

**ESSAY**

Time Allowed: 3 hr.

Max. Marks: 250

$$63 + 69 = 132$$

**Instruction to Candidates**

- Write two essays in about 1000-1200 words each selecting one from each section.
- Both essay carry equal marks.
- After finishing the first essay, the other is to be attempted on a fresh Page.
- Write your Roll number clearly in the relevant space provided on the cover of the answer-book.
- 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).*

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1. Invigilator Signature

2. Invigilator Signature

132  
250

Good attempt -

Syams

SECTION - A

1. A society that puts equality before freedom will get neither.
2. If a democracy is to deliver promises, it must be able to count on contribution of its citizen.

SECTION - B

1. We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.
2. Mercy to the guilty is cruelty to the innocent.

Sec A

If a democracy is to deliver promises  
it must be able to count on  
contribution of its citizens.

Democracy essentially entails the provisioning of effective voice to

the people in policy making and  
governance of a nation. Over the  
years, 2 main forms of governance

have existed — democracies and  
autocracies. (A-1985 P. 135. Q. 2. (i) (governance))

While autocracies had been dominant  
in the earlier period, democracy  
is a more recent phenomena

that emergence in parallel with  
the Industrial Age and the rise  
of new nation states.

Democracy provides a crucial role to its citizens for its effective functioning. Citizens act as vital links in democracy and their duty goes beyond the casting of vote in regular elections. They have to ensure that government is held accountable to the people and protects their rights and interests. Moreover, they need to ensure transparency in the government functioning so that it acts responsibly in the implementation of its policies and decisions.

Democracy has evolved into two main types - direct democracy and indirect democracy. In the former, people directly participate in decision-making through referendums, like in Switzerland, while indirect representatives are elected by the people in the latter who decide the policies and laws for them.

The global phenomena of democracy has its roots in the Roman Empire in which people elected their rulers. Due to increased corruption and lack of effective citizen participation in later years, the system collapsed and gave way to rise of autocratic states that ruled in most of the middle ages. The revival of democracies started with the period of enlightenment, i.e. Renaissance, when people questioned the right divine right to rule by kings. The British Parliamentary system, and later the American Presidential system became the most commonly accepted forms globally. Although the democratic process slowed down with the rise of communism in the post-world war period, it has emerged as the dominant political system in the post communist-era, i.e. after 1991.

The role of people in democracies ~~and~~ can be ascribed to the social, economic and political participation of people in the governance of the country. The basic ideology of democracy provides ultimate sovereignty to the people.

Effective social participation of the people is essential to prevent the excesses of the state and ensure that government policies are directed towards social upliftment of the people and removing social barriers. As democracies provide equal participation rights and power to all its citizens, it ensures that discrimination is absent from government policies if people are aware of their powers and exercise it effectively. By providing paramountcy to the social problems of people, like ~~poor~~ poverty, caste and class discrimination, malnutrition,

education etc., people can hold the government accountable for the service-delivery by the power of ballot and using tools like RTI etc. Citizen-centric governance is the hallmark of democracy and people's participation is the cornerstone for ensuring it.

Economic participation by the people is crucial for the success of democracy ~~as~~ as a stable system rests on a strong economy. By fully ~~for~~ utilising the economic opportunities available, people can realise their potential effectively and guard against market failure that inadvertently occurs due to poor governance. In this context, people's participation in corporate governance and decision-making is also crucial due to the market linkages across the globe. Democratic decision-making

will ensure effective functioning of the system, while providing avenues for innovation and market-friendly measures. People need to continuously strive towards complete and continuous participation in the formation and implementation of policies to reduce incidences of market collapse and nepotistic considerations that lower the confidence of people in such democratic institutions.

The political context of democracy has been the most accepted form as understood by the people. The basic thrust of political participation rests on selecting electing representatives on a regular basis. This is the most important power available to the people and needs to be exercised cautiously - above the consideration of caste and class and on the basis of merit of candidates.

