

# **GSSCORE**

**An Institute for Civil Services**

## **IAS TOPPER'S**

**TEST COPY**

**DIPANKAR CHOUDHARY**

**RANK - 166**

**ESSAY**



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## ESSAY

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.

### **Remarks**

*(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).*

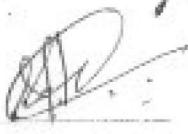
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Dipak*

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Date 19 August 2018

Signature Dipankar Choudhury

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

**SECTION - A**

1. A free woman is one, who does not live in the shadow of others' judgment, but one who makes her own choices based on her own wisdom.
2. Expect the best. Prepare for the worst. Capitalize on what comes.
3. We are good architects of future, if our coming generations are not victim.
4. The more you sweat in peace, the less you bleed in war.

**SECTION - B**

1. Patriotism is to support your country, not your government.
2. In a healthy politics, the leaders do not serve any ideology or political party, but people.
3. The difference between insanity and genius is success.
4. Intelligence is not IQ, but capacity of imagination.

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A Free woman is one, who does not live in the shadow of others' judgement, but one who makes her own choices based on her own wisdom.

"For only when you choose freely you can act autonomously and only then you can claim morality."

- Immanuel Kant, A critique of pure reason.

Freedom is humanity's most prized possession.  
The entire renaissance and the growth of modern political life can be summarised as a (quest) for exercising freedom. It was a struggle for to exercise individual thought not matter how controversial. Be it Galileo's heliocentric model or questioning the creationism of the catholic church by Darwin, or the struggle for liberty, equality and fraternity in the French revolution. While men have reaped the fruits of modernism,

Remarks

women have had to make do with  
what men offered.

This debilitating curtailment of a woman's individual agency has had such a profound effect that all they think & say express is many a times pre-empted or in response to a man's opinion. This is why any expansion in their freedom always followed a similar freedom given to men first. Take for instance universal adult franchise; given to men first and later extended to women. Similarly, the right to serve in army as a combatant; given to men first and later extended to women. The same can be said for police work, other political rights, running a business so on and so forth.

Thus, now is the time for women

Remarks

to take full control over their individual agency. This involves two major dimensions.

First, is realising what conditions or circumstances stop them from exercising freedom. Second, involves changing and moulding the current societal belief system to ultimately change the conditions which held them back.

Beginning with the conditions that hold them back, one can see how skewed our political and social structures are in this regard. Take for instance India, and its gender composition with almost 49% women. We have only 7.48% women in the police forces, only 11% in the parliament and women business leaders and CEO's are more conspicuous from their absence. So, the first step would be to give voice and representation. This would put

## Remarks

- The popular women (in context)

CISF

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RSP

BSP

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their viewpoint out in the open and in stark contrast with dominant and prevailing notions of our society. Though it is ~~true~~ <sup>welcoming</sup> that change has begun and in the panchayati Raj institutions, where about 19 states have provided for 50% reservations. As a result the representation has shot up to 47% throughout the country. Inspiring stories of how an MBA graduate with a good paying job gave ~~up~~ <sup>her career</sup> to fight panchayati elections in Rajasthan are signs which foretell that women no more care about expected roles, judgemental eyes and established traditions. Similar changes have taken place in social structures too. The institution of marriage has undergone a sea change as the number of women in the labour participation

Remarks

fore has gone up to 27% in the formal sector. In the informal sector, since phenomena like feminisation of agriculture has increased their share to 65%.

It is true that these changes have not always been (welcoming). Men and women working together in shared office space is hardly a 6-7 decade old phenomena, which is too short a time span to change social and religious values ingrained since centuries. Reports of sexual harassment are on the rise. Institutionalised discrimination such as offering them less challenging job, using them as "steep-pieces", or undermining their authority is yet another obstacle. But the mere fact, that women are out there and in ever increasing numbers, fighting back even harder with every pushback is itself

Indian culture and family bonds permit the victim to knock the door of justice

Remarks

very encouraging. They are out there to claim the public space which rightfully belongs to them and they aren't letting any judgemental chauvinist stop them no matter what, and laws like prevention of sexual offences at the workplace and the Bishkek guidelines are a testament to their tenacity.

good

Still, <sup>who</sup> how so ever welcomes these structures of changes are, ~~that~~ they remain ~~too~~ sufficient. only a necessary <sup>and</sup> not a sufficient condition for change. This brings us to our second dimension as mentioned earlier i.e. attitude of change and a change in the belief system. This is more complex. It involves changing our viewpoints as to what is expected from a women. ~~etc~~

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This attributes normally assigned to them such as being weak, being more nurturing, more sensitive, soft hearted, soft spoken, more respectful etc have to be challenged.

