

GS SCORE

ESSAY MOCK

Test - 2

Roll No. _____

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).

58+57
115
115

Name Medha Anand

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature Medha Anand

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

Remarks

SECTION - A

1. Sports and Competition do not build character; they reveal it.
2. Bureaucracy is a giant mechanism operated by pygmies.
3. Protest beyond the law is not a departure from democracy; it is absolutely essential to it.
4. More law, less justice.

SECTION - B

1. Chanakya may have been from India, but its Indians who never followed his advice.
2. Intelligence is not IQ, but capacity of imagination.
3. Not all those who wander are lost.
4. Our lives begin to end, the day we become silent about things, that matter.

Topic 1: Sports and competitions don't build character, they reveal it.

1.

The recent spat in which Serena Williams howled over the referee, during her match with Naomi Osaka, proves the point that sports reveal character. Her apology later, however, proves another facet of her character - that despite being a sports star she dared to say 'SORRY'.

Coming to a basic question - what is character? Is it inherent or people acquire it with time? What factors affect character building and what traits are essential for a good character?

Character means the traits a person shows while being in a constrained environment. It isn't totally inherent - for a small child possessing a football, has to be taught to share it with others and let others also play with it. Character is built in a staged manner, bit by bit, through experiences, mistakes and failures of life.

Remarks

Parents, peers, social environment plays a fundamental role in determining the qualities a child will possess. Honesty, truthfulness, team spirit, patience are the traits one acquires through experience.

For a child, story telling is a very apt way of conveying vices and virtues to her/him. Bed time stories, poems, jingles and deeds of parents are what influences a child's character. With time and age, such experiences get clubbed up and determine the character one possesses.

Take for example Honesty - if a child sees his parents being honest, she is likely to acquire the trait and not indulge in corrupt acts.

A child on seeing his/her parents being kind to the poor and needy is likely to simulate it and pass on this trait to future generations. Thus, the socio-economic, political, economic and geo-political conditions are what ^{that} determine a person's character.

from parents
i.e. family

How sports reflect character - Do they only reflect one's character - Has not the society planned sports based on future role obligations, geography etc.

It is said that sports reflect character, taking the example of Paolo Di Canio, who didn't go for the winning goal, for the goalkeeper Paul Genead had there injured. In fact FIFA congratulated Canio for his generosity. ✓

Another facet to sports and character relation ship is the fact that geography determines character through sports. Kabaddi and Kushti exponents are usually from North India - be it the Phogat family or renowned players of Haryana with tough builds. While, Chess exponents are usually from South India. ✓

Different character traits are required for these varied sports - physical traits of not injuring your opponent below the belt are required in kabaddi, while quick thinking skills & a vision is required for chess. ✓

But why this division between North and South India - Geography. North being an agricultural region requires physical strength

Remarks

and the sports reflect it. Since alluvial soil isn't so abundant in S. India, they use the best means at their disposal - their brains.

Even gender traits are embedded in children through sports. Girl children marrying their dolls - characterized them to have a set goal pattern for them - to dream about their "marriage" - and induce in them character traits of being - subtle, timid, devoid of opposition. Contrarily, boys are being taught to be aggressive, bold and demanding of their rights. Though things are changing at a rapid pace but sports are designed to mould children into their future role obligation.

Even race contributes to sports and character building. Africans are usually tall and apt for physical sports and inscribe character traits suitable for those sports. Thus, while geography, economy determines the type of sports people play, they also thereby build the character traits accordingly.

Remarks

Moving on to competition - as to how competition reveals character? The best category that comes to one's mind is politics - a competition for power, fame and money. The character traits a politician shows for pecuniary and narrow profits reveal his/her priorities. Playing on communal, sectional and factional grounds proves s/he is not of sound character.

[Atal Bihari Vajpayee's] efforts for "reconciliation" between India and Pakistan speak tonnes about his character. Instead of playing on petty politics and using jargons (like blood will replace blood - khoon ka badla khoon se), he aimed at making peace between the two nations. This reflects his kindness & generosity that he held within him.

[A.P.J. Abdul Kalam], while being the President didn't forward a bill which he considered was against the principle of constitutionalism. He returned the bill to the cabinet knowing fully well that this act may harm his future prospects of holding

Remarks

influential positions. But he revealed his character traits of being honest & true to the constitution in moments of crisis.