The political reforms demanded by people globally have mainly been for increased people's participation in governance. This led to the collapse of communism in 1991 and the Arab Spring in 2011. The old monarchical system has slowly been discarded and the

democratic form of government has been accepted as the most stable form of government globally.

While democracy has emerged as the sine qua non of political system post 1991, the emergence of unipolar world and increased intervention by Western powers to enforce democracy has led to several problems in the recent years, most notably seen in the context of Iraq Crisis.



It is necessary to ensure that the demand for democracy should come from the people of the country themselves, otherwise it is doomed to fail. Ineffective participation by the people will lead to rise of corruption and sectarianism.

Also, the ~~same~~ problem of majoritarian rule and the insecurity among the minorities has led to security issues in various countries.

It is necessary to provide active channels of communication and look into political reforms to overcome such issues and strengthen democracies.

In the Indian context, democracy has remained the mainstay of Indian politics since Independence. The right to vote has been provided by the Constitution of India. The

importance of democracy could be seen from the response of the people in the aftermath of Emergency (1975-77), when the ruling Congress party was routed by the people in the general elections.

Recently, there have been demands for increased citizen's participation by the civil society and NGO's. This is in tune with the need to preserve democratic values in the context of increased cases of corruption, nepotism, nexus between politicians and bureaucrats and businessmen and the criminalisation of politics. This has led to the citizen's charter, RTI Act and providing effective grievance redressal mechanisms. The ~~calls~~ <sup>demand</sup> for Right to Recall is to

ensure ~~peo~~ continuous participation by the people in the functioning of the government.

In the context of the above arguments, it can be easily gauged that democracy hinges on the fine balance of power and responsibility, and citizens play the most significant part in its success. Although democracy promises huge benefits in terms of social, economic and political empowerment of the people, they can only be realised by effective participation by an informed citizenry. The

golden principle of democracy -

'Of the People  
For the People  
By the People',

needs to be understood in totality. The ideal form of

government, according to Mahatma Gandhi, is that of Village Republic - where people are fully involved in the process of governance at all levels.

It is important for all of us to safeguard this <sup>dynamic</sup> process by complete, effective and continuous

participation. In the end, the words of a political commentator are apt for this argument -

'People get only what they demand'

Thus, it is essential to demand accountability and responsibility from the elected representatives and work towards making democracy a success, actively.

Well

Done!

Section B

We must accept finite disappointment  
but never lose infinite hope

The advancement of human civilisation has always depended on the hope for a better future.

During the course of time, there have been many roadblocks and disappointments faced by the people, but they have been temporary and have been overcome by persistent efforts of the people, which has led to success eventually.

It is famously stated that 'hope is the ultimate source of life'. In this context, it is important to ensure that temporary failures do not impede the path to progress. It is essential to overcome despair to ~~be~~ <sup>to</sup> regain the lost ground and work towards a better future. The history of the human civilisation

suggests that flourishing civilisation necessarily depended on hopes of good governance.

The viewpoint of the individual is extremely important for building hope. While the pessimist may see the glass as half empty, the optimist sees it as half full. This observation explains the difference between those who are successful and those who are not in today's world.

It is necessary to understand that success depends on human actions, which rest ~~of~~ on hope for the future. It is a universal truth that there is always a scope for improvement in the future, and hence it is futile to ~~lose~~ hope.

It is the domain of hope that has led to new innovations and advancement of humans in all fields of science and technology, society, economy, military and political.

The most famous example of innovation in science is that of Albert Einstein. As a young child, he was chided by his teachers for being 'dumb', but was later recognised as a symbol of 'genius'.

This is possible only by keeping the spirits of hope alive and continuously striving for change.

~~A~~ A famous inventor Thomas Alva Edison has said - 'Every failure is one step closer to success'. This is crucial for ensuring success to humans. It is said that Edison failed 10,000 times before eventually succeeding in the

discovery of light bulbs, which is found in every house ~~is~~ today and has become indispensable. The numerous inventions of Edison are attributed to his meticulous efforts and the 'never say die' approach.

