

Shanti

TEST CODE	8	1	0	4	0	5
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Roll no:- 1910166338

MGP 2025

Time Allowed : 3 Hours
समय : 3 घंटे

Forum IAS

Maximum Marks : 250
अधिकतम अंक : 250

ESSAY / निबंध			
Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	AKASH NIQAM		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	082333 / 1910166338	Medium/माध्यम	English <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	1901 (Delhi)	Date/दिनांक	08 (Aug) 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 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।	
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Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय :		End Time/समाप्त करने का समय :		
9:30		12:30		
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. Glaciers are the canaries in the coal mine of climate change.
हिमनद (ग्लेशियर) जलवायु परिवर्तन रूपी कोयला खदान में वे कैनरी पक्षी हैं जिनकी मृत्यु सबसे पहले होती है।
2. To be content with little is difficult; to be content with much, impossible.
थोड़े से संतुष्ट रहना कठिन है; अधिक से संतुष्ट रहना असंभव है।
3. The true cost of economic and leadership gaps is deferred growth and skewed transitions.
आर्थिक और नेतृत्व अंतराल की वास्तविक लागत विलंबित विकास और विषम परिवर्तन है।
4. An India that is not pluralist is not India at all.
जो भारत बहुलतावादी नहीं है, वह भारत ही नहीं है।

2) TO BE CONTENT WITH LITTLE IS DIFFICULT; TO BE CONTENT WITH MUCH, IMPOSSIBLE

On the rich tapestry of human history there are some stories as poignant and stirring like the debates between Socrates and Sophists. Socrates once remarked that 'contentment is natural wealth, luxury artificial poverty'. This was against Sophists' thinking which promoted greed, materialism, desire for

more. whilst the Socratic wisdom entailed happiness of the soul, the soul which was not only contented but also ambitions enough to lead a value-driven life.

Traversing through the temporal realm of Greeks to modern era where the desire to get more has taken over the contented life. As graciously put by 'Jean Jacques Rousseau', that man in the state of nature (when it had nothing) was a 'noble savage', a happy, contented life. However with the onset of modernity a narrow perception of good life was conceived.

Yet if we move forward through

This contentment dialect the query remains, why it is difficult to be content when one has less and nearly impossible with much?

THE CONTENTMENT CONUNDRUM

Being content with little is difficult because humans have tendency to be 'ambitious', as remarked - 'philosophy of wantlessness is utopian and materialism is a chimera'.

This propensity is often seen as a positive aspect of life. India at the eve of independence had minimal resources across the sectors with a per capita income of less than 2000 ₹/yr, if it would have been contented we would not have witnessed

it / becoming the 5th largest economy with per capita income of more than ₹ 2 Lakh / yr. Thus the desire to want more is to evade the 'status-quo'. However the conundrum lies in being happy, cherishful and purposeful in the status-quo itself. If we do not remain so when we have less, it would certainly seem more difficult when we have more.

As Paulo Coelho wrote in his

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book 'The Alchemist' that every individual has a 'personal legend', this is a journey towards 'self-actualisation' realising your ambitions yet at the same time cherishing 'your journey more than the destination' because that's where your 'glory is'.

UNABATED PURSUIT: WAY TO CATASTROPHE

All along the history the unabated pursuit, the ambition which is driven by greed is the most precise enemy of contentment. While being future-driven with a purpose, cherishing the journey is desirable because 'there is no path to happiness'.

happiness itself is the path. Yet
as remarked in Geeta - 'lust,
anger, greed are gateways to
hell'. During French revolution it
was Louis XVI's desire that
caused havoc or be it the
Russian revolution where Tsar
could not take care of the masses
are the best case studies of why
one should focus on sorting things
in what we have rather than
wanting more.

Even the 'European powers' during
World war could not remain
contented in the territory they
had, it was only when their
desires were bog down by

creation of European Union that the continent witnessed 'peace'.

