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MGP 2025

Time Allowed : 3 Hours
समय : 3 घंटे

ForumIAS

Maximum Marks : 250
अधिकतम अंक : 250

ESSAY / निबंध

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	Akshat Bakhtwal		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	1910129862	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	Delhi	Date/दिनांक	09/07/25

*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 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।	
For Student Only / केवल परीक्षार्थी प्रयोग हेतु				
Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय :			End Time/समाप्त करने का समय :	
2:40 pm			5:40 pm	
Mode Of Examination/ परीक्षा की विधि :			Online/ऑनलाइन <input type="checkbox"/> Offline/ऑफलाइन <input checked="" 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>Marks Allotted</i>	<i>Essay 1</i>	<i>Essay 2</i>
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		

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



SECTION - A

1. We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.

हम अपनी समस्याओं का समाधान उस चिंतन प्रक्रिया से नहीं कर सकते जिसका प्रयोग हमने उन्हें उत्पन्न करते समय किया था।

2. The civilisation that doesn't adopt modern technologies becomes extinct.

जो सभ्यता आधुनिक तकनीक को नहीं अपनाती वह विलुप्त हो जाती है।

3. Data without wisdom and innovation without ethics are dangerous tools.

बिना बुद्धिमता के डेटा और बिना नैतिकता के नवाचार खतरनाक साधन हैं।

4. The doubter is a true man of science.

संदेह करने वाला ही सच्चा विज्ञानवादी है।

1. WE CANNOT SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS WITH THE
SAME THINKING WE USED WHEN WE
CREATED THEM

It was 1995, the year of the Rugby world cup. South Africa had reached the finals for the first time in 30 years. Francois Pienaar, the captain and his team were taken to Robben Island a day before the finals to visit

the prison where the political prisoners of Apartheid Regime were jailed. As they entered, they came across a prison room - "46664" the door read - 466th prisoner jailed in 1964.

It was Nelson Mandela's prison cell. The cell was very small, barely ~~2~~ two spaces across. Francois entered the cell and closed the door behind him. As he put his hands on the cold wall of the cell, he could hear the echoes of ~~the pencil~~ Mandela's pencil ~~to~~ scratching on paper, writing lines from "Invictus" while clinging on hope. "I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul."

Back in the hotel room, Francois thought, "how could a man, after 27 years

in prison, forgive those who oppressed him. Later, he realized that the problem of oppression in the Apartheid regime could not be solved by hatred and vengeance in a free South Africa.

"Madiba's Magic", as Mandela's clan called it, was that he believed only forgiveness and love could solve the problem that was created by oppression.

This is true across time and space, a problem cannot be solved with the same thinking we used when we created them. We need to go beyond what we thought, to "think the unthinkable", to think outside the box in order to solve that problem.

If we keep thinking in the same way, we might end up in a loop of failures. Thomas Elva Edison realised this early on. He ~~the~~ thought of 99 different ways to solve his problem and in the hundredth one, he invented the bulb. But in those 99 ways, he ensured that he does not apply the same thinking process.

We have created many problems with our thinking process. The climate vagaries and extreme weather events we face today are the result of the thinking process of "Global North" and

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their flawed model of development.
Their oil engines polluted our air and
heat furnaces increased the temperature.

Fast forward to today, where we
are at a standpoint of climate action,
the thinking of the Global North has not
changed to solve this problem. It
continues to use those oil engines and
heat
~~hot~~ furnaces.

Another
~~the~~ reason we cannot solve
the problems with the same thinking
we used to create them is that the
same thinking exacerbates the problem
instead of solving it. "An eye for an
eye makes the whole world blind",
said Gandhiji. If we keep on doing
the same thing again and again,
the problem will get bigger and bigger.

Imagine our freedom struggle without Gandhiji's values of non-violence and Satyagraha. It would be a horror to even imagine it! That is why it is said that "Gandhiji shook the entire world, gently, through his values of Satyagraha and ahimsa." He found a way ~~of~~ to think differently.

On the contrary, Britishers used violence and oppression again and again to solve "their problem", failing each and every time. Be it the Jallianwala Bagh massacre or the Lathi charge on Lala Lajpat Rai, their oppression only fueled nationalism in our freedom fighters. But, why do we keep thinking in the same way to solve our problem?

Our thinking is often driven by our beliefs and values and limited by our biases ~~or~~ and prejudices. Due to this "Operant conditioning" of our mind, as Albert Bandura* calls it, we keep thinking in the same way.

Moreover, we try to avoid the pain and discomfort of accepting or even entertaining any thoughts that conflict with our value system, thus not expanding our horizon in order to find solutions.



