

Time Allowed : Three Hours
समय : तीन घंटे

ForumIAS

Maximum Marks : 250
अधिकतम अंक : 250

ESSAY / निबंध

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	Amrha		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	1910129319	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	1900	Date/दिनांक	17/07/2023

*Center Code : For Online - 1900 / Delhi : Karol bagh - 1901, ORN - 1902, Mukharji Nagar - 1903 / Patna : Boring Rd. - 2001 / Hyderabad : Jawahar Nagar - 2101

INDEX TABLE / अनुक्रमणिका			INSTRUCTION / अनुदेश		
Q. No. प्र.सं.	Max. Marks अधिकतम अंक	Marks Obtained प्राप्तांक	1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet. कृपया उत्तर-पुस्तिका में नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर और मोबाइल नंबर भरें।		
Q.1			2. There are TWO Sections. Each Section has MULTIPLE topics printed in English/Hindi. You have to write on 1 topic from Each part. प्रश्न पत्र में दो खंड हैं। प्रत्येक खंड में अंग्रेजी/हिंदी में बहु-विषय मुद्रित हैं। आपको प्रत्येक भाग में से किसी एक विषय का लेखन करना है।		
Q.2			3. One question in each part is compulsory. प्रत्येक भाग में से एक प्रश्न करना अनिवार्य है।		
Total Marks/कुल अंक			4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. एक प्रश्न/भाग द्वारा किए गए अंकों की संख्या इसके सामने इंगित की गई है।		
Remarks/टिप्पणी :			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. उत्तर प्रवेश पत्र में अधिकृत माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जो कि दिए गए स्थान में इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के कवर पर स्पष्ट रूप से लिखा जाना चाहिए।		
			6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, यदि निर्दिष्ट हो, का पालन किया जाना चाहिए।		
			7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off. प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा गया कोई भी पृष्ठ या पृष्ठ का भाग स्पष्ट रूप से काट दिया जाना चाहिए।		
For Student Only / केवल परीक्षार्थी प्रयोग हेतु					
Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय :			End Time/समाप्त करने का समय :		
Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि :			Online/ऑनलाइन <input type="checkbox"/> Offline/ऑफलाइन <input type="checkbox"/>		
For Office Use Only / केवल कार्यालय प्रयोग हेतु					
ECN CODE/ ईसीएन कोड :		EG/ईजी :		Evaluation Date/ मूल्यांकन तिथि :	
		① ② ③ ④ ⑤			

MARKING SCHEME

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

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

Very Good	Good	Average
120 and above	100-120	Below 100

**SECTION - A**

1. We need greater environmental awareness and sustainable development in the face of climate change and ecocide.
हमें जलवायु परिवर्तन और प्राकृतिक विच्छेदन के सामने अधिक पर्यावरण जागरूकता और सतत विकास की आवश्यकता है।
2. A moral system valid for all is basically immoral.
सभी के लिए मान्य एक नैतिक प्रणाली मूलतः अनैतिक है।
3. The pursuit of knowledge leads to the discovery of truth.
ज्ञान की खोज सत्य की खोज की ओर ले जाती है।
4. Less is more and small is beautiful: the new mantra for world peace
अल्प अधिक है और छोटा सुंदर है : विश्व शांति के लिए नया मंत्र

"A moral system valid for all is basically immoral"

On June 24, 2022, the US Supreme Court overturned the historic Roe vs Wade decision protecting women's right to abortion. Across the world, the Indian Supreme Court enacted the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, which safeguards women's rights to abortion up till 24 weeks of pregnancy. This contrast shows differing moral

attitudes towards the concept of abortion.

Nietzsche's words emphasize that moral norms cannot be universal, because this very feature would make them immoral.

This essay shall examine the implications of a moral system valid for all, futility of such a system, and how differences can be reconciled, using examples from personal and professional lives.

Moral system valid for all =
Practically, a mirage

A moral system universally valid would imply that values and norms of morality would be the same for all persons. Different practices of different communities would be judged by the same moral yardstick. Hence all persons must view events and practices through

the same moral lens. Hence people should feel morally outraged by the same events and feel exactly the same way about various happenings and issues.

