultural
 skills and combined it with modern
 agricultural practices to free Indians from
 indebtedness from PL-480 grains &
 propel us to a status where we are
 the largest ~~of~~ agricultural producers in
 the world. Indira Gandhi ^{inspired} ~~evoked~~ the
 Army which was humbled from the
 defeat of 1962 China war to mount a
war against Pakistan. ^{thereby} ~~to~~ liberating
 Bangladesh and reaffirming India's
 stand against human rights violation.

Remarks

Rajiv Gandhi in spite of the bleak days of 80's mounted a technological revolution for betterment & change. Atal Behari Vajpayee decided to change the course of history by offering humanity as a solution to peace process in Kashmir. Recently PM Modi has challenged war to Pakistan on poverty. These examples show the power of ~~s~~ visualising opportunities of success in really dark and oppressive times.

In the 1980's period we were haunting by increasing inflation, balance of trade in negative, high current account deficits. The situation took us to such an extreme that we had to pledge our gold in IMF. However finance minister Manmohan Singh saw an opportunity in those failures and

unshackled the Indian economy. As we celebrate 25 years of economic freedom we must understand that it was visualising ~~success~~ ^{opportunity} which made us rise from the failures. However, things did not stop there. Rising inequality and growing chasm led to popular discontent. Therefore, inclusive, development & sustainable development ^{became} [^] mantra for reducing inequality.

In 1980s Sri Lanka was plagued by Malaria. It was to such an extent that WHO had classified Sri Lanka as endemic for malaria and many ^{western} ~~these~~ countries had put risk tag ⁿ to travelling. Today we see a community led approach; participative governance transform it into a malaria free country. So will power also makes us see the opportunity for success.

Remarks

In Kolkata a young nun from Yugoslavia saw destitutes, lepers, homeless beggars in abject poverty. However she decided to see the hope and appeal to humanity as opportunities for success. As a result she established the largest multinational charitable trust by the name of Missionaries of Charity and was immortalised by the church by giving her the title of "Saint". Her name "Saint Teresa". This proves goodness & human empathy makes us see the opportunities for success.

A young guy from Tharshand was a ticket collector and doing a content based job in Indian sea ways. His financial needs were satisfied. However his growing hunger to do something for his country made him restless.

People criticised him for his unorthodox
 batting skills, Tharkhand background.
 But he demolished all his critics by
 becoming the first Indian captain to
 win the T20 world cup and 50 over
 world cup. His name Mahendra Singh
 Dhoni. Another ~~name~~ person from
 Rajasthan was forced to amputate
 his left hand due to touching a
 live wire; however he pushed his
 disability to be his strength by
 winning gold at paralympics. The
 name is Devendra Thakuria. Finally
 a young man was rejected from All
 India Radio due to his weak & feeble
 voice; 50 years later his baritone
 rings deep in the national conscience.
 The name Amitabh Bachan.

Remarks

The illustration of previous examples brings to the conclusion that ~~several~~ opportunities for climbing the ladder of success cannot be achieved by guit, determination, dedication, sincerity. The supporting framework for such qualities are our parents, society, teachers, friends, and values. However is it enough? How would a person with no food to eat, being about courage to fight the world. When a senior citizen who has lost his brave son martyred to bullets, goes to collect his ^{due} pension and ^{they} asked for a bribe get ~~conviction~~ conviction to fight. So the answer is government has to provide an enabling framework to inculcate the fighting spirit. As per Hobbes it is a social contract where a citizen surrenders his rights

Remarks

to get benefits for himself. A just society, rule of law, good governance, corruption free atmosphere is imperative for growth of the individual.

Quality education, nutrition, healthcare, poverty eradication are necessities for a person to inculcate values,

courage, altruism and determination to fight. In today's crisis of growing

inequalities, extreme poverty, ~~breaking~~ ^{breakdown} of justice delivery systems, how it is

possible for a person to have sanity of thought? ^{Abraham} As Maslow said only

after basic needs are fulfilled then a person can think of higher order

needs. So ~~is~~ it must be a war on

poverty, illiteracy - unsustainable
development

malnutrition, corruption and inequality .
Then definitely we can see that ladders
of success are built upon rungs of
opportunity .

