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FIAS - EGP 2021 - Batch 2 - Essay Test #4

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GENERAL STUDIES

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-------|------------|
| Name Of Candidate | SUJAWAL JAGGA | | |
| Roll No. | 1910056467 | Date: | 03/12/2021 |

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

| INDEX TABLE | | | INSTRUCTION | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|------------------|---|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--|-----------|-----|------------------|
| Q. No. | Max. Marks | Marks Obtained | <p>1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet.</p> <p>2. There are TWO Sections. Each Section has MULTIPLE topics printed in English. You have to write on 1 topic from Each part</p> <p>3. One question in each part is compulsory.</p> <p>4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.</p> <p>5. 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.</p> <p>6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.</p> <p>7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.</p> <p><i>Any specific messages for ForumIAS Mentors/ Evaluators with respect to your copy? Write it here.</i></p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-----</p> | | | | | | | |
| Q.1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Q.2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Marks: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Remarks: | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | <p style="text-align: center;">For Student Only</p> <table border="1"><tr><td>Start Time 11:40 AM</td><td>End Time 3:05 PM</td></tr><tr><td>Mode Of Examination:</td><td>Online <input type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/></td></tr></table> <p style="text-align: center;">For Office Use Only</p> <table border="1"><tr><td>ECN CODE:</td><td>EG:</td><td>Evaluation Date:</td></tr></table> | Start Time 11:40 AM | End Time 3:05 PM | Mode Of Examination: | Online <input type="checkbox"/> Offline <input type="checkbox"/> | ECN CODE: | EG: | Evaluation Date: |
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| ECN CODE: | EG: | Evaluation Date: | | | | | | | | |

MARKING SCHEME

| <i>Parameter/Criteria</i> | <i>Aspects Considered</i> | <i>Total Marks</i> | <i>Essay 1</i> | <i>Essay 2</i> |
|------------------------------|--|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Basic Format</i> | Introduction + Conclusion | 10 | | |
| | Body | 15 | | |
| <i>Content</i> | Data/Facts/Interpretation/Analysis | 25 | | |
| <i>Organisation</i> | Flow of ideas/ Absence of Deviation from the topic | 25 | | |
| <i>Language Skills</i> | Punctuation/Grammar/Sentence Formation/Spellings | 25 | | |
| <i>Examiner's Discretion</i> | Perception/ Innovation/ Engaging | 25 | | |

| <i>Parameters</i> | <i>Very Good</i> | <i>Good</i> | <i>Average</i> | <i>Poor</i> |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| <i>Coherence</i> | | | | |
| <i>Language</i> | | | | |
| <i>Handwriting</i> | | | | |
| <i>Pre-writing</i> | | | | |

| <i>Very Good</i> | <i>Good</i> | <i>Average</i> |
|------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 120 and above | 100-120 | Below 100 |



SECTION - A

1. Can e-learning revolutionise education?

2. Healthcare as a fundamental right .

"AN INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION PAYS THE BEST INTEREST" said Benjamin Franklin.

The educated people are conscience-keepers of a humanity and growth engines of a nation .

In 2020, when Covid-19 pandemic gripped the world, in pursuit of continuing the virtue of education, e-learning became the makeshift arrangement. But due to prolonged lockdowns shutting down of schools, online classes, web based interactions and virtual lessons became the new normal. The ease, flexibility and accessibility brought by e-learning portrayed it

as new revolution in education. But the stark rich-poor, urban-rural and developed-developing country divide began to manifest, thus raising a million dollar question:

CAN E-LEARNING REVOLUTIONISE EDUCATION?

But during a once in a lifetime pandemic when thousands are dying, why do we have to wonder about e-learning or even education. The answer to this can be found in Nelson Mandela's words, "Education is the most potent weapon you can use to change the world." To solve most fundamental problems of world including pandemic, climate change, inequalities and patriarchy, we need better and better education.

Education helps a human being develop moral autonomy, emotional intelligence and compassion for others. It is in these ~~very~~ light of these virtuous qualities of education that the extremely critical role of e-learning in revolutionising education should be seen.

E-learning does not only include watching lectures on youtube or attending online classes, but it goes beyond to include even the pre-loaded tablets or DVDs which have educational content. Any usage of an electronic device, medium or internet to improve delivery of education is covered in ambit of e-learning. The satellite based classes (like Eten, Aldine) or smart

Classes and smart projects also belong to e-learning family. The most potent revolution that e-learning is bringing in education is INCLUSIVITY.

