

TEST CODE 6 2 0 3 0 4

FIAS - MGP 2023 – (C-13 Alt) – Essay Test (FLT) #4

Time Allowed : 3 Hours  
समय : 3 घंटे**Forum IAS**Maximum Marks : 250  
अधिकतम अंक : 250**ESSAY / निबंध**

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	<i>Chhaya Singh</i>		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	1910057936	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	Online	Date/दिनांक	31/09/23

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

INDEX TABLE / अनुक्रमिका			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. Write <b>two</b> essays, choosing <b>one</b> topic from each of the following Section A and B in about 1000 - 1200 words each. खण्ड A व B प्रत्येक में से एक विषय चुनकर दो निबंध लिखिए, जो प्रत्येक लगभग 1000 - 1200 शब्दों का हो।	
Q.2			3. 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।	
Total Marks/कुल अंक			4. 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।	
Remarks/टिप्पणी :			5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, यदि निर्दिष्ट हो, का पालन किया जाना चाहिए।	
			6. 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।	
<b>For Student Only / केवल परीक्षार्थी प्रयोग हेतु</b>				
Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय :			End Time/समाप्त करने का समय :	
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<b>For Office Use Only / केवल कार्यालय प्रयोग हेतु</b>				
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>Marks Allotted</i>	<i>Essay 1</i>	<i>Essay 2</i>
<b>Basic Format</b>	Introduction	10		
	Body	15		
	Conclusion	10		
<b>Content</b>	Topic interpretation	10		
	Quotations and ideas	10		
	Analytical skills	10		
<b>Organization</b>	Flow of ideas	10		
	Absence of deviation	10		
	Ease of reading	10		
<b>Language skills</b>	Language and sentence construction	10		
	Grammar and spelling	10		
<b>Examiner's discretion</b>	perception/ innovation/ engaging	10		

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

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



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Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
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## Section - A

The only impossible journey is the one you never begin.

Every year thousands of animals, birds, insects engage in migration. These long journeys are undertaken to find suitable conditions for living, breeding, feeding and taking care of other necessities. While this may sound simple at first, some of these journeys are too difficult to even comprehend. The Siberian cranes fly above Mt. Everest at sub-zero temperatures, with minimal oxygen. The herds of wildebeest make their way across grasslands of Africa, encountering countless predators in their way.

Mother nature provides us with ample examples that what seems impos



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उम्मीदवारों को इस हार्शिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
Candidates must not write on this margin

possible otherwise, is very well possible. Hence, the only impossible journey is the one you never begin.

Humans are nothing but a small part of this planet earth. What is applicable to other creatures, is applicable to us also. Throughout history, humans have undertaken many journeys which seemed impossible at first. In fact, it is these journeys which have kept us alive through difficult times like Ice age. While others, such as Neanderthals who refused to undertake the journey, due to seeming impossibility, simply perished.

A journey is a voyage. It is a path that one person travels. It



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उम्मीदवारों को इस क्राशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।  
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can be a road to achieve a pre-determined goal. Such as, Edison's discovery of bulb. Or it could be a path of inner-discovery, such as, socialis exom-nation of life. A journey is what gives purpose to life. It provides a road to fulfilling dreams.

Historically, this process has been attached very high value. Evidently, all mythological and religious figures have taken on a journey to self-realisation. Whether it's Buddha's Dharm-achakragarivartana or Narair's achi-cerment of Kuesya. Their importance arises from the fact that not everyone has the guts to tread on the path of these seemingly impossible journeys.



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Today, we remember famous sailors like Christopher Columbus, Vasco Da Gama, but why? Why don't we remember others from this generation? The answer lies in the impossibility of journey they undertook. When Vasco Da Gama came to India, there was no guarantee that there is a way beyond Cape of Good Hope. Imagine, if this journey would have never been undertaken, we would have never known.

