

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).*

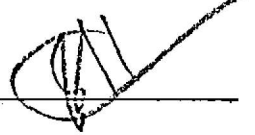
58755  
Saurav

Name SAURAV PANDEY \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature  \_\_\_\_\_

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

①

Human world is full of diversity in people's actions, thoughts, attitudes and behaviours. These are subjected to a variety of environmental factors that exist around us. The ideas and paths we undertake are results of the subjective interplay of various socio-cultural, political and economic interventions. Therefore, applying a common standard or an observational lens is a challenge.

Should we provide more description about the topic for the introduction to have a sense of completion.

Let us consider first the most objective and absolute aspect of humanity - SCIENCE. Scientific approach and ideas are taken to be the closest to an absolute truth often. But they are, and continue to be, limited by our capacity to observe and analyze the nature around us. Science has shown us that it is important to learn, un-learn and re-learn. There is an element of subjectivity in this.

Needs to describe the meaning of absolute and subjectivity before beginning the main body, to ensure clarity of analysis.

Case in point is the way we looked at gravity. For centuries, Newtonian physics was the cornerstone of understanding the laws of motion and the universe. All of science was studied under this "objective truth". However, in early twentieth century, Einstein brought in the theory of relativity and since then we have been witnessing the growth of science under this "absolute" idea. Several contrasting ideas like Standard Model of Physics, Quantum Physics, String theory are applied based on the context and scale of enquiry in scientific arena. Beyond doubt, that shows it is subjective.

In socio-cultural spheres as well, as we began to know about different societies and civilizations, we learned new ideas from each other. Different societies have different value systems. Asian countries value families and communities more whereas

need to provide example of highlighting the subject

Anglo-American societies value individuals above all. Cultural relativism is clear in different societies. The way we treat citizens, groups, religions, women, social security, state and military, depends on the kind of socio-cultural or geopolitical system.

With that kind of variabilities, even our prosperity and deprivations are subjective. Calling a nation "developed", "developing" or "under-developed" in absolute terms over-simplifies the variations. All of these nations face problems arising out of relative depression/deprivation they subjectively realize. A developed nation like USA may be divided on issues on working class conditions, immigration issues and racism. European Union aimed at providing

a uniform standard of economic and legal structure, but north-south and west-east divide in Europe is clearly an indication of subjective realities of

→ represent differences

Remarks: Differences are subjective only when there is difference in the interpretation of objective reality, occurs not otherwise.

the continent). Poor countries as well as developing economies have pockets of prosperity which view nation-building and policy-making through very different lenses.

That is why the role of leaders becomes important to manage these subjective elements and navigate through these variables. Kind of leadership that can be considered good is not an absolute idea as well. A mature political system contains a lot of checks and balances to prevent concentration of powers. This is constitutionalism. A chaotic society that does not have establishment of rule of law, may involve some element of authoritarianism.

Even within a country, application of rule of law may differ. In a peaceful state/city, it is considered very important to utilize rule of law in letter and spirit, e.g. Chandigarh. However, in an event of terrorism, or a system rotten with mafia culture, police may have to

Apply highlights subjectivity by reflecting on two different interpretations on rule of law.

resort to violence and ignore human rights. Thus even human rights concept is not an absolute one and varies on the level of law and order that has established in a society. ISS!

Establishing law and order is also not an absolute task. Laws can not possibly fathom all scenarios for all times to come. Discretion and subjectivity has often been a part of law making as well as its implementation. The recognition of this subjectivity lies in the existence of a judicial system. The courts hear all the sides and decide who is right. Sometimes court decisions are not what everyone likes but that is considered as final to maintain a modicum of social order. Nevertheless, law and order is subjective in practice. Example is murder during self-defence, euthanasia and crimes of passion are recognized separately than a cold-blooded murder.

Law can also not encompass all religious and cultural practices at times.

Remarks

→ Indeed the process of law is subjective. But should reflect subjectivity. One way can be → from crimes discretion may give one punishment, high court might give other and

Be it the Uniform Civil Code, Sabarimala women entry or adultery cases, neither law nor the courts have been able to find an absolute rule for them. Many societal aspects that are considered lawful and ethical at one point of time, may not be so at the other point.

Time, is, therefore, an important factor in determining the resultant phenomenon. Subjectivity is highly exemplified in the times we live in. Today women go out and work shoulder to shoulder with men and men participate in household work. These would not have been considered ordinary lifestyle few decades ago: Over generation determines a lot.

"Generation is a war where everyone changes sides." Every young generation has a different view when they grow old into parents or older citizens. Young people focus more on removal of restrictions. They like the ideas of liberty and rights. The older

↓  
 + Difference over time ⇒ Change  
 + Difference over space ⇒ diversity  
 + Difference over individual interpretation ⇒ Subjectivity

Refine  
change

generation tends to become calmer and focus on principles of duties and their responsibilities. The very set of people change their world views towards society and politics. Liberals often become conservative.

