

TEST CODE 8 2 1 3 8 0

EGP 2025

Time Allowed : 3 Hours

समय : 3 घंटे

Forum IAS

Maximum Marks : 250

अधिकतम अंक : 250

ESSAY / निबंध

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	MADHVENDRA PRATAP SINGH		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	1910114953	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	KAROL BAGH	Date/दिनांक	13/8/2025

*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।	
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Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय :			End Time/समाप्त करने का समय :	
7:00 PM			10:00 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. What is research, but a blind date with knowledge.
अनुसंधान क्या है, बस ज्ञान के साथ एक अनभिज्ञ साक्षात्कार।
2. Thinking is the capital, Enterprise is the way, Hard Work is the solution.
चिंतन ही पूंजी है, उद्यम ही रास्ता है, कड़ी मेहनत ही समाधान है।
3. The highest value is not what you gain, but what you become.
सर्वोच्च मूल्य वह नहीं है जो आप प्राप्त करते हैं, बल्कि वह है जो आप बन जाते हैं।
4. The federalist system is the check on tyranny of the majority.
संघीय प्रणाली बहुमत की निरंकुशता पर अंकुश है।

3. The highest value is not what you gain, but what you become.

The Rock Edict XIII of King Asoka is very profound and reflects a deeper analysis of life of the great ruler post Kalinga war. King Asoka waged the war on Kalinga to gain an empire but instead what he received as highest value was his transformation.

Surely, he did win the war

but that did not define him as a person.
Today we remember him as a leader
who spread Dhamma and message of
non-violence all over the world. His
teachings hold relevance as much as
it did in his time. The highest value
that he gained was not victory or spoils
of war but a transformation of who
he was going to be.

What one becomes is more
crucial and lasting than what one gains.
The most valuable thing is thus not
the addition of something but a
transformation of oneself. That transfor-
mation could be of one's thoughts,
ideas, morality, conscience and in
Buddhist philosophy of one's soul.

A gain is transient, like
a short burst of rainfall in a barren
field while transformation as a person

is like the strong deep roots that hold the plant even in the absence of rain. Thus a gain cannot be the highest value because for it to be highest it has to be long lasting. Buddhism teaches us this by way of impermanence and Paticcha Samupadda.

Moreover, we often understand the meaning of life by not gaining but in giving. Giving away has been prescribed as highest value by great sages like Chandrasekhar Tagore who says, "The one who plants trees knows that he will not sit in its shade. That person has at least understood the meaning of life".

This is the highest value of one becoming selfless and compassionate. Gain is not the highest value, ^{also} because

it has different connotations for different people. Gain is subjective according to time, people and place. What is a gain for us by imposing Reverse Tariffs on countries is a loss for deprived farmers of India who get hit by that. This also opens up a separate viewpoint on measure of the gains.

If one is not transformed as a person and uses gains for a superficial purpose, that could end up being a disaster. That gain could be a tipping point for what one is to become but in an undesirable manner.

MID - ESSAY REVIEW

The gains from Industrial Revolution have now resulted into the culture of consumption and changed the world into a non-sustainable being.

So what one becomes is the highest value because it also determines the future course of action. How I use the gain also depends on who I am. This underscores the necessity of evolution as a person and not the transactive nature of benefits. India's gain of Nuclear Weapons is not significant merely due to the possession of it but because it made and showcased India as a responsible power in contrast with Pakistan.

When a gain is added it leads to desire for more gains and the never ending chain starts. For being a highest value it has to be

an end in itself. When a person is changed internally, it is not to cause another change but is an end in itself and thus is the highest value. Patagonia

Inc. a corporate based out of US is ~~an~~ towering reminder of not making gains out of gains but reflecting a change in corporate culture itself by investing its profits in a trust for social good.

Simultaneously, the dependence on a second party for gains make it shallow. One needs to have another person or ~~at least~~ an external motivation for a gain. If one gains leverage or position like Saddam Hussain it is due to a desire for power - an external motivator, diminishing the utility of mere gains as highest value.

But becoming something is not easy as they say. A transformation

challenges your core, finds your deepest flaws and focus you to confront them. This makes the process of becoming something or an idea less preferable in a fast moving world. In contemporary world, the highest value is profits and quick gains.

Social Media, culture of conspicuous consumption and an AI revolution has changed the norms of the highest values. The new generation which passes skip on a mere 30 seconds Advertisement certainly does not possess the patience of transformation.

Moreover becoming another idea can be self destructive as discussed earlier.

The value of transformation does not remain the highest when misused. Experience, confrontation molds a person into many directions. That

change could be harrowing for oneself and for others. The WWI changed Adolf Hitler from a mere soldier to a war mongering hateful person responsible for countless tragedies.

Thus mere becoming is not enough. The will to act morally and rightfully is also crucial. In the popular culture, classical movie 'Batman Begins' offers an insight;

"It is not who you are underneath but what you do that defines you"

So merely becoming a resourceful, morally good person is not enough.

