

# GS SCORE

# ESSAY

Test - 1

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

Time Allowed: 3 Hrs.

Max. Marks: 250

## Instructions to Candidate

- Attempt both essays
- The test carries 250 marks.
- Write each essay in about 1000-1200 words.
- 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).*

S6 + 58  
 May

Name Madhumita

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Madhumita

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

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

## Remarks

1. Nothing is absolute, subjectivity applies everywhere
2. Life happens to all, only a few make it happen

"Nothing is Absolute, Subjectivity applies everywhere"

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, John Kay invented the flying shuttle. This was the first innovation connected with Industrial revolution that fastened the process of spinning. What a contribution to Humanity! But the Luddites didn't think so. Kay's house was burnt down. Luddites believed the shuttle would replace human workers and thus bring them joblessness & misery.

The rightness or wrongness of everything is thus subjective. What may be a boon for one, may become another's curse. That's why the Jain philosophy of "Anekantvada" still holds

relevance. It highlights the partial nature of truth. Thus, there can be multiple truths and no one can claim to know it all.

Fast forward to the 21<sup>st</sup> century,

a huge debate is going on around "climate change & development". The yellow vest protests recently rocked France. The reason was a rise in price of oil as part of France's commitment to Paris Agreement on reduction of emissions. What is essentially a question of climate change for the government became a question of monthly budget for an average citizen & differences caused violent outbursts.

Back home, in India a debate is going around GM crops. As the population continues to increase, & agrarian productivity continues to decline, the scientific view is to allow cultivation of GM crops on a larger scale to withstand droughts, pest attacks & climate change. But then there are also, NGOs & citizen groups who oppose it saying "we are not your lab rats to be subjected to trials over edible items".

In medieval times too, this subjectivity is visible. Akbar, the greatest of Mughal rulers introduced the concept of "Din-i-Ilahi" i.e. the

History  
Constitution

Harmonious co-existence of all people of all faiths.  
 This is perhaps the precursor to our fundamental right to freedom of religion & the secular Indian nation state. While today we hail the ruler for his liberal outlook, the Ulemmas & radical islamists of those time declared "fatwa" against him making it legal for anyone to defy the ruler. Badayuni goes on to say that "Not a trace of islam was left in him" for his tolerance towards hindu inhabitants of the empire.

This is not a fatwa  
 This is not a fatwa  
 This is not a fatwa

Freedom Struggle

Similarly, we hail Bhagat Singh, Rajguru & Sukhdev as patriots of highest order for having sacrificed their lives in cause of liberation of the country but they were branded "Revolutionary terrorists" by the british.

Perceiving them as patriots & also as Terrorists

Law & Order

The partial nature of law is also visible in testing the legitimacy of certain social practices. Same sex marriages are

now common & legal in America. The popular American TV show host <sup>Elliot D'Genivas</sup> ~~married~~ their long time partners recently. But in India, the national level sprinter Dutee Chand is being boycotted by her own family <sup>Indian values</sup> for having same sex relationship with a woman of her village.

The qualified nature of our rights also reflects the subjectivity of what we are entitled to do and what we should not. Article 19 <sup>Constitution</sup> guarantees every citizen of India "right to freedom of speech & expression". But "Right to reputation" of another person ensures that we don't defame anyone by way of words, actions, written disclosure. <sup>while</sup> Thus rights are to be enjoyed but by being mindful of our duties towards the fellow citizens.

The rising global temperatures & melting of polar ice have caused worldwide concerns for environment & human welfare. The low lying coastal areas and island nations are on the risk of submergence from a consequent sea level

climate change

perceiving things in a different way

opportunity  
politics

rise but nations like Russia are looking the melting polar ice as an opportunity. It will make mineral exploration technically possible and financially viable. Simultaneously, the <sup>more</sup> land for agriculture will be available for this country which has <sup>almost</sup> its half of its territory, perennially frozen.

