

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

[Large empty box for Remarks]

[Redacted signature]

6/11/2016
[Handwritten signature]

1. Invigilator Signature

[Redacted signature]

2. Invigilator Signature

Name ADHIBAT SINGH RANA

Mobile No. [Redacted]

Date 2/11/2016

Signature [Handwritten 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

"Health is not valued till sickness comes"

Humans for greater part of their existence have been shortsighted. They have always underestimated what they have and overlooked its importance and utility. Either they do not value what they have or take them for granted, ~~and as their regard~~ History is filled with examples of humans not valuing the things they have.

Only when that attribute/thing is lost, humans realise its importance. ~~Empires have been destroyed for the want of~~

There's a saying - "Empires have been destroyed for the want of a horse nail"

Thus, the importance of a thing is realised only when it's lost. Hence, it is rightly said that Health is not valued till sickness comes.

History is replete with examples of instances where a thing was valued only after it was lost.

A classic example in history of world is the normative aspect of liberty and freedom.

~~People thought~~ liberty one of the chief needs for existence was only valued when it was taken by others and people subjugated. The imperialist powers when colonised the countries then the natives realised its importance and arose in union to acquire it back.

Similarly, ^{post independence} in India before the emergency was put, the notion of civil rights and liberties was taken for granted and as a matter of right. When emergency was declared and civil liberties suppressed, then its importance and needs was felt.

Post-emergency people realised that

Remarks

Civil rights and liberties are not given, but one has to fight for them and protect them from being suppressed. The judicial wing of government became the protector of such rights. Many civil society organisations sprang up to fight for such rights.

In the sphere of environment ~~etc.~~ we see the gravest neglect and taking it as something natural, infinite and un-damagable.

The ubiquitous water, clean air and green plants are seen as infinite and something that would never be finished.

Despite their being the most essential part required for our existence, humans did not care for them adequately and ~~only~~ only saw them as means for satisfaction of his wants, that were the end for him.

Remarks

The economic model adopted by humans since Industrial revolution did bring in economic growths and technological advancements, but at a cost that is beyond comprehendable. In the past

~~Only recently whereas~~ ^{despite} century itself most of Earth's bounties have vanished and people are progressing toward their doom.

Only recently humans started to realise the unimaginable destruction they have cost to the environment. The air we breathe is getting toxic, the water we drink is getting contaminated and in some places vanishing; the plants and animals (biodiversity) that roamed the earth have become extinct. The entire food web is ~~being~~ disturbed.

Remarks

The atmosphere is getting thinner and receding, climate change has caused vagaries in global climate, sea levels are rising and the cities and countries ~~get~~ about to drown.

Only now we have realised the importance of the environment. ~~the~~ the Malthusian Hypothesis had warned us about the availability of resources and them being limited, but humans tend to neglect them until the damage becomes exceedingly threatening. Even more astonishing is the response of certain sections of people who haven't felt the true effect of climate change, still denying the threat it poses.

Due to the ~~their~~ assiduous negotiations and prodding by environmentalists and NGOs, IGOs the 'climate change' threat has acquired centre stage as witnessed in ~~Paris summit~~ Rio Summit to Paris Summit. However still the response has been too little too late.

Remarks

Technological advancement

→ The jewel of human civilisation has been its technological advancement and the 'modern way' of life. The direct consequence has been the ~~to~~ construction of weapons of mass destruction. ~~to~~.

Today, many countries have such weapons - like the nuclear warheads, biological weapons, interballistic missiles, which can destroy the human civilisation in matter of seconds.

~~These~~ These were built to counter the threats of war and impose dominance over other countries. ~~Many~~ ~~of~~ ~~states~~ like US and USSR constructed them in a mighty arms race to acquire global recognition.

However, this arms race proliferated to other countries also. Now there are 5 nuclear armed ~~power~~ states and at least 4 states which

Remarks

have these weapons — India, Pakistan, North Korea, Israel, and many others doubted to have them.

Only after massive horizontal proliferation and vertical proliferation did humans realise the threat they posed to security of human life and its existence. This coupled with threat of 'nuclear terrorism' and 'rogue states' has been a cause of worry.