The highest value is shown by people like Journalist Mukesh Chandekar who was shot due to his coverage of land seams in Jharkhand in 2025.

To achieve this highest value one has to change and one has to act. "Be the change you wish to see in the world". Gandhiji when visiting London during 2nd Round Table Conference went to meet workers of Lancashire mills not for gains but to understand their pain despite them being on opposite sides.

Thus the goal should be of becoming the best person one can be. Look not to others for personal gains but sufflet inside for a deeper self realisation. "The stars lie hidden in you", should be the revelation of mind.

Wisdom of identifying the gains from change needs to be inculcated.

Wisdom is not about adding things
everyday rather removing them. Thus
~~gains are not~~ wisdom is not about
addition of gains but a mindful
utilization of them.

Just as Asoka used his
gains ~~not~~ for further conquests but
for peace and non-violence, similarly
the pursuit of the highest value should
not be of gains whether monetary,
social, intellectual but applying those
gains in changing one. Inner transformation
holds key to happiness and lasting
peace. Thus one should not merely
add but change and not merely
change but be decisive and
righteous.

FEEDBACK

[Faint, mirrored handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is mostly illegible but appears to contain phrases like "the time", "and the", "of capital", "to establish", "for the", "not find", "and eventually", "the", "challenged", "the", "the"]



SECTION - B

1. Family is the first school of citizenship.
परिवार नागरिकता की प्रथम पाठशाला है।
2. There are better practices to "best practices".
"सर्वोत्तम प्रथाओं (बेस्ट प्रैक्टिसेज)" के लिए भी बेहतर प्रथाएं हैं।
3. Distorting history leads to indoctrination and not education.
इतिहास को विकृत करने से शिक्षा नहीं बल्कि मतारोपण को बढ़ावा मिलता है।
4. Tradition is a guide, not a jailor.
परंपरा एक मार्गदर्शक है, कारापाल (जेलर) नहीं।

2. There are better practices to "best practices"

The ~~time~~^{year} was 1931 and the place was the heart and soul of capitalism - US. A boy was trying to establish his "Governing Dynamics" for his thesis but could not find the idea. But he dared to persist and eventually found the idea but it challenged the very core of Laissez-Faire developed by Adam

Smith and considered the best practice.

He was ridiculed for it but
later his modifications to Laissez-Faire
and the better practice to the best one
was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1991.

The boy was none other than the
genius John Nash and his idea that
came to be known as Nash Equilibrium.

His development of a better practice to
the best one lies at the root of
modern day auctions, statistics, markets,
and global economies.

"Best Practices" are always
defined or labelled by a person, an
institution, nation and is thus
subjective. There exists a saying in
Hindi that,

"Har Seer ka ek Saava seer hota hai"
(There exists a one and a quarter for
every one unit)

Thus better practices can always be achieved and devised or discovered for a labelled and subjective "Best Practice".

Best always occurs in context of a particular time, place, situation and the person labelling it. The transient nature of all these phenomena cause the best practices to become inferior and leads to birth of better practices. The evolution of Article 21 by Supreme Court is a living testament to the fact from 'Procedure established by law' to 'Due Process of Law'.

A person's vision and the limitations of ideas also define what is best. If society accepts that as a best practice then it becomes one.

until a contender arrives on the stage
The popular movie, Truman Show offers a great perspective,

"We accept the reality that we are presented with".

Similarly best practices are accepted and adopted on face value when presented and universalized. But that does not mean its finality.

The Newtonian Model of Standard Physics was the universal model until Albert Einstein challenged it 250 years later. One thing that Charles Darwin made us understand about nature is evolution. Evolution

MID - ESSAY REVIEW

is the basic phenomena underlying at root of not just living organisms but also at root of ideas, thoughts and practices. Every idea and practice evolves into a better version of it which is more adaptable and universal.

The idea of wheel evolved into Electric Vehicles in the contemporary times emphasising upon the evolution of practices. Moreover in course of evolution the thing that drives change in Best Practices is necessity. As famously said,

"Necessity is the mother of invention" when necessity is the driver, the gears automatically shift towards changes in adopted best practices.

The gold standard of NASA was challenged by the ISRO which

launched moon mission Chandrayaan-4 at 1/10th of cost of NASA's mission.

This happens after refinement of approach and a change in perspective to look upon things differently. The best practices are evolved into better ones with work, layering of complex ideas and refining them along with hard work.

Indian Men's Cricket Team despite being undisputedly the best in 2023 50 over World Cup lost the final to Australia because Australia was better than the best. India did it a year later in T-20 with refinement to its best practices. But then what are the challenges in carrying out these better practices to established best practices?

The biggest roadblock in identification of better practices is

our comfort zone and desire of stability. No one wants to upset the established order created by best practices and create chaos. The privatisation of Banks and 1991 LPG reforms was met with severe apprehension in India at the time.

This comfort zone then extends to resistance towards any kind of change. The merits and demerits set aside, a best practice needs to be considered flexible and amenable to be living.

The established best practices of Green Revolution like intensive use of fertilizers to increase the yield is difficult to shed due to resistance towards land pooling, cooperatives, GM Crops etc.

Sometimes lack of resources also

lie at the root of the problem along with limitations of the society. Adoption of better practices to best ones need resources for analysis, replacement, testing. Also external environment creates conditions unfavourable towards change.

Shifting to best practices like 6% of GDP spending towards education is imperative for India but spending on defence limits potential due to external vulnerabilities of India.

Moreover leadership rigidities can also cause stagnation and lack of adoption of better practices as visible in US's withdrawal from UNFCCC negotiations making it even more difficult to adopt to better practices towards climate change.

But sometimes, the best practices need to be retained for they are universal and applicable in all scenarios. In search of better we risk losing out on the best that we have. Moreover, culture and traditions are not based on better to best but on faith and practices.

In search of efficient Industrial production, today we risk losing out on many traditional textiles like Kota Doria, Bandhej, Chikankari etc. that needs patience of manual labour.

Thus our quest for better needs to be balanced with faith, traditions and universal values.

In search for better practices inspiration from others can act as a ready made model - Mission Kaumaryogi

by govt. creates a database of best practices across the world for civil servants to learn from apply to governance.

Moreover the change for better practices stems from the liberty to question established models. The RTI Act 2005 is a way to challenge inefficient, corrupt practices and establish a just mechanism. This needs to be protected and propagated for a culture of finding best to better.

Thus, the conservation of best among best and dynamism of search for better is the Ying to Yang and Shiva to Shakti that we need to adopt. Just like John Nash did it

as a boy, the search for better must
continue to drive the human spirit
towards future endeavours.

anything
इस स्थान
)

 ForumIAS

(Don't Write anything
in this Area/ इस स्थान
पर कुछ न लिखें)

FEEDBACK

Summum Bonum

Cannot achieve more than that

SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK

Ⓚ is about adding
everyday write Ⓚ is -

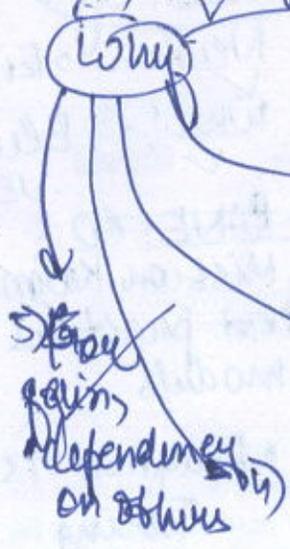
- monetary/wealth
- social capital
- knowledge
- leverage
- power
- experience
- love/emotions
- intelligence
- physical aspects (fitness)

3) The highest value is not what you gain, but what you become → Transformation evolution re-birth

Core: In a transaction or a benefit/gain the most valuable thing is not addition but

Transformation of oneself.

Charity, selflessness (Agree)



- 1) Gain is temporary & transient while what I become is long lasting → difficult to sustain
 - 2) After gaining → can gain more units → so not highest value
 - 3) Subjective interpretation of Gain → not universal highest value
- Misuse of Gain → could be highest value for me but not others.

- Patriceha Samudhaya
- Laneashree Mill Lokurus (1931)
- CSR
- Adam Smith
- Climate change (Silent Spring Rachel Carson)
- Asoka

Becoming

~~Self Realisation is key~~ → How I use gain

depends upon who I am (CSR)
Somewhat highest value is ~~lost~~ by loss + Kabir.

Leveller

- Fast moving transient world
- Tech, AI
- Becoming unbearable/undesirable
- It is not who you -

Synthesis

- 1) ~~Highest value~~ wisdom
- 2) look not for gains but a transformative change
- 3) Be the change you wish to see in world

4) checks on ~~not becoming a menace~~

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2. There are better practices to best practices

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Best can be in content of time, place
+ capability (one v/s teamwork)

- 2023 WC → 2024 WC
- NASA → ISRO
- Census → digital census
- INTRO
- Adam Smith → Nash eqm
- Newton → Einstein
- Wheel → Electric vehicles

Refining, working perspective change



Evolution as part of nature

Te based on necessity (Necess. is mother of Invention)
Learning from others

Challenges

Lack of awareness, limitations of society, capability

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If we are already doing well, a reinforcement of our learning can assist us in following the right path. A Mentor may also be able to give valuable inputs with respect to time management, presentation structure etc. He may recommend you clearly to work on content or may suggest you to take courses / read books if he feels you lack content that may be quickly improved with a course at ForumIAS or elsewhere, or some study material.

Leadership, ex: UN free discussion, lack of flexibility

Enigma v/s Turing Machine

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universal principles

In search of best we lose what we have
(ex) loss of traditions

Way ahead → Banbell (feedback)
Teamwork
evaluation
liberty to question
dynamic wings (yang)