



An Institute for Civil Services

IAS TOPPER'S

TEST COPY

VEER PRATAP SINGH

Rank - 92

Essay

Roll No. _____

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.

(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 Veer Pratap Singh

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature Veig

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

Remarks

SECTION - A

1. Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after.
2. The material world is simply an expression of the mind.
3. The higher we are placed, the more humbly we should walk.
4. Sports and Competition do not build character; they reveal it.

SECTION - B

1. Consumerism kills culture with overproduction and heightened sense of need, established by the marketing.
2. In the era of post truth fact depends entirely on the power of man who can fabricate it.
3. People 'over-produce' pollution because they are not paying for the costs of dealing with it.
4. There are not enough jails, not enough police, not enough courts to enforce a law not supported by the people.

SECTION-A

→ "Material world is simply an expression of the mind!"

Material world simply refers to the external conditions of human life. These conditions influence human existence and shapes the way an individual exists and survives in this world. These conditions are things and objects, attachment to life, livelihood, desires and passions for different things etc.

Mind refers to our internal mental faculties which help in our cognitions of this world. So it is generally said that our world is shaped by our mental attitudes.

Remarks

our perceptions of this world, gives us the nature and form of this material world.

It is generally believed that everything in the world is dependent on our perceptions and attitudes. When we have positive outlook towards things and beings of the world, then we perceive nothing but the happiness all around. And when we become sad or anguished, then we see nothing but pain, chaos and sufferings in this world.

Therefore, it is said that everything passes through the

Remarks

lenses of our mental faculties. Things have only those forms and appearances, what we are willing to look for. From Buddha to Gandhi, everybody said 'you become what you think'. This, by extension, means your world is shaped by your thoughts. This world can be material or spiritual.

However, there are also other things than our thoughts. We are also externally conditioned. Extraneous conditions many times force us to think the way we are not willing to think. These conditions like social evils such as violence,

Remarks

rapes, arson, dishonesty, etc. compel us to perceive the material world through sceptic or even negative outlook.

We do not always see good and noble things in the world. We also feel that there are many things which should have not existed. We think so not because we are sceptic about world, but simply because we are deeply influenced by these extraneous factors. And all these combinedly makes a complete life.

We can't disregard these things simply by saying

Remarks

that there exist no such things. It is only because of your pessimistic point of view that you perceive this material world like this.

So, it can be said that material world is though expression of our mind, but also has a lot to do with other external factors as well, And notably, these factors are beyond our control. We can't control each and every things owing to our finite and limited character. These things have been in existence since time immemorial and will continue to exist

Remarks

till civilisations exist and time exist.

Yes, it is true that we create our own world in our own imagination. But we always find one or other obstacles in our path to realise our own imagined world. It is simply because our survival is conditioned, both internally and externally.

It is also true that many achieve what they desire but it does not mean that they achieve their desires absolutely and unconditionally. We can not have anything whatsoever we desire in this world.

Remarks

In this material world, we aspire for more money, wealth, big binglows, luxurious life, social prestige & stature etc. we keep on adding such unbridled desires to our list of avaricious aspirations. This way we create our material world through our thoughts.

But, some people always have in their mind to find peace, happiness, harmony in life. So they never look for transient pleasure rather they aspire for true bliss which can satiate their desires. In this way such people create their material world where

Remarks

nothing which is momentarily pleasurable satisfy their "greed" for happiness.

Indeed, the it is contingent upon individual's mind to look what he needs or desires in this world. For example - Buddha looked for peace and bliss, which he found through changing his point of view towards the world, Gandhi's also looked for truth and non-violence so he perceived this world through these lenses. They say, ~~worsted~~ ~~is~~ people by their hearts are very good creatures, yet they said world is full of suffering. This clearly shows that -

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despite their positive attitude towards the elimination of sufferings, they accepted that we are intertwined and inextricably linked to the socio-economic and other such conditions.

On the other hand, there are hedonists who say only pleasure is the summum bonum of life, so they see everything in this world in form of pleasurable objects. They always try to find pleasure in every condition.

Similarly, Hobbs and Machiavelli showed this world as unruly, selfish, and self-centric, so they said people

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always try to maximise their benefits and act out of their vested interests.

All of the above illustrations point towards one thing, that all were partially right in their affirmations but none can claim that they are absolutely correct in their perceptions about material world. It is so because this is our point of view. So their perceived world is different from ours, this itself shows that our world is inherently embedded in our thinking process and mental attitudes.

But there are many things which shape our thinking

Remarks

process itself, like poverty, injustice, cultural practices etc. when in Africa. people are dying of starvation and hunger, how can we say that it's just because of our thoughts.

Similarly, injustice which is killing hundreds of thousands people in Syria will shape the world of Syrians accordingly. Cultural practices like patriarchy, emboldens our belief that women should always play second fiddle to men. Cultures which supports consumerism and materialism shape the outlook of people in hedonism.

So, we can say that, from above analysis, that we are socially & economically

Remarks

conditioned "free" beings, we do have freedom to shape and form our own material world but it is difficult, if not impossible, to do so. We, common men/women can not free ourselves from all external influences and make our world.

But, we can hold that though we are influenced by all such sorts of things, we can perceive them in positive light having sanguine standpoint about life and world. This way we will see this world beautiful and liveable and avoid pessimistic tendencies. Ultimately this material world is simply the expression of our mental attitude toward this world.

Remarks

SECTION-B

"People 'over-produce' pollution because they are not paying for the costs of dealing with it."