Moreover, being negatively ambition-driven is also antithetical to collective interests. In a modern 'capitalist' society which is driven by consumerism and where masses earned from 'hand to mouth' (meagre wages). The 1% of people today own more than 40% of wealth (Oxfam report). For a worker the idea of contentment thus would differ from those who own resources.

Karl Marx rightly remarked that 'capitalists have dug their own grave' and making capitalism

compassionate, humane driven by contentment is only way ahead.

In the Indian tradition, all schools of thought have called for a life which is purposeful and contented. From Buddhism's attachment as the 'cause of misery' to Shankaracharya's world is 'maya' (illusion). Being contented in what we have and a positive ambitions life is deemed as the best foot forward.

CONTENTMENT 'WITH' PURPOSE!

A HAPPY COMBO

In order to circumvent the conundrum of contentment a

life where 'purpose is the perm-
anent realm of ambition' is the
fulfilled one, even though it
is difficult to remain content
with less, if the tunes of
desire are mixed with notes of
purpose a beautiful crescendo
would be created.

Because for Tagore 'it was not
Alexander who conquered the
world but Buddha did'.

Further it is impossible to remain
content when we have much,
yet this desire and greed for

more could be offset by follow-
ing the 'mantra' of Gandhi -

'the world has enough for
everyone's need but not for
anyone's greed'. A need

driven life would be the epitome of contentment.

All the dialogues and debates over growth and development have today ended on 'sustainability' & equity.

Humans have recognised that a sustainable life is founded on the bedrocks of 'contentment'.

United States today has much more than what it had a century ago. Yet Donald

Trump' has no regard for 'global growth', a dismantled trade, weaponization of economy is what we have today.

The sufferings of people in conflict-ridden Africa and Middle-East could have been evaded

if only the world valued
peace over unbridled 'prosperity'.
World today needs contentment
which Sufism promoted by
'oneness of being'.

However not all trailblazers have
shown this tendency of being
greed-driven, a few remain
contented regardless of having
less or more. Raja Harishcham
-dra (the integrity stalwart) who
did not leave his principles even
when challenged to the core is
what the world cherishes today
as best case study of 'content
-ment'. Because 'a person who
prefers his 'privileges over princi
-ples' loses both.

Thus, in a nutshell it is indeed difficult to remain content with less and impossible with much because of the human tendency to move ahead. Yet the difference lies in how much it is value & purpose driven. As said by 'Krishna' - 'Rembhoomi se pehle manobhoomi mai chal rahi yuddha ko shant kro' (win over your mind before 'winning' at the battlefield), to be driven by contentment is the only path for a 'Socratic' - purposeful life, it is adding value and caring for others which translates 'contentment into happiness'.

FEEDBACK

FORUMIAS



SECTION - B

1. True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice.
वास्तविक शांति केवल तनाव का अभाव नहीं है; यह न्याय की उपस्थिति है।
2. The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.
इस समय जीवन का सबसे दुखद पहलू यह है कि विज्ञान, समाज की तुलना में अधिक तेजी से बुद्धिमता एकत्रित करता है।
3. Human development suffers when interdependence is mismanaged.
जब अंतर्निर्भरता का कुप्रबंधन होता है तो मानव विकास प्रभावित होता है।
4. No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.
आपकी सहमति के बिना कोई भी आपको कमतर महसूस नहीं करा सकता।

4.)
NO ONE CAN MAKE YOU FEEL INFERIOR WITHOUT YOUR CONSENT

After spending nearly 20 years in jail when Nelson Mandela was asked by a reporter that what has been your guiding force over all these years. He quoted from his favorite poem 'The Invictus' and replied 'I'm the master of my fate, I'm

the captain of my soul'. Even after the rigorous life bestowed upon him by the colonial masters Mandela did not give up and established 'Truth and Reconciliation Commission' in order to entail harmony'.

No matter how the external factors try to bog you down if your own moral and principled backbone is straight you wouldn't be impaired. As it is said that 'ships do not sink because of the water that surrounds them, ships sink because of the water that gets into them'. You can be in a pool which is full of superiority-inferiority complex yet if

you do not let that enter and
break your edifices you will
tread the path.