In reality, though, this is neither possible nor desirable. Morality, like life, is rarely black-and-white. More often than not, it is shaded with grey. Very often, a particular thing cannot be said to be right or wrong, good or bad.

Human beings have always had differing opinions and perspectives on things. For example, let us consider the simple question of diet. For someone who keeps pets, the idea of consuming dog meat would seem abhorrent and repulsive. Yet, in many parts of the world, such as Spain,

dog meat and horse meat are routinely consumed. This does not make either side right or wrong. It is simply a matter of perspective.

Similarly, the question of sex work is one that polarises public opinion.

While many believe that it is immoral and morally repugnant, sex workers themselves contend that they enjoy rights to livelihood. This profession enables them to sustain themselves and their families. A universal system holding such work as unethical, would deny these women ~~the~~ ^{even} the limited economic empowerment they enjoy.

A universally valid moral system cannot be justified because everyone has their own unique set of circumstances and challenges. Further, something that is immoral ~~is~~ under normal conditions,

may be morally acceptable in exceptional circumstances. For instance, it is normally considered immoral to kill someone. However, if one is confronted by a potential rapist, killing that person, while still a grave crime, does have a different significance.

In the same way, while we in India are moving towards women's empowerment, many nations in the Middle East consider it wrong for women to study and work. Gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution, but Saudi Arabia until recently did not even allow women to drive cars.

Cultural differences influence notions of morality. In Asian countries, respect for elders and collectivism is encouraged. Disobeying one's elders is considered morally wrong and unacceptable. In stark contrast, the

West is characterised by individualism and an individual's desires. The will or wishes of parents and elders are not accorded as much importance.

Thus, a universal set of moral values and norms cannot be justified.

Dangers of having such a system :

A universal system with uniform values is dangerous because it subsumes cultural diversity and seeks to impose a homogeneous pattern of behaviour to be followed by diverse individuals and groups.

It is a threat to cultural practices of different groups. For example, polyandry i.e., the marriage of one woman to two or more men, is commonly practised in Jainsor, Uttarakhand. While such a system may seem strange and unfair to women, the Khosas of Jainsor-Bawar justify it on economic grounds.

Similarly, it reduces the spectrum of diverse perspectives on issues affecting contemporary ~~social~~ ^{human} society. Let us take the case of 'development'.

This term is an extremely important one, for the progress of the human race. Yet, what is development for some, may not be seen as such for all. For instance, the Polaroram project along the River Godavari is expected to benefit Telangana through job creation and infrastructure development. For the Konda Reddi tribe displaced from their forests and beloved river Godavari, however, it means a loss of livelihood. Above all, it means cutting the link between them and the river Godavari which is sacred and integral to their lives.

In the same fashion, clothes too have been an eternal subject of debate. In many Muslim nations, the

burqa is mandatory for women while in France, the burqa was banned. Many young girls in India find it comfortable to wear jeans, but their grandparents might regard such attire as 'not suitable'. Hence one cannot dictate to others what to wear, as this would impinge on individual freedom and autonomy.

Yet another reason a universal moral system is undesirable, is that it could lead to violations of human rights. An act which seems immoral may have some benefit in the long run. A case in point is Edward Snowden, who revealed confidential information relating to the US government. Certainly, this violated professional ethics and confidentiality. However, it highlighted the more alarming fact of state

surveillance of citizens by the US' National Security Agency (NSA) which was a gross violation of citizens' right to privacy.

Living with Moral Contradictions: A Roadmap

Thus, it is clear that universal morality not really necessary or desirable. Now, the question arises, how to resolve these differences and contradictions?

First and foremost, moral relativism as a principle must be embraced. We must accept that others' views on morality need not necessarily align with our own. No one culture or moral view is superior to another.