Such ideas reflect in ideas towards economic system as well - Any society that pursues any value is bound to produce some people (who are good in it). A society that encourages entrepreneurship will produce businessmen. This will steepen the hierarchy of society based on income.

A society that produces <sup>values</sup> sports will produce some sportsmen who will become super star billionaire. This will be favoured by proponents of meritocracy and free market. However, the dangers of such steep hierarchies may cause inequalities and disturb social harmonies. The socialists or social-democrats aim to reduce this hierarchy through measures of redistribution. These subjective political

Remarks



and economic view exist together in many countries and an absolute political stance or system is difficult.

That is why what path of development we take is also subjective. Even what makes an individual happy is debatable. Happiness is a state of subjective well-being. So is the development of all of <sup>the</sup> society. Third world countries and indigenous societies were not necessarily unhappy when they were thought to be un-developed. When these people realized the developed countries' scenario, most aspired to be like them. Many wanted to remain same. Globalization created inter-penetration of cultures, hybridization and even cultural rebound.

Winners and losers have different responses to globalization. Relative deprivation gave rise to protectionism, ethnic conflicts in many countries of Africa; demand for reservation in government jobs in India by dominant caste groups. These are evidences that economic models can't be applied as

Reflects subjectivity but the start of the paragraph should contain some linkages with the topic like how the end of the para has relevant analysis.

an absolute remedy.

Even democracy, which is considered the best form of government, is not an absolute political solution, or so it has shown in many west Asian and African countries. Arab Spring caused overthrow of dictators in many countries, but hardly any nation has established a stable political system. Those who believed that the American model of politics will solve the crisis are disappointed.

The western model was also aimed by the rule-based trading systems envisaged by WTO. However, countries are unable to take the same paths of trade and development, causing the WTO-order to crumble. The environment policies such as Paris deal of 2015, too is bound to recognize bottom-up approach given the subjective nature of every nation's needs. Thus a global order can not have an absolute policy on any matter.

→ Adequately cover the notion of subjectivity.

Why then have any rules then? Rules and laws must aim at incorporating such subjective elements. Laws have enough room to allow the variability in changing scenarios and human needs, aspirations and behaviours. Global geopolitics can have enough room to include nation's interests. Some universal values such as peace, stability; truthfulness and brotherhood will remain absolute. So will some ~~rights~~ <sup>rights</sup> such as right to life with dignity; and threats such as terrorism that are of absolute nature.

Stand regarding the topic: Whether or not <sup>nothing is absolute & subjectively</sup> <sup>everywhere</sup> <sup>applies</sup> <sup>it</sup> <sup>true?</sup>

No common "truth" is easy to achieve. It has to be constantly debated, contested and arrived at. However, some ideas dominate in every era and in every time place that evolve and change into better and more suitable ones. These become the trailblazers for the paths we follow as individuals, society, nations or the whole world.

Remarks

Refer last page for comments

2) LIFE HAPPENS TO ALL, ONLY A FEW MAKE IT HAPPEN

2. include  
outside  
this  
elaborate  
it

"Life is what you make it." This is a popular motivational quote that has circled around on the internet. It is a message to inspire us that it is in our hands what and how our life turns out to be. However, it is also true that "only a few make it happen". Thus, along with the motivation we need to be aware of the limitations and challenges as well.

should've also addressed on life happens to all, for giving

a proper opening to the topic.

Only a few make life happen. This is true because only a few become great achievers whose lives are worthy of being favourably noted by us. There are various qualities in those who make life big in various fields. We can look at them as follows.

Before deciding on how to make life happen, should also cover, what is life (Highlights on the diversity into COURAGE AND DETERMINATION best in its meaning)

How life happens for all  
life gives support

Many a times it is impossible to fight big challenges, or so it seems. For

Highlight biological unity & challenges to all.

Remarks

Report -> must be of something -> without got an opportunity to

example - Mahatma Gandhi could have bowed down to the might of powerful British empire and led a normal/ordinary life of a barrister. But he chose to fight the injustice of colonialism. He had the courage to stand up to the empire and determination to bring back pride in Indian masses.

Similarly, Dr. Ambedkar was a Dalit in a society which had discrimination entrenched in it. He had the courage to fight the social system and determination to provide the ideas on which Indian constitution is based. He refused to become the victim of his immutable identity and become one of the best intellectuals of modern India.

### PASSION AND INNOVATION

When Einstein gave the ideas of General Theory of Relativity, he was a clerk in the Patent office of Switzerland because he needed a job in 1906. ~~He~~ He was expelled from his school in erstwhile Russia and did not like the regimentation systems in his original country. Being away from his

parents also did not stop his passion and he became the most important physicist in modern era.

Abdul Kalam was born in a small island town of Rameshwaram and used to deliver newspapers. But his curiosity in physics led him to become "the missile man of India" and also the President of India.

