

**GS SCORE**

**An Institute for Civil Services**

**IAS TOPPER'S**

**TEST COPY**

**AGRAWAL SUSHIL RAVINDRA**

**RANK - 198**

**GS MAINS ESSAY**



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## ESSAY MOCK TEST

Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

### Instructions to Candidate

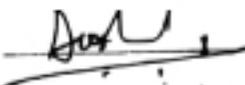
- Both sections are compulsory.
- Attempt one essay from each section.
- Each essay carries 125 marks.
- Write each essay in about 1000-1200 words.
- After finishing the first essay, attempt the next on a fresh Page.
- Any page left blank in the answer-book must be crossed out clearly.

*(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)*

Name SUSHIL AGRAWAL

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature 

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

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

### Remarks

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4  
9

## 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

3. OUR LIVES BEGIN TO END, THE DAY WE BECOME SILENT ABOUT THINGS, THAT MATTER.

The year is 1899, a young boy has just been thrown outside of a train onto the platform in South Africa. For the young barrister, it was confusing, as he had a valid ticket to travel, and could moreover afford to travel in First class compartments of the train.

The young man was Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, who was appointed as a lawyer to an Indian

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merchants in South Africa. On enquiring about the injustice, merchants became aware of the racial discrimination being followed in South Africa.

He became aware of the silence of the people, who had become dead on the inside. For any individual who willingly accepts injustice is nothing but a living dead.

Gandhi, was the first to break this silence. He campaigned from place to place against the discriminatory practices. He publicly burnt his registration certificate, aroused people against the invalidation of their marriages, and organised a march against the inhuman practices. He gave a voice to the people and brought the lifeless people back from the dead. He broke the silence about the things that matter and thus, pioneered the movement

in South Africa.

According to Socrates, "An unexamined life is not worth living". He talked about the kind of life one must aspire to live for. A life in which one stands for his principles, his integrity, is a life worth living for. When we become quiet this up, we have stopped living, and our lives begin to end. On the other hand, our not speaking up may be accompanied by a deafening silence, but it also includes the gasp of our lives slowly giving way, it includes the cries of our conscience and the death of our inner being.

Silence, doesn't necessarily mean not speaking up, but it also includes not speaking up when necessary. When we are silent, we turn a blind eye not only to an injustice but become complicit in perpetuating it by our implicit acceptance of it.

Remarks

~~History~~

History, is witness to the fact that, centuries of oppression was because of our silence, and the moment we spoke, all the ills melted away and we came back to life.

BE Medieval Europe is often associated with the dark times, the period of the worse atrocities in the history of Europe. The Feudal system had destroyed the society and the economy. People had no means to live their lives. Wars and diseases had compounded to their misery. Renaisance, Renaissance, Reformation and Enlightenment brought about new ideas.

These new ideas gave expression to newer ideals, — LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY. These became the rallying call during the French Revolution and firmly established democracy in the hearts of Europe. The silent masses had finally woken up.

The workers and the peasants, would no longer accept the injustices conformed upon, and rose up to the occasion. The wildfire of democracy was not only restricted to France but spread worldwide.

In India also this caught the attention of our nationalists, who dissented against the British Rule. Dada Bhai Naoroji gave the economic dissent to the British Rule, while Tilak claimed freedom to be his birth right. When the people choose to speak, centuries of injustice and oppression came to an end.

~~Even today~~  
Even today, in a democratic setup, dissent is the life blood of democracy. Dissent provides a necessary intellectual fodder that challenges the existing practices, provides an alternative view point, enabling newer methods to <sup>take</sup> root. The injustice

Remarks

occurs only as long as we choose to remain silent.

Gender bias in India goes back centuries, and even millennia. Women were considered as a burden. Practices such as Sati, Jauhar, no widow-remarriage were common. Women and even the men in the society accepted this in silence, dying every day. The social reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidya Sagar, M.G. Ranade spoke against these injustice and breathed a fresh lease of life in our society.

Even today Indian society is witnessing several social evils like violence against women, corruption, son meta preference among others. The public response and mass demonstrations against Nirbhaya and Kathua Rape case, India against corruption have brought an end to this silence. The conscience which was dying everyday inside, has once again

Come to life. This phenomenon of ending our silence is not restricted to society alone, but encompasses our polity and the institutions governing them.