While these attributes are not in any way a disadvantage; it should be realised that women can easily don attributes like courage, shrewdness, being tough, and valour, leadership etc; normally associated with masculinity. Festivals and traditions which showcase women as the housekeeper and man as the provider, media which glorifies and legitimes harassment, and men who think its a way of life need to be confronted. The #MeToo movement brought into focus the hidden nature of our discriminatory attitude. It may or may not have been successful in changing it, but it did

certainly prove that women can challenge the dominant narrative. They can choose freely, they can choose to speak up and they can choose to challenge the rightist as seen in the case of powerful Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein.

While freedom and ability to choose are certainly the most vital attributes of a free woman, they are certainly not enough. What makes a woman completely free is having the opportunity to exercise her freedom and choice.

Amartha Sen, in his approach towards poverty also known as the 'capability approach' has exemplified this idea. Consider a boy having a bicycle. He can choose to ride it, not

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ride it, keep it or sell it. But what good are these choices if there are no roads to ride it or no 'free-market' to sell it.

To extend this line of argument to women, we can say; choice, independent thinking, freedom from others' judgement are only one side of the story. The other side comprises of avenues to exercise this choice. Therein comes the role of a 'free man' being complementary & ~~and~~ to a 'free woman'. We cannot exist without the other. Unless a man is not equally free of societal shackles, a free or emancipated woman would be a myth and vice versa.

In other words what's needed is a complete mental revolution, an uprising of sorts. Karl Marx, claimed that very

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failed to see the chains keeping them in bondage. Maybe women will lead the way here and cause a self-realisation, both amongst themselves and men. Maybe the emancipation of a 'free woman' would lead to the emancipation of all genders. Women have ~~were~~ already made an auspicious beginning; and if they see that this project goes towards completion, the whole society could be liberated.

- ~~Topic~~
- This topic requires to discuss Women's empowerment, independence, her rights and a trust in wisdom to make her own choices
  - Main themes are → Patriarchy, subjugation & independence
  - The scenario of Indian India → poverty in the country, health and safety, disparity in education, child marriage, gender discrimination etc.
  - Labour force - 70% male 30% female
  - > World Bank says that if Indian women participated more in the work force, then we need to add 1.5% to the existing GDP

#### Remarks

- The National Commission for Women was set up exclusively to help women.
- Constitutional amendments 73 & 74 empowers women to nominate in STAs

Section B

Intelligence is not IQ, but capacity of Imagination.

Intelligence has been the defining trait when it comes to predicting a person's success. While this claim is mostly true, what is missing in this analysis is a proper definition of intelligence. Conventionally

thought to be synonymous to IQ (intelligence quotient), it has <sup>now</sup> been realised that it is a very encompassing term including what is known as EQ (Emotional quotient or emotional intelligence) and SQ (social quotient/intelligence). Still, one does not get a complete picture as IQ, EQ and SQ project a broken and disjointed or disaggregated viewpoint. They even miss out ~~the~~ other important things. Thus an all-encompassing definition would lead us to "capacity for imagination". good individual

The obvious misconception that intelligence

Remarks

is or largely decided by IQ needs to be dispelled first. IQ refers to only one's cognitive capacities. This narrow definition is further restricted in its scope by the methods used to measure IQ. These measures include a set of questions narrowly focussed on pattern recognition, geometrical shapes and mathematical reasoning. Consider this, on an average every person entering the physics department at MIT has similar IQ but not everyone turns out to be Richard Feynman. Similarly all economists all at Harvard despite similar IQ don't turn out to be John Nash - the Nobel Laureate.

This argument was further strengthened when Daniel Coleman, perhaps the most acknowledged psychologist of contemporary

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era conclusively proved that IQ determines or plays a role in only 20% percent of our success. It is moreover a biological phenomena largely, which stops developing after the age of 18-19 years. Artists like Picasso, or writers like Shakespeare or poets like Keats might not have been very good at taking mathematical/analytical IQ tests, but their intelligence is absolutely beyond even a shred of doubt.