Corporate competition is another facet. While it's easy to get carried away during competitions for one's own gains! Take the example of Nike - who featured Colin Kaepernick (stood against the unfair treatment meted out on coloured people) in one of their advertisements. This act sort of backfired with millions posting videos of burning of Nike shoes. But Nike didn't take back its words. Nike's sales could have doomed heavily, but Nike chose to keep ethics over profits.

But some heavily fail in this bid, like vedanta - for whom people have to stand up for upholding the virtue of eco environment protection above economy.

While a chase for power, fame, money etc can be alcoholic, but it's a person's values and morals that define his/her character and makes him/her behave in the way she does.

In his book "Playing it My Way", the legendary cricket star Sachin Tendulkar mentions a story, wherein during a worldcup match, he was suffering from acute diarrhoea and he used sanitary napkins while playing and would use the restroom in between the game quite frequently. But what kept this man moving - it was his character - to keep national interest over and above his personal discomfort.

Personal Bourgeoisie amongst players also builds and shapes character traits. For some their families, they make their teams their families & influences each other's character a lot.

Mithali Raj, on not being allowed to play during semi-finals of World Cup

(despite being in good shape and apparently because of petty politics among the management) did come out to protest against the wrong inflicted on her. But, what determined her character traits was the humbleness she used to describe her discomfiture. Instead of mudslinging on the coach, she wrote an open letter, describing her inability to determine what to do next.

Thus, while socio-economic, cultural factors build and nurture one's character, sports and competitions are a very efficient way of revealing the same. While some have come out with flying colours on this parameter, some failed to drive past their parochial interests.

57/58

Remarks



Remarks



Remarks

Topic 2: Not all those who wander are lost

J.K. Rowling was a single mother, surviving on state benefits and used to write in a cafe with her daughter near her in a Pram. Her series "Harry Potter" was rejected by 12 publishers, until a startup publisher's CEO's 4yr old daughter found the story interesting and the famous "Harry Potter" got printed. Rest is indeed history.

Wanderment is a strange word, but, most importantly who describes what is wandering. On the most basic level, wanderment seems to be non-conformity to the laws of society. While a guy unemployed or a lady unmarried, might seem to 'wander' for the world, but they might not be really 'lost'.

On Marxian line of thinking, a labourer if not working for a capitalist - is a wanderer and indeed a lost item. But, it's that really for what a person is born. Can s/he may not strive for higher

Remarks

purposes. Gautam Buddha and Mahavira though didn't achieve on materialistic parameters, but are now known worldwide. They wandered, but didn't get lost after all. Had, Gautam Buddha (as Siddhartha) not left his palace, conform to societal roles and obligations, his name would have been that of an unknown king preserved in some history text.

Kaikeyi incited Dashrath to send Lord Rama to forest and live in wandernment so that her son could rule the empire. It might have been a divine plan for murdering Ravan, but the tale conveys a huge message that "not all those who wander are lost".

Looking back to the 21st century, Mithila Palkar a girl who rose to stardom post a "cup song" (a Japanese game for 5yr olds) says "It's good not to have a plan". Though, luck can be stated

not fitting

as abundantly behind this young girl, but she was a wanderer until her talents were discovered. Wanderment or paranomy set by the society is not wanderment at all. They say - Get your education done, find a job, get married, have kids and die peacefully. This is the cycle and those not conforming to it are wanderers.

But, from the other side of the story, perhaps not conforming to this cycle is an achievement in itself - for the risks and uncertainties involved in this type of "deviation" are huge.

Ellen DeGeneres (a western popular variant of Kapil sharma) was doing ok, until she decided to go public about her sexual orientation of being a lesbian (on a vogue cover she published. You'd I am Gay). This act backfired and from being a famous celebrity she went into depression until she received letters from those ^{abt to} commit suicide about how

Remarks

all her exit from depression inspired them. It was then she realized that she needed a bigger aim in life. She got back on TV with the "Ellen show", which received 16 grammys on its debut and Ellen even received the Presidential award.

She would have seem to be a wanderer for those around her, until she found the "inner mettle" she had and gained immensely owing her talent. What made her stick through tough times -

Yoga of course and a determination that she had a larger aim in life and she refused to be bogged down by any uncertainties & challenges that followed suit.

