

# **G|S|SCORE**

**An Institute for Civil Services**

## **IAS TOPPER'S**

### **TEST COPY**

### **ARNAV SHIVENDU**

**RANK - 283**

### **GS MAINS ESSAY**



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Roll No. \_\_\_\_\_

**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. Our constitution is a ray of hope: H for Harmony, O for Opportunity, P for People's participation and E for Equality.
2. A national festival is an occasion to refine and rebuild the national character.
3. Trade is a communication of cultures and values; when trade stops, war comes.
4. The relationship between Human Intelligence and Artificial Intelligence (HI + AI) will necessarily be one of symbiosis.

**SECTION - B**

1. The noblest way to acquire wisdom is reflection.
2. It is easy to hate and it is difficult to love; in fact, all good things are difficult to achieve; and bad things are very easy to get.
3. If you are lonely when you are alone, you are in a bad company.
4. We can evade reality, but we cannot evade the consequences of evading reality.

3  
Section A

Trade is a communication of culture and values; when trade stops, war comes

Trade in generic sense is simply viewed as a transaction involving buying and selling of goods. It ranges from agricultural goods to manufactured products such as textile, spices etc.

However, it <sup>is</sup> a narrow interpretation of trade. Historically, it has been observed that trade not only involves exchange of goods but also the exchange of culture and values.

Culture and values are two vital components of any nation or society. It is to be noted that it is the culture and values of a society which shapes its contact with the world and in turn with trade rather than trade

Remarks

facilitating cultural exchange alone.

Trade and cultural and value exchange share a symbiotic relationship. For instance, Buddhism was patronised by traders to promote peace in order to carry trade and avoid war.

Similarly, Silk road facilitated exchange of goods along with culture and values and kept Central Asia and other parts of the world peaceful.

However, rise of Islam came as a blockade for Christians. There was no trade, no peace. There were Holy Crusade wars.

Thus, this begs to ask the question -  
 "Why is trade important and how does cultural and value exchange" avoid war?"

Culture and values of any nation or society are not only intrinsic but a product of its interaction with its environment. An open society evaluates itself and its norms not only with its own world view but the view of others. This promotes tolerance and respect for other societies.

Thus, trade plays a vital role in this regard. Trade brings people from different cultural background at a common point and facilitates not only exchange of goods but a deeper understanding of each other as humans.

This ensures that people think of themselves at a broader perspective of humanity rather than their self interest.

Best example of this is European Union which incessantly fought amongst each other. But with establishment of trade,

a new form of understanding developed amongst the member nations with no wars since 73 years.

But does this mean trade is a panacea for all conflicts?

In an utopian world, the answer perhaps maybe yes. However, some recent trends refute this hypothesis.

If trade has resulted in communication of culture and values, it has also resulted in brightened consciousness amongst people for their identity and employment.

Recent protectionist policies of US, BREXIT in UK are attributed to the anger of the natives for the growing migrant population threatening their cultural identity than just economics at work.

Similarly, trade has not always been with noble goals. Colonial expansion of Britain of India destroyed India's

Remarks

domestic industry and subordinated it territorially and culturally.

likewise, World War I and II have been attributed to struggle for markets amongst super power to flex their Trading ambitions.

This ultimately has serious consequences. It causes a deep gulf and disconnect between cultures, mistrust and more conflict and overtime, <sup>resulted</sup> in war. such situations are also exploited by politicians to fuel their political ambitions and maintain their hegemony. India-Pakistan conflict is a case in point.

Thus, to resolve such war like situations, World Trade Organisation (WTO) led rules based order was evolved post World War II to facilitate trade and promote cultural and value exchange.

Remarks

WTO helped to realise the goal of globalisation which involved exchange of people, goods, capital and ideas in a responsible manner.

However, with growing Chinese economic might, financial crisis of 2008, all peace seems to be a thing of the past.

Recent trade war by US against China is expected to disrupt the manufacturing supply chain resulting in increased cost of goods, loss of jobs and slowdown in investment. The trade war is gradually snowballing into a currency war that threatens global financial stability.

Thus, war is no longer only fought with arms and ammunitions but also economically and culturally.

This raises a very important question "How can the menace of war be stopped and is it essential to be stopped?"