People realised its threat and moved towards arms reduction mechanisms, global disarmament and global zero concept.

This again shows how people themselves became a threat did not foresee the threats posed by such inventions and only when there was a looming threat, recognise the futility of such weapons.

Remarks

Similar is the case in Disaster management

~~the disaster preparations~~

Administration and people do not react beforehand and be prepared for disasters.

Only when disaster occurs and life and property is lost, the prospect of disaster preparedness and mitigation kick in. This was quite evident in 2004 Tsunami.

People get lax and relaxed over time and forget all the preparedness and risk management needed and let their guards down. The whole process of administration, activation and mitigation will only start after ^{disaster} hits and life of people is in threat.

Why go for examples at such large scale the daily experiences of individual is filled with neglect of the things he has and later mourning for its loss.

Remarks

The notebook case can be of time.

People when have ~~time~~ exceeding time for a task would start slowly and at their slow pace thinking they have enough of it. But only when the deadline approaches, people tend to work meaningful and diligently and in haste. The time which he had was never valued.

Such ~~is~~ repentance of time is ~~also~~ done by people on their deathbeds.

People ~~usually~~ do not value their relationships with their parents, siblings, loved ones etc, ~~as they usually~~ only till they are lost.

For a thing as necessary as one's health and body, people neglect its importance and practice activities like overeating, lack of physical activity, smoking, drinking etc.

Remarks

Once diagnosed with some kind of ill, only then there is change in perception and embracing a healthy lifestyle

Value what you have

Since time immemorial, people have preached the importance of valuing what you have and being content on it.

Humans need to realise this and embrace this infallible fact and truth.

Our global challenges like nuclear weapons, terrorism, climate change, all has been due to fact that we have been shortsighted and neglected ~~our own~~ what we have or had.

~~Why does the~~ need for mitigation and adaptation mustn't arise if people have preventive and cautious approach towards life.

Remarks

Our actions must be guided by ethical concerns and impact assessment of actions must be done so as to not lose and regret what we had.

We must ~~value~~ ~~use~~ value what we have and work towards its maintenance and not consider it ~~as~~ as for granted. Because when it is lost, ~~acquiring it back is a~~ ~~difficult~~ task and quite avoidable. The question is not how to acquire it back but

Why lose it at the first place?

- ① Excellent understanding
- ② only remark is ~~too~~ to improve articulation — means arrangement of ideas could have been better.
- ③ otherwise things are fine.

65

Harjot

Remarks

ACHIEVING LIFE IS NOT EQUIVALENT OF
AVOIDING DEATH

"Zindagi badi honi chahiye, lambi nahi"

(Life should be large, but long)

The above dialogue of Rajesh Khanna, one of most revered Bollywood personality, clearly sums up the essence of life. He rightly equated life not with longevity but the aspects it touches.

The thoughts a person gets on his deathbed about his life must satisfy him and should not let him get guilty of wasting it unpurposefully

Since time immorial person has been struggling to find the purpose of his life.

Remarks

Mark Twain had rightly remarked the unimportance of ~~2 days~~ two days in life - when one is born and when a person discovers why is the purpose of his life

CONCEPTION OF LIFE

Achieving life has different meanings for different persons. Yes, it is a subjective thing but ~~achieving~~ life is ^{have} ~~living~~ life. ~~Work~~ living is altogether a different thing

So what does the ideal conception of life is, and can it be generalised?

The ideal conception of life centers around things that gives happiness to people, the true happiness which human

Remarks

~~receive~~ may be different, but

receive is more or less same things.

A life lived serving others, working for beyond one's own aspirations, selfless help, inspiring others, & for spiritual awakensness of world, or to solve global problems and be a guiding light for others are some of the ideals which one aspires for. Like JS Melli, who attributed certain characteristics which give true happiness (and not just fun, or state of being happy) is one similar for all.

In the past there are examples of leaders and people who have died as 'heroes' and 'global personalities' and ones still revered throughout the world.

Remarks

They may have died, but their legacy continues to live. One scholar has rightly said that your life will be measured not ~~by who~~ by deeds, but the impact they have once you are long gone.