These journeys are not just big events. They can also be classified as small battles a person may face each day. Whether it be rising up early, or taking out time to exercise in a busy schedule, or eating right, or just simply



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finishing the task we have been proceed-  
-ing. seems impossible at first. One  
can find multitude of reasons to ignore  
these. Only when one gathers the will  
and determination to this; does she  
realise the reason behind impossibility  
was the unwillingness to start.

when a task is fixed, a journey  
is mapped out, all the risks and  
challenges are anticipated, it always  
seems impossible at first. This is the  
reason why so many talented youth  
of the country are wary of joining sta-  
-ships and eye for traditional government  
jobs. It is the seering impossibility.  
Whereas, those who undertake this journey  
such as swiggy, ola, zomato are hugely  
successful.

The thing to remember is, without



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beginning, one starts without trying.  
As was remarked by Lao Tzu, "The journey of thousand miles, begins with a single step". It is important to begin somewhere. Take for example, a simple fruit seller - Kaichella Kaichella opened up his own school for underprivileged children, by saving a little each day.

The most difficult part is showing up to the starting line. No wonder Marathon Runners regard it as work half done. There are many things that prevent one from showing up. So may be comfort zone, fear of the unknown. At this point, the important thing required is



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courage of conviction .

This courage is evident in various successful organisations . Take for instance, Reliance Industries . It was started when Indian policies were anti-capitalist to say the least . Another example is ISRO . Vikram Sarabhai , launched the first rocket from India, after transporting it from a bicycle stand today India is on the moon . If we hadn't undertaken this journey in the first instance, then how would we have finished this impossible journey from a bicycle to a billion dreams .

It is not to say, that only begining is enough . It also requires persistence to carry on a difficult





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journey. Everybody has heard the poem of one ant who keeps falling down from a wall but keeps getting up again and again to fulfill her goal. It is necessary to not give up. What if Rosa Parks had given up on her challenge to white supremacy? What if Mahatma Gandhi had given up on Independence after Non-cooperation in 1922 only?

To understand this concept of beginning and persisting through an impossible journey at a macro-scale, the story of India after Independence provides a beautiful example. The then famous European leaders, ex. Winston Churchill, scoffed at the idea



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of democracy and secularism in a country like India. The predictions were that India would not last for 10 years also. What if we had given into the warnings of naysayers? What would our country look like now?

Instead, India stuck to its goal. It undertook the seemingly 'impossible' journey on is now the world largest democracy. The journey was fraught with challenges. There were times when the foundations were shook, eg- Babri Masjid demolition - 1992, Godhra riots - 2002, but we managed the crisis well. India came out stronger. But we would have never known, if we would have never started.





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In the recent past, also, during the COVID-19 pandemic. India did not have the capacity to make PPEs. Vaccine development also took years, generally. It is only when we started working on what seemed impossible, did we become the 2nd largest PPE manufacturer in the world and also developed Covaxin.

Despite the clear upside of undertaking these journeys, the odds are also that one will fail. ~~are~~ Even, miserably. Still, beginning is the only way to know the outcome. Today, the planet earth stands on cross roads. There are various challenges facing us, example climate change, war, terrorism. At present it looks



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impossible to deal with these. But we never know till we begin. The world needs to come together as one singular entity to deal with this. There are two roads diverging in the yellow woods. One is to continue like present. The other is <sup>likely</sup> impossible but has the potential to change future. Just like Robert Frost, till we take it, we would not know whether it can make all the difference.





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## Section - B

Knowledge / Experience

Doubt is the origin of wisdom

(eg) ~~Geocentric heliocentric model~~

(eg) Church orthodoxy → Renaissance

India → socio-religious reform movements.