Munaz Zaidi Siddiqui was about to leave Mumbai, for he thought he had wandered a lot, until spotted by Anurag Kashyap and him being offered the role of a waiter for his debut to now him being

Remarks

in almost all good movies and web series is a fact that summarizes that wandering is not that bad.

Why some people choose to wander, while others stick to their "plans"?

The most crude answer to this can be the risk involved, else who would like to leave the comfort of doing the "obvious" and go for something that isn't so obvious.

Taking a familiar (and close to one's heart) example - why would someone leave a firm etc and instead go for UPSC civil service preparation, knowing well that the path may be treacherous and full of failures, misguidance and emotional outbursts.

It is perhaps the ability to manage risks and uncertainties in life that make some students the less obvious path of choosing for civil services preparation.

That's the difference between being comfortable in life, being a shock in life (and) being innovative

Remarks

One needs to understand that it is this wanderment that sometimes lead to international acclaims and even leads to SOCIAL CHANGE.

YES
 Malala Yousefzai, like girls of her age could have done domestic chores and not demand education for girls, she chose the not so chosen path and in return suffered a bullet on her body. She might have been killed. But what happened? she was able to bring out the plight of women in the global media and in fact inspiring many others.

She chose to be a wanderer, but didn't get lost. she in fact made it big and also is an inspiration for many.

People called Copernicus (mad), when he claimed that it was the earth that revolves around the sun and not the other way round (as propounded by the church).

Remarks

He was a madman, until the fact was established that he was indeed true. People chose to declare him 'lost', but his steadfastness to his beliefs made him the great name he is today. Such was the persistence of this man, that despite all odds he remained stuck to his helio-centric theory.

They may be termed as storm breakers for they resisted all tides of opposition and mudslinging and made it big and better, owing solely to their perseverance and their belief on themselves.

Shelley Sethia, a delhi born girl, posted a Youtube video and within days, New York Times reported her as a "Pajama Popstar". It may be attributed to luck, but talent and sole resolve to take on risk is what made them stand out from the crowd.

Thus, though the definitions of "wanderer" and "lost" are quite vague, yet one makes out of it as deviance from the cycle that society calls normal. or perhaps doing the unusual.

Shiva is the wanderer of all times, but this has given him the stature of "God", ^{because} he chose to take up risks and uncertainties. Thus,

"Not All who wander, are lost."

good

57

Remarks

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Remarks

Malala
Yousafzai

J.K. Rowling
Ellen deGeneres
Mithila Palkar - It's good not to have a

GS SCORE

Not all those who wander are lost plan

Jules - J.K. Rowling

wander - not conforming to rules of society.

lost - not achieving material gains

But Buddha? Mahavira?

wandered in forest

It's good not to have a plan - Mithila
Palkar.

Seely Sethia - Pajama Popstar

Vidya Vox

Life has a greater objective than just
being able to earn a square meal.

① wander → who describes
lost →

② ? some wander & some stick to "plans"

③ Risk, uncertainty -

④ Conclude.

Remarks

Jules - Serena Williams vs Naomi Osaka

Topic 1 - Sports and competⁿ dont build character, they reveal it.

What is character? - traits for good character inherent or not

Personal Bankomie

personality traits if not inherent how acquired
how sports reflect them
how competition reflects them
Social, Eco, Pol, Envir, geopolitical stability

Type of sport - linked to Gender, race -> try to simulate the role obligations
hunting & gathering
new roles are slowly changing

- Virat Kohli bat to Mond. Anir

- Paolo Di Canio -> goalkeeper Paul Gerrard was lying injured

FIFA -> hit

Jules - Serena Williams vs Naomi Osaka
fit of rage - later apologized - trait

LoT ① What is character - is it inherent
a child owing a ball usually doesnt pass it to others, unless parents/peers set such an example

250 words.

② How sports reflect them - Do they only reflect them or sports carry a goal to simulate the role obligations

Paolo Di Canio

250 words

chess - S. India, (brain - no land) Kabaddi (wrestling - N. India) (agriculture - physical work (imp))

③ Competⁿ - of what type - Politics if also a competⁿ

Obama
Kakame
(power - alcohol)

Remarks

250 words.

Starts from an early age (beauty pageants, painting, writing, sketching)

④ Conclusion - Sachin played with a bad stomach for his country
-> reveals inner thought