

GSSCORE

An Institute for Civil Services

IAS TOPPER'S

TEST COPY

PANKAJ ATULKAR

RANK - 692

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).

RemarksName Ponkaj Atulkar

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature _____

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.

SECTION A

A national festival is an occasion to refine and rebuild the national character.

Festivals are extended PERIOD OF CELEBRATIONS.

National festivals are periods of celebration on account of NATION'S ACHIEVEMENTS. They give citizens a chance to keep aside the Mundane and ordinary day-to-day life. National festival, besides celebrating nation's spirit also gives an opportunity to refine and rebuild the national character.

National character refers to FOUNDATIONAL VALUES AND ETHOS of a nation. They are determined by founding fathers of nation. Mostly, these are enumerated in the fundamental law-book of land - CONSTITUTION. These become the life-blood of nation's existence.

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Yet, these values and ethos are prone to erosion and dilution. These tendencies necessitated a need for recurrently refining and rebuilding.

Refining means bringing about fine-tuning, while rebuilding means recreating by repeat effort.

This need makes it necessary to not just think of national festivals — Republic Day, Independence Day, Gandhi Jayanti etc. — as mere public holidays. Actually national festivals provide an occasion for citizens to remind and recommit themselves to preserving national character. Citizens ought to perceive them as such.

On the cusp of nation's independence, the then PM Nehru declared the democratic experiment in India as "Trust with Destiny". However it is worth questioning — are we adhering to democratic ethos in contemporary times? In contemporary

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times brute Majoritarianism reigns large. For instance recent lynchings of members of vulnerable communities by those imposing Majoritarian agenda of no beef eating. We need to think this on occasion of National Independence Day celebrations whether this is the kind of democracy we sought? The festival gives us chance to fine-tune our social fabric and rebuilding lost social harmony.

The scourge of regionalism inflicted India very early after its independence. Based on recommendations of Fazal Ali Commission, linguistic states were carved out. But still, we face this problem recurringly. The first linguistic state - Andhra Pradesh - itself got divided into Telangana in 2014, for reasons of resource sharing. This militates against the foundational values of cooperation and unity amongst federal units. Yet, festival such as bunch of GST on 1 July 2017 gives us a chance to refine & rebuild federal cooperative spirit in order to uphold our national character and unity.

We faced military set-back in 1962 war with China. Understandably, this brought to

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question our defence preparedness. Preserving integrity and unity of India is enshrined in constitution's Preamble itself. However, even to this day we appear not to be militarily not prepared. for instance, the taff shown by Chinese PLA in Doklam recently. On the occasion of Republic Day, when we display our military prowess to world on Rajpath, we must use to occasion to reinvigorate efforts in increasing defence preparedness.

India launched Green Revolution in mid-1960s. It made India to turn from food importing country to a self-sufficient nation. In fact in 2016-17 net food grain production stood at 275.3 million tonnes. Yet, even today we rely upon imports to meet our pulses and oil seed requirements. This seriously jeopardises our food security. Now its been 50 years since launch of Green Revolution. On its Golden Jubilee celebrations we must refine & rebuild our agricultural strategy to usher in an

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EVERGREEN REVOLUTION. This will reinforce our national character as a self-sufficient, food-secure nation.

The imposition of Emergency in 1975 was flagrant violation of people's fundamental rights. Political leaders were imprisoned without court trials. Nonetheless, similar tendencies are visible in contemporary times. For instance recent arrest of writers & activists by Pune police. Do we have not learnt a modicum of lesson from Emergency of 1975? Perhaps next year when we celebrate 'Independence Day', we must reflect if indeed we are protecting people's independence.

Taking some contemporary issues, the Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi gave a clarion call to make India clean by 2nd October 2019 under Swach Bharat Abhiyan. Data from Ministry of Drinking water & sanitation show still 25 crore people defecate in open (March 2018). Given the small period of time left, the task appears herculean. However, given the

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urgency of issue of hygiene & cleanliness, it would indeed be commendable when we reassess achievement of reducing open defecation from 55 crore in 2014. Thus the festival of Gandhi Jayanti on 2nd Oct. 2019 would be an occasion to rebuild & refine our national character of hygiene & cleanliness.

In recent times, an upsurge in violence against children and women is visible. Most recently, it was seen in Bihar Shelter case. Besides this, the brutal killing of a tribal girl in Kathua. These bring to question our age old ethos and values of protection and respect for women and children. Yet, it is heartening to note that Hon'ble PM in his Independence Day speech at Red fort broached upon this issue. As representative of Indian electorate, his spoken words on the occasion gives impetus in efforts to refine & rebuild our national character for protecting & respecting women & children.

