

TEST CODE 6 2 0 3 0 5

FIAS | MGP 2023

Time Allowed : 3 Hours
समय : 3 घंटे

ForumIAS

Maximum Marks : 250
अधिकतम अंक : 250

ESSAY / निबंध

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	SEERAT KAUR		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	1910080931	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र		Date/दिनांक	

*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. Write two essays, choosing one 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 हों।	
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।	
For Student Only / केवल परीक्षार्थी प्रयोग हेतु				
Start Time/पारंभ 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

Parameter/criteria	Aspects Considered	Marks Allotted	Essay 1
Basic Format	Introduction	10	
	Body	15	
	Conclusion	10	
Content	Topic interpretation	10	
	Quotations and ideas	10	
	Analytical skills	10	
Organization	Flow of ideas	10	
	Absence of deviation	10	
	Ease of reading	10	
Language skills	Language and sentence construction	10	
	Grammar and spelling	10	
Examiner's discretion	perception/ innovation/ engaging	10	

Parameters	Very Good	Good	Average	Percentage
Coherence				
Language				
Handwriting				
Pre-writing				

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

SECTION - A

1. Shelving hard decisions is the least ethical course.
कठोर निर्णयों को टालना सबसे कम नैतिक मार्ग है।
2. All things come into being by conflict of opposites.
सभी चीजें असमानताओं के संघर्ष से अस्तित्व में आती हैं।
3. The arc of the moral universe is long but it bends towards justice.
नैतिक ब्रह्मांड का चाप लंबा है लेकिन यह न्याय की ओर झुकता है।
4. Disinterested intellectual curiosity is the lifeblood of civilisation.
अनासक्त बौद्धिक जिज्ञासा सभ्यता की जीवनदायिनी है।

1. Shelving hard decisions is the least ethical course

Earlier it was believed that if you put a frog in a pot of water and slowly raise the temperature, the frog would boil to death without realising something was wrong. This has now been proved false. In truth, a frog will sense incremental

changes & jump out when it is no longer safe. Unfortunately, humans are an entirely different story. We stay in the proverbial pot of water till it is too late to do anything. This is true both literally (eg: climate change) and figuratively (eg: agonising over each decision, delaying).

In this essay we will discuss: What makes decision-making hard? Why is shelving it unethical? What is the 'golden mean' in dealing with hard decisions? Are there limitations to this approach? How can this principle be seen in operation across space & time?

A hard decision requires one to accurately & adequately weigh the relevant circumstances & expected results. A decision becomes hard when one has to either choose between several positive pay-offs or negative effects to oneself / others. It could also arise ~~as a result of~~ from being confronted with an ethical dilemma. For instance, a policymaker having to choose between environmental protection and economic development.

As to what makes one shel a hard decision, several factors are at play. It could

be a result of having inadequate information or not having faith in our capabilities of decision-making or execution.

It could also stem from a fear of the possible consequences or general indecisiveness in a person.

In a positive sense, shelving hard decisions could be a strategic move i.e. to bide time till one can attack the issue head on.

Shelving hard decisions has several consequences. Primarily, it allows the decision-maker to kick the can down the road. Stoic philosophers put a lot of emphasis on the idea of having the courage to change the things that must be changed (& having the strength to bear what cannot be changed). Thus, there is strong emphasis on maintaining an internal locus of control.

Shelving hard decisions disrupts this internal locus & allows a person to shirk responsibility. It allows a person to avoid blame taking.

the fallout from a risky decision.

In addition to encouraging avoidance of responsibility & indecisiveness (which is another character flaw according to Stoics), shelving hard decisions is unethical in another way. It leads to maintenance of the status quo. Unfortunately, the status quo often tends to favour the dominant sections of society.

Thus, shelving ~~to~~ hard decisions is the least ethical course of action in several situations.

However, this does not mean that one should jump into decisions as soon as one is confronted with a difficult choice. A good decision should entail adequate consideration of all relevant circumstances.

Further, the decision should depend on the urgency & permanency of the situation. These considerations allow us to make the following decision making matrix:

- 1) If there is urgency & there are no significant consequences:
Decide now
- 2) If there is urgency & there are significant consequences:

Decide now but keep oneself open to new options as the situation develops.

3) If there is no urgency but there are significant consequences: Wait & gather more information & expertise

The above approach allows us to be considerate & courageous decision makers.