Buddhism / Jainism

Light → particle / wave / Quantum physics  
th. of relativity

Admin → RTI

Life → Socialis / UBI/BIAT

AI → Law Altman

Doubt life beyond earth

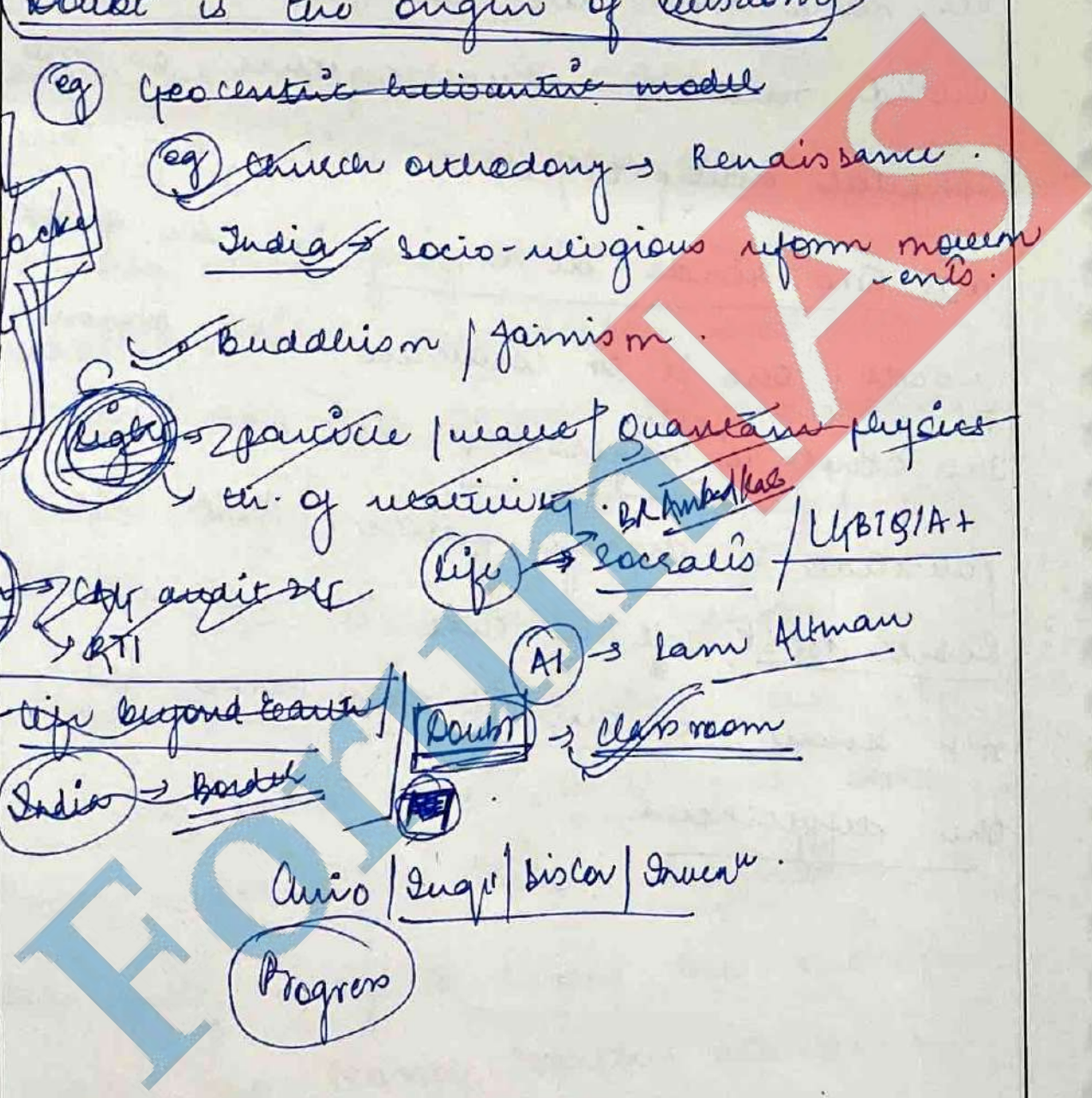
Doubt → Classroom

India → Border

Auto / Super / Sister / Invention

Progress

Cited  
John Locke  
↓  
Tabula  
Rasa





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## Section B

Doubt is the origin of wisdom.

This is a well established norm that after taking a class, a lecturer asks for doubts from the attendees. If nobody asks any it leads to two presumptionptions. That either everyone understood everything or nobody understood anything! All of us have been at either side of the spectrum in our lives.

The fundamental premise underlying this is, it is only when we raise a doubt we realise the crux of a topic. Now, the first doubt which arises is, what is a doubt? It is simply a question which comes in our mind. It can be instant or come





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after a lot of thought. Say for instance, Newton's doubt of why an apple falls from a tree?