FORUM IAS

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FEEDBACK

ForumIAS



SECTION - B

1. The empires of the future will be the empires of the mind.
भविष्य के साम्राज्य मस्तिष्क के साम्राज्य होंगे।
2. Responsibility is the invisible thread that holds freedom together.
उत्तरदायित्व वह अदृश्य धागा है जो स्वतंत्रता को आबद्ध रखता है।
3. You may not be able to do everything, but do something.
आप सब कुछ तो नहीं कर सकते, लेकिन कुछ तो करना चाहिए।
4. Behavior is the mirror in which everyone shows their image.
व्यवहार वह दर्पण है जिसमें हर कोई अपनी छवि दिखाता है।

4. BEHAVIOUR IS THE MIRROR IN WHICH
EVERYONE SHOWS THEIR IMAGE

Nikumbh reached the doorstep of the Awasthi's. It was chilly that day and he had come a long way to speak to Mr. Awasthi about his son Ishaan. As he sat down inside and introduced himself as Ishaan's teacher, he asked Mr. Awasthi ^{with} pain in his voice, "Why did you send him to boarding school?"
Mr. Awasthi, a bit agitated at first,

Said, "Ishaan is undisciplined, does not want to study at all. He failed in third class, can you imagine, ~~8~~ third class! All he does is paint, just see his room".

When he entered Ishaan's room to see his creation, Nikumbh was stunned. How, he thought, could a child eight years of age, paint with such depth and precision? The symphony of colors, the brushstrokes, everything was remarkable. He came out and explained Ishaan's problem to his parents.

Ishaan had dyslexia. He could not perceive the words and alphabets like a normal person could. So to avoid embarrassment of not knowing how to read, he would simply refuse to study. To this, Mr. Awasthi said, "These are all reasons to not study. He does not have any problem."

Nikumbh's behaviour towards Isahaan was different from Mr. Awasthi's. Nikumbh treated him as child in need of help, guiding him at every step of the way. But, his own father, Mr. Awasthi, treated him as a troubled child. Nikumbh's behaviour mirrored him as a empathetic and compassionate teacher, whereas Mr. Awasthi's behaviour mirrored him as an inconsiderate father measuring a child's worth based on his performance and discipline.

Behaviour, indeed, is the mirror in which everyone shows their image. What is this image that the behaviour is trying to show? It is our innernature, the fabric of our character, who we really are from the inside. It

shows our perception as to how we see others, how we see things. It is a reflection of our true-self. But, why is behaviour the mirror of our inner self - one must wonder?

It is through our interactions with others and the way we react and respond to external stimuli that we reveal our image.

An ostrich when faced with a threat or adversity buries his head in the sand. On the other hand, an eagle plucks his wings off and breaks his beak in order to be reborn and

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hunt again when he grows old. While
behaviour of ostrich depicts fear, that
of eagle depicts fortitude.

It is through our actions that
people recognize our intentions. People
might try to justify their actions as
"good" even when malafide, but the
true nature always triumphs!

Take the example of India who
conducted initiatives like Vaccine Maitri
to help other countries during COVID
because her inner nature itself is
to treat the world as one family and
countries as brothers and sisters, grounded
in Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

To the contrary, USA often speaks
about being the True leader of the world,
yet takes "shocking" decisions of halting

international aid to pool and withdrawing
from climate and trade agreements.
Is it not true that USA's behaviour
is mirroring its true image?

Thus, through our behaviour
we can show the world our image.
We can choose what to disclose and
what to hide from others. We can
choose how to respond to certain
things. Joseph Luft, a behavioural
psychologist, calls this "Open self" - the
self image that is revealed through
our behaviour.

Shantó Devi's behaviour to
overcome her disability and become
a silver medalist in archery in the
Paris Paralympics of 2024 shows the

delightful image of inner grit and perseverance.

The most question that arises is, where is this behaviour coming from. Yes, we are painting an image through our behaviour for everyone to see, but what is driving our behaviour.

Our behaviour is shaped by our beliefs, our value system, our parental upbringing and socialising agents: like education, friends, culture, religion among others. But, if we go a little deeper, we will find that what really drives our behaviour is the desire to become something we idealise. That is why, we often try to show everyone the image of our "ideal-self"

as Carl Rogers calls it - ~~We try~~

We try to fill the gap between what we are today and what we wish to become. And in order to fill this gap, we often depict ourselves as a reflection of our ideal self in the hope that someday we might reach there.