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again, on occasion of peaceful transition of power after 2014 general election, India invited all SAARC heads of state in sweating-in ceremony of PM and his cabinet. The occasion proved seminal in refining and rebuilding good neighbourly relations. This reinforced the view that a national festival (sweating-in ceremony) indeed gives a chance to fine-tune and recreate ~~old~~ good-old friendly neighbourly relationship — a national character of India.

Based on above analysis, it is worthwhile to conclude that national festivals provide an opportunity: opportunity to reflect; opportunity to learn from past; opportunity to reassess; opportunity to set course — correct. The need, therefore arises to aware our citizens of importance a national festival have in yearly calander — besides a HOLIDAY!

In Hindu mythology, it is taught that the demon Ravan has a tendency to ~~re~~ re-emerge.

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This makes it mandatory to 'kill' the Raven every year, and year by year, on occasion of Vijayadashmi. This analogy shows that protection of a nation's character is an exercise in perpetuity. National festivals provide an occasion for this.



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SECTION B

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

Reality means the observations made by sensory organs of objects. It tries to assist in making an objective assessment of any phenomenon. Evading reality refers to a deliberate act of overlooking or undermining the reality.

As it is said - Every action has consequences and so does reality have consequences. Consequences are outcomes on occurrence of an event. Because reality have consequences, one cannot overlook reality by non-chalance. This is because it ^{has} direct or indirect effects on the observer of reality.

Given this intimate relationship between reality and consequences, it is necessary that they be not overlooked/evaded. This is because by overlooking

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reality, we are simply kicking its consequences down the road. One shall face them in posterity. This

ESSENTIALLY NECESSITATES TO FACE REALITY

HEAD-ON. Only then could one neither evade reality or its consequences.

Let's begin by taking the case of Gender Rights / Justice. Patriarchy is an ingrained characteristic of Indian society. Until now we kept on evading this reality in sphere of Marriage considering it as people's personal/private matter. Subjugation of wives is well documented, but best manifested in the case of Triple talaq. Its outcome has been thorough Marginalisation of Muslim women. Thus even if we evade reality of subjugation of women, we cannot evade ~~the~~ ^{its} consequences - Marginalisation of women.

Within social sphere lets take the issue of Gay rights. It has been established by American Psychiatric Association in 1972 itself that homosexuality

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is not a Mental disease. WHO accepted this in 1992 itself. India evaded this reality, most patently visible in continuation of IPC Section 377 (criminalising homosexual acts). Yet, in contemporary times rights of homosexual have been recognised in countries such as Ireland, Britain, Australia etc. Gay parades have been organised in cities like Mumbai, Bangalore, Delhi etc. These are all the consequences of scientific studies (reality). India cannot continue to evade this consequence, and better the earlier it removes enactments such as IPC Sec. 377.

Another legal provision IPC Section 295A, which gives punishment for blasphemous utterances, ~~are~~ is another instance of evading reality. For instance recently Punjab legislature made sacrilege to holy books - Bible, Quran, Gita, Guru Granth Sahib - a criminal offence. This stifles freedom of expression. Besides this, it gives credence to fanatical extremists groups in imposing their agenda / world view. Although by keeping provisions like IPC Sec. 295A we may evade the reality under the garb of maintaining

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law and order. But we cannot escape its consequences in the form of strengthening religious fundamentalism in society.

Now lets take some economic aspects. In India, around 65% of population is below the age of 35 years. This youthful population is perceived to give India its demographic dividend — a time period when economic growth receives a boost on account of increase in share of working age population. Yet, it needs to be concomitantly highlighted that India is experiencing job-less growth. In fact, between 2012 to 2017 Indian economy grew at an average of 6.5%. Yet only 2 million jobs were created annually. Its consequences are visible in growing demands for reservation in jobs like by Maratha, Jats, Gujjars etc. Thus, although we may have avoided the reality of jobless growth, we can't evade its consequences in long run, including social upheaval.

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Globally, a backlash against globalisation is visible. Policies of USA is unleashing protectionist trends world over. For time being India may ignore such trade war. This is because it ~~could~~ has diversified markets. Yet we cannot ignore this in long run. This is because for India to shift from lower middle income country to middle income country status, global trading is essential. This shows we may evade the reality of trade wars in short run, but its consequences would be met later on as impediments to nation's growth ambitions.