"You educate a man, you educate a man, you educate a woman, you educate a generation." said Brigham Young.

With e-learning, female gross enrollment ratio and learning outcomes are bound to increase, given that current literacy rate of women is 65% compared to that of males of 82% (Census 2011).

Not just women but the physically disabled people (4% in India) will also be able to get better access to education while sitting at home. The stark urban-rural divide which is prevalent today,

will reduce as a village child can also watch some lectures and read same material which an elite urban kid is reading in an international school. Moreover the tribals who live in hinterland, or the inhabitants of cold desert in Ladakh to Khasi hills of Meghalaya will experience a new revolution not just in education but altogether in their lives.

Besides accessibility, affordability and inclusivity, e-learning can also bring a revolution in Values Based Education and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECE). Since educating the mind, without educating the heart is no

education at all, e-learning educates both head and heart. Delivery of moral lessons through animated videos, engaging movies (like CHAR SAHIB JAADE - how four sons of Guru Gobind Singh, less than 15 years of age sacrificed their lives) impacts both cognition and emotion. Moreover, in today's era of nuclear families and working parents, e-learning ensures both safety and learning outcomes in ECCE.

"Education is not memory of facts, but the training of mind." said

Einstein. And this training is not just limited to books but sports and extra-curricular activities also. Sports lessons by legends like Vishwanathan Anand on

youtube are a big boon for chess enthusiasts. Multiple dancing, singing, painting tutorials and paid mentorship is bringing revolution to provide holistic education. The revolutionary potential of e-learning extends to higher-education and skilling sector also.

Since India has a handful of IITs, IIMs, AIIMS, and the youngest population in world, it is leading to both demand and supply side pressures. E-learning can bridge this gap besides creating world class human capital which can serve not only India but the whole humanity. Today India has only 5.4% of workforce as formally trained compared to 96% in South Korea. e-learning and tutorials

in toy-making, masonry, carpentry and other vocational courses can make India the world's skill capital, as envisioned by our honourable PM. Not only industry, but our farmers and fishermen can also be educated of sustainable and productive farm practices to address primary sector's distress, besides saving fishermen's lives through dissemination of weather forecast.

An excellent quality of e-learning is that it promotes both foreign ~~learners~~ education and preservation of local languages. On one hand, courses at Udemy, Coursera from professors of Harvard, Cambridge can be addressed and on the other hand, all popular literature

can be accessed in local languages. Besides revolutionising all the aspects of education, meant for materialistic success, e-learning also promotes spiritual education. The explanatory sessions on Bhagwad Gita, step by step guide for meditation and yoga exercises bring revolution not just in education, but for whole earth and beyond. It is in realisation of all these benefits that we see a host of measures undertaken in India and abroad for proliferation of e-learning.

Government of India came up with New Education Policy 2020 (NEP-2020) to promote remote learning and correspondence courses. DIKSHA (Digital Information and Knowledge

Shiksha) platform for training and e-Paathshala (digital books) have been mainstreamed. National Education Technology Forum and National Digital Education Architecture have been envisaged. At global stage also we see similar trend and subsidised laptops, tablets are becoming new normal. But China came down heavily on edtech industry, even closing down of certain companies overnight. This tough stand of Chinese authorities highlights the limitations and challenges that e-learning brings with it.

The most significant limitation is absence of experiential learning - you cannot learn swimming just by reading a book.

Moreover, a child fails to learn from peers, the qualities of friendship, cooperation and leadership. The parochial interpretation of education as a tool for success might advocate social Darwinism rather than Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas. Since there is lot of flexibility in e-learning, it can make a child complacent and undisciplined also. Further, there is a risk of widening of inequalities of class, caste and region as only privileged ones have access to digital infrastructure, as highlighted by ASER report.

Not to forget of the huge strain on eyes due to on-screen hours, e-learning also leads to invasion of privacy, both directly and indirectly.

Further the perils of cyber bullying, hacking and child pornography ~~are~~ demand adequate attention of policy makers.

The recent suicides witnessed in different parts of world due to leakage of morphed images or failure to get access to e-learning shows that we have to make a holistic policy and take comprehensive steps to truly realise e-learning's potential.