There was a time when there was widespread violence in election, booth capturing, criminalisation of politics. People's trust in the electoral process was dwindling. T.W. Shekhar, the Chief Election Commissioner in the 90's decided to break up this silence. He not only restored the constitutional dignity to the office of Chief Electoral Commissioner, but also restored the faith of people in electoral process.

Similarly, the women of Uttarakhand were among the first to raise up the voice against widespread deforestation and harm to environment. "The Chipko Movement" not only sensitised the people towards the environment, but brought about environmentalism by the poor.

The Indian Judiciary has provided a voice to the people, when other voices have either been muted

Remarks

or quashed. The Supreme Court was the first to react against the mass arrests of liberal activists across the country. Carried out ostensibly to curb urban Maoism, the Supreme Court demanded concrete evidence to grant custody to the police. Judgments like the Nat Foundation, Verdict against Triple Talag, Public Interest Litigation are all means which break up the silence and once again embolden the people.

In the list of things that matter, the economic life of an individual also assumes importance. Capitalism and different shades of it seems to be the most prominent system today. However, this system is far from perfect and has reached today, here because people spoke up when it mattered.

Charles Dickens, novel "A Tale of Two Cities" paints a horrid picture of a capitalist Europe. Only

because of the backlash of the labour movement did welfare of the people came to become a part of capitalist system. Even today, when capitalism is increasing the inequalities in the society, people are speaking up via Occupy Wall Street Movement, to further the change in capitalism. Today businesses are talking about capping CEO compensation, Corporate Social Responsibility. It is all due to these people speaking up.

There are several international examples wherein silence of the people perpetuated in their subjugation.

People were dying every minute due to their silence. Only when they chose to speak up for things that mattered could the situation change. Be it the Arab Spring for want of democracy, or the fall of Berlin wall for bringing an end to remnants of Cold war, or the climate change negotiations wherein the developing countries were able to hold the developed

Remarks

world accountable by the principles of "Common but differentiated responsibility". In all these instances, the lives of the people were bad only because they chose not to speak up earlier.

To bring us to a question as to why is it necessary to speak up? And how we ensure that people speak up? The answer to the first lies in the fact that, speaking up provides an alternative view to an existing practice. It enables others to question the current paradigm, only because of the thesis and anti-thesis would newer ideas emerge. This synthesis will carry on this process forward.

As to the question of how do we ensure that people do speak up. This can only come when we are able to instill a spirit of enquiry

in our people. Margaret Mead used to say that children must be taught not what to think, but rather they must be taught how to think. Further, focussing on creative education, a more open society, welcoming other's view point can all go a long way towards ensuring that people speak up.

In conclusion, we need to speak up for things that matter to us. For when we speak, only then can we ensure justice and even an improvement over the existing setup.

The day we choose to remain silent, is the day when we begin to die. First as an individual by the death of our conscience, then of our society; then of our nation and ultimately that of the humanity. All that requires for things to go bad, is for the good men to stop speaking up.

Remarks

(71)

When we remain silent we allow the injustice to perpetuate

OUR LIVES BEGIN TO END, THE DAY WE ARE SILENT ABOUT THINGS, THAT MATTER.



✓ Democracy

✓ Values - Nirbhaya & Kathua Rape Case.  
- India Against Corruption.

1984 - George Orwell

Farmer movement:

French Revolution - Liberty, Equality, Fraternity

Greek scholars have attached ethicality to it.

Corruption

Injustice -

History → Labour Movement to rectify the evils of unbridled capitalism.

Social Reform Movement | 19th Century

Gandhian

- The day we begin to speak, we begin to enrich our lives

↓  
- Gandhi's protest in S. Africa

- Martin Luther King Junior - I have a dream speech.

How do our lives begin to end?  
Is there a way to reverse it?  
How do you enrich your life?

what does you mean by silence  
 ↳ Not speaking  
 ↳ Not speaking when necessary  
 ↳ dissent is the lifeblood of democracy

thesis - antithesis - synthesis

we become complicit in that crime?

Stand up against injustice  
↳ indomitable will.

Political - Electoral System

↳ People spoke up.

- Lily Thomas Case  
- Jan Chawidax Case } - cleanup of Indian politics

Renaissance

Environment

↳ Chipko Movement - women brought about an environmentalism of the poor.