Bhagat Singh, an Indian revolutionary who fought the injustices of British rulers is revered here. He despite his tender age, took to agitation and protests, to fight for freedom of others and country.

He was later hanged till death. ~~with~~ ~~his~~ ~~long~~ ~~life~~ This shows that he achieved such things in life, which many people do not in their lifetime despite being longer. Thus the length for which one lives is irrelevant.

Apart from Bhagat Singh, ~~many~~ other ~~set~~ ~~of~~ freedom fighters ~~from~~ that took part

in freedom struggle ~~are~~ though died young but for a noble cause, fighting the injustice of the colonial ~~governors~~ rulers.

Neerja Bhanot, a flight attendant in Indian airlines was also martyred by terrorists. She died while protecting the fellow passengers despite her ^{tender} age.

There are also people who have lived to serve others and putting their lives before themselves. The names like Gandhi, Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela ^{are} etc all the ones that took great pains for serving others and working selflessly for their utilities and care.

There are people who ~~are~~ inspired the other people, ~~by living their~~ and act as their guiding lights and role models.

Remarks

Here names of the people like Che Guevara,
 Capt Vikram Batra, ^{poor} freedom fighters, ^{hambai}
 Steve Jobs etc are important who led
 a life worth living and following. The

~~Examples of~~

The brave soldiers of Indian army protecting
 the borders and security of nation are an
 inspiration. They risk their life for

services to their country and live in inhospitable
 conditions quite apart from their loved ones.

Apart from this there are instances of
 spiritual leaders like Aurobindo Ghosh, Swami

Vivekanand, ^{Pope} ~~and many other~~ who

spread love for humanity in the world. ~~and~~

~~There are~~

Some people work for betterment of
 humanity and to decrease their sufferings

Remarks

thus giving back to society.

The life of Alexander Fleming is worth mentioning who invented the vaccines for ~~penicillin~~ fighting bacterial infections. He upon ~~for~~ inventing it gave it free for the humanity.

Similarly there is a personable ^{by} ~~of~~ name of Elon Musk who is trying to reinvent technologies and make earth safer place. He is the founder of Tesla Company which is making electric cars.

~~The list of famous men/women who~~

Kofi Annan is also a leader who tried to bring peace in the war torn world.

The list is never ending of people who did a great deal of work for humanity, and not just living life for one's gains.

Remarks

The cases of notable business who became philanthropists after realising the futility. ~~On other hand, but~~ of working just for own gains ^{as it} did not bring in true happiness. Eminent personalities like Bill Gates who formed the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation to work for social causes is a case in point. Similarly Leonardo DiCaprio, a famous actor has started his fight against climate change.

On other hand, merely avoiding death or working for own individual gains cannot be equated with living / achieving life. This can be equated with animal existence, ~~which~~ where main aim is to survive and satisfy one's immediate

Remarks

needs. What good can life be, if it does not bring a ^{qualitative} change in somebody else's life.

To achieve life and live life one must have an altruistic outlook. Bringing a change in other's life brings true happiness and satisfaction like nothing else. This change can be big or small, but must be positive. ~~also~~

In a society where we have such dangers like terrorism, intolerance, social evils, materialism, apathy, we need people to realise the importance of living a life worth living and working for benefit of others.

The fact that the names mentioned above (and many more left out in this essay)

Remarks

are still remembered, read, their life celebrated shows ~~all~~ ~~how~~ what they achieved in life.

Every person wants to change the world, but no one is willing to change himself.

We must change ourselves and seek to bring positivity in world by spreading self helplessness, gratitude, love, care etc.

One must remember to measure life by moments and experiences and not by the length.

When the whole world will try to reform the world in positive direction all the ills present in society can change and world will become a better place to live. Remember all this starts at individual level.

In the end, the importance of life and

Remarks

its activities can be summed up by

Benjamin Franklin's famous quote

"Either ~~read~~ write something worth

reading or ~~do~~ something worth

writing"

① Excellent understander

② But overemphasises on examples
with the main ideas.

③ Try to give holistic view of
every dimension/aspects etc.

④ other fundamentals are
good.

62