

TEST CODE : 3 2 0 3 3

FIAS - 2020 - EGP Test #3

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ACADEMY

GENERAL STUDIES

Name Of Candidate	SUCHITER SHARMA		
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	Roll No.	1910077464	
	Date:	14 NOV. 2020	

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTION
Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained	
Q.1			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile). There are TWO Sections. Each Section has TWO topics printed in English and Hindi. You have to write on 1 topic from Each part. One question in each part is compulsory. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.
Q.2			
Total Marks:			
Remarks:			
Start Time 6:00 pm		End Time 9:00 pm	
Mode Of Examination :		Online <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/>	
ECN CODE:		Evaluation Date:	

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SECTION - A

1. In the destiny of the farmer lies the destiny of the nation.
2. Artificial Intelligence in agriculture: Strengthening the future of farming.

"Most things, except agriculture can wait"

Jawahar Lal Nehru

Just after Independence, India encountered several famines and food supply shocks due to food diversion towards soldiers fighting wars before Independence.

India, after Independence was still not food sufficient and was dependent upon imports from U.S.A and other western countries.

The problem of food supply shock again surfaced during 1962 Indo-China war and 1965 Indo-Pak war. The condition was more exaggerated during 1965 war and realising the gravity of the problem our then Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri (Shastri ji) gave slogan



"Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan". After the war sufficient focus was diverted towards self sufficiency and seeds of Green Revolution were sown during Shastriji's period and they were reaped during 1970s under the leadership of PM Indira Gandhi. Green Revolution, which was powered by the innovativeness of MS Swaminathan changed whole course of India's trajectory towards growth. India turned self sufficient and even started exporting grains, pulses, fruits etc to other countries. Today India is largest exporter of Basmati Rice. Therefore with the proper focus on our farmers we achieved self sufficiency which changed our Nation's destiny towards bright and sustainable future. Our farmers can shape and had previously shaped nation's destiny.

How farmers can change destiny of a nation?

Farmers form major chunk of our workforce. More than half of Indian population is directly or indirectly involved in agriculture. When agriculture through various means is made productive it automatically increases disposable income of more than half of the population. This income will be used to buy goods and services which will increase demand in a nation and this increase in demand will create more jobs and finally our GDP will grow and nation as a whole will grow. In this way farmers can define destiny of a nation.

Recent trends have pointed out towards feminisation of agriculture due to reasons such as distress migration, male moving to urban centres in search of jobs etc. When females are involved

In agriculture and by various government and technological initiatives, if agricultural productivity is increased, they will get more income in their hands. More income will lead to their political, social and economic empowerment. They can ensure better food, health and education for their children which will finally prove to be an asset for country. With the help of Self Help Groups (SHGs) they can further increase their profits and this will help in inclusive and sustainable development which will change destiny of a nation towards progressive future.

Similarly increase in agricultural productivity means surplus food grains at cheaper costs. Government can use surplus food grains to feed vulnerable sections and ensure their proper health. Proper health means less expenditure of government on healthcare facilities and more upon education, skill development and capacity building. With these efforts vulnerable

sections will turn to be an asset and will contribute towards the development of the nation. In this way farmers can decide destiny of a nation.

But, as it seems the situation is not so easy. Farmers encounter several problems.

What problems are faced by Farmers in India? Fragmentation of landholdings

is a common problem in India and prevent farmers to achieve economies of scale which can contribute towards the development of New India. In India out of total farmers 86% are small and marginal farmers.

High input cost of fertilizers, ^{seeds} and electricity is another major problem which Indian farmer encounters. High input cost reduces their profit and prevent farmers to explore new avenues to increase production. This hampers the growth of farmer and of a nation as a whole.

No proper land leasing laws prevent the expansion of area under cultivation due to the fear on part of owner that farmers may occupy their land. Clear land titling laws can eradicate this problem.

Lack of technology in agriculture prevent farmers to reap benefits of modernisation. Indian farmers still are dependent on conventional farming methods because of low cost although profit margins is not much. Technology can improve the farming prospects but fragmented land holdings and low credit availability make incorporation of technology nearly impossible in agriculture. This will prevent farmers to realise their full potential and will prevent nation's growth.