The Indian epic of Mahabharat also reflects the theme of relativity of truth. Arjuna, standing on his chariot led by Lord Krishna, on the eve of war, sees both armies lined up for the ultimate battle. He refuses to fight. "Why should I kill my own kinsmen for a kingdom I don't wish to have" said Arjuna. Killing is an act of sin for humans. To this, Lord Krishna replies "Oh Arjuna! One who is born has to die and who has died has to be reborn. This soul is immortal. Don't grieve for it. You have the right to do your duty. You are a warrior, you have to fight. You will incur sin by refusing to perform your karma." The act of killing one's own family was considered

Remarks

as sin by Arjuna, but the Lord considered it his duty. The inherent subjectivity of every event, action, decision has been justified by the God himself.

Similarly, in the 21st century, the question of voluntary death is a hotly debated issue. "Who are we to kill when we didn't create a human being" said Justice Chandrachud while hearing the Euthanasia case. Some argue that "Right to life" guaranteed by the Constitution also implied the "right to dignified death" when each day of life becomes more painful than death itself, is it not justified to liberate the sufferer by assisted death? The debate is still on.

In matters of growth & development too, perception of what these two terms comprise vary across sections of theorists & people alike. Amartya Sen in his book "An Uncertain Glory: India and its Contradictions" remarks that history of the world development offers few examples if any, of an economy growing so fast for so

long with such limited results in terms of reducing human deprivations. Thus, becoming the sixth largest economy is definitely a matter of great rejoicing. But what about development of people, millions still don't have access to a functional toilet, a school in neighbourhood, a hospital and two square meals. Economic growth is essential but how it improves the living standard of the fastest growing country determines its true development. Economically poorer nations of Bangladesh, Maldives & Sri Lanka have surpassed us in human development.

Change and human life be highlighted

There is a great push for digitisation from the state. It is good because e-governance enhances transparency, citizen-centred citizen-government interface and also fastens up service delivery. But for the remote areas, rural population, it has translated into "Digital divide".

Similarly the LFG reforms of 1991 may have led to increased opportunities for the educated, healthy and the skilled whom



Amartya Sen calls "THE FIRST BOYS" i.e. the relatively privileged class but it has widened the gap between the haves and have nots in the country. That's why Aravind Adiga's remarks in his book "The White Tiger" that India is two countries, an India of light and India of darkness seems relevant to the theme of Subjectivity of every <sup>person</sup> India's growth story. The poor, agrarian, differently <sup>abled</sup> abled, illiterates, unskilled can barely make out any sense of these terms called "growth and development".

In individual lives too, people come across various issues. Some may give up at the first hurdle while others may persist till their last breath. Lionel Messi, the legendary footballer is testimony to this. "You are too small to play football," ~~said a doctor to Messi's father~~ ~~and~~ "You will grow no taller than 4 feet 7 inches", Messi was told. He obviously underwent hormone therapies for his growth issues like injecting the prescribed liquids everyday on both legs for three years from the age of Eight,

his take on his small height is "It helps me to be more agile and faster than the rest"  
 What an outlook towards a deficiency!

We came across numerous instances where the relative truth of everything was visible. The question of right & wrong, ethical & unethical varies depending upon the people, society & circumstances. There can be no ultimate truth. It all depends upon who is interpreting and what is being put to interpretation.

If Robert Oppenheimer would have been rightly condemned as "the butcher of Hiroshima & Nagasaki" for having developed Fatman & Little Boy the nuclear bombs that devastated Japan during Second World War. But he is the hero in America for the country became <sup>because</sup> a superpower for its nuclear power that none possessed back then. So, it would be justified to say nothing is absolute,