Remarks

Firstly, it is to be noted that humans are not bound by trade but by the virtue of being humans.

Issues like climate change, exhaustion of natural resources, terrorism are the real challenges facing humanity. They go beyond borders and require cooperation amongst nations and societies to protect humanity.

Hence, it is imperative that nations overcome their trade embargos and continue to cooperate in pursuance of a larger goal.

Nations should focus on attaining their sustainable development goals (SDGs) as the real war is not amongst themselves but against gender inequality, climate change, poverty etc.

Remarks

Nations should come to a negotiating table just as they did in 1945 at Bretton Woods to resolve their issues diplomatically.

Media houses have an important role to play. They need to urge the government to undertake the right policies and at the same time assist people in developing a cultural understanding across societies.

Likewise, people across the globe should force their government to take sustainable steps to continue trade so that the goal against poverty, sustainable development is not hindered.

International institutions such as WTO, World Economic Forum (WEF), OECD, G-20, BRICS should take strong measures against protectionist policies.

Remarks

PM Modi recently deemed protectionism as terrorism in WEF. Jack Ma termed protectionism as push towards war.

Thus, trade requires to be promoted in a transparent and in conformity to rules based order that is inclusive and beneficial for all. It not only prevents war but promotes culture which is not hegemonic but based on principle of "<sup>95</sup>Vasudeva Kutumbakam" i.e. world is one.

This <sup>will</sup> ensure trade is no longer a facilitator of exchange of culture and ideas but it is in itself a byproduct of peaceful co-existence of humanity devoid of war and resulting in a free and prosperous world for all today and tomorrow.

section B

We can evade reality, but we cannot evade the consequences of evading reality.

It is 1905, Tsar Nicholas is informed of people's condition characterised by society, no food in Russia, Tsar ignores. Fast forward, 1917, Bolsheviks take up power and in revenge against Tsar's unsympathetic attitude massacre his entire family.

Thus, it can be seen that even though Tsar did manage to evade the reality successfully, however, he could not evade the consequences of reality.

Remarks

Therefore, the above anecdote raises a number of questions such as what is reality, why do people attempt to evade it. We will also examine the consequences of evading reality and how to overcome the ignorance of reality.

Reality is objective situation in the real world in real time. It is a result of one's actions in the past coupled with environmental impact.

For instance, a man is poor because of being born in a poor family.

However, despite the simple meaning of reality, it is observed that nations, societies, people fail to accept the reality.

There are many reasons attributed for the evasion of reality. Many people

Remarks -

are scared of facing reality, they do not want their peace of mind to be disturbed as reality exposes their weaknesses and makes them feel inferior.

Thus, they shape reality as per what suits them. For instance, a student justifying not scoring well in an examination stating he would have done well if he would have studied sather instead of accepting his flaws of not working hard.

Likewise, with the explosion of materialistic society, people are driven by self interest and wants. They only view reality if it directly affects them otherwise they tend to neglect it as witnessed in Teal's case.

Lack of awareness is another cause for people not realising reality. This undermines their confidence to face reality and makes them vulnerable to political ideologies and vendetta of demagogic leaders.

Therefore, it can be said that lack of awareness, selfishness coupled with weakness to face reality makes people blind to objective assessment resulting in them being reactive instead of pro-active.

This has serious implications not only for individuals but for nations and societies alike.

In post-independent India, politicians overlooked the poor conditions of landless farmers. Though they escaped the reality,

it ultimately resulted in the Naxal movement which continues to threaten India's national security.

Similarly, rise of individualistic society driven by consumerism continues to overlook the grim reality of lifestyle diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, air pollution, slums which ultimately manifest in inter-regional, inter-personal disparity threatening the law and order and social cohesion.

Acceptance of culture of corruption amongst societies gradually becomes a systemic and a social malaise resulting in larger scams like 2G, coalgate etc.

In the contemporary times, silence in the society against crimes against women, mob lynching have resulted in rape of 8 year old child in Kathua and death of an innocent in Dadri.

Last but not the least, the recent Kerala floods are a grim reminder of neglecting Kasturirangan report for protecting Western Ghats resulting in tremendous loss of lives and property.

