



VISION IAS

www.visionias.in

SUBJECT:	Essay Test 5	Test Code:	9	3	3		
Name of Candidate	Saumya Sharma						
Medium Hindi/Eng.	English	Registration Number	9	5	3	7	1
Center		Date					

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Page No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained

Total Marks Obtained:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. All questions are compulsory.
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
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. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
6. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

1/8-B, 2nd Floor, Building- Apsara Arcade, Near Gate-7 Karol Bagh Metro Station, Pusa Road,
Karol Bagh, Delhi - 110005

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Section A

Success of a Democracy hinges on healthy functioning of its institutions.

The ideas of the French Revolution which sowed the seeds of democracy marked a momentous shift from hereditary monarchies and oligarchies. With democracy, the average citizen could aspire for a life where she just does not exist, but her opinion matters too. Democracy is government of the people, for the people, and by the people. The individual is no longer a mere cog in the running of the State machinery, but is now the reason behind the elected government.

In the present day multicultural porous yet fissiporous world, democracy assumes great importance. However, if democracy falters in its functioning, it defeats its very objective. As

Montesquieu wrote in the 18th century, 'the tyranny of a prince in an oligarchy is not as dangerous to public welfare as the apathy of a citizen in a democracy.'

Since democracy is based on public trust, any breach of the trust relegates individuals to the same position of low-importance that they had pre-democracy. The success of Scandinavian countries of Norway, Finland, Denmark in economic and health indicators is better than that of many democracies. These Scandinavian countries are an example that even a constitutional monarchy can achieve optimum governance.

In this context, it becomes evident that democracy by itself is no panacea. Democracy can achieve its objectives only through strong institutions and political will,

as is present in other non-democratic yet prosperous countries of the world.

For a democracy to function well, there are certain key values that need to be present. Welfare oriented prompt service delivery which reaches even the poorest of the poor is essential. Coordination between governments is again vital. The Nolan Committee [UK] gave the principles of public life which should be implemented in a democracy, viz. consensus oriented, effective, equitable, participatory, accountable, responsive and transparent.

However, such ideals are not always put into action. As Winston Churchill said, 'the best argument against democracy is a five minute conversation with the average voter.' The ground realities often paint a drab picture of

the success of democracy.

There are various challenges impeding success of democracy in our country. The phenomenon of vote-bank appeasement is the biggest culprit behind our politicians not being able to take difficult decisions. The reason why encroachments on public land continue, and implementation of wide reaching laws such as laws banning loudspeakers post 10 pm is primarily vote bank politics.

A related phenomenon to vote bank politics is populism that lacks values and pits communities against one another. This often leads to decisions rooted in utilitarianism, while ignoring the needs of the minority sections.

Further, democracy often leads to inefficiency in economic stability due to crony capitalism. Political parties 'pay' back their funders once

they get elected. A similar trend is seen in the 'spoils system' wherein posts in public service commissions and information commissions are given to party loyalists.

Weak