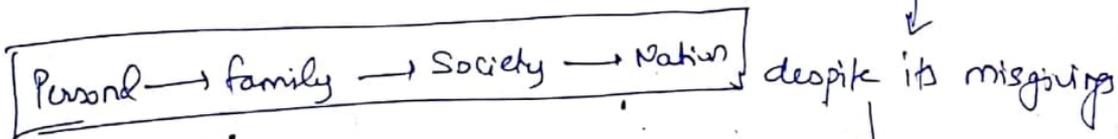
Business - occupy wall street

Introduction - Apartheid - S. Africa

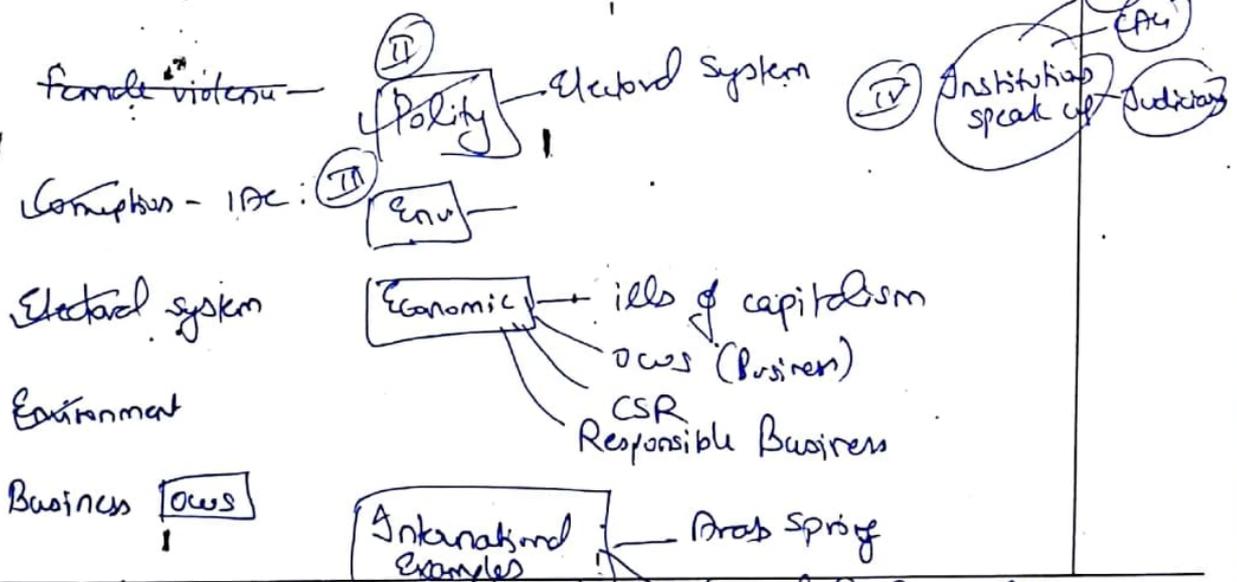
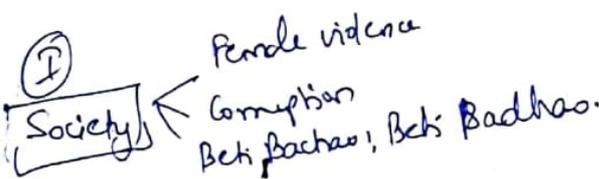
When are silent, we not only turn a blind eye to an injustice, but become complicit in perpetuating it by ~~having a blind~~ our implicit acceptance of it.

Historically

Some of the most oppressed times feudal times of Europe. Enlightenment brought about a voice to people - <sup>newer ideas</sup> changed the world from French Revolution -> Democracy -> Indian democracy



despite its misgivings  
Flourishes -> Freedom of dissent  
voice to the injustice.



Remarks

SPECIAL: Arab Spring, fall of Berlin wall -> who ended the cold war. Climate deal negotiations - CBDR.

CONCLUSION

Sen: why do we not speak up? How we ensure we speak up?

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*Remarks*



## Section B.

4. THE INCREASINGLY RAPID PACE OF LIFE IS CREATING MORE PROBLEMS THAN IT SOLVES.

Life today is moving at a breakneck speed. People do not have time for one another. Many of them are complaining about the loss of human connect. We routinely talk to our loved ones via the phone, with less frequent meetings. Teenagers ~~are~~ today know only of emojis to express their emotions. The frequent and constant travel due to work is putting a tremendous strain on the personal lives of the people. The increasingly rapid pace of life is creating more problems than it solves.

