

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).

Remarks

Name Parth Gupta *18760*

Mobile No. _____

Date _____

Signature Gupta

1. Invigilator Signature _____

2. Invigilator Signature _____

SECTION - A

1. A free woman is one, who does not live in the shadow of others' judgment, but one who makes her own choices based on her own wisdom.
2. Expect the best. Prepare for the worst. Capitalize on what comes.
3. We are good architects of future, if our coming generations are not victim.
4. The more you sweat in peace, the less you bleed in war.

SECTION - B

1. Patriotism is to support your country, not your government.
2. In a healthy politics, the leaders do not serve any ideology or political party, but people.
3. The difference between insanity and genius is success.
4. Intelligence is not IQ, but capacity of imagination.

Section - A

- 1.) A free woman is one, who doesn't live in the shadow of others' judgement, but one who makes her own choices based on her own wisdom.

The process of women empowerment is still in its nascent stages in India, and this is reflected by the recent Sabarimala controversy of denying entry to women in age group 15-50 in the temple premises. It reflects very poorly

on India's democratic credentials. Half of our population tries to impose their decision on the other half. Who gives the right to one gender to dictate terms for other?

As long as India, or for that matter the entire world continues to handicap women by imposing barriers we will not progress. Freeing women from societal shackles is crucial to build truly liberal society. In this regards, understanding dimensions of free woman is essential.

A free woman is someone who is empowered and capable enough to take her decisions without any fear or undue pressure. Freedom here also includes the easy access to resources

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to fulfill our needs. Women everyday make numerous choices which determine the outcomes of not just their, but also their family, and the entire society. Hence they must have the wisdom, or clear understanding of things to take best decisions. To achieve these objectives, their present situation must be analysed.

Women living in Others' Judgements

Highly patriarchal society of ours has hardly left any scope for women to use their rationality. Since they were seen as subservient beings, their only work was to serve their male relatives. The trend continues and the Global gender gap index by WEF captures this abysmal condition of women in India.

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Today, if any Indian woman tries to take any decision, she has to face numerous challenges. First challenge comes from her very own family. This can take the form of mental trauma, physical assaults etc over women's desire to take autonomous decisions like education, marriage etc.

Second threat comes from society which also acts as trigger for the first threat. Society in the name of culture, imposes restrictions on women. If a woman decides to wear some different clothes, she is seen as immoral and hence begins moral policing.

Third threat often comes from law which sometimes are not guided by modern principles. e.g., till very recently women

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were not allowed into defence forces.

Finally, because of all these threats women accept their destiny as a puppet in the hands of society. This acts as a final nail in the coffin of their freedom.

However, because of the forces of modernity like education, media, civil society etc there is now greater assertiveness among women. Hence we must encourage women to take up their decisions and live life on their terms.

Spheres where women need to be freed

The path for freedom, however difficult, has to be travelled by women. The pioneer in this regards was Savitri bai Phule, who withstood all types of

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criticism and disrespect with great courage to spread education among girls. The process started by her must not stop until we reach parity in every sphere.

Education and career related aspects are one crucial area where women need to be freed from societal shackles. Today women are discouraged to take to higher education. If they take too, they won't prefer areas where more field work is necessary like mechanical engineering. This barrier has to be broken.

Pink colorisation of certain sectors like nurses, the HR departments of firms, etc has led to gender bias and more women are being forced into them. While many sectors like Army are virtually closed for women.

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- Another barrier for women's career is the burden of family on their shoulders. Many women, due to this factor, leave jobs when it is the peak time of career. Hence our focus has to be to make more women participate in traditionally male dominated areas while their male partners take equal responsibility at homes.

Another restriction on women is their decision to marry and other decisions like family planning, family savings etc. Most of women have to adjust according to their families. Thus, many child marriages also happen. It is painful to know that extremely high burden of family planning operations is on women.

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Women are also not allowed to have free access to public places, freely decide their dresses, whether they can drive vehicles etc. ~~So~~ There are innumerable handicaps which need to be removed. Making public places safer for women is crucial in this regards.