Climate change has further created mess in farmer's life. Erratic rainfall, droughts, floods and erratic nature of monsoon causes destruction of crops and farmers fall

Into Poverty trap.

Lack of availability of proper institutional credit is another issue faced by farmers.

Farmers suicide rate has grown in recent periods. Even female farmers suicides are on the rise. Farmers are unable to realise proper cost for their produce.

Due to lack of cold storages around 20% of all produce turns into waste.

Heavy burden on agriculture i.e more than half of population is there in agriculture is another issue. There is a need to divert farmers towards non farm activities.

Agriculture contribution towards GDP is only 16% of GDP although it employs more than half of population. There is a need to arrive at possible solution to ensure farming as a profitable venture.

How farming can be made profitable?

Use of modern technology is the best solution. Using Artificial Intelligence, sensors, GPS soil sampling etc can be done.

Technology can help in reducing wastage of resources and will help in maximizing profits. Example Precision agriculture where satellites, sensors, soil sampling by GPS will be used to ensure proper utilisation, minimum wastage and more profits.

To tackle climate change, there is a need to grow crops which adjust to local conditions i.e. localisation of crops is possible solution.

Genetically modified crops can be promoted after proper trials. They will ensure pest resistance, minimum fertilizer use and more profits.

Organic farming and Zero Budget Natural farming can be promoted through country which will preserve soil quality

and will ensure low input cost to enhance benefits.

Green Revolution 2.0 - should be promoted in dryland areas, and other parts where Green Revolution 1.0 failed to reach. Also Green Revolution 2.0 will involve minimum use of fertilizers, least possible use of water and increasing profits.

Spinkle irrigation and deep irrigation will solve problem of excessive use of water as total 85% of groundwater is exploited for agriculture purpose.

Mixed farming and Mixed cropping should be promoting which will prevent exhaustion of soil nutrients and nonfarm income sources for farmers respectively.

If implemented with proper zeal and enthusiasm they will turn to be late changing measures for farmers and will help to change nation's destiny towards progressive and sustainable future.

What Initiatives Government has taken to secure destiny of our nation? Several measures have been taken by our government to support the cause of farmers.

PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PMKISAN) - It is Direct Benefit scheme where farmers are credited with ₹6,000/- annually in three equal installments of ₹2,000/- each.

PM Kisan SAMPAD A Yojana - It aims to create cold storages and bulk food parks to prevent food wastage.

PM Fasal Bima Yojana - It provides 2% premium for Kharif crops and 1.5% premium for Rabi crops.

Contract farming law - which recognises farmer as a weaker side and uphold their protection along with private investment

Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme has been extended to include farmers involved in animal husbandry and fisheries.

Farmers get urea at subsidised rates.

MSP (Minimum Support Price) is announced by government before the sowing season for every crop which ensures farmers economic security.

"Farmers has been called Annadata by MS Swaminathan"

Government had and has done much for the cause of farmers. We need to ensure that policies are implemented in letter and spirit. Only then we can ensure holistic development of farmers.

Independent farmer with equitable access to all Government initiatives, with proper knowledge of environment and secure about his/her future can shape his/her destiny. And in farmer's destiny lies destiny of a nation.

"Farmers should be an optmilst, otherwise he isn't a farmer"

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Feedback

Feedback to be provided in terms of (1) Introduction (2) Sentence Constructions (3) Paragraph Formation (4) Legibility (5) Deviation from Topic (6) Coverage of dimensions (7) Simplicity / ease of reading



SECTION - B

- ✓ 1. Character may almost be called the most effective means of persuasion.
2. Discontent is the spur of progress.

Mahabharata - The war between Kauravas and Pandavas was going on. The war was tilting more towards Kauravas. Kaurava's army contained many brave soldiers, one of them was Dronacharya who was mentor i.e guru of both Pandavas and Kauravas. It was almost impossible to defeat Drona with sword and spear. Krishna then made plan and communicated the same with Pandavas. Plan was to lie about death of Drona's son Ashwatthama which will disturb Drona mental peace and he would then be killed. But who will lie, on whose words Drona will trust. It was Yudhishthira who was chosen. Yudhishthira - man of impeccable character and known for his honesty.



and uprightness, finally died about Ashwatthama's death. Drona was unable to handle this setback and finally bowed down on the ground without any weapon in his hand.