Pollution simply refers to the contamination of the positive environment. When pollution goes beyond the carrying capacity of environment, then it can be called "over-production of pollution". Cost of this ^{are} social, economical, environmental, health-hazards etc. Despite these heavy costs we are under illusion that we don't pay costs of over-production of pollution.

Pollution is caused by various sources like exploitation of natural resources in an indiscriminate manner, by smokestack industries, vehicles, high decibel sound systems,

Remarks

release of effluents into streams and rivers etc. These causes air pollution, water pollution, noise pollution, global warming, melting of glaciers, acidification of seas etc.

People think that they do not pay for causing pollution. So they pollute the environment. But, why do we think so? It can be answered by observing our immediate interests. We generally restrict ourselves to our immediate interests and monetary benefits. From this perspective it seems as if we do not pay a single penny directly for causing pollution.

When there were some

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charges for ~~ca~~ causing pollution than we would have costainly thought before causing pollution. But it is not true that we are not paying any costs. In fact costs are very heavy, though indirect and in long-term as well as in short-term.

By over-production of pollution, mankind has disturbed very harmony in the environmental conditions. Now, we are witnessing distorted patterns of rains, monsoons, increased frequency and intensity of natural calamities and disasters like cloudbursts, floods, droughts etc. In these exigencies thousands of lives are lost and there is loss of properties worth thousands of crores.

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Next, this unsustainable development is causing severe stress in thriving of biodiversity. many species of flora and fauna are at the brink of extinction. many of these are important from medical purposes, and stability of ecosystem itself.

This loss of biodiversity and environment leads to economic losses. when we don't have enough resources left ~~at~~ after over-exploitation, then how can we produce what we need in future? This is highly unsustainable. Economic costs of pollution are very high.

This leads to social problems. In absence of social equity,

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Because of lack of resources, societies become tumultuous and turmoil takes into the life of societies. This restlessness impinge on social harmony, peace and cohesion etc.

So, we ^{can} ask to ourselves that all the above discussed losses of environment, economy, social peace, not costs that we are/will be paying?

Furthermore, air pollution is causing serious respiratory ailments like asthma, noise pollution is causing disturbances in our life & auditory diseases, water pollution has made rivers, streams and seas poisonous and creating serious problems of adequate drinking water & availability of

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clean water for other daily uses.

Are there not costs which we are/will be paying?

Moreover, due to pollution of green house gases entire climate has been disturbed. Now we are coping with global warming, which has put the world especially island nations & coastal areas at risk, receding & fast melting glaciers, etc. Ozone-depleting substances like CFCs, HFCs, halons etc. have caused ozone-hole which will cause serious skin diseases and cancers etc. Are there not costs being paid by us?

Now, important and most pertinent question is despite knowing so heavy costs that

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we are paying or our future generations will be paying, why are we over-polluting our environment?

Answer of this question may lie in myopic vision of human beings, self-interests, and indolent nature of these costs, lack of awareness of consequences of climate change and environmental degradation etc.

People of recent times have not been willing to think beyond themselves. They think that maximization of interests which brings pleasure to them is the sole objective of their life. They have been of the opinion that everything in this world is

Remarks

for human pleasure and happiness. So they focus more on consumerism and materialism. These are the causes of anthropocentric attitudes of life.

They have become so self-centric that they do not heed warnings that if we go by the same pace in exploiting resources, there would be acute scarcity of resources in our life even to meet our genuine needs, let alone future generations. All are engrossed in acquiring more and more material things + wealth.

Also, people don't pay directly for causing pollution, so don't give a damn to this. If they had to pay ~~for~~ in terms of money, they would be

Remarks

more cautious in over-exploitation of limited resources.

Now, next question arises how can we stop this indiscriminate and highly unsustainable way of exploitation of natural resources which causes over-pollution?

This can be done by directly imposing taxes / fines etc. on people who over-pollute environment, generating more awareness about detrimental effects of pollution, by inculcating moral values of self-control, temperance, and responsibility of taking care of needs of future generations etc.

various governments like Indian government, have imposed coal cess etc. to reduce the wastage of resources and to cut pollution thereby. Almost

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all nations have made pledges to cut their emissions to control pollution levels. world has come together to grapple with the climate change and environmental degradation, world has adopted sustainable development goals, Paris Agreement, Kigali Agreement, Montreal Protocol etc., to cope with this menace.

• More can be done by fast adapting of technologies like nano-technology which reduces the consumption of resources to a significant level, biotech which helps in preserving bio-diversity and invaluable resources, world is shifting from pollution causing methods of power generation to cleaner and greener fuels like renewable energy such as

Remarks

Solar power, wind power, etc.

There is an urgent need to stop the competition between nations & among people, for greedy material upliftment. Societies should emphasise more on values of conservation and frugality to save resources and dwindle pollution levels.

We need to acknowledge that pollution levels have already crossed the threshold limits and now we are putting ourselves in increasingly more and more precarious situations. This will be very disastrous and counter-productive if we continue with the same life styles.

Remarks

we can no more allow
ourselves to be swept away
by our rapacious and greedy
interests. we have to come
forward and take responsibility
to prevent any further erosion
of environment by over production
of pollution.

it is moral responsibility to
leave behind ourselves what
we inherited from our
forefathers. if we are able to
do so, only then, future
generations can meet their
all needs so as to develop
their fullest personality
and live a happier life. so
we have no moral right to
leave rivers poisonous, air
severely contaminated and

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the world heated beyond limits
or globally warmed environment

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