Politically ~~too~~ women are muted. Neither they are represented, nor they are empowered enough to choose their representatives. In Indian families, especially rural India, normally, ~~the~~ husbands decide wives' votes. Greater political autonomy is thus needed.

Fruits of Freedom

If we work to bring freedom in the above mentioned spheres, then

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we can realise - the consequences of a truly liberal India. As Malala Yousafzai has said,

'We cannot succeed when half of us are held back',

therefore we must realise that road to success goes via women empowerment.

Empowered women, empowers their children, family and the entire society. Thus the families will be more healthy.

Males will be more sensitive to the needs of other gender.

As McKinsey report tells, by ~~the~~ increasing women LFPR in India, the ~~the~~ GDP of India will increase by 25%.

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Thus, the economic productivity will also increase.

Most importantly, such a society will be more just and egalitarian. The progressive nature of society will make it ideal place to live in. Hence we must find ways to create such a society.

Building a Free society for free Women

To achieve the aims of egalitarian society, the constitution already provides a roadmap, in articles 14, 19 and 21. Reservations have been provided in 73rd amendment. Various laws like domestic violence act have been enacted to end violence and create free environment. However, there is a need for more

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steps to rectify the wrongs committed since ages.

Firstly, we must work at individual level to bring change. Here we need to focus on gender-sensitive and inclusive education. Teachers and role-models must inspire students to see men and women as equals. Courage and character are crucial for women to demand their due rights. Hence the need for value based education and sports.

Secondly, at institutional level, we need greater representation of women in public and private sectors, across various domains. Hence some form of reservations or skill training should be provided.

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Institutions must also adopt greater safeguards for women to prevent their sexual exploitation or not giving them their due recognition. Here we can use technology effectively. Maternity leaves should be extended to all forms of employments. SHGs be formed and empowered at rural level.

At the societal level, we need to show greater empathy to needs and desires of women. Media and NGOs can play a crucial role here. In this regard, special attention should be paid to women labourers who face backlash from all sections. If we can provide them social support and social security (insurance) then they can also opt for better life, more freely.

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Broadly, you have talked about ~~aspects~~ where women are subjugated - one more aspect that you can talk about is - (theoretical) ~~is -~~ At the international level too we need to work upon the SDG-5 which aims to achieve Gender parity. Global female leaders can inspire younger generations to decide their life ~~with~~ wisely. More support from UNESCO and WHO is needed in this regards.

↳ social division of labour
↳ sex/gender dichotomy

Freedom from fear

↳ domestication
↳ centralities of economic dependence of women

The ultimate objective of our life is to achieve our highest potential.

↳ feminist theorists etc -

That can be done only when we are free from fear. Hence, if we want to achieve gender parity, and to understand the equality and full humanity of women of we must work to eradicate this fear and ignorance, for a brighter future.

Remarks

2.) Patriotism is to Support your country,
not your government

'Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country'
- John F. Kennedy.

The quote of former US President gives the essence of patriotism. However, in the present times there is a trend to mistake Jingoism for patriotism. Likewise blind support to government's actions is also seen as patriotism. However, only when patriotism, is driven by rationality and scientific temper will it bring fruitful results for fellow countrymen. Hence we must use the conscience to give guidance to misguided patriots, and help in nation

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building. In this context, let us understand the topic.

The essence of Patriotism lies in selfless love for fellow countrymen and an undying spirit to serve them. Thus, it always serves in the best interest of both country and government. Blind patriotism can have huge repercussions on both.

Country has two dimensions. Politically, it refers to a state with well defined boundaries. Emotionally it refers to a nation where people have a psychic sense of belongingness - good

Government refers to the administrative setup which takes care of the overall working of state. It consists of various tiers like centre, state and local governments.

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Sometimes private players also provide the services of government.

To hold together the different people, to bring a spirit of togetherness in the country and government, patriotism is very crucial. Because of strong patriotic feeling today, India's unity and integrity stand strong.

Apart from unity, it gives a sense of self-esteem to the countrymen. The achievements of country in sports, S&T, economic spheres, cultural spheres lead to a sense of accomplishment in every countryman.

