

# **G|S|SCORE**

**An Institute for Civil Services**

## **IAS TOPPER'S**

### **TEST COPY**

### **ARNAV SHIVENDU**

**RANK - 283**

### **GS MAINS ESSAY**



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## ESSAY MOCK TEST

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

***Instructions to Candidate***

- Both sections are compulsory.
- Attempt one 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 ARNAV SHIVENDU

Mobile No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Arnav

1. Invigilator Signature \_\_\_\_\_

2. Invigilator Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION - A**

1. Prayer does not change God, but it changes him who prays.
2. Not all those who wander are lost.
3. Our lives begin to end, the day we become silent about things, that matter.
4. We don't see things as they are; we see them as we are.

**SECTION - B**

1. Bureaucracy is a giant mechanism operated by pygmies.
2. Protest beyond the law is not a departure from democracy; it is absolutely essential to it.
3. More law, less justice.
4. The increasingly rapid pace of life is creating more problems than it solves.

section-A

"Our lives begin to end, the day we become silent about things, that matter".

It is a cold and dark evening in a suburb of Germany. The year is 1938. Suddenly there are loud voices and people weeping and crying. Next morning, people get to know that a family, Jews in religion was attacked. The world remained silent.

The above anecdote demonstrates how when world remained silent against the attack on Jews, it later resulted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war and drove the world towards the end of peace.

Throughout history and even in contemporary times, we are replete with instances as to how silence about things that matter resulted in end of

life as we know it.

Life is an integrative word. It is political, social, economic, ecological in nature. Every action we commit not only impacts life in general but each of these dimensions in a non-uniform manner.

For instance, post Nirbhaya rape case, the society went back to its daily routine. From 2012 till 2017, tremendous atrocities were committed against women but the society remained silent. They were only then pushed back to reality when a 8 year old girl lost her life in Kathua. did India awake

Similarly, during 2011 Anti corruption movement, the entire country went on a protest against the government of the day against the rising cases of corruption.

Remarks

The government did pass Lokpal Bill in response. Since then the people have remained silence, no Lokpal has been appointed instead there have been rising cases of fraud and NPAs in public sector banks. Economic stability of India is nearing its end.

The above two instances very clearly demonstrate how silence has led to the demise of life in various spheres of life. Thus, this brings us to the question as to why people remain silent even when they see wrong being committed.

Is it intentional or a matter of coincidence? The answer is both.

Since the industrial revolution, the world has been pushed towards the value system of individualism. Thus, each

of us think only when something affects us directly.

This points to a serious malaise in our society i.e. the loss of conscience, empathy and a sense of morality.

Genocide of Jews was not only end of some lives but end of morality just because the world remained silent.

Also, the people in general tend to lack awareness and have a myopic view of life which is driven by self centeredness.

For instance, the LGBT rights is seen by many societies as lack of morality in LGBT, some also term it a mental health problem. But when it comes to granting them their basic rights, the society continues to be silent. This impacts the LGBT in all spheres of life, thus, making them an easy prey for exploitation.

Remarks

Some people prefer to remain silent in the fear of being socially ostracised or invite punishment.

For instance, during earlier times, an upper caste individual could not take food from an individual of lower caste. Therefore if (s)he did, they would be ousted from not only their Caste but their society. This prevented even the individuals to speak and were forced to remain silent resulting in continued exploitation of life of lower caste.

But the biggest reason for silence is vested interests of a few for power, money and influence.

The continued denial of civil and political rights of Blacks in USA by the Whites to continue their hegemony.

Remarks

politically and socially.

Having examined as to why people remain silent, let us understand the implications of the remaining silent on life.

Firstly, it has been observed whenever people have remained silent, it has resulted in the rise of authoritarianism.

Best example, as discussed earlier, was the Nazi Germany under Hitler and Fascist Italy under Mussolini where even the basic rights of freedom of speech and expression were absent. Millions were killed and their lives extinguished just because there was silence.

Secondly, silence not only impacts political freedom but marks the death of morality. People become self centered disregarding bigger issues threatening

Remarks

humanity :-

For instance, the ensuing anthropogenic climate change will result in death of millions of more humans and animals, despite this, people continue to remain silent, thus, raising a moral concern.

The overall result of all the silence will result in the destruction of peace and harmony and, therefore, end of life as we know it thereby resulting in no gift for future generations but only misery.

Therefore, it is the need of the hour that we start looking for solutions and emerge out of silence and raise our voices for change.

Individuals should become active and participative. They should leverage

Remarks

tools like RTI, Gram Panchayat to raise their voices against any wrong doing.

