



**Chanakya
Mandala
Pariwar**

1st July 2023

Student's Name : **Shashi Ranjan Singh**
ROLL No. **4911613**
Main Exam Roll Number : _____ Mobile No. : _____
Mob. No. 9735963756

UPSC Mains 2023 Test Series

ESSAY - 1

Time : 3 Hrs. & Marks : 250

Question Paper specific instructions

(Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting the questions)

- The essay must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-cum-answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given written in medium other than the authorized one.
- Word Limit, as specified, should be adhered to.
- Any page or portion of the page left blank in Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
- Write two essays, choosing one topic from each of the following Sections A and B, in about 1000-1200 words each. **125 x 2 = 250**

SECTION : A

- 1) "What is needed today is mindful and deliberate utilization, instead of mindless and destructive consumption."
- 2) "The one who plants trees, knowing that he will never sit in their shade, has at least started to understand the meaning of life."
- 3) "We must raise both the ceiling and the floor."
- 4) The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing.

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② "The one who plants trees, knowing that he will never sit in their shade, has at least started to understand the meaning of life."

My grandfather was a very hard-working farmer. He spent all his days and evenings in taking care of the crops in the fields. Even in old age, he wouldn't miss a day to scrutinize the progress the crops were making.

I, as a kid, had very light-hearted relationship with him. One fine day I asked him, "Grand Pa your fields are fine, but you're old now, why don't you enjoy the

luxuries that you have created
and lead comfortably the rest of your
life. we have enough savings". He
instantly and smilingly rebuked me
saying " you'll not understand now, you'll
know it when you're of my age!" we
lost him long ago, but his values still
continue to guide us. ~~Job to aching~~

Actually, he was saving for
us. Now, when I have a job and I realise
that I need to make plans for the future
in terms of financial and social security
for my old age. He was saving for his
future. To be precise his future

generations that will walk this planet long after he is gone.

To give out unconditionally is something I have learnt in this life. One such incident involving Mahatma Gandhi enlightens me. Gandhiji was getting down from a train, unfortunately one of his slippers slip and went under the train on the tracks. Gandhiji was in a hurry for a meeting. He tried to retrieve the slippers but couldn't.

So, while leaving the platform he threw the other slipper on the track. On being asked about the same, Gandhiji

replied, "it should be useful to someone who finds it, but for that it has to be there as a part".

These instances force us to find out the real meaning and purpose of life. As per the great Indian saint and philosopher, Swami Vivekananda - only those lives are meaningful that are lived in service of others. one can then contribute towards the benefit of humanity till the last breath.

Some worldly and visionary people, despite knowing that they will not see the light of the day, still go ahead with their useful contributions to make

the world a better place. Martyr Bhagat Singh knew that he won't be able to see the day when India gets independence, but he selflessly sacrificed his life for India's freedom struggle.

Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam could have easily lived a comfortable post-retirement life, but he worked towards nation-building till his last breath. He died while delivering a lecture. He had envisioned India, as a developed nation by 2020. His contributions towards India's missile programme and nuclear independence, continues to shield India from threats.

The mantra that we can learn is that one should never stop contributing to make the world a better place. It could be one minor act of planting a tree or an important one like educating our children.

Confucius, the great Chinese philosopher once said "if your plan is for a year, plant rice; if your plan is for 10 years, plant trees; but if your plan is for 100 years, educate your children."

These children may grow up in some other time and space, but they are the ones who will make the lives of fellow humans easier, convenient and

- paying it forward

harmonious. The question may be asked why should we plant trees then, if it's not benefiting us? The answer is - because someone else did it for us, selflessly and without asking anything in return.

The famous anecdote where the Great Alexander said that his hands should be hanging out from his coffin for people to see that one can take nothing more & nothing away from the Earth. one can only give out to others or share with others.

"Living is Giving" and "sharing is caring" are not just mere aphorisms, but life's precious lessons.

Things should not be done merely

because of self-interest, the world would turn mean, selfish and an unhappy place to live. It is because of what we have been handed down through successive generations that our life is easier now.

The knowledge related to dances (Natyashastra), music (Sangeet Ratnakara), mathematics (Sulvasutra, Anyabhathiya), statecraft (Arthashastra), etc if not handed down to us, humans would have had to reinvent the wheel again and again.

It is hence famously quoted that "we do not inherit the Earth from our forefathers, rather we borrow it from our

successors.

