

Time Allowed : Three Hours
समय : तीन घंटे

ForumIAS

Maximum Marks : 250
अधिकतम अंक : 250

ESSAY / निबंध

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	ZUFISHAN HAQUE		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	1530610	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	ONLINE	Date/दिनांक	05/09/23

*Center Code : For Online - 1900 / Delhi : Karol bagh - 1901, ORN - 1902, Mukharji Nagar - 1903 / Patna : Boring Rd. - 2001 / Hyderabad : Jawahar Nagar - 210

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। आपके 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 दिए 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 :	
10.50 am		1:00 pm	
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 :	

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				

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

SECTION-A

4. The only impossible journey
is the one you never begin.

Dashrath Manjhi was an ordinary man who lead a simple life in a village of a North India. At a young age he had to face a great tragedy when due to poor connectivity of roads his sick wife was unable

to reach city hospital and died midway in the journey. He was dejected and filled with grief but instead of showing complete submissiveness to the situation, he set to achieve what others would have remarked is an impossible task. For 27 years long, he cut the rock hill to single-handedly construct a road for his village. Ultimately, he achieved his goal. The road is still present in the village and is a testimony to the fact that no journey is impossible, once someone chooses to begin it.

Man is known to have begun such impossible journeys which have brought remarkable changes in the world. Gautama Buddha could have chosen to stay in his palace, yet he set upon a long and arduous journey to discover the noble truths of life. After winning against his weakness and conquering the Mara (evil force), he attained Nirvana. Hence, it is important to begin and the journey itself will take us closer to the destination.

An appropriate example would be the journey of Columbus. He started his naval

expedition facing the brave seas.
While he did not reach India
he landed at a new continent
and lo! the land of America
was discovered. Thus, the

aim should be to begin the
journey without analysing the
consequences. A man's life is
a journey in which he needs
to find and fulfil a purpose.

Jean Paul Sartre has remarked
that human nature is not
pre-ordained. He can choose to

become whatever he wants. This
means that a man can achieve
any impossible feat once he
has prepared his mind for it.

This then makes us wonder why no journey is impossible for man? What are the special qualities in a man that urges him towards an unimaginable journey? Man has been blessed with cognitive abilities and intuitive thinking that helps him generate ideas, predict outcomes and analyse the challenges. Yisroel Meir Hershkovitz in 'Sapiens' has mentioned that of all species of early humans it was only the Homo sapiens that is modern man which could survive on Earth. The reason was simple. Man had the ability to cooperate and co-exist. This collective living helped

him face all odds. This very survival instinct and collective living still inspires man to begin and achieve the 'impossible'.

Flipping through the pages of history we see that all remarkable journeys had modest beginnings. During the 19th century, social evils like Sati, prohibition of child marriage prevailed in the Indian subcontinent. At this juncture, Jshwar Vidyasagar chose to begin a journey to bring reforms. He promoted widow remarriage even when he faced hostility from the society including his family members. Yet, once he

had begun. his journey he remained steadfast and unwavering. The result was passage of Act legalizing widow remarriage. The journey of India's freedom struggle too began with small steps such as formation of Indian National Congress and actions of Moderates such as petitions and political propaganda. Yet, slowly it turned into a mass movement and the idea of invincibility of European powers was shattered. India achieved independence after a long journey of freedom struggle.

Hence, it is clear that if we want to succeed in life and achieve our desired goals we need to start working towards our set objectives. However, what we often see is that few of us

are not willing to start giving efforts to reach our goals.

It is often noticed that students dread from giving competitive examination assuming success is nearly impossible. But, students who are able to break themselves free from this mindset come out with flying colours.

There is hesitancy to begin the journey also because of the societal setup. When the society is not supportive enough for innovative ideas, individuals need far more courage to pursue a difficult journey. The journey of ISRO from taking a rocket on cycle to landing on Moon was possible because of the support

it got from the entire nation.

Hence, it is important that we prepare ourselves to embark on difficult journeys. When Arjuna in Mahabharat was faced with a dilemma to wage a war, Lord Krishna guided him to follow the path of Dharma, This to conquer the impossible.

Further, while we choose to begin an impossible journey it is also important to learn from the experiences and failures of elders. This helps us to contemplate any challenges and also withstand smaller defeats that one may encounter in the long journey. Once we begin working towards our goal we

may face numerous failures and believe that our journey has come to an end. But, it is important to remember that no journey is complete unless one has achieved what once looked impossible. The famous dialogue from a hollywood movie - 'Om Shanti Om' seems most suitable to describe this situation - 'If towards the end everything does not seem good, it simply means the story is not yet over!'

However, while it is said 'Well Begun is Half Done!', there are many journey which despite good beginnings do not reach the destination. This is the result of shortcomings of a man himself. After the journey has begun, we

need to maintain the same momentum. Hence, Swami Vivekananda says that dream and constantly envision the dream until it becomes a reality.

In the contemporary times, it has become even more necessary to break away from our cocoon and face the complexities of life. The challenges brought by events such as climate change requires the world to collaborate together and take new steps towards a sustainable lifestyle. Each one of us can contribute to such new beginnings by choosing to follow a healthy and environmentally conscious lifestyle. Such efforts can together

produce results of lowering global average temperature which today seems next to impossible.

Apart from the humble beginnings in the environment sector, we all also need to begin leading an ethical and righteous life. Collectively, if we choose to do so, problems of inequality and violence can be successfully dealt with. This will help to attain what may seem impossible at beginning yet possible — a world that celebrates humanity.