~~There~~ There are moments when the world seems lost and ~~our~~ despair insurmountable, but one must remember that time is the best healer and it continuously moves on. What seems insurmountable today, may seem like a small hiccup in the future. As stated by Steve

Jobs, the legendary CEO of Apple<sup>2</sup>:-

'Looking backwards, it is easy to connect the dots. ~~So~~ one must never lose hope and ~~keeping~~ doing what they love'.



It is important to light a candle of hope whenever we are overcome by darkness of disappointment.

The persistent efforts of Gandhi in fighting for India's freedom is a great example of how hope can move an entire nation.

By providing the hope to the people that independence from the mighty British Empire can be won by non-violent means, he mobilised the nation and won independence. ~~Also~~, the example

of Martin Luther King Jr. in his fight for civil liberties for the blacks in America is

~~exemplary~~. ~~It~~ The common thread in both these efforts, by mass mobilisation by generating hope amongst the people. As famously

stated by Gandhi -

'Be the change you want to see in the world',

It is apt to say that the efforts guided by hope have always been met with temporary resistance and led to despair, but by not losing hope they have achieved great success and have become inspirational for the people future generations

The ~~the~~ social and political changes that accompanied the Renaissance was established in the backdrop of people being provided hope of a New World.

The rise of industrial revolution and the consequent global changes have brought humanity firmly to the modern age. It can be doubted if people would have advanced so much without hope, ever.

The modern day politics is full of examples ~~about~~ of people who have fought against all odds and revolutionised the system. The most famous example is that of Abraham Lincoln, the US President who ended slavery and led the country during the Civil War. Prior to his Presidency, he had lost elections 8 times and had failed in business thrice, but his persistent efforts made him one of the most famous American Presidents in the history.

The example of APJ Abdul Kalam is also relevant in this context.

Born in a small family, ~~and~~ he went to commit suicide after failing to ~~get~~ selected in Air Force. Luckily, he overcame this disappointment and went on to become the Father of Nuclear Missiles in India and the Commander-in-Chief of

egs  
I  
good

Indian Air Force as the President of India. His life clearly symbolises how hope can transform disappointment into achievement.

In this backdrop, it is apt to quote - 'Believe you can,  
and you will do it'.

A person with hope and determination to succeed will always find avenues for success.

The advancement of economies in the modern age has been possible by people who did not despair over temporary losses. It is stated that economy is cyclic with boom and busts happening periodically.

The strong will to succeed does not allow lack of resources to impede growth. The resourceful person always finds a way to success. The inspirational story of Dhirubhai Ambani, who grew

from being a worker at the petrol pump to becoming the richest man of India, symbolises the dream of every citizen of the country. By not allowing day-to-day hardships to come in the way of his long-term vision, he was able to achieve success.

The famous actor, in the movie Pursuit of Happiness, stated -

'If you have a dream, you must protect it'.

It becomes important for people for consciously drive their efforts by hope rather than being guided by temporary despair.

The great military conquests that have shaped the modern-day civilisation have always depended on ensuring high morale of the army. The famous Battle of Normandy in World War II,

fought in an almost impossible and hostile terrain for the Allies, was successful only because the men who participated in it had hopes of achieving victory and ending the war.

The symbols of hope have always inspired people and have achieved a permanent place in the hearts and minds of people while the traumas have been generally forgotten with time. This has been a cardinal principle that guides all human actions.

It is necessary to keep up human spirits and act for a better future. As stated in Gita, one must never be disappointed by a loss as it is meant to pass away in due course of time and one must focus on his duties.

Avoid quoting religious texts at home examinations. may not apply certain religions.

The famous saying -

'where there is a will, there is a way' is apt for this context.