This is also the order of nature
The basic elements that make life possible
- the clean air, the pure water and food
for everyone is freely provided by nature.
It doesn't charge humans anything. All
we need to do is to nurture the nature,
so that our future generations are able
to satisfy their needs. This was resounded
by the Stockholm Conference on Sustainable
Development, 1972.

It is an accepted fact that overall
humanity is more prosperous now than any
other stage in human history, we need to

make sure our successors feel the same.

Ancient political thinkers like Socrates, Plato and Aristotle emphasized on putting "societies interests before one's own interests". As per the principle of fraternity, all the resources we don't need should be provided to others. The idea behind these philosophies is to give people a good life - a life of peace, harmony and excellence.

Indian philosophy rooted in the culture of "vasudhava kutumbakam" believes in "one Earth, one family, one future". To achieve the same, India

provided free vaccines to many developing nations. India makes unilateral concessions towards its neighbours under the Gujral doctrine. India has helped Turkey tackle a massive earthquake under operation ✓

Post^o despite our foreign relations not being in full swing, India doesn't want to score any diplomatic goals, but does so because it needs to be done, it's the right thing to do.

Our epic scripture - Shreemad Bhagavat Geeta guides us to do niskama Karma - doing one's duty without any anticipation of reward. These values ✓

supersedes all other achievements.

Tata Group chairman Emeritus narrated one incident about what made his life worthwhile. He said there was a time when he was earning the most money any Indian could imagine, he was then part of the biggest projects, etc. Still these things did not give him happiness.

It was once, when his company took up a charity work & for that purpose he himself went to distribute 200 wheel-chairs to disabled children. When he saw happiness on the faces of children, he realised where his own happiness lies —

that is in selfless service. ✓

Therefore, we should not wait till we are very old in our lives to make effective changes, in the way we live. The journey of life is not just existence, but to understand the role of cosmos in giving us this opportunity.

We must shed opportunism and consumerism. We have responsibility not only for ourselves, but the society around us. We need to find out ways in which we can contribute more and add value to the lives of people. We must not just wait for others to do right things. ✓

As one famous American president quoted - "If we're waiting for the right person, that's us & if we're waiting for the right time, that's now". So, we must act now.

~~Good~~ ~~69~~

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SECTION : B

- 1) There was never a bad peace or a good war.
- 2) Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men.
- 3) "The death of dogma is the birth of morality."
- 4) Truth can be stated in a thousand different ways, yet each one can be true.

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② Our scientific power has outrun
our spiritual power. We have guided
missiles and misguided men.

The above quote by the
American human-rights activist and thinker
Martin Luther King Junior highlights a
very paradoxical situation about the
achievements and shortcomings of human
existence. It also highlights that we
have failed to balance science and
spirituality and the gap between the
two, is widening.

on similar lines post-modernist
scholars of political science, suggest
that during modern times, science has

become the hegemonic discourse.

There is a mad craze for facts.

Everything is being judged on the parameters of science, while values

have taken a backseat. The focus

on observation, inference, experimen-

tation has led to the ignorance of

speculation, value-based education

and hence seems to have lost the

human touch. ✓

If we see the influence of scientific achievements around us, we

have created the smallest earbuds,

the fastest of processors, the slimmest of mobile phones, etc. we have made

advances in space, nuclear technology, hyperloop transportation, 5-G technology, automated-driving cars, etc. All this appears so perfect. The achievements are uncomparable to any period of history or pre-history.

But have we been able to create the perfect man? Taking me from our own history, the king of Ayodhya, Rama who established the victory of good over evil is regarded as "maryada purushottama". Maryada—refers to propriety of conduct & purushottama means the peerless among men. Do we have such enlighten-

keisha: is Pooran Purush!

ed humans bearing a few like
Gautam Buddha, Vaidhamana Mahanirya,
Swami Vivekananda, etc.? The answer
is No. It appears that while the
world was focussing on scientific frontiers
the spiritual being, within all of us, was
ignored.

Technology has advanced so much
that any optimum demonstration of it
appears as magic. But we can't say
the same about our spiritual development
we haven't taught fellow humans how
to perfect themselves and attain the highest
state of being i.e. consciousness, instead
we have misguided them.

Most ordinary men appear to be steeped in materialism, consumerism and desires. They are moved by passions and populism. They practice social evils like hatred, intolerance, envy, jealousy, one-upmanship, etc. These educated and intelligent men could have been assets to the world, but unfortunately are causing more harm than good.