RAPID LIFESTYLE

A Stanford study shows that humans <sup>in 21<sup>st</sup> century</sup> now work in 10 years, what they would have needed 80 years to complete at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Remarks

(2)

The increasingly rapid pace of life may have  
increased our productivity, but it comes with  
dangerous cost to our health. American Medical  
association claims that one in three people  
worldwide suffer from Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS)  
that is stress induced. Indian Medical Association  
is reporting a 30% increase in hypertension,  
increased risk of diabetes and chronic back pain  
in Indian population.

This rapid pace of work spills in  
our personal life impacting not only our physical  
and mental health, but also our social, family  
and spiritual health. People are ~~are~~ feeling lonely  
despite being surrounded by others. The pressure  
to keep up has changed our food habits to fast  
foods that is further aggravating to our lifestyle problems.

## Rapid innovative models causing disruption

Life today is progressing at such a rapid pace, that methods, practices and habits of yesterday all seem like ancient history. Newer disruptive models, though providing more choice to consumers, is threatening the livelihoods of many.

The amazon business model of charging 10\$ for a copy of a book, and giving away hefty discounts for hard copies, sounded a death knell for traditional <sup>brick</sup> book and mortar stores in USA. This phenomena was <sup>even</sup> given a name "Amazonisation of business". i.e taking over of millions of small businesses by a giant player in the market.

The web streaming services like Netflix ended the DVD rental model and the online music streaming industry has made manufacturing CDs and DVDs impasse.

Remarks

(a)

## Rapid Change in Technology

Rapid change in technology, though brings with it higher efficiencies and lower costs. But a breakneck change in technology introduces newer products even when the investments of previous generation have yet to be recouped.

The massive rollout of 4G technology by Jio in India based on LTE platform, have put the entire telecom sector into a spiralling debt problem. Not able to recoup their investment made 6 out of 10 major mobile players have closed shop, the sector has a debt overhang of 3 lakh crore and is adding to the NPA woes of Indian banks.

In the solar panels business, the newer thin film technology have raised the solar efficiency by 25% and reduced cost by 50%. It has meant

that all the industrial capacity of previous generation technology like crystalline solar panels in India is running at a mere 12% capacity utilisation. Rapid ~~change~~ <sup>pace</sup> in life may have brought better efficiencies, but they also brought rapid loan defaults and rapid loss of employment.

### Rapid production and product life cycle

The demand for rapid production, fuelled the industrialisation. While it brought about mass produced goods at lower costs, but industrialisation came with its own set of problems.

The need for raw materials to feed the rapidly growing industries and need for newer markets brought about colonization. Which witnessed slave trade, scramble of colonies and ultimately World War I. Today this industrialisation is ~~creating~~ <sup>creating</sup> ~~problems~~ <sup>problems</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~today~~ <sup>today</sup>

Remarks

(6)

~~incorporation to society~~ ~~and the~~ ~~is~~ primarily responsible for harm to environment via global warming..

Rising production also meant shorter life cycle of products. This has paved way for the consumerist culture, resulting<sup>in</sup> the creation of the problem of garbage. India today generates 50 million tonnes of garbage annually out of which only 30% is recycled. Rest is dumped into the landfills, polluting air, groundwater and spreading diseases.

Rapid production rates have also caused a decline in our traditional handicrafts industry. Unable to match the cost of machine made products and inability to meet the demand of these goods, these local handicrafts are on the verge of collapse with several traditional artisans looking for alternative employment.

## Rapid advances in healthcare

The increasingly rapid pace of life, though paving way for ~~increasing~~ increased life style diseases, it is also paving way for increased research to tackle those diseases.

However, this increasing search for newer medicines, stronger antibiotics is further bringing problems of its own — antimicrobial resistance. Worldwide, there is an increasing incidence of microbial resistant diseases. Zoonotic diseases spreading from animals to humans like the Nipah virus, MDR-TB, strains like the NPHI are all becoming common. Once again the rapid pace of life is creating more problems than it solves.

Remarks

## Rapid rises in inequalities

The rapid pace of life all around us, has created rapid increases in wealth. China and India have pulled out more people out of poverty in the last 30 years than <sup>all</sup> the other countries combined have achieved in the last 300 years.