We can see instances of shelving hard decisions across space and time. The consequences varied as per the circumstances.

In the international sphere, PM Nehru delayed clarifying the Indo - China border when

invited to do so by the Chinese
Premiere. He was cognizant of
India being a fledgling after
Independence and wanted to
wait till India had the
upper hand in negotiations
with China. In this case, hope
proved to be a bad strategy.

This was because he depended
on factors that were not
within his control, to change.

In environmental terms,
indecisiveness ~~and~~, delaying tactics,
conflicting ideas (Global South
vs. Global North) have ~~had~~ mired
climate change mitigation in
a haze of inaction.

~~Politically,~~ Historically, this

was evident in the foremath of the abolition of slavery in USA. Due to disagreements, the issue continued to fester and resulted in a bloody Civil War.

In the Indian context, disagreements between the Moderates and Extremists, resulted in a split which allowed the colonisers to use a 'divide & rule' strategy⁴.

Politically, this principle can be seen at play in voting. An elector might avoid voting or opt for NOTA as a result of confusion / lack of choice. But, since India works as a first-past-the-post system,

this indecision can ~~lead to~~
change the entire flow of
elections.

This principle is also evident
in operations of the United
Nations Security Council, where
an abstention effectively counts
~~for~~ as a no (because of
the voting procedures).

The positives of not shelving
hard decisions are evident
in India's development as a
nuclear power. In spite of
difficult circumstances (regime of
& technology denial) & ethical
dilemmas (absolute pacifism
vs. security & balance), India
persevered. Thus, we now have

appreciable deterrence capabilities and can be secure with respect to our hostile neighbours.

Thus, ~~one~~ decision makers must strive to find a balance between fluidity, probity & comprehensiveness in decision-making. One must not leave everything up to the control of fate and of others (eg: a Nazi officer "simply following orders"). One must also not jump headfirst into every decision.

We must remember, that while we are in a pot of slowly simmering water, we have the power to reach over and turn down the heat.

FEEDBACK

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SECTION - B

1. Women's freedom is the sign of social freedom.

महिलाओं की स्वतंत्रता सामाजिक स्वतंत्रता की निशानी है।

2. If humankind poisoned nature, nature in turn poison humankind

यदि मानव जाति ने प्रकृति को विषाक्त किया है, तो प्रकृति ने बदले में मानव जाति को विष दे दिया है।

3. History Doesn't Repeat Itself, but it often rhymes.

इतिहास खुद को दोहराता नहीं है, लेकिन यह अक्सर तुकबंदी करता है।

4. The century advances but every individual begins anew.

सदी आगे बढ़ती है लेकिन हर व्यक्ति नए सिरे से शुरुआत करता है।

1. Women's Freedom is the sign of social freedom

"If you educate a man, you benefit him. If you educate a women, you benefit ~~the~~ a generation".

The above statement ~~has~~ has attracted a lot of controversy.

This is because it shows the expectation for women to act

merely as instruments of social change without regard to their personal aspirations & desires.

Controversy notwithstanding, it has often been observed that women empowerment leads to cascading benefits across society.

In the course of this essay we will discuss the following questions: What is women's freedom? What is the relation between women's freedom & social freedom? How has this relationship changed and manifested across space and time?

Freedom may be defined as the ability to exercise one's choices while respecting the rights & freedoms of others.

Women's freedom has been constrained by ~~cultural~~ socio-cultural factors (patriarchy) as well as economic factors (as per Marxist theories). The things that we take for granted now such as the right to vote or the right to property have emerged as a result of a long and arduous series of civil rights movements.

In the Indian context, Articles 14, 15, 16, 19, 21 form the formal basis for women's freedom. These are also the basis for freedom from discrimination for other marginalized communities

(eg: scheduled castes).

Collectively, these articles ensure a life of dignity & equality for all citizens regardless of race, gender, caste, class etc. Thus, legally there is a positive relation

MID - ESSAY REVIEW

between women's freedom and social freedom.

In the economic sphere, India has a deplorable female labour force participation rate (LFPR) [~35%]. A McKinsey report shows that India's GDP could grow twofold within the next fifteen years if women's participation in the economy is improved. This growth can spur better redistributive outcomes as the economic pie gets bigger.

Further, some of the reasons for a low female LFPR are indicative of a lack of social freedom. eg: the glass ceiling

effect shows that irrelevant factors & implicit biases are at play in promotions.