Mahatma Gandhi famously said that one of the seven sins is "practice of science without humanity". Science should

be utilised for the progress of humanity, science is not only for economic develop-

all

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ment, it is for human empowerment and its spiritual upliftment. The mad race for scientific discoveries and achievements is known even to scientists. Highlighting the importance of ethics, religion and spirituality, Albert Einstein once said that both need the other, one without the other will only take us backward.

He quoted "science without humanity is lame, and religion without science is blind". Hence both should develop together & simultaneously, otherwise the widening gap would not only misguide but also corrupt men.

For example, we can look closer at our neighbourhood. Even Pakistan has developed nuclear weapons, that is no doubt their tremendous scientific achievement. But the average common man of Pakistan is showing glimpses of war mongering, as they are proud of the fact that they are a nuclear-weapon state and can destroy india any day. Their mindset still treats us as enemies. Therefore, the hostilities between the 2 neighbours is still continuing.

Had the men been guided correctly and inculcated with values like love, compassion, toleration, mutual respect, non-harming others, things would have been different.

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the 'Missile Man of India', also a deeply spiritual person thought otherwise. For him the nuclear weapons were ~~weapons~~ of peace and deterrence.

Dr. Kalam had given a comprehensive approach towards a nation's development. In one of the interviews he was asked about 3 things that would make India great? Dr. Kalam replied - First is continuous economic growth (8% per annum for next 20 years), the second was inclusive growth by bringing people above the poverty line. This can be done through e-education, e-health,

beiding the digital divide, etc. But the
third and most important part was —
improvement in the value system. ✓

Personal values of honesty, integrity,
compassion, familial values of respect, love,
care, selflessness, societal values of harmony,
tolerance, brotherhood and so on while

for the first 2 purposes, science is enough,

to guide men towards right path — ethics
and spirituality is the key. He himself was

an avid reader of the Bhagavat Geeta,

Holy Quran and Thirukkural. ✓

From the life experiences of such
geniuses we realise that science should

not outrun spiritualism, both
need to cooperate and coexist together.

The Great Indian saint and nationalist,
Swami Vivekananda once said that

Science is the search for truth outside,
spiritualism is the search for truth

inside. Thus, establishing that the 2
are ends of the same coin.

Human mind is indeed very
powerful, it had sent spacecrafts to
the atmosphere of other planets. So, it
can also reach the depth of human
consciousness. Its high time we correct
the mistakes committed by us, as

highlighted by Martin Luther King Junior.

To begin with, at the school level, equal emphasis should be placed on value-based education along with academics. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan emphasized the same thing, when he said that youth should keep the Holy Quran in one hand and the book of science in the other. His advice was not adhered to, so the world had to face educated monsters like Osama Bin Laden.

At the professional level, we hear instances of engineers tweaking contracts and tender requirements to benefit certain vendors/contractors and doctors indulging in corrupt practice of medical bill inflation,

misusing patients vulnerability, doing
sex-selective identifications, etc. A strong
code of conduct and code of ethics
will maintain the dignity of these noble
professions.

We need also to learn from history,
excessive advancement has resulted in
conflicts. Industrial revolution led by
scientific revolution has perpetuated
colonialism and scramble for colonies
resulting in 2 world wars in the first
half of 20th century.

For future, we need to see that
advancement in technologies like
generative AI (chatGPT, Bing), automated
military defence (Iron Dome, Trump

S-400), nuclear technology, social media, central technologies are used for the benefit of humanity and are not weaponised in any way,

After attaining a certain level of development, the focus should shift towards mental & spiritual development.

It is also suggested by Maslow's hierarchy of needs. We need to inculcate values in present and future generations.

Scientific developments are good as long as they further human welfare and does not become an end in itself. Only then we can achieve the goal of "sarve bhavantu sukhi nah" - where all sentient beings are at peace.

good ✓

good

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125

Space for Rough Work

Space for Rough Work



Chanakya Mandal Pariwar

Essay



Time : 3 Hrs.

Marks : 250

SECTION A

- 1) "What is needed today is Mindful and Deliberate Utilization, instead of Mindless and Destructive Consumption."
- 2) "The one who plants trees, knowing that he will never sit in their shade, has at least started to understand the meaning of life."
- 3) "We must raise both the ceiling and the floor."
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SECTION B

- 1) There was never a bad peace or a good war.
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