It was Arjun who then killed Drona and battle was tilted towards Pandavas.

Therefore, character is something which can be used for persuasion and here Yudhishthira persuaded Drona about death of his son.

Character indicates attributes of an individual. Its formation is caused due to interplay of several factors such as social values, family values, rules and regulations, religion, teachers etc.

It can either be good or bad. Character actually is reflection of our values, and can be used to persuade individuals, societies, countries etc.



How character is most effective means of persuasion? We always have tendency to set our role models and role models are selected on the basis of the character which role model displays. Example - Gandhiji was man of honest and upright character during his lifetime he was able to persuade masses for several movements such as non-cooperation, civil disobedience etc. Quotes of Gandhiji have similar impact on present individuals.

At social level several personalities such as Raja Rammohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Jyotiba Phule etc with their impeccable character persuaded people to shed social evils like child marriage, female foeticide, female infanticide, etc. And they were successful in their campaigns. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar along with persuasion made Widow Remarriage Act.



Swachh Bharat Abhiyan ^{is} successful because of involvement of several famous personalities like Amitabh Bachchan, Vidya Balan, Akshay Kumar etc. And it is character approach which is used for persuasion.

At political level words of PM Narendra Modi influenced people to stay at home during lockdown, he said that "Jaan hai to Jahan hai"

Even present voting behaviour of citizens is influenced by Personality cult which points towards character as mean of persuasion. Star campaigners clearly promote character as effective means of persuasion.

At scientific level, personalities such as Dr A.P.J Abdul Kalam, Jahangir Hossain, C.V. Raman etc influence individuals greater if they want to pursue science as their career. Even such personalities act as an example

for nation's youth and motivate them towards securing their goal.

At Economic level, personalities such as Dr. Manmohan Singh have greater influence. Even that "2008 Global Financial Crisis" shook the whole world, Congress under the leadership of Dr Manmohan Singh was again voted to capture power because his character is such. Dr Manmohan Singh was our Finance Minister when India suffered Balance of Payment Crisis and his character of better manager of economy persuaded citizens to vote him again as P.M of our nation.

At International level, India character is of soft power, helping country and country of diverse culture and religion. It was our this character which made USA to lobby for India and helped India to get concessions from Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG). U.S.A even signed Nuclear agreement with India for civil nuclear programme.



All because of our country's character
U.S.A was persuaded to do so.

In popular culture such as in Bollywood earlier movies had emotion as component of appeal to people but nowadays trend has shifted towards movies based on biographies such as Bhaag Milkha Bhaag based on life of athlete Milkha Singh, Mary Kom - first Indian ^{female} boxer to secure medal in Olympics etc.

Even advertisements have actors, athletes and famous personalities as their propagators. We often see Mahendra Singh Dhoni - in MRF tyre advertisement, Anirubh Bacchan in advertisements for Gujarat tourism, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan etc.

All examples point towards the fact that character may almost be called the most effective means of persuasion.



Does Character is only single mean of Persuasion? Character is not the sole deciding factor of persuasion, emotions too have major role to play.

After the advent of social media - true or good characters are hard to find and focus has turned towards emotional appeals.

Fake messages without any credible source and just with emotional appeal have potential to promote mob lynching, communal riots and enmity between different groups.

Many of the advertisements on television or social media are based on emotion appeals such as beauty advertisements and many more.

"Social dilemma" - this documentary showed how emotional appeals are commodified for the purpose of persuasion.

Therefore, character in most cases but emotional appeals too have role to

play in persuasion.

How we can develop good character?

Importance of character can be realised from following quotes:

" If money is lost nothing is lost
If health is lost something is lost
and if character is lost everything
is lost "

Good character can be developed by learnings from family values which promote compassion, honesty, integrity, love etc. These values are ingredients for upright character.