This doubt then sends us on the quest of looking for answers. This quest leads us to wisdom. What is wisdom? It is nothing but knowledge - e coupled with experience. It is only when we raise a question can we even think of gaining knowledge. Hence, the quote, doubt is the origin of wisdom.

The next question which arises is when does this process start? It starts as soon as a person is born. Children are usually defined by their inquisitiveness. Everyday questions, such as,



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Why the sky is blue? What is this air coming in and out of nose? so on and so forth. John Locke has defined a child as Tabula Rasa (Blank slate).

It is these doubts which leads them to an understanding of world around them.

As humans grow older, these doubts regarding life further increase. According to Socrates, this spirit of examination is what makes life worth living. At a personal level, Buddha's examination of his life led him to find wisdom of Madhyamarga (Middle Path). It is not surprising to see that Buddhist text such as "Milindpanho" is written in question - answer format between the





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King ~~Meander~~ Meander and Buddhist monk Nagasena.

This doubt raising capacity, in the present scenario, answers many individual questions. From simple answers such as which subject scream to choose in 11th standard. To complex questions such as different gender identity to what is assigned at birth. This capacity of doubting leads to self-inspection and consequently, wisdom. This ultimately helps in ~~under~~ realising the full potential of an individual.

The next doubt which arises is, along with personal life what are the other fields in which doubt leads to wisdom? The first thing which



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Spring to mind is science. Doubts have, historically, led to various discoveries and inventions. The discovery of heliocentric model of earth is due to a doubt raised by Copernicus against the established rule of geo-centricity. It is only when Einstein questioned, the particle nature of light could he arrive at the dual nature of light and the conclusion, that all of us are both a particle and a wave at the same time!

Another interesting field could be "Administration". It forms an essential component of running a nation. The power is usually in the hands of few, along with being discretionary at times.





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It is only when the citizenry raises a doubt, do they understand how this is exercised. It could be via mechanisms such as RTI or audit. For instance, a doubt regarding spectrum allocation process led to uncovering of 2G scam. This vigilance led to wisdom of citizens of improper utilisation of their money.

Hence, it is only when one doubts, one progresses. So what happens to a society which stops doubting? Here, instead of gaining wisdom and progress-  
-ing, it becomes stagnant and regressi-  
-ve. A case in point would be 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century Europe, which was embodied in the dark ages. There



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were Holy crusades, famines, and plagues.

It is only with the spirit of enquiry during Renaissance did the European society develop and voyages around the world were undertaken.

Closer to home, the doubts regarding "white supremacy" and evangelical mission of Britishers to India

led to the origin of Indian Nationalism.

The economic exploitation was revealed

by scholars such as Sadashai Naraji,

R. C. Banerjee. This led to collective

wisdom of masses and moderates alike, as

to why even God is afraid of British in the dark.

The present society, on the other hand, is characterised not by lack of





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information but by excess of it. What is the efficacy of doubt in this scenario, where information to develop wisdom is abundant? Doubt here is required to filter this information. After all as Plato, described, "wisdom is nothing but knowledge - go filtered by experience".

This filtration via doubts comes handy in light of rising misinformation and disinformation. Not questioning can lead to rise of hate crimes such as mob lynching or misplaced belief in deep fakes. Doubting the veracity of polls and figures can provide the wisdom of logical stability in the post-truth society.



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The next question which arises here is does dusting always leads us to right direction? The answer is 'NO'.

These days we see base-less doubts such as questions on Veracity of climate change. The scorie part is that are coming from influential people such as US President Donald Trump. While it is more often than not appreciable to question. So should also be guided by reason.

This power of reasoning can be inculcated in a society by teaching their children how to think and not what to think. These could be inculcated in schools, colleges, and





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workplaces by thought-questions, experim-entations. Such as was actively done by japanese society after world war 2 to prevent further wars. The german society also now encourages subordinates to question authority on basis of morality to prevent rise of blind obedience as was seen during nazi period.

This underlines the importance of raising doubts for the origin of wisdom. finally, according to yuval harari the author of "sapiens" → It is the ability of Homo sapiens to question, communicate and adapt is what have made us dominant specie on planet. This ability to doubt has given us the wisdom to move from surviving to living.





# UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
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(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)  
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
Candidates must not write on this margin

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