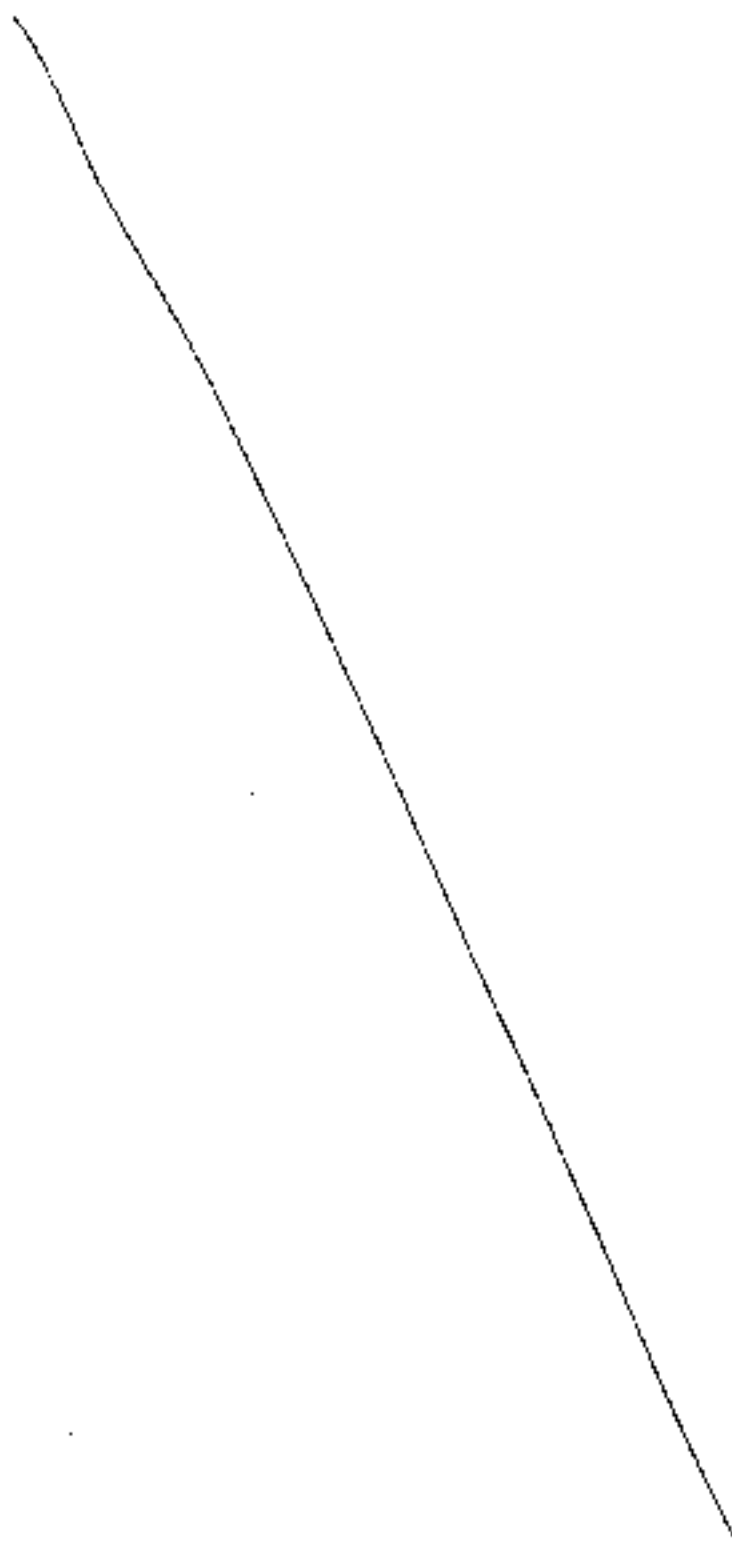
Subjectivity applies everywhere.

Good attempt

try to link all your  
examples with the key  
words of the title

use variety of examples  
- a good attempt

54



Remarks



pl. 2x para this - wish

"greatest human" ~~born his work~~ <sup>motivation</sup> who lived in 20th century.

how he was motivated to undertake such a big work in his profession

Thus, life is what the God gives us but how do we live that life makes all the difference. Only a few are able to break the eat, sleep, repeat cycle and leave an example for rest of the humanity to look up to.

Humayun lost the newly found-ed kingdom to shah shah Suri in (1545) Battle of Kannauj. ~~he~~ He wandered in the north west of India for years. His brother not only refused to join him in fighting shah shah to regain the mughal possessions but also tried to get him killed. He had the option to quit or persevere. He chose the later. He can be called the actual founder of what went on to become the Great Mughal Empire. As he regained control of India in 1555

Good example (H.H.)

Remarks

Similarly, Arunima Sinha is an example of struggle of a determined person against all odds. She is a double amputee. She was thrown off the train by thieves who snatched her gold chain. As the other train ran over her, she lost her legs. What can be more devastating to a sports person. While a normal human being would have been immobilized by the gravity of this loss, she had the grit & determination to scale mountains. ~~There are~~ she has scaled nearly all the seven greatest peaks of the world.

del-  
minator

The greatest swimmer of all times Michael Phelps was too afraid to place his head under water. So there was no question of <sup>being a</sup> swimming champion despite his interest. But he started swimming on his back. The backstroke was the first he mastered. He took the first step and moved on till he perfected every stroke. He has thirty nine medals in all, greater than any other athlete, nine of which are Olympic Golds.