Media which is regarded as the 4<sup>th</sup> organ of the government should become responsible and practice responsible and independent journalism. It should be responsible for voicing the major malaises prevalent in the society such as corruption, murder and thereby safeguard lives of not one but many.

Similarly, the civil society should remain active as witnessed during anti-corruption movement to ensure all lives continue to thrive.

People should follow the fundamental duties and develop scientific temper. This will ensure they judge every

Remarks

situation on merit and act objectively.

But the most vital strand to raise voice and safeguard things that matter to us is being morally strong and courageous and show conviction even when it demands sacrifice. Only then can we remain compassionate and ensure no life is threatened.

This is precisely why even our constitution grants us freedom of speech and expression.

To quote Edmund Burke,

"All that tyranny requires to tighten its hold is the silence of those who possess good conscience."

Therefore, a dynamic progressive society armed with the weapon of moral courage

will continue to raise voice every  
single time any life is endangered.

*Remarks*

The increasingly rapid pace of life is creating more problems than it solves

A famous story about a tortoise being slow and steady and defeating a rabbit who initially was quick but succumbed later is known to us from our childhood. However, as we grew up we forgot the lesson learnt from it.

This very well resonates with the title of the essay i.e. the increasingly rapid pace of life is creating more problems than it can create solve.

Just like the story, we are slowly becoming a rabbit and leading our lives, thinking we are winning without stopping once a while to introspect and understand the implications of our

Remarks

actions.

Therefore, in this essay, let us try exploring as to why and how we became rapid, is it always bad to have pace and does it always result in unsolvable problems. Next we will understand the problems created by our rapid life in social, economic, political sphere among others.

Since our childhood from parents to teachers we are told only one thing, "Rise and run." We are put into a race of life even before we have learnt how to speak properly.

However, this was not always so. Life has always been relatively fast in relation to the content of history. However, importance of swiftness was realised after the industrial revolution.

Remarks

With the advent of steam engine to railways to airplane to internet and now artificial intelligence, needs of being fast is not affecting only individuals but societies, nations and even Earth.

Let us look at issues that have arisen due to the rapid pace of life.

In almost <sup>all</sup> nations, rampant development has resulted in unplanned urbanisation resulting in people living in slums facing extreme poverty and poor living conditions resulting in diseases and at times death.

With increased pace of life and increasing competition across all spectrums of life, people are developing lifestyle based diseases such as hyper tension, diabetes, cancer.

Remarks -

Many of them are unable to compete thereby developing stress related issues. Sometimes, they even commit suicide.

People are unable to focus on things which are important in life. They fail to take care of their parents, their children and even their friends. This is ironical as the purpose of internet, mobiles were to connect people but this has instead disconnected them.

Despite the continuous complain by people against traffic, people continue to travel in their private vehicles instead of travelling in public transport. This will not only result in less air pollution but also reduce road accidents.

Rapid pace of life has not only impacted the individuals and the society but has also crept into the political sphere.

Legislators in the garb of being swamped with work pass ill considered decision legislations without much debate or public input. This results in multiple loopholes that are exploited to bypass punitive action. For instance, the Double Tax Avoidance Act which was exploited by firms to avoid payment of taxes. This not only deprived the government of revenue but impacted the welfare of the poor.

Similarly, the continued exploitation of Earth's resources and buring of fossil fuel is resulting in climate change.

Remarks

which will result ~~in loss of millions~~ of lives and property.

All the above highlighted issues have one thing in common - The rapid pace of life has resulted in issues difficult to solve.

But does this mean that anything rapid in life is bad?

Of course, no. Swiftness in life is not always bad. It is contextual and depends on multitude of factors.

However, it is to be noted that all great things take time. It took Taj Mahal 22 years to be a marvel that all of us cherish today.

It required proper planning, risk and resource assessment before it was ordered to be constructed.

Remarks

Similarly, our upcoming cities and urban centres need to be properly planned with state of the art technology to cater to migrant population. Only then can at a later point, changes can be made quickly in case required. Otherwise, we will witness another Bangalore being destroyed due to rampant changes.

Similarly, a disaster is a sudden phenomena and results in huge loss of lives and property. However, if sufficient time is given to disaster preparedness and planning any sudden phenomena can managed well as witnessed during cyclone Phalai.

Even judiciary suffers from pendency, thus, raising voices in support of quick disposal of cases. However, that would require proper assessment and

Remarks

planning before the judiciary is capable of tackling cases with swiftness and ensuring no hasty decisions are taken.

Last but not the least, it took the Indian government a decade to plan GST before it could be implemented at the stroke of the midnight.

Therefore, all the above instances highlight that being rapid and slow are not mutually exclusive. They are close intertwined and support each other.

Thus, our focus should always be on being slow and steady during initial stage and accelerate when the time demands.