Secondly, policies and frameworks must be designed keeping in mind attitudes and values of different

stakeholders. eg. when planning development projects in vulnerable areas, concerns of locals must be taken into account.

values of democracy, secularism, tolerance are important, but may need to be adapted to suit local needs eg. in West Asia.

Further, we must be proud of ~~the~~ ^{our} diversity which reflects in differing cultural mores and values. We must be tolerant and accepting of one another.

No Universally Valid Moral System =
A Disclaimer

While there may not be a one-size-fits-all system of moral values and norms, certain morals must be followed by all. For example, rape, torture, murder is a flagrant violation of human rights. These cannot be accepted. Similarly, female genital

mutilation is a horrific practice that leaves young girls scarred for life, physically, mentally and emotionally. Such brutal practices cannot be condoned.

Therefore, there is no one truth. What is right for one person, may be wrong for another. What I consider immoral, may be perfectly acceptable to another individual. Thus, we must bear this in mind while adhering to certain basic values of equality, liberty, right to dignity that are non-negotiable.

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Feedback

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

**SECTION - B**

1. Investment in human resource development can ensure security of future society.
मानव संसाधन विकास में निवेश से भावी समाज की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित की जा सकती है।
2. Men survive on adversity and perish in ease and comfort.
व्यक्ति प्रतिकूल परिस्थितियों में जीवित रहते हैं और सुविधा एवं आराम से नष्ट हो जाते हैं।
3. Every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future.
प्रत्येक संत का एक अतीत होता है, और प्रत्येक पापी का एक भविष्य होता है।
4. Ethical issues arise only when science is applied to technology.
नैतिक मुद्दे केवल तभी उत्पन्न होते हैं जब विज्ञान प्रौद्योगिकी पर लागू किया जाता है।

"Men survive on adversity and perish in ease and comfort."

Once upon a time, there was a man who was fond of butterflies. One day he observed a butterfly struggling to emerge from the tiny opening of a cocoon. He decided to help the butterfly by cutting open the cocoon with a pair of scissors, making space for the butterfly to fly out. To his disbelief, he saw that the

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creature had a disabled body which hindered its flight.

The man later understood that the struggle faced by the butterfly was essential for its development. By interrupting the process, he had hampered its progress.

The same principle applies to us human beings too. It is adversity which chisels a remarkable individual out of an ordinary human being.

This essay shall discuss adversity and how it helps people survive; as well as how ease and comfort paradoxically hinder the process of development.

Adversity: something that we dread

Adversity refers to difficult circumstances that test a person's physical and mental capabilities in different ways. It could take different

forms - failure, loss, rejection,
illness, disability or bereavement.

What is common to all of these is
that we fear each of them. We are
scared to face them.

No one wants to fail or lose. We
all want to win, to succeed, to do
well. It is natural, too, because that
is what we strive for. Success brings
happiness, fame, prestige. Of course we
want it. And so we chase it.

Adversity, on the other hand, makes
us feel miserable. It makes us feel
sad and dejected. It makes us feel
hopeless and dejected. Consequently, we
would all prefer to avoid adversity.

We do not like to talk about our
failures. We do not even think about
the possibility of rejection or failure.

Difficult times are seen as an ordeal
to be escaped at the earliest. However,
adversity may actually benefit it.

(The Hidden Benefits of Adversity):

Despite all of the unpleasantness that adversity brings, adversity can benefit people if taken in the right spirit.

Adversity can bring greater rewards than a person could have dreamt of before facing those adverse circumstances. A shining example of this is Ishitakishore, AIR 1 in UPSC CSE, 2022. She failed the preliminary examination 2 consecutive times, which left her dejected. Yet, undaunted, with relentless hardwork, she staged the most staggering of comebacks to clinch the top spot. Thus, adversity reveals a person's resilience and perseverance.

Adversity compels one to think creatively and be innovative. It enables one to think of new ideas which one might otherwise not have considered. For example,

Richard Branson, Virgin Group founder, started several business ventures which failed miserably. He was thus driven to explore new business opportunities, and is today one of the richest men in the world.