## ② TEAMWORK

Individual passion and innovation are like pearls. When threaded together with teamwork, they result in great things in life. Indian Space Research organization (ISRO) was not given support by international community and India also could not muster much resources. Yet they have reached the moon and the Mars and also changing lives at home with various innovations in education, health and defence.

Our sports teams of hockey under Dhyan Chand and cricket under Kapil Dev as captains respectively brought international laurels despite the best of infrastructure and training facilities. These things were made due to hardwork and teamwork. They did not merely happen.

### LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Teamwork can go astray without a good visionary leader who can lead through good and bad situations. Various examples can be thought of. M.S. Dhoni as a leader in cricket is widely accepted as a genius leader. Against all odds he made it to the cricket team and led India to all the glories possible.

Barack Obama became first African-American president of the USA merely 44 years after voting rights were given to African-American. HE made it happen. and inspired people all around the world.

## QUESTIONING CURRENT SOCIAL ORDER

Women suffragette movements fought against their lack of civil rights. It was unthinkable for women to have a right to vote but they fought it. More women keep continue to fight for their rights against the social orders.

4) Mary Kom and Hima Das have become sports champions in their own rights despite the challenges that our patriarchal system has thrown at them. They did not let their lives go by passively. They took charge of it and turned things around.

## GOAL ORIENTATION / PROBLEM SOLVING

More rebellious against the social order is not always required though. Problem solving skills towards attainment of goals can be done in other fields and problems humanity faces.

Sonam Wangchuk, an engineer from



Ladakh, solved the water shortage issue in the desert area using the ingenious yet simple concept of Ice Stupa using the water from rainy season and using in the dry season.

Rajendra Singh, the "water man" of India motivated villagers and NBOs to participate in rainwater harvesting and restore the dried up water fanks, channels and underground. What they achieved was not possible if they had waited for government help instead of being proactive problem solvers.

### ATTITUDE OF SOCIAL SERVICE

More aptitude of problem solving may not always help unless we also have the sensitivity towards helping the society and environment. There is a feeling of responsibility towards fellow human beings and natural environment and animals that can inspire to make

our lives significant-

Anand Kumar from Bihar who has trained poor children for entrance exams to the prestigious IITs is a remarkable change-maker. He has not only made his life worthy of inspiration but also made lives of so many downtrodden children who are now engineers and scientists all across the world.

Another such example is Afroz Shah who won UN Champions of the Earth Award for his efforts in cleaning up beaches, and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems. Sensitivity towards nature inspired him to contribute to sustainable development and biodiversity conservation.

Elon Musk faced problems in online payment ~~so~~ so he invented the payment system PayPal. He found out cars are polluting our atmosphere. He came up with Tesla electric cars. He

Remarks

From Point (3) to (4) Have adequately explained the factors of making  
 But what about the meaning of making life happen?

charged minimum profit. He encourages innovation in space technology through SpaceX and transportation Hyperloop through his Boring Company. He envisages innovation and promotes entrepreneurs and engineers without strictly following profit motives. He is constantly making new things happen for human innovation as a whole. Who should cover the difference between being famous & making life happen.. Eg. Kaifash Satyarthi was doing his work even before he got famous due to Nobel Prize. Then if me could be the Nobel prize winner and make life happen?

THOSE WHO DO NOT MAKE LIFE HAPPEN

Many ~~who~~ to whom life simply happens may be perfectly satisfied as well. A content and happy life is also acceptable to many since happiness is a state of subjective well being.

However, many others in the world might be under immense adverse conditions which are impossible to overcome. Situations of hunger, poverty, malnutrition, wars, fundamentalism, terrorism totally subdue human

Remarks

etc

capital and potential in any form. Despite all courage and determination, making a great life out of it would be impossible.

Structure of the argument

For those in such extreme situations, a helping hand will enable writing their own great stories. Many such lives can be made to happen if humanity stands together and pays attention to each other's stories. Building a strong social capital will enable us ensure that <sup>over it</sup> life happens to all, and we all make it happen together.

class  
social location  
caste  
Gender  
Institutional

support by government.

58  
125

- \* Should write a proper introduction.
- \* Comprising of all the necessary nuances of the topic in a brief manner.
- \* Has not covered what is life &

Remarks

how it happens for all.

\* Need to cover in a detailed manner meaning of making life happen

\* should write in an elaborate and structured manner  $\Rightarrow$  external factor that stops people from making life happen and what can be done about it.

$\rightarrow$  Rank

Remarks

Rank →

Remarks

- \* Need to focus on the following aspects :-
- Meaning of absolute & Subjectivity
- Reason behind the presence / non-presence of Absoluteness & Subjectivity (How covered it in a limited & scattered manner)
- Understanding of Subjectivity got mixed in certain places with change & diversity.
- Lesson & merit of Subjectivity & Absoluteness.
- Paper conclusion.

3.5  
125