Impacts emerging from fast paced life can be truncated if we are proactive instead of being reactive.

**Remarks**

For example, a person can always plan their day on time so they have sufficient time to exercise and reach places on time instead of rushing through life and developing non communicable diseases.

so Last but not the least, we should develop patience not only at the individual but at the society level. This will ensure we are thoughtful before committing any action influenced by passion such as rape, murder. It will make us considerate and open to change thereby reducing problems in our day to day life.

Even the <sup>constitution</sup> nation took 2 years, 11 months to be made but ensured that our nation remained stable and dynamic to solve any problem. As it is said, "Rome was not built in a

Remarks

day" and, thus, it can be said all  
great things take time.

*Remarks*

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*Remarks*

The increasingly rapid pace of life is creating more problems than it solves.

Story of the tortoise v/s the rabbit.

↳ Race reflects life which requires the fuel of patience, persistence, dedication, coupled with rationality to solve hindrances.

Otherwise, running like a rabbit will result in problems difficult to solve.

Q → Why and since when life has started to become fast paced → IR → New tech

Ability of individuals  
to connect across the world

↳ Rail & air, car, internet ↳ ↓ in importance of patience, ↑ in importance of swiftness

Q: Does this mean being fast is always bad?

- ① Not always. However, initial set up always takes time. For ex, planning and developing a city does take time but once done effectively any new design can be easily done.
- ② Disaster Mgmt      ③ judicial measures for reduced dependency  
↳ Being fast + slow are not mutually exclusive.

Remarks GST → Initially affected the eco but now eco recovering.

- Then why rapid pace of life is bad?
- ① Urban planning haphazard → <sup>Air pollut'n</sup> <sub>Delhi</sub>
- ② Rise of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, cancer due to <sup>poor</sup> <sub>bad</sub> lifestyle habits.
- ③ Rise in road accidents
- ④ Ppl using personal transport v/s public transport
- ⑤ Ill considered legislations marked by loopholes resulting in ~~eco~~ vulnerability. Ex-DTAA
- ⑥ Loss of time for imp things in life such as parents, children, friends  
 ↳
- ⑦ Climate change ⑧ Artificial intelligence to exploitation of natural resources manage data but @ the same time exposing privacy
- ⑨ Poor policies result in failure such as land reforms → marginalised poor → LWE
- ⑩ Partition → continuing war with Pak.  
~~However being slow not always~~  
~~soln~~ → ⑪ Initial plan solid but slow
- ⑫ Focus on being pro-active v/s reactive
- ⑬ Improving patience as an indi, society
- ⑭ Being open to change.

Remarks Even the Constitut<sup>n</sup> took 2 yrs, 11 months to be made but it has ensured stability and dynamism to solve any problem / change.

Our lives begin to end, the day we become silent about things that matter

(Intro) → 1939 (Germany) → Jews attacked; rest of the world watches

End of peace and prosperity → Millions of death.

Above anecdote reflects how silence against genocide resulted in end of peace and prosperity and drove the world towards a miserable end.

Body - Explore different things that matter

① Politically & socially → gender rights → Women  
 → LGBT rights → Present day.  
 Fair & free govt → otherwise Authoritarianism  
 Electoral rights and end of discrimination  
 ↴ Rosa Parks → Civil rights movement

② Ecologically → Post IR, all want comfort

Disregarded ecology → Destruction of earth  
 climate change  
 ↓  
 ∵ UNFCCC imp. to fight

③ Economically → Low social exclusion  
 income inequality → If welfare not demanded  
 ↴ Polarisation of society

Remarks

~~① Fear of being ostracised socially ② Invite wrath of those in power~~

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~~③ Lack of courage, deeper understanding~~

Next Q → Why do ppl remain silent ~~blinded by self interests~~

- ① ~~Vested interests~~ Nobody wants to leave comfort → Materialistic
- ② Myopic understanding & lack of awareness
- ③ Vested interests of few for power & money.

Implications ① Authoritarianism

- ② Curb on freedom of s&c
- ③ moral corruption ④ Destruct<sup>n</sup> of world as we know → No gift for our children only misery
- ⑤ No peace & harmony ~~misery~~

Sol<sup>n</sup> - ① Active citizenry via RTI, Gram Panchayat & participative

- ② Media - 4<sup>th</sup> organ of govt.
- ③ Active civil society ④ Building scientific temper
- ⑤ Being morally strong and compassionate to stand up for what is right otherwise, end of life as we know it i.e. why Even Constit<sup>n</sup> pushes us for freedom of s&c → scientific temper & build fraternity & brotherhood.

To quote, Edmund Burke → All tyranny requires to tighten its hold is silence of those who have good conscience.

Remarks