One must always look at the big picture and not despair the losses. 'When one door closes, another opens' - must always be remembered. It is also

essential to understand that the opportunities brought in by the new door can only be fully utilised by actively working for a better future for us and the community. When the

candle of hope burns, it consumes within itself the

'darkness of disappointment.' Thus,

one should ~~at~~ never worry about temporary losses and kindle the permanent hope for success.

Very good

**GS SCORE**



Recent problems with democracy  
 ↳ unipolar world ⇒ imposing democracies

- majoritarian rule
- insecurity / minorities ⇒ terrorism & security issues

Solution → Active role of citizens  
 'State should not be allowed to play partisan role  
 ↳ allow channels of communication b/w citizens & govt. for effective grievance redressal  
 • Demand should come from citizens rather than externally imposed

Indian context - Democracy ⇒ mainstay of Indian politics

'protected by Constitution ⇒ Arts 324-329.

- People ⇒ effectively participated in democratic process since independence
- Emergency ⇒ strongly resented in elections
- Increased role of civil society & NGO's
  - ↳ demand for increased accountability
  - ↳ citizens charter
  - ↳ grievance redressal
  - ↳ RTI
  - ↳ Right to Recall.

Conclusion

Active citizens ⇒ crucial for proper functioning  
 ↳ democracies hinge on fine balance b/w need for power and complete devolution -  
 ↳ Village Republic ⇒ governance by the people.  
 ↳ Ensure strict vigil on democratic rights  
 ↳ continuous process that is ~~evolving~~ dynamic ⇒ need for need for increased dynamism with people  
 "only we get what we ask for"

Ravi

If democracy is to deliver promises, it must be able to count on contribution of citizens.

Intro . What is democracy  $\Rightarrow$  ensuring ~~the~~ <sup>effective</sup> voice to people in policy making

citizens  
↳ vital links  
↳ duty beyond the casting of vote.

↳ Direct Democracy  
↳ Indirect Democracy

• role of people  $\Rightarrow$  contribution in effective functioning

↳ ~~global~~ effective participation and accountability

↳ active citizens - transparency, no nepotism and equal rights

↳ human rights hinge upon people's participation in democracy

Historic aspect

• global phenomenon  $\Rightarrow$  • Roman form

• Feudal ages  $\Rightarrow$  autocracy and monarchy

Modern age  $\Rightarrow$  rise of democracies

British  $\Rightarrow$  Parliamentary System

American  $\Rightarrow$  Presidential System

Basic ideology  $\Rightarrow$  to ensure effective voice to the people.

Social aspects

↳ democracies promise human rights  $\Rightarrow$  need to be guarded by active citizens against excesses of state.

↳ Hold govt. accountable for ensuring citizen centric governance

↳ paramourcy to people's problems.

Economic

↳ Democracies  $\Rightarrow$  tend to be market friendly and focus on free trade

↳ provide increase global opportunities & avenues for innovation

↳ imp. for citizens to fully utilize the opportunities & demand reforms & regulation to ensure full & effective realisation of potential as well as <sup>against</sup> market failure.

↳ most crucial role of people

Political

↳ necessary to guard ~~human~~ fundamental rights

↳ most accepted & stable form of govt. globally

↳ increased demands ~~for~~ <sup>against</sup> autocracy  $\Rightarrow$  1991 USSR

↳ political reforms  $\Rightarrow$  main agenda.

2011 Arab Spring

2  
1

social  
economic  
political

social

↳ human rights  
↳ fundamental rights

↳ ensures citizen-centric governance

↳ people's problems & issues are paramount

↳ economic

↳ market friendly

↳ open trade

↳ increased global opportunities

↳ higher innovation

↳ effective and full realisation of human potential

political

↳ necessary for P.R.

↳ most accepted and stable form of govt. globally

↳ most political reforms & demands for democracy

$\rightarrow$  Arab Spring

Hong Kong

1991  $\rightarrow$  collapse of communism