We can start by drafting a comprehensive e-learning policy and guidelines. Training and sensitisation of parents, teachers and children is important. Scaling up digital infrastructure, (under Digital India Mission), subsidising tablets and laptops is important so that the children

of Ladakh and kids of Khasi hills of Meghalaya get benefits in reality and not just as lip service. Building a local e-learning app to replace zoom or meet is need of hour.

Norms for data localisation, privacy and stringent punishment for child or women related crimes can go a long way in ensuring safe e-learning space.

With an honest intent, above stated steps and cooperation of all stakeholders, we can realise true revolution in education through e-learning. Because as Victor Hugo said

NO FORCE CAN STOP AN IDEA
WHOSE TIME HAS COME.

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. The Truth doesn't have versions, it just is.
2. Success comes from curiosity, perseverance, and self-criticism.

Being a child he always wanted to be a footballer but his curiosity for cricket pushed him to play a bit of cricket also. Once during a school match, the official wicketkeeper got hurt and he was called in as replacement. His excellent and match-winning performance brought him fame and increased his interest in cricket. Despite years of practice, he was not selected in Indian team, but he did not give up and showed PERSEVERANCE. Whenever he got out even after securing a hundred, he would not boast but would CRITICISE HIMSELF as to why

he got out. Eventually he got a call from national team and climbed up the SUCCESS ladder to become the only Indian captain to lead India into winning T20 world cup 2007, Champions trophy 2013 and 50-50 World Cup 2011.

Without doubt, the man we are talking about is MS Dhoni - Captain Cool!!

Every individual on this earth wants to achieve success but unfortunately only a few achieve it. On a deeper analysis of MS Dhoni's success story - we can find three key ingredients of success - CURIOSITY, PERSEVERANCE and SELF CRITICISM.

Let us discuss each of these in detail.

Curiosity means the yearning to know more or inquisitiveness to learn extra. It is curiosity which drives us to explore uncharted territory. It is so true that The more we know, the more our ignorance unfolds. It was this curiosity in Gautam Buddha that on seeing four sights including that of a dying man, an old man, which prompted him to leave the royal household and explore the spiritual path, which finally brought him NIRVANA. Similarly, in material world, it was Newton's curiosity on seeing a falling apple which led to discovery of gravity and earned him success. If a person lacks curiosity, he is just like a frog of a well, who believes

it to be the universe, completely unaware of vast oceans outside. While curiosity can spark the fire of success inside, it is actually PERSEVERANCE which keeps it burning.

You cannot defeat a person who refuses to give up. Thus a person with perseverance is bound to achieve success sooner or later. It was more than 1000 unsuccessful experiments to develop an electric bulb which Thomas Alva Edison had to face before getting the successful formula. And today the whole world is shining under Edison's light. It is not easy to face repeated failures but it is definitely worthy to put your chin up, else the crown will slip down.

The highest and most rewarding pursuits demand continuous efforts because

WHATEVER IS WORTHY, DOESN'T COME EASILY,
AND

WHATEVER COMES EASILY, IS NOT WORTH IT.

Having curiosity to explore the road not taken, backed by perseverance to continue that path is not enough, one also needs continuous self assessment as to what is right and what is wrong so as to reach the pinnacle of success easily, happily and timely. During repeal of farm laws recently, our Honorable Prime Minister took up the onus of failure of his farm laws on his government by saying that they failed to communicate & properly the benefits of

new laws. This gesture earned him a lot of respect and credibility for future actions. Guru Granth Sahib also mentions "Bahar Kya Dhoonday, Kamaliye, Shaho Nede...". [What do you seek outside, for everything is inside you]. All the solutions to the problems we encounter on our path to success are inside us, hence self criticism is imperative.

We have now understood the importance of golden trinity of curiosity, perseverance and self-criticism for success. However it should be noted that presence of two without the third can make success elusive. Absence of self criticism was reflected in Ramayana where Raavan

failed to assess his errors and hence despite being intelligent and mighty was killed. In the same vein, being curious and self critic but lack of perseverance will lead to discouragement and a person might not be able to see the sun of success. But does the presence of all three ingredients guarantee success?

No! and Yes! - the answer is both to the above question, depending on how one looks at it. Despite exhibiting curiosity, perseverance and self criticism, a person might ^{still} not ~~still~~ achieve his desired goal and be labelled as unsuccessful. However it is a parochial interpretation of success.