Take the example of a four-year old daughter who looks at her mother as her ideal self. When she sees her mother care for her family, cook delicious vegetable curry for her husband and then get ready to go work and conquer the world, the daughter tries to imitate that behaviour. She tries to take care of her father in small ways like carrying a glass of water. What is she trying to show? She is trying to depict

her mother's image in her behaviour.

However, it is not all rosy. Behaviours can also be deceiving showing a good image from a "tainted glass".

For instance, China through its extended line of credit and Belt and Road initiative is showing the world an image of a country that believes in development of underdeveloped countries. But, behind this veil of compassion is the real image of its "Debt Trap Diplomacy" that eats away the financial autonomy of a country like a termite.

It is crucial to recognize these deceiving patterns of behaviour so that we

are not carried away by their
grandeur. When the Britishers justified
the colonial rule as a "White Man's
Burden" on their conscience to end the
social ills of Indian society, it was the
"middle-class intelligentsia" of India
that unveiled the true nature of their
colonial rule - Oppressive and exploitative.

Whenever you try to show
an image that is not your intrinsic
nature, at some point when something
goes wrong, that image will shatter
like it did for the Britishers. In this
backdrop, Gandhiji had said that
our thoughts and our behaviour must
always be in harmony so that the image
we show others is the image of our own
character.

An inquisitive mind must wonder, how to ensure that we show our true image through our behaviour, how to ensure we follow into the footsteps of our "Mahatma" Gandhi? Well, here is an insight!

Mind is the master-weaver of the inner garment of thoughts and outer garment of behaviours. Earlier we might have weaved in deceit and ignorance, now we can weave in enlightenment and integrity.

Starting small, we must think before we act. Our thinking

process, our moral reasoning must be based on the right values. Then and only then we must act.

In the long term, we must walk on the path of self discovery. To know ~~what~~ ^{why} we do ~~why~~ ^{we} what we do and to shape it to match our true self, we must know how our actions are shaped. That can come through self-introspection and meditation. This way we will effortlessly show our true image through our behaviour just like Malala showed courage, Mother Teresa showed compassion and Martin Luther King Jr. showed unwavering spirit ~~to~~ because they had learnt from their inner soul.

At the end, Swami Vivekananda's words must echo in our minds; "you must learn from the inside out. No one can teach you. No one can ~~not~~ shape your behaviour. There is no better teacher

FEEDBACK

Perfection
discipline

inconsiderate ^{meaning} child's work ^{Symptoms of colour} extraordinary ^{brush} strokes
ForumIAS ^{pay me directly}

SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK

Ram Nukumbh reached at the doorstep of the Awasthis. He had come a long way to speak to Mr. Awasthi about his son, Ishaan. As he sat down inside he asked Mr. Awasthi, "Why did you send Ishaan to a ~~specialty school~~ boarding school?" Mr. Awasthi, agitated at first, said, "Ishaan is indisciplined, does not want to study and failed in 3rd class, can you imagine 3rd class and see my other son, he is do topper, so what could I have done? All he does is ~~paint~~ painting in draw & paint.

When he entered Ishaan's room to see his creation, Ram was stunned. How ^{he thought} could a child of age paint with such precision. The symptoms of colour, the brush strokes, they were remarkable

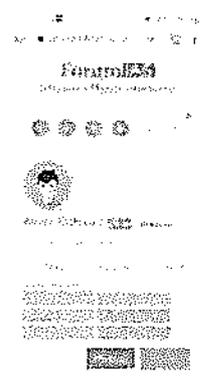
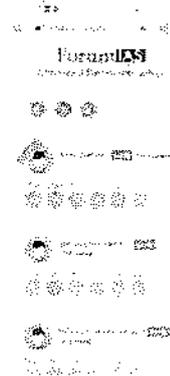
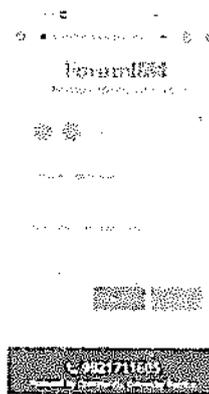
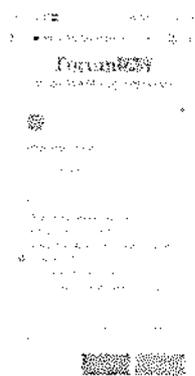
Then he explained to his parents that Ishaan had dyslexia and he could not perceive the alphabets & words like a normal person could. He was extraordinary in his own sense, his creativity evident from his paintings. All he did was instead of admitting he couldn't read, he refused to study, avoiding the embarrassment. Mr. Awasthi said these ~~are~~ are all flawed reasons for him to not study, he doesn't have any problem.

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