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SECTION - B

3. Doubt is the origin of wisdom.

Alexander Fleming, a notable scientist was conducting experiments with bacterial growth in his laboratory. One day during his regular exercise, he noticed some petri dishes were cleaner without any ~~funo~~ bacterial growth. This seemed abnormal

to him, but when he raised this point with others they hardly raised a doubt. His colleagues informed him that bacterial growth around fungal growth did not happen and was observed by many. But, it was Fleming's inquisitive mind which delved deeper and through numerous experiments a fungus that could work as anti-biotic was discovered. Thus, it was his ability to raise doubt that helped him uncover a hidden scientific fact and reach closer to wisdom.

Most of the stories both real and fiction narrate the quest of wisdom. This journey

to wisdom is fuelled by a series of doubts. Here, wisdom means the stage where a person has gained both knowledge and experience. Moreover, he is able to apply his knowledge for the greater good of all. Doubt, on the other hand means the ability to question each and everything around us. It means analysing a situation before making any decision.

Thus, it is observed that wisdom originates only when one can raise doubt over his methods, thoughts and conduct. When Socrates says - 'The unexamined life is not worth

living, he means to say only
 an individual who can
 question himself will be able
 to live an enriching life - a
 life where he has attained wisdom.
Gandhiji too in his autobiography
 - 'My Experiments with Truth'
 mentions about his trials and
errors in life before he could
 learn truth of life. His idea
 of 'Satyagraha' speaks of relentless
pursuit of truth. This search is
 possible only when one doubts
 the long held traditions and
customs and instead questions
 them on the basis of rationality.
 Doubt is like a small
bug that infects the mind, making
 such that the mind sets out

is set to begin a journey of exploration. Charles Darwin doubted the religious theory regarding the origin of man. Through his observations of animals at Galapagos Island, he was able to understand the evolutionary process of life. Thus, the wisdom that originated benefited the entire world.

In addition to observing the linkage between doubt and wisdom, we must also try to understand how doubt leads to wisdom. When we doubt our conduct, we come closer to leading a life of integrity. This is because we are constantly examining if our deeds are in consonance with our value system. This helps us achieve rationality which brings us closer to wisdom.

Plato, in 'Republic' has mentioned that a 'philosopher king' who seeks rationality can only be wise enough to happily rule his subjects.

Moreover, when we cast doubt on societal traditions, it means we are ready to accept different viewpoints. The Rigveda says - 'Let noble thoughts come to us from all sides'. This is possible only when our mind is not rigid but open to diverse opinions. The diversity of thoughts enriches us and helps us encounter truth of life which is the origin of wisdom.

Apart from doubting the external world when we cast a doubt on our methods and practices we are able to truly assess ourselves. We are able to understand our weakness,

our inhibitions and our incorrect decisions. This understanding helps us to bring reforms within and conquer our shortcomings in life. This brings us closer to an accurate assessment of ourselves - a prerequisite to attaining wisdom.

The linkage between doubt and wisdom can be further understood by observing the reverse situation - over confidence often results in folly. An appropriate example would be the outcome of Titanic ship. It was one of the greatest ship to sail the Atlantic Ocean in the 21st century. The makers never doubted their construction abilities and confidently spoke that it could

never sink. However, a great tragedy took place when it sunk in its maiden journey. Loss of lives was greater because no one was prepared for such an event. Hence, it was the overconfidence which worsened the disaster.

Such kind of over-confidence can also bring great destruction across the world. Hitler, was confident about the supremacy of his country. His government officials too never cast a doubt upon his decisions. And, the worst crimes of humanity unfolded in the form of Holocaust. The entire world was engulfed in the losses caused due to World War-II. Since no one pondered upon their

actions or doubted their intentions
the entire Nazi government was
veiled in ignorance very far
from wisdom.

Hence, it becomes clear
that raising a doubt is not
harmful as one seeks to become
wise. However, doubt here should
not be confused with doubting
one's capabilities or talents.

An appropriate example would
be to remember the 2008 T20
World Cup. After having lost World
Cup, 2008 with poor performance,
many fans were dejected and
doubted the capability of our
sportsmen. But, despite all odds,
India with a young team under
the leadership of Dhoni scripted
history by winning the first ever
T-20. This was possible because

the cricketers did not doubt
upon their capabilities.

Thus, a distinction
needs to be made where we
understand that doubt has
to be raised on the processes,
and thoughts not our innate
talents. Further, doubt does
not mean that one leads a life
of suspicion and does not
conform to scientific facts.
This will only lead to preponderance
of superstitions. For instance,
many people raised doubts over
the efficacy of Covid-19 vaccines
which had slowed the vaccination
drive. Thus, in cases where

doubts are raised to established scientific facts it can instead lead us farther from wisdom.

This is even more relevant in today's scenario when world is massed with fake news and disinformation. It seems that wisdom has been lost in the cacophony created by fake news. Hence, it is our responsibility to raise doubts over every such information that reaches us and unravel the truth. Simple actions like doubting any information shared through Whatsapp forwards without circulating it further can go a long way in establishing a more secure and harmonious society.

Only a society where
truth flourishes can the individuals
truly prosper and lead a
promising life — a life where
they have gained wisdom. Thus,
it is our moral responsibility
to raise doubts against any
wrong doings and constantly
reform ourselves to build a
more world with wise individuals.