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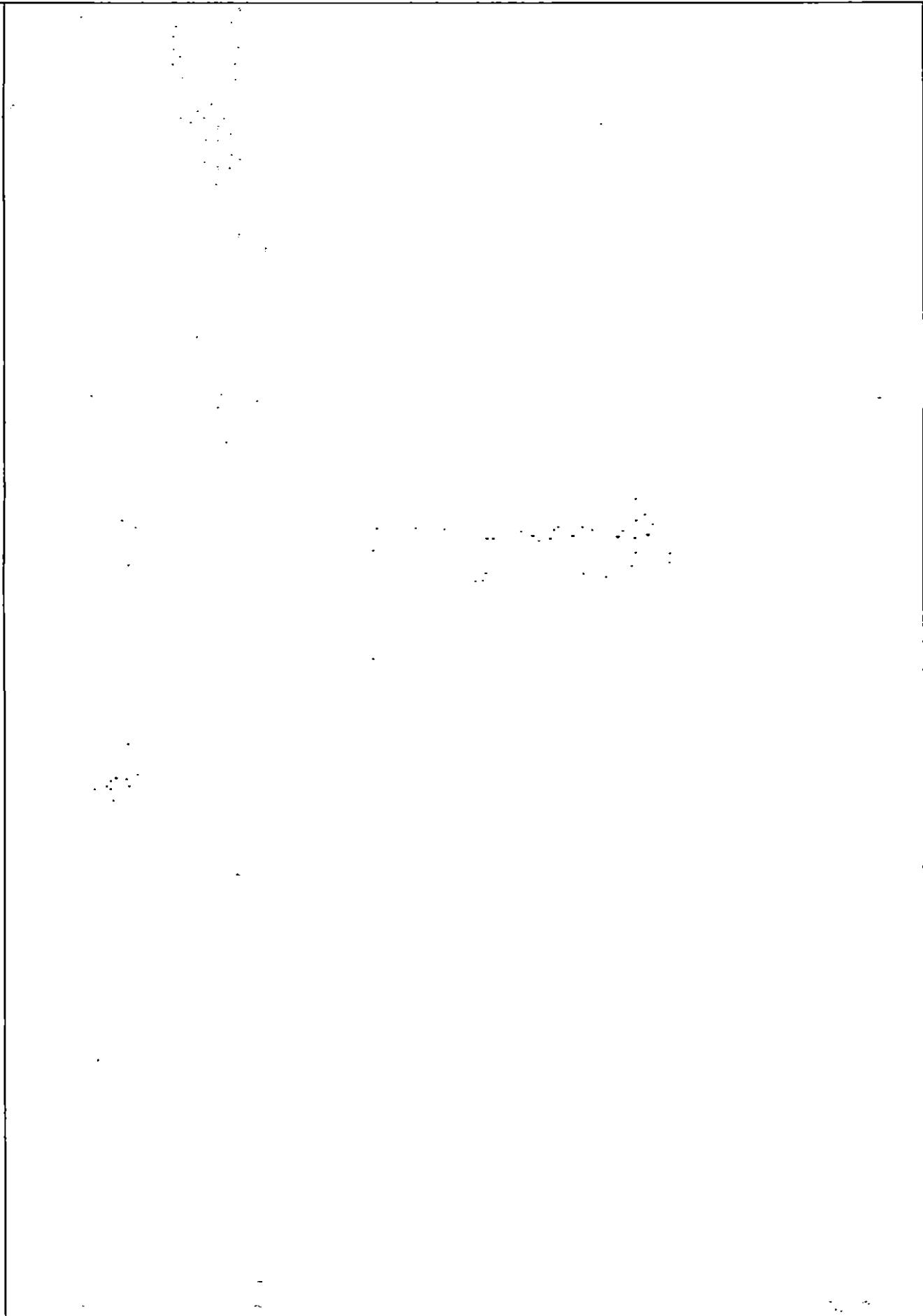
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Remarks

hindrances to achieving opportunity

~~steps to~~

success & opportunity

- evolution & freedom struggle
- society & caste industry
- human rights & diplomacy
- international peace & agriculture
- sports & economic reforms
- poverty & multilateral institutions

nanotechnology →

technology → big data

→ privacy

Mistakes are always forgivable if one has the courage to admit them.

Mistakes defn

courage "

Why do we need courage to accept mistakes

Hindrances to admitting mistakes

Hindrances to lack of courage -

Historical mistakes -> Mahabharat

Social issues Ashoka ->

Babur, Mughal empire

Britishers ->

Independence -> Nehru, Gandhi

Social -> casteism, regionalism

Women children

sust. development

politically -> democratic decentralisation, participatory development

Technology -> Stephen Cook -> Manayamurthy, Mar -> middle east

Internationally

LPH reforms

planning, policy making, judiciary - SC.

Intt -> diplomacy

hunger, agriculture

Remarks

Conclusion what can be done