Absence of equitable maternity & paternity leave options shows that childcare is not a policy priority for employers & lawmakers alike.

From a governance standpoint, a longitudinal study of a land redistribution scheme in Bihar has shown better results with women as beneficiaries. Most men were observed to have sold off the land to fund their substance abuse. Most women held on to their land and planned to pass it on to their daughters, daughters-in-law.

Socially, ~~the~~ civil rights movements across the world show that social freedom & women's freedom are closely intertwined. eg: Rosa Parks protest which ~~all~~ sparked a black rights & women's rights protest. Another example is the Underground railroad which was run by women and provided an escape route for slaves in USA.

In the aftermath of COVID, it was observed that countries led by women showed better results (lower infections, mortality). This was attributed to women leaders being more tuned in

to a philosophy of 'ethics of care' and consensus building. (eg: Jacinda Ardern in New Zealand).

Historically, the Indian Freedom Struggle shows how women gaining freedom from the vices of purdah, sati & child marriage allowed them to participate in the emancipation of the nation at large.

In terms of social justice, traditionally women have been strong allies to the LGBTQIA+ movement.

In developmental terms, India brought down its total fertility rate ~~democratically~~ at

record speed (for a democratic state) by hinging on women empowerment instead of the dominant strategy at the time which tied population control solely with economic growth.

The social benefits of educating women are also evident. In addition to giving financial independence, it has shown improved results in child nutrition, gross enrolment ratio & reduced infant mortality rate [WHO, ASER], reduced learning poverty. This benefits the women, the children and society at large.

However, women's freedom may at times be seen as antithetical to social freedom.

For instance, trans exclusionary radical feminists (TERFs) are anti ~~trans~~ trans persons rights.

But, it must be noted that ~~Further~~ real freedom respects the rights and freedoms of others.

So calling the TERF movement an example of women's freedom is questionable.

Further an indicator of women's freedom may not be an accurate representation of reality. eg: the concept of sarpanch pati shows the

dissonance between statistics & reality. Similarly, Rwanda

has the highest score in the political empowerment component of the Global Gender Gap Index. But this is due to heavy male casualties in the civil war.

Thus, freedom must be exercised with due regard to legitimate restrictions. Exercised as such, women's freedom serves as a sign of social freedom.

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FEEDBACK



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SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK

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SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK

①] ~~Intro + HL~~

i) ~~What is SF~~

ii) ~~What is WF~~

iii) How is WF a sign of SF

4

③ Dimension

④ Alternate?

WF not a sign of SF
Rad fems

(SF)

(C)

~~(H) Ambedkar~~

~~(G)~~

~~(S) Civil sts munt~~

~~(P)~~

~~(G)~~

~~(SS) → H~~

~~(S) → E~~

~~(J)~~

~~(EC) Pw (PLPS)~~

(EW) Eco fem

(S&T)

~~(D&A) Jacinda~~

~~(P. X)~~

Allies

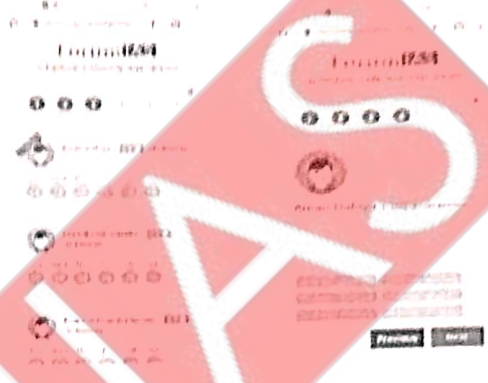
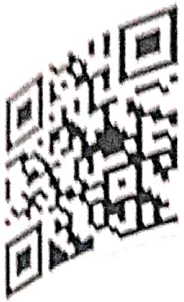
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~~Leadership~~
~~(NZ etc)~~

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Shelving hard decisions is the least ethical course

[P → F → S → N →]

1) Intro + HL

2) Discussion

→ what happens if you don't
 → what is a hard decision
 → Fluidity + Indecisiveness [Mean]
 → conquest as a mark of maturity
 → why is it least ethical

3) P → Stoic balance (w/ our control)

F →
 S
 N

		Urgency	
		X	✓
Cons	X	Now	Now
	✓	wait	Now, ^{if} reasonable

I → Indo-China border, disagreement
 Strategy, Confusion, delay, indecisiveness, Fear

~~Had - Ext~~
~~Slavery~~

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