Thus, each of the above case highlight that every attempt to evade reality driven by selfish needs, deliberate ignorance or political vendetta resulted in the people and the nation ultimately failing to evade the consequences of evasive reality.

Remarks

Thus, it raises the pertinent question: "How do we accept reality in order to overcome the consequences?"

Well, the answer lies in each one of us. It requires us to develop emotional intelligence<sup>(EI)</sup> which will allow us to control and perceive emotions and act rationally keeping both facts and values in mind.

A person with high EI has the capacity to view every challenge as an opportunity and embrace it with open arms.

It assists people in building confidence by developing self-realisation and accept failures as a stepping stone.

civil societies, NGOs and media have a vital role to play in developing awareness and guide people to take right decisions. They have played a crucial role in Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to reduce incidences of open defecation.

State institutions like the Judiciary, CAG are "watchdogs of democracy" that are responsible for people's well-being by acting wisely to protect public interest from any wrong doing.

However, all the above solutions can only be successful provided the people themselves accept the reality and participate to bring change. Even our freedom struggle was successful only when people accepted the reality of being exploited by British and overcame

Remarks

all existing divisions in the society to forge a modern, pluralistic and a diverse society.

However, it is to be noted that at times easing reality is not a choice but a compulsion, for instance, a civil servant being threatened by a politician for carrying out his duty. But even during such circumstances, the individual should remain upright, consistent and ensure reality is brought out in the open, otherwise, it may well result in a situation like the genocide of Jews.

Therefore, it should always be remembered, escaping reality is an easier option, however, difficult is to face the consequences of evading

Remarks

reality. It is said, "you reap what you sow", thus, every society and nation should thrive to accept the reality.

Even our founding fathers recognised this and, thus, incorporated Article 368 for the nation to meet unforeseen circumstances and develop as an organic whole.

Remarks

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"We can evade reality, but we cannot evade consequences of evading reality"

**Reality** → refers to a situation in real world in real time irrespective of one's status  
 → It is a result of one's actions in the past.

**EI**  
 Is reality objective? → fear of failure  
 Disturbing status quo.  
 No **Why?** People shade themselves from facing reality in order to → they view reality from their perspective that suits them → Driven by selfish interests and wants; Blinded by ideology; Lack confidence to face reality and objective assessment of oneself; reactive instead of proactive.

**Consequences** → **Climate change** → **Antarctica ozone hole**  
**Air pollut** → **Private vehicles** → **Kerala flooding**  
**Fast food** → **Lung diseases**  
 ↗ **Lifestyle diseases**

**Corruption**

↳ **Ag scam**

↳ **Land reforms** ↳ **Violence against women**

↳ **WE**

→ **No action unless personally accepted**.  
 ↳ **Mob lynching**

Remarks

Soln → ① Self realisation + awareness

② Media, NGO, STGs.

③ Judiciary, CAG → Accountability

④ Participatory governance

⑤

You reap what you sow

Trade is a communicat<sup>n</sup> of culture and vals;  
when trade stops, war comes

Intro → 200 BC (Silk Route) Trade in general  
 ↳ buying & selling of goods - Transact<sup>n</sup>al  
 But in broader sense → communicat<sup>n</sup> of culture & vals ✓

→ Buddhism patronised by traders ✓

↳ Silk route exchange of culture → in SEA, SA

But trade has never been perpetual

Why? ① Structural changes

↳ Ind sea<sup>n</sup> destroying India ✓

② Struggle for markets → colonial expansion  
 ⇒ IWW & IIWW. ✓

Consequences → Disconnect b/w cultures ✓

↳ Breeding of hatred ✓

↳ Political ambitions ↳ Less tolerance  
 fulfilled ⇒ Ind-Pak rel's. ↳ More conflict ✓

→ In contemporary times, WTO → Rules based order set up by US but growing Chinese footprint threatening US hegemony

→ US declares trade war → consequences  
 ① High supply cost  
 ② Low employment

③ Low investment

Remarks

Animosity amongst each other  $\rightarrow$  world stability threatened

Is trade always good?

No  $\rightarrow$  EIC; New China  $\rightarrow$  criticised for harbouring political ambitions behind economic objectives.

War  $\rightarrow$  Economic; Territorial; Cultural