Remarks

And he  
has  
motivated  
... adapting  
things

There have been many kings in history of India and the world who fought numerous battles, won over countless territories and subjugated so many people. But a name clearly outshines them all; Ashoka, the Great. His doctrine of "Dhamma ghosha" i.e. Conquest by righteousness is what made him the huge figure he remains. "To kill and Conquer" Policy hitherto been followed by Mughals & rulers of Mughal till then. But Ashoka followed a policy of pacifism & harmonious co-existence of all faiths. He not only improved his personal life making it spiritual & peaceful but also created conditions of prosperous living for all his subjects, ~~in the absence~~ by abstaining from warfare.

Guevara who is Communist revolutionary Che prominently visible on T-shirts all over the world led a rather exemplary life. He trained to be a doctor. But his two years of motorcycle tour across Latin America brought him face to face with the harsh poverty, inequality in Latin



America. He saw the exploitation of poor and blamed the capitalist block led by America for his people's misery. He led the Cuban revolution along with Fidel Castro. His Guerilla army defeated the Cuban dictator Batista who was aided by USA. He could have comfortably given as a minister in Cuba but he chose to spread the revolution worldwide and landed in Africa. He kept on fighting till his he was killed by the Bolivian regime. His body was put on display for several days to convey to people their leaders was dead. He died but his ideas live on. ✓

Oprah Winfrey was born in an extremely poor household. She was raped as a teenager. The struggles of being black, poor and a woman in USA could have worn down any individual but not her. She is today the richest chat show host and world renowned motivational speaker. ✓

Thomas Edison was told that "he was too stupid to learn". It's a rather demotivating statement to any mortal

Edison went on to hold the patents for over thousand innovations. He is the person to be credited for lightening up the world when sun goes down. Death spared ~~the~~ his teachers the ignominy of making an incorrect assessment.

Nelson Mandela, a lawyer by profession could have lived comfortably as he was born in a rather well off African family. But he chose to have the freedom for his community by struggling in prison for 25 years. His fight non-violent fight against Apartheid: the policy of racial segregation in South Africa ultimately led to its abolition & formation of first black government in S. Africa. His life is a testimony to the adage that no challenge is too big and no enemy is invincible.

The biblical story of David & Goliath too is an example of how the grit, determination & faith of an individual can make

him a messiah for others. Goliath was a nine feet giant who marched against the Israelites led by King Saul. But none of the Israelites had courage to stand up to him. But David, a small boy had faith in God. He took a shot at Goliath with a stone sling. As the giant fell, <sup>David</sup> he killed Goliath with <sup>the latter's</sup> his own sword. Of course, God gave life to all those fighting for Israelite army but only David could make good use of what the god bestowed him with.

"Here lay the woman who was the only man among rebels" said Hugh Rose seeing the dead body of Rani Lakshmi Bai whom he fought in the revolt of 1857. A woman

back in 1857, could at best stay within four walls of the house and stand behind men in perpetuity but not the queen of Jhansi. She fought the British till her last breath & became an example for women for centuries to come.

Allen Cunningham had the lowest half of his body paralysed. He could certainly not hope to walk, leave alone running. But he walked, soon began running & became the first person to run the world's fastest mile. What could have easily caused self pity & sorrow unmeasurable in any ordinary human being became a sort of challenge for him which he ultimately conquered with sheer grit & determination.

Thus, the Creator has given equal opportunity to all in the form of life on earth. but how do we utilise our years on the planet make it worth living.

~~We can live~~ & we can strive in pursuit of wealth, fame & status or chose to lead an honest life marked by integrity in our conduct and compassion for others. The purpose of which we live decides whether it can be called "Good life".

"Good life not life alone is to be chiefly valued" said Socrates. The concept of good

life is subjective. So how are we to ensure that we lead it in a way it becomes good.