(Source: The Economist)

This rapid increase in wealth is also associated with rapid increase in inequalities. In both India and China, the inequalities have risen sharply in the last two decades with the top 10% owning more than 50% of wealth in India. The profits of the companies may be increasing, but so are the differences in the wages of the workers and the top management.

## IS THE RAPID PACE OF LIFE DESIRABLE?

All of the above discussion may paint a picture of the undesirability of the rapid pace of life. But nothing would be far from truth.

The rapid pace of life is responsible for technology that enables bringing the most neglected sections into the mainstream by direct benefit transfer. This pace is responsible for democratisation of education by direct beaming of IIT lectures to the deservous students via MOOC and NPTEL.

The rapid pace of life is what fuels our India today, providing it the motivation that India will be among the front line nations

Remarks

of the world in this decade alone. It is what gives us the assurance that India would be able to nullify the centuries of colonial ~~op~~ oppression in the next two decades. Already estimates suggest that by next year India would surpass Britain to become the fifth largest economy in the world.

So the natural question that comes to mind is what needs to be done to overcome the problems caused by this rapid pace. Primarily among them is to understand this pace and instead of allowing it to control us, we need to devise mechanisms to manage this pace change to ~~do~~ adapt to it.

This adaptation can include lifestyle changes like yoga and meditation to manage stress levels. It will include healthy eating habits by passing fast foods and moving towards wholesome foods to control diabetes and IBS.

Regarding disruptive innovating models, the solution has to come from regulation that ensures predatory pricing does not end the local brick and mortar stores, and employment of millions is safeguarded against the interest of one.

With regards to rapid technology changes, the only solution will be from even rapid learning - unlearning and relearning. The time gap between introduction of newer generation systems

Remarks

must be based on substantial improvements rather than incremental improvements.

For dealing with the excesses of production and garbage problem, the ~~re~~ solution would include a rapid adoption of the circular economy rather than the linear economy of use and throw.

In conclusion, rather than desiring the comfort and of good old times and longing for the golden age gone by - one must adapt and mitigate to this rapid pace of life.

The benefits provided by this rapid pace are immense. The need is to acknowledge it and instead of getting bogged down by

the problem it creates, the focus should be on using the same rapid pace to find a solution to these problems. It's time to put this knowledge to use. It's time for all the stakeholders to join hands and translate this knowledge to action. As Bhagwad Gita says, "BHAVATE SIDDHA KARMATE" or Success is born out of action and now is the time for action.

Remarks



~~PROTEST BEYOND THE LAW IS NOT A DEPARTURE FROM DEMOCRACY; IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO IT.~~

THE INCREASING RAPID PACE OF LIFE IS CREATING MORE PROBLEM than it solves.

Rapid pace of life

Mobile phone  
rapid communication

earn - unlearn - Relearn  
Creates Problems → Solving the Problems

→ No time to unplug → Constant communication  
Constantly on phones  
- children play games  
- spouses

SPECTIM

Newer disruptive innovations → Amazonisation of a business.

Rapid production/mass production → has killed our handcraft industry.

Newer technologies/methods → Problem of debt laden Telecom sector

Ever newer antibiotics → Newer drug resistant diseases.

Rapid industrialisation → Global warming.

Rapid lifestyle → mental problems  
health problems  
social problems  
family problems.

Stress related problems on the rise  
↳ mental problems

(BS)

Rapid lifecycle → creating garbage problem.

Rapid growth → creating inequalities.

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

Introduction - stress - IBS  
mental stress related disorder.  
need to unplug  
~~change~~ disease.

Rapid lifestyle - no time for things that matter - individualistic detached emotional need.  
(IMA) - rise in lifestyle diseases. chronic

backache, obesity, diabetes, ~~spontaneous~~ hypertension are

→ ↑ work - 10 years 8 years. 2 mental health social family.

(I) Rapid innovative <sup>disruptive models</sup> ~~business practices~~

(II) Rapid change in technology <sup>34</sup> pace/carrying

(III) Rapid lifecycle - garbage.

(IV) Rapid health -

(V) Rapid issues - global handcraft.

~~Rapid life~~

(VI) Rapid growth - creates inequities.

Solutions - work life balance  
stop slow down think and act

Remarks

Conclusion