Some tend to perceive climate change as a hoax. Yet, in case of India its effects are recurrently felt. For instance the Uttarakhand disaster (2013), Cyclone Hudhud (2014), Chennai floods (2015) or the most recent Kerala floods (2018). Till now, we may have rejected these events as one-off occurrences. But their timely recurrence and increasing intensity, as reflected in increasing loss to life & property, belies this. This proves that we may evade the reality for time being, but we cannot evade its consequences in long run.

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In India, 52% of labour force derive its livelihood from agriculture. Yet, a steady decline in agricultural yields and farmers income is visible. In fact, in the year 2014 average farmer's income was ₹ 1600 per month. Overlooking this fact may seem acceptable, yet it breeds consequences.

For example, the Mandsaur farmer violence in M.P. of 2017. This was on account of rising distress among farmers. If we continue to overlook this fact we may face more such violence amongst agriculturalists. Thus, we cannot evade consequence of reality (farm distress).

To encapsulate, it can be judged that by overlooking reality, we might control the situation in short run. Yet to address the issue holistically we need to face the situation head-on.

Perhaps this is why we have enacted a law - Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill → to punish triple talaq, our Supreme Court is in the process of annulling IPC Sec. 377, India has launched programmes such as Make in India, Skill India to increase domestic employment, set on signing free trade agreements (RCEP) and giving special assistance to farmers under schemes like PM Fasal Bima Yojana, PM Kisan Sankhyayi Yojana etc.

All these are examples of facing the problems head-on and not skirting it down the road. This is also an instance of Maturing India, emerging as - NEW INDIA - neither evading reality nor its consequences.

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

Intra Reality → observation by sense
evading → overlooking / undermining [inconsistency]
Actions have consequences.

Consequences → repartition of an event
→ cannot be evaded as they have direct / indirect effect.

Inter We should not evade reality, instead, face it head on. By avoiding it
we are simply kicking it down the road.

Ex. → contemporary climate change → effect on agri.
globalization backlash →
→ OCC - triple talag - women subjugation
→ Broken growth - demographic dividend - social disharmony
→ caste violence - Bhimakanya - fixtures in society
→ Gaf rights - IPC 377
→ 2015 A, our blasphemy
→ Kerala flood disaster
→ WhatsApp lynchings / Blue whale challenge
→ Farmer suicides - eg. Mandsaur farmer killed

Conclusion

Remarks

11:00 - 11:45 → Breakfast
 11:45 - 12:45 → I work
 12:45 - 12:50 → I rest
 12:50 - 1:50 → I work
 1:50 - 1:55 → I rest

PASTLE CASPER
 RAGH sectors.

60 ← 10
 celebration

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4 [National festival] is an occasion to [refine] & [rebuild] the [national character].

Intro - festivals - period of celebration, national festival - celebration on account of nation's achievements.

Occasion - a time period

refine - bring fine tuning, changes in course of action

rebuild - repeat the effort despite of failure

National char - foundational values and ethos of nations, the life blood of nations' existence, determined by founding fathers → enunciate in const.

National festival must go beyond a holiday in calendar, citizen ought to remind themselves to recommit in nation building

Type - Nehru 'Tryst with destiny', democracy ushered at independence, are we abiding?

Ex. - Majoritarian imposition of culture →lynchings

Federalism demand for states in India live today basic our resources

ex → Telangana & Vidarbha | unity / cooperation

1962 Military setback, defence preparedness, ex - Doklam crisis | doing defense capa

Green rev. ushered agril.↑, but now also we depend on imports ex → oil, pulses

Emergency era, undermining of rights, amrits → do we respect these now? ex -

Police police arrests | individual rights, freedom of expression

Govt Water still 21.2% + H-90, 52.7% on MPJ | DPP

LPG to other private compn → yet PNB fraud, software etc | integrity about

Demonstration - PM 'Inmanki ka Utsav' 'Parivartan Parv'

SBM - PM declaration from old forl. | by grace, cleanliness

Startup India & Stand up India | people's empowerment

Vaccines against children / women → ex Bihar shelter care - crimmal law

visit of APCC heads of state, | good neighbourly relations

Access nation, learn from past mistakes, do not repeat,

give analogy of Ram - has to be killed recurrently,

we may slip again, thus festival gives us chance
 → reiterate