Furthermore, adversity reveals to us previously hidden reserves of mental strength, helping us to surmount all obstacles. To illustrate, Karoly Takacs was a Hungarian shooter who lost his right hand to a grenade explosion. Disappointed, but not defeated, he taught himself to shoot with his left hand. Takacs went on to win two Olympic gold medals in 25 metres rapid fire pistol.

Also, adversity forces us to confront our own limitations. When faced with a difficult situation, we

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realise that we are not invincible. This can be a humbling and valuable experience. Acknowledging our shortcomings is the first step to rectifying them.

~~Moreover~~ Moreover, adversity contributes to character-building by instilling empathy and compassion. Undergoing tough times makes one more sensitive to the challenges faced by others. This can transform one into a more caring and understanding individual, benefiting one's personal and professional relationships.

Thus, adversity can work for the good of an individual. Let us now consider its polar opposite - comfort.

Ease and Comfort: Stark Contrast to Adversity

Ease and comfort are what we all dream of. As hedonist philosophy describes it, we aim to maximise pleasure and minimise pain. This is,

of course, understandable. We would like to be happy, to enjoy material comforts, the finer things in life. We find ease and comfort two of the most desirable things in this world.

The goal of millions is to 'eat, drink, be merry'. To attain this is their life's biggest ambition. Gratification of pleasure stands out as something to be attained at all costs. While ease and comfort certainly feel good, it may be worthwhile to ponder whether they are as helpful for human character.

Perishing in ease and comfort:

A life of ease and comfort ironically may prove detrimental in certain ways. For example, a son of a rich businessman is accustomed to a life of luxury. Since he has all his wishes fulfilled, he does not realise the value of money. Further, if he

does not work hard, he may squander his father's wealth and eventually end up in penury.

A life in one's comfort zone may seem gratifying, but hinders one from reaching one's true potential. For instance, a student who does just well enough to pass his examinations, may not work hard enough to do better. On the other hand, his friend who fails once, will find it crushing, ~~but~~ yet he uses it as inspiration to excel by securing 100% marks the next time.

Further, living in one's comfort zone often results in people being complacent and drifting wherever the current takes them. Safety and security could prevent one from exploring different opportunities for realising one's self-worth.

Let us suppose that an elected government has continued in office for 15 years. A sense of security creeps in. Governance and administration become lax, which damages the reputation of the government. In contrast, emergence of a new political party would be seen as diversity, a threat to their electoral dominance. However, this competition could spur the original party to identify its shortcomings and regain the trust of the people.

Thus, a life of ease and comfort is enjoyable but not ideal when it comes to achieving one's goals. A certain amount of struggle will facilitate the process of personal growth and character development of an individual. Getting everything easy rarely has long-term benefits.

Facing Adversity Head-on: When Life Gives you Lemons, Make Lemonade

It is undeniable that no one plans to have adversity in their life. Which person has deliberately made provision in life's plan for adversities? Troubles are not wanted; they are shunned.

Yet, few of us escape adversity. If we examine the lives of people around us, we find that it is rarely ever smooth sailing all the way.

Life has its difficulties which test our souls. To believe we shall not face adversity, is wishful thinking.

This should not alarm us. We should not be scared of the future because of this. We must prepare for it, and learn from it. We must be ready to meet it bravely and confidently, so

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that we are not overwhelmed.

We must therefore summon all our mental resources - courage, will power and determination - to meet adversity fearlessly. We must adopt a positive attitude and look for the silver lining in adversity, because there usually is one. Optimism and self-awareness are key to correcting mistakes that one has made. Additionally, one must be prepared to work hard to overcome adversity.

Therefore, adversity develops character. We can develop patience, loyalty and understanding after facing adversity. Often, wisdom is acquired only after going through difficult circumstances. Serenity and boldness are the hallmarks of those who have mastered adversity.

Thus, adversity can be an opportunity,
a blessing in disguise that we must
leverage for realising our true potential.

"Sweet are the uses of adversity which,
venomous like a toad, wears yet
A precious jewel in its head".

- William Shakespeare,
'As You Like 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