In school we can learn values of brotherhood, cooperation, teamwork, tolerance etc. Value education is must for the formation of virtuous character. From the lives of great leaders such as Martin Luther King, Steve Jobs, Mahatmas Gandhi etc we can learn how to develop good character and sustain it for whole life.

Paying attention to one's voice of conscience during moral, social or ethical dilemmas can help an individual to develop good character.

Meditation and quiet introspection is another way to become a man of good character.

Good character, therefore will act as means of persuasion.

Virtuous character can be used to persuade society to give up social evils, respect women, care for elders and treat everyone equally.

Although character is most effective means of persuasion but if character is powered by ill values, persuasion can be the reason for the destruction of persuaders.

It is very often seen during elections where politicians with strong character

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and its values divulge public opinion, toward among direction.

Countries like U.S.A with strong character but filled their own mean purposes persuade other developed countries to stand against developing country status of India.

Hence Right character should be there for effective and positive persuasion.

It was during 1965 Indo-Pak war, India suffered food supply shocks. Neither citizens nor soldiers fighting at front were able to get proper meal. During this time India was under the command of Lal Bahadur Shastri - man of impeccable character, filled with honesty, integrity and compassion. He then gave the slogan

"Jai Jaman, Jai Kisan". To help citizens out of the problem of famine like situation he persuaded



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whole country to skip one time meal so that needy and most vulnerable should get that part of food. He even himself skipped one time meal and because of such character, whole country obeyed the saying of their Prime Minister.

The result was that India crushed Pakistan on the battle field and hunger was buried in the agricultural field.

Individual with impeccable character persuaded citizens towards sustainable future.

Therefore, it can be rightly said that character may almost be called the most effective means of persuasion and other means being emotional appeal.

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for Kerala's growth. Local self-governments in the State are the proof of comprehensive, decentralised governance at the grassroots level. These factors together provided a strong foundation for the current government to work out the best performing model that the whole world appreciates.

These two examples are relevant to the current discussions as they point to the difference between two systems and their approaches to governance. The prospects of socialism making a comeback depend mainly on the alertness and ability of the socialist movement to find new answers to new questions. Socialist forces have spent much of their time in the past in discussing comparatively less important matters, mainly their internal squabbles, which have further led to their marginalisation in many countries. They have to come out of this self-destructive framework and learn to apply their ideology and politics to cope with the new situation.

History stands at a crossroads today. It would now be classified as "before and after COVID-19". Nothing in the world will be the same as what it was before the pandemic. Everything relating to human life will be different in the days to come. Not only health care but economics, politics, society will undergo change. All forms of private ownership in all sectors will have to depend on the public sector and government funds even for their survival. More than once in the past a capitalist crisis was resolved by utilising people's money and government funds. Even when a crisis was the creation of private capital, its solution was possible only by pumping in public funds.

Feedback

Markets, which were the driving spirit behind globalisation, had nurtured a fierce income divide even before the pandemic hit. As a result, the richest 1 per cent in the world have more than double the wealth of 6.9 billion people. The combined wealth of the world's richest 22 men is more than the wealth of the total women population in the whole of the African continent. The World Bank estimates that almost half of the world's population live on less than \$5.50 a day. Now during the pandemic all the mechanisms built up by the market stand exposed. They are helpless in providing solutions to people's distress. The TINA (There is no alternative) theory has been punctured. Naturally, people will search for alternatives. Socialist forces have to rise up to new occasions. The basic philosophical traits of socialism again emerge as the source of new solutions.

The ideological, political and organisational preparedness of the forces that subscribe to socialism is on test. Issues such as environment and social and gender justice cannot be secondary in their thinking anymore. Commitment to democracy should be at the heart of the quest for a new path.

Contemporary political developments across the world have witnessed a rightward swing where rulers, with their blind allegiance to the market, have become more and more authoritarian whereas the masses crave for democracy. Socialist forces should understand the meaning of the democratic aspirations of the people. That remains one of the crucial lessons from the fall of the command-control system of socialism, which cannot be a model anymore. The ways and means to translate this philosophical potential to a workable plan of action is also a part of the present challenge. The time has come for various streams of social change to put their heads together and shape a new world of hope. History will wait for none.

This essential reading article is a part of ForumIAS Essay Guidance Program.

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