As Bhagwad Gita lays down the concept of Nishkam Karma [Full effort in full victory]. So an individual is successful if he exhibited all three traits without fail. Mahavira Jain did not earn a formal degree or secured first rank in some competition. But still he is regarded as Good and worshipped worldwide - he is 'successful'. It is because he got success over himself - JINA - Conqueror of senses. The intrinsic satisfaction and happiness should define success and not what the materialistic view is.

Having discussed the importance of our golden trinity for success of human being, we should also explore whether

curiosity, perseverance and self criticism can help solve larger global challenges.

Environmental challenges of air pollution and climate change can be solved easily if all the nations have curiosity to find alternatives to fossil fuels, perseverance of cooperating with each other and above all when developed nations can accept their responsibility for largest greenhouse gas emissions.

Similarly, terrorism and radicalisation demands inquisitiveness of why people become terrorists and then some introspection or self criticism by nations like Pakistan about their policy of state sponsored terrorism. Similarly, Afghanistan

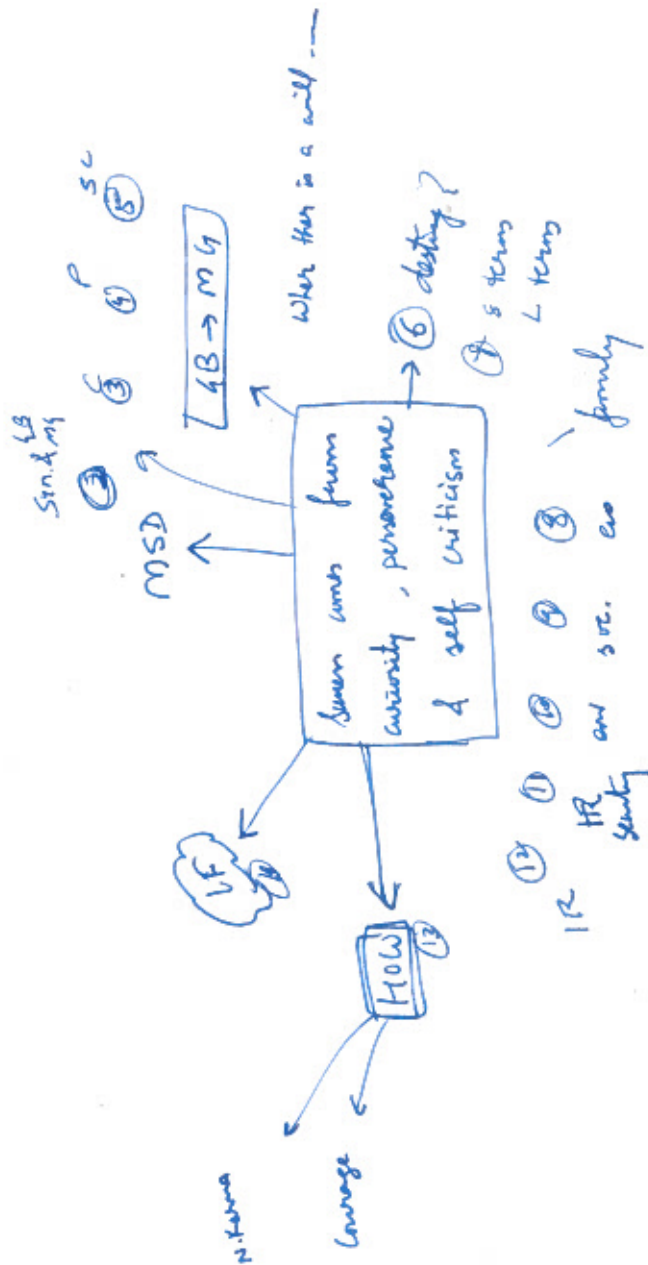
crisis, nuclear proliferation and cyber crimes demand continued cooperation and courage in nations to take up responsibility to do their part.

As a nation, India also needs to introspect & self-critic its policies as to why even after 70 years of independence: 50% females are anaemic, a rape is committed every 20 minutes and

casteism, communalism and racism still haunt us. Only when as a nation we are curious to find reasons and then have perseverance to execute the solutions that we can truly become

SELF RELIANT INDIA or realise the vision of Ram Rajya of Gandhiji.

Discussing about importance of Curiosity,
perseverance and self criticisms reminds
me of Rudyard Kipling's poem "IF",
where he said that if you can
hold up your head when others are
doubting you, if you can again pick
up your tools and start rebuilding
from zero, and if you can fill
a minute with sixty seconds worth
of time, then yours is the earth
and everything is it!



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

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