Thus, a good IQ is no guarantee for success and an average or above average IQ is not a guarantee for failure. It can be argued that a poor or very low IQ can lead to failure. Clinical psychologists use the term "mental retardation" for very low IQ. This now begs the question that, "If not IQ, then what?". What can be a

Remarks

trait or a characteristic or an attribute a person should possess to conclusively call him intelligent? ✓

Enter Imagination. But first we should paint the broad outline of what "capacity to imagination" actually entails. Not an easy task certainly, and any narrow view would defeat the purpose. Hence, it is better to illustrate it rather than strictly define it using words. ✓

Imagination is when Albert Einstein said, "Try keeping your hand on a hot stove and ... a second will feel like an year. Now try sitting with your loved one and an year would feel like a second". Such a simple and picturesque definition of the complex. ✓

Theory of relativity in his own words is the hallmark of imagination. Imagination is also when Van Gogh, the famous post-impressionist artist, painted the million emotions he went through in an asylum, in the much celebrated painting, "The Starry Night". Imagination was also reflected when Mahatma Gandhi realised that he could win violence with non-violence or that he could use a simple tool like salt satyagraha to bring down the mighty British empire. When JRR Tolkien created thousands of years of fictional history, new races, new languages and folktales to create an entirely new universe in "the Lord of the Rings"; it was perhaps also a pinnacle of imagination.

To put it succinctly and briefly; imagination

allows creationism out of thin air. The capacity to imagine allows one to get lost in his mind palace and dig out treasures. It does not need external aid or tutoring or guidance. Just by mental jousting and thinking intensely one can imagine. It has ~~not~~ no rules or limitations or patterns normally found in mathematical problems used to test IQ. It makes one aware of one self which Buddha calls 'mindfulness' and leads one to (self-realisation) A4 These are in no way even related to the narrow physical domains of IQ.

Intelligence, then, is the end product of imagination. One can say or claim

Remarks

with some relative validity that IQ is a necessary condition or a pre-requisite for intelligence. But imagination is the sufficient condition. Not only this, but imagination also expands the scope of intelligence from merely an academic endeavour to good all aspects of our life. An intelligent person does not only churn out new, novel ideas, theories, paintings, art, literature etc but also understands the web of human emotions surrounding all of these. When narrowly defined, intelligence can, say for instance, allow one to write a very good speech. But when we incorporate imagination too, the person will not only deliver the speech but will also connect to his audience, inspire them and push them.

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to action. Mark Antony, did not deliver only a well written speech but also used his imagination to communicate from his entire body, face, eyes, intonation of voice etc to, "let slip the dogs of war".

In other words, intelligence and the capacity to imagination can be said to have a chicken egg relationship. One needs other to develop and further reinforces the other. Given the enormous importance of imagination, one naturally should seek for ways to enhance it. Unfortunately, here too, no straightforward way can be found. At best we can ~~\*kill~~ remove "imagination killers", such as restrictions of free speech, censorship, mindless violence.

Remarks

and societal problems. If Imagination then will develop on its own. As J.S. Mill's put it, "that only in the context of ideas can truth come out"; thus providing an opportunity to express oneself is the basic pre-requisite for imagination to flourish and benefit the society.

Imagination or somewhat synonymous intelligence, has been the driving force behind the progress of civilisation. Now neither art or science or literature or anything else worth having could've developed if it was not for imagination. Thus to understand its true nature, its relation with intelligence and how it shapes us is vital for the stakes are very high.

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Important themes are:

- endowment vs usage
- cognitive intelligence vs usage
- necessary vs sufficient.
- IQ really measures an important domain of cognitive functioning - logic, reasoning, learning abilities, working memory capacity and more.
- different brain areas, different skills like -
  - ↓
  - memory
  - memory
  - language skills
- Some one can have poor reasoning but strong memory; others can have poor language skills but strong reasoning
- George W. Bush's IQ level is 120 but while serving as the President was not known to be a great thinker or decision maker, as claimed by his co-workers and peers.

#### Remarks

- Human capacity to think is endless.

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