In pursuit of our personal goals, we should not compromise with other people's interests. We should never part with ideals of honesty, truth and rationality while in any situation whatsoever.

Lives of Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Rani of Jhansi may be too big of an ideal for us to live up to, we

can certainly practice ethics in our daily lives. It is indeed the key to a meaningful life that inspires

others. It may be as simple as putting waste into dustbin, switching off lights when not required, Conser-

-ving water etc. These will go on to make bigger impacts on how millions of people live in

Resource Scarce Country

good  
including in this

Value of a life is decided not by its length but how well it is lived.

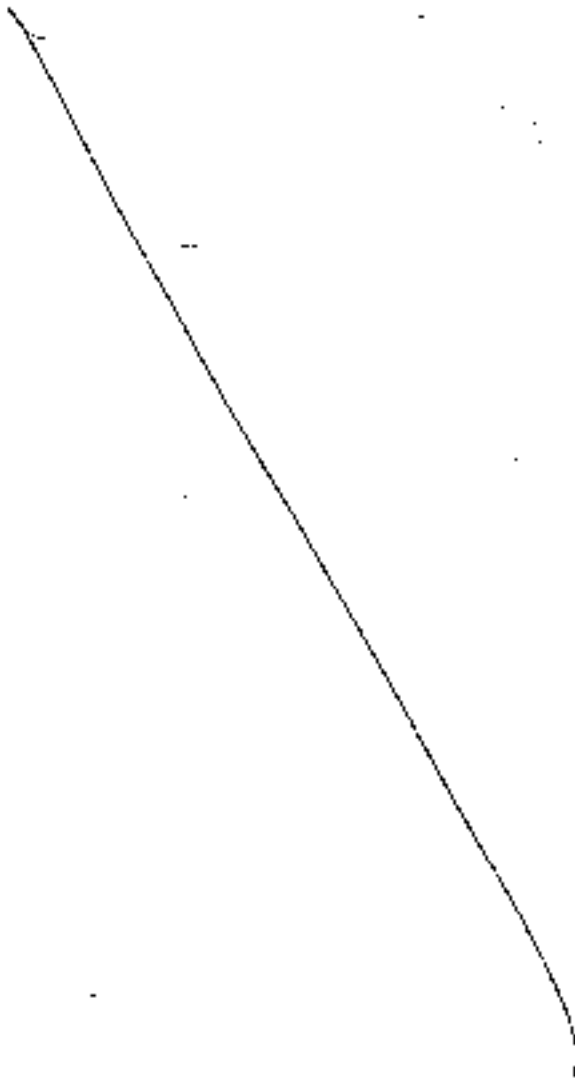
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Very good

mention many examples with variety

connect them with motivation why and how they perceived the things in achieving their goals

Remarks

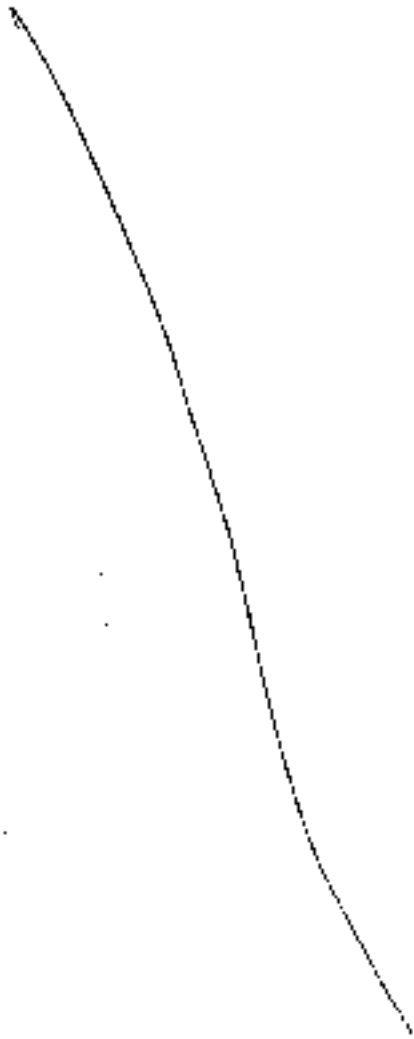


Remarks

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~~Report~~  
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Remarks



Remarks