Patriotism also gives us a sense of belongingness, which is the 2nd highest of

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the Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Also, by arousing our deepest emotions, patriotism helps us in delivering our best performance for the cause of nation.

Because of these benefits, the spirit of patriotism played a crucial role in our freedom struggle. However today because many people mistake it for various other things, ~~it~~^{which} is leading to some harmful impacts. To address these, the differences need to be understood.

Firstly patriotism is not to support the country blindly. Such a form of patriotism can easily turn to mob vigilantism. We as individuals must use our conscience before supporting

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our countrymen in their endeavours. eg., due to heated propaganda by media, if there is greater clamour for war, a true patriot will not go for blindly supporting war, but try to bring actual facts to public.

Similarly, patriotism is not also about blindly supporting governments. While governments generally act in the best interest of country, but as a true patriot, we must use ^{our} conscience and scientific temper to assess whether the actions are truly patriotic.

This was showcased by Edward Snowden who refused to accept the intrusion of government into private lives of people.

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He, thus, showed the spirit of a true patriot. Such acts of government which are done in secrecy, leading to a surveillance state are surely not to be supported by true patriots.

Similarly certain governments become corrupt and begin to misuse their powers. In such a scenario, a patriot rises against government. eg., the fight of Anna Hazare and that ultimately led to Lokpal act.

Many a times, government policies and actions are not done with in keeping with ground realities, may be due to lack of data or experience. In such a scenario, it is duty of responsible

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civil society to criticise government and give it feedback so as to make it more efficient. eg., if in a tribal area, government goes for a development project without consensus, the CSOs should fight against government. If it remains unaddressed, it can trigger insurgency and left wing extremism.

A true patriot, by opposing government at right time, works to strengthen democracy. This is because dissent is the safety valve of democracy.

Today we are seeing the rising environmental problems. If we blindly support the government in its endeavour for development, we might risk losing our

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biodiversity heritage -

Many a times governments try to spread fake propaganda to achieve their electoral gains. eg., the McCarthy's lies had heightened the tensions of coldwar. Hence Patriots have a responsibility to prevent masses from being misguided.

Patriots also need to prevent masses from acting in an unpatriotic manner. eg., in various countries like Myanmar, there is rise in radicalism. A true patriot must go against the masses to wake them from the slumber of extremist violence. Ideological tensions should become ideological discussions and here patriotism only can play a role.

Remarks

- Due to the immensely important role played by patriots in bringing masses to the ^{service of} national cause, we need to have more patriots and more nationality based patriotism. In this education will play a crucial role. Values of tolerance, acceptance and synergy must be taught.

The constitutional principles like justice, liberty, equality, fraternity etc need to be brought into practice. ~~For this~~ This needs to be done in every socio-economic sphere, across all sectors public and private.

Media and civil society will also play a crucial role in this regard. They can show the examples

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of people who are doing good work to inspire others, eg, the Good news India programme of DD News. They should popularise the true message of patriotism which is deeply interlinked with empathy and conscience. Our films should promote this, like Bajrangji Bhaijan.

The government has a huge role in strengthening patriotism. In this regard, there should be greater space for dissent. Ombudsman institutions like lokpal should be brought into existence.

There is also a need for legal

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reforms like codification of parliamentary privileges, laws on preventive detention, and clarity over restrictions on freedom of expression. These will give greater scope for patriots to express themselves

Parliament has a huge role in instilling patriotism by holding government accountable for its actions and instilling confidence in patriots to question the government.

With such and more steps we can build a stronger nation where people are guided by conscience. Hence we must work to bring the misguided patriots back on the

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path of ^{true} patriotism and creating new patriots.

It is only when we realise the essence of patriotism, will we be truly ~~in~~ working for the ultimate interests of our country. By being truly patriotic we can become the national heroes, the guiding light or pole stars, ~~which~~ who can take our nation to great success.

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There is a threat if everybody start deciding what patriotism means. Insurgency, Naxalism etc- all are 'popular' but threats to social fabric- contrast this aspects also-

on the introduction, it would be better if

Remarks you can clearly explain what is meant by nation, state, govt, patriotism, jingoism etc.