

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).

Remarks

Name MEHAR PANWAR

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Mehar Panwar

1. Invigilator Signature [Signature]

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

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

"NOTHING IS ABSOLUTE, SUBJECTIVITY APPLIES EVERYWHERE"

As the old Buddhist fable goes, few blind men came across an elephant for the first time in their lives. They began touching the creature in an attempt to understand it. The man who felt its trunk stated that the creature is like a snake; the one who touched its torso argued that it is like a huge rock; and the one who reached its legs proclaimed that an elephant is like a pillar.

This is the story of all human endeavours. Subjectivity permeated our understandings, actions, interpretations.

Human history has been a history of man's search for meaning. Philosophers, in every age, attempted to explain the "human condition." Socrates argued for an "examined life"; Plato sought to understand the true "form" of everything; and Aristotle pursued "eudaimonia" or happiness. Similarly, Vedanta philosophers sought oneness with Brahman; and Buddha wanted end of suffering.

See for yourself how much jargon-laden it is, rather you could try to convey the same in simple words.

good introduction  
right-jargons become too dense to be used in essay - Be careful

The discipline of psychology tries to understand why different people behave differently. The Myers-Briggs test identifies as many as sixteen personalities. Some people are introverted, some are extraverted; some are driven by emotions, others favour cold rationality. Thus, an individual's behaviour is expected to be subjective.

The multiple cultures and religions existing in the world are subjective interpretations of the good, the great, and the beautiful. The ancient Greeks valued democracy and an active citizenry; the Romans admired heroism; renaissance Europe gave utmost importance to reason; and the Indian civilisation is best known for its spiritualism.

We do not only have multiple religions but multiple interpretations of a single religion as well. The institutionalised forms of Hinduism, Islam and Christianity have been challenged by the Bhakti movement, Sufism and Protestantism respectively. There also exist radical interpretations of religion which

Remarks

sometimes result in perversions such as jihad.

The German philosopher, Hannah Arendt argued that politics is an outcome of plurality. Since, "God created men and not man", there are bound to be different interests which need to be reconciled. Hence, in modern politics we have several political parties and interest groups. More than 50 parties participated in the 17<sup>th</sup> General elections which were recently held.

Different powers have been trying to impose their own subjective worldviews upon everyone. Great Britain tried to impose its own culture upon its colonies during the period of Pax Britannica. The Cold War was essentially a contest between the ideology of capitalism represented by the USA and Communism represented by the USSR. Feminists argue that the world has been shaped by patriarchy.

Remarks

Subjectivity is not restricted to the realm of ideas alone. It also exists in more pragmatic aspects of human lives. On the question of women's entry into the Sabarimala temple or the Haji Ali Dargah, one section favoured tradition while the other wanted to uphold women's freedoms. Similarly, while a set of people uphold women's right to abortion, others deem feticide to be murder ✓

Such questions of right and wrong are supposed to be settled by enacting laws. However, even laws are not immune to subjectivity. The Constitution, for instance, has been read both literally and broadly. In its initial judgements such as the Golaknath Case, the Supreme Court argued that the fundamental rights are prior to directive principles. Later in Minerva Mills it suggested a balance between the two. Using subjective interpretations, the apex court has given several progressive judgements such as the right to privacy, abolition of Section 377, etc. ✓

Remarks

Sciences pride themselves in being objective. But they are also subject to human judgement. The direction which scientific progress would take and the uses for which its knowledge would be deployed is subjectively determined. Einstein intended to take scientific knowledge forward with his theory of relativity. However, the very theory was used in Project Manhattan for inventing the nuclear bombs which devastated Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The relation of human beings with nature also takes various forms. The tribal communities share a relationship of awe and respect for nature. They often worship elements of nature through totems, marking out sacred groves etc. For instance, the Dongria Konds regard Niyangiri hills as sacred and oppose mining activities in it. This leads to a sustainable lifestyle.

On the other hand, modern man has tried to tame nature and use it for fulfilling his own needs. This anthropocentric approach

Remarks

This is subjectivity in application about subjectivity of scientific claims itself?

has resulted in large scale destruction of biodiversity, degradation of land, pollution of air, water and surface. We are presently dealing with the consequences of human-induced Climate Change. Deficit in monsoon, water scarcity, extreme temperatures are some of the manifestations.

Thus, it is clear that nothing is absolute and subjectivity applies everywhere. It is the cause of diversity and brings richness to the human experience. But it can also lead to conflicts. Therefore, peaceful and democratic modes of decision making are necessary. Moreover, toleration is an indispensable value.

Strength:

- well explained the "subjectivity" as a concept
- good examples chosen
- flow, articulation, language etc - good

Improvements to improve strength in other areas:

- Too much of politics/philosophy
- Broaden your choice of examples
- Focus on "why" subjectivity exists in greater detail
- Explain significance as well as existence of 'absoluteness'

Remarks

- Don't drawback of insisting on absoluteness
- Don't lose the need of maintaining a minimum level of common understanding amidst subjectivity

"LIFE HAPPENS TO ALL,  
ONLY A FEW MAKE IT HAPPEN"

Among the vast multitude of people, a few stand out. Their contributions are lauded across generations. Rani Laxmibai and Gandhiji, Leonardo da Vinci and Shakespeare, Einstein and Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam - all have outstanding achievements in their respective fields. It can be said that their lives are a beacon of inspiration for all.

Making life happen can mean a lot of things since people pursue different ends. For the epicureans, life would mean fulfillment of pleasures. For Gandhiji, it was a quest for truth. An ascetic may even seek negation of life itself. In such circumstances, reaching one's desired goal can be understood as a mark of success.

↳ what if somebody construes life in a very limited way? will that mean 'making life happen'? Is there a universal understanding of what it means to 'make life happen'?

Remarks

Strength of character is required in pursuing an arduous calling. Hard-work, perseverance and discipline are easily the most important qualities. Dashrath Manjhi single-handedly cut a path through a mountain. Thomas Edison made 20,000 unsuccessful attempts before he invented the light bulb. ✓

Rousseau argued that "pity" is innate to human beings. Kindness and generosity towards others are essential to a good character. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar was always short of warm clothes. He parted with his own, whenever he saw a poor person suffering in cold. Che Guevara is known to have stated that "the true revolutionary is guided by a great feeling of love".

what point you are trying to make from these examples?  
Please keep in mind that examples can only support your narrative - they aren't enough  
write themselves

Remarks

Self-belief provides the push for any great undertaking. Mahatma Gandhi said that: "If I have the belief that I can do it, I shall surely acquire the capacity to do it even if I may not have it at the beginning."

They are good wayward in trying to bring a chosen relationship with expanding of life

Another crucial ingredient is hope. It is what keeps people going in spite of desperate circumstances. In the Italian classic, La Vita e Bella, a father engages his son in games saving the latter from the horrors of a Nazi concentration camp. His zeal for life in the direst of situations shines through.

A good character is a means to achieving one's goals. But it can also be viewed as an end in itself.

Remarks

Apart from these qualities certain enabling conditions are needed. The first among them is freedom. No person can attain her/his potential in the absence of freedom. It requires absence of constraints. The fundamental rights enshrined in Part III of the Constitution, limit state's interference. However, society and can limit a person through bondages of caste, gender, etc. Susan M. Akin argues that love of family constrains women's choices.

Moreover, equal opportunities must exist for it. According to Amartya Sen, a distribution of capabilities is necessary for the opportunities to be meaningful. Hence, education, healthcare, food and nutrition must reach all persons. Government programmes like the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Aayushman Bharat, National Food Security Act, etc. MGNREGS, serve this purpose.

Remarks

There are some individuals who reach excellence with their talents and qualities. They, in the words of John S. Mill, drive lead human progress. But the chance to succeed must be available to all. Under conditions of liberty and equality, everyone would be placed equally in this quest.

The following lines of Adam L. Gordon can serve as inspiration on this path:

"Life is mostly froth and bubble,  
few things stand like stone,  
kindness in another's trouble,  
courage in your own."

- ↳ Like last essay also, this essay is one-sided -
- ↳ larger part of emphasis is on explaining character, values etc - which is good but not enough
- ↳ you have paid a lip-service to material contingencies and bypassed it as if it is a petty issue -
- ↳ explain more clearly a broadly universal meaning of 'making life happen' -

Remarks

- ↳ discuss in greater detail reasons of living a basic, minimum life i.e. biological perpetuation
- ↳ Add a prescriptive note also -