During the 2008 financial crisis
Elon Musk was 'tethering' at
the brink of bankruptcy, yet
he kept on treading the path
and with the success of Falcon-1
rocket SpaceX became a
huge asset. World today would
not have witnessed reusable
rocket - Falcon-9 if Musk had
consented at the face of crisis.

However, all the roseate ideas of
not consenting to adversities often
do not realise. Yet if we keep
'our head towards the sunshine
we will never see a shadow!

That's where the resilience is tested, the fortitude of being upright in all circumstances.

A.P.J Abdul Kalam once remarked that when he went for joining the Indian Air Force (IAF), he was ranked 9 but there were only 8 seats, a dejected young Kalam continued to persevere, he did not let the setback make him feel inferior and once he became the president of India he flew the same Aircraft.

Therefore, it is us consenting to

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events which challenge us or circumventing them, which creates a difference.

A person who is positive-minded will always find a way out.
 'Optimists find an ~~that~~ opportunity in every challenge and pessimists would find a challenge in every opportunity? The variation lies in the resilience and mindset.

In 1952 India had to conduct large scale democratic elections the whole world questioned, that Indian democracy would not survive for long. A country with such vastness and diversity had multifarious challenges, yet it did not concent to all the inferiority

promoted by western imperialists.
Today it is not only 'world's
largest democracy' but has rem-
-ained a testament to 'Unity
In diversity'!

As Gandhi remarked 'if you keep
sowing the seeds of babod you can
not expect a flower of rose', if
one keeps feeding the negativity,
the same is bound to return
amplified. whilst a person who
faces challenges head on like
a eagle bird evades the
mindset of 'ostrich' which hides
his head under the sand when
faced with 'challenges'.

Thus the real difference lies in
how one interprets the situation.

whether you consent to Inferiority or focus on chasing the 'higher ladder'.

David Goggins in his book 'Can't Hurt Me' writes that one must embrace the 'discomfort having an accountability mirror which shows you reality. One can not get hurt by others if he/she focuses on the pursuit of excellence. The pursuit which navigates through the rough waters like a shipwreck reaching the 'lighthouse'.

The DRDO (Defense research & development organisation) often consented to inferiority when

faced with stiff competition from private foreign firms, yet the same DRDO when had an ambitious 'Integrated Missile development project' did wonders by making India an exporter of missiles with exports reaching 21000 crore making India self-reliant.

Therefore it is not just the resilience but a precise goal which makes us move forward. A precise goal is like a veil of ignorance which hides us behind all negativity and inferiority.

Moreover at certain junctures one may even accept inferiority but does not get affected by it. Gandhi for instance accepted

that British were all superior in terms of force, army and even leadership but he did not accept the same as his fate. He launched multiple movements created groundwork first and then went on to unnerve the British Raj, it was his hope and ability to navigate the complexities that the world remembers today.

Similarly in the modern India women like Rani Lakshmi Bai, Rani Chennamma of Kittur all fought with bravery even when faced with adversity of British Raj. Jhansi Ki Rani did not consent to Britishers and

Lord Dalhousie's Doctrine of Lapse
which took away kingdoms
'suzerainty'.

Even Kiram Beedi showed resilience
when people thought his
Tihar Jail posting as a setback
she did not consent to their
opinions and reformed the
very institution into 'a humane
one'.

However it is also true that
sometimes inferiority is so
widely entrenched that all the
resilience fails at the face of
it. Dr. Ambedkar never consen-
-ted to inferiority which the
caste system entailed, yet he
faced discrimination at multiple

levels in his 'Grammar of Anarchy' writing 'Can the countrymen put collective interests of the nation above the interests of their caste and creed'.

Nonetheless, when the constitution was drafted a social revolution was entailed.

Thus, consenting to other perception of yours if it is not positive or constructive would only lead to inferiority. Reaching the higher ladder is like a 'game of chess' you can either consent to your opponent's moves and sit idle or continuously strategize and plan,

not giving heed to negativity.
Evading the 'checkmate of life'
requires the same resilience,
where destiny is the 'manifestation
of it'.

FEEDBACK

ForumIAS

Philosophy of manliness is utopian, materialism is a chimera

manifested in modern form

SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK

Sec A | To be content with little is difficult; to be content with much impossible → voluntary poverty

Mbs → Buddha | Shankara | Greta | Gandhi | Plato | Socrates
 consumerism | narrow perception of good life

content → capitalism
 Marx
 French (Louis revolution)

The contentment conundrum: Greed gateway to hell
 Unabated pursuit: Way to catastrophe

Global north v/s south (climate change)

Russian (Tsar)
 Britain (Britainian)
 USA (current)
 Alexander

Contentment with purpose: A happy combo

Don't look for consequences

Paulo Coelho (The Alchemist)

Contentment is natural wealth, luxury artificial
 poor

antivirus → with much - content ← ex. Hanishchandra (integrity statement)

Conclusion → mishram karma (desires uchiar) add value (care when they know you care)

Affed why difficult to noble
 God of death / why impossible
 God of life / wants greed, desire honor (power/dust)

See B satisfaction, happiness

No one can make you feel inferior w/o your consent

→ ships do not sink bco of water | how you take

Wright boys / Alfred Noble
 Mandela
 Post colonial

challenges
 Keep you face toward sun
 → Kanchi Abenit
 (Contributions)

Kiran Bedi
 Gandhii → Air India
 India's ECI
 Mandella
 South & DRDO

Can't Hunt Me - David Gossing → accountability mirror

40% potential if you have hope
 Singapore → sage to riches

(Kalam) → 9th → became VP

Trump (India-baah) (Wings of fire) s. Jaishankar → 150+ world

Adison
 Women → RM Roy
 Avanti Lekhana
 D. Gukesh

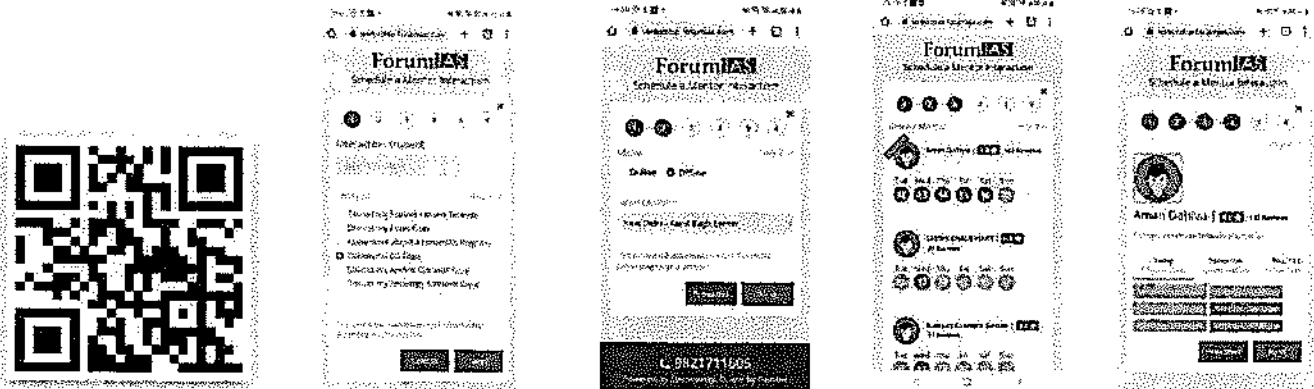
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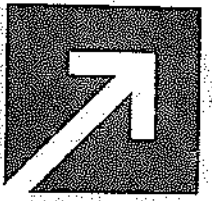
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- Write small, learn fast (O-AWFG) → then go full-scale (ATS)

Already confident with Optional basics and PYQs?

- You may enrol directly in ATS and jump straight into UPSC-level full-length mocks.

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

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11 AUGUST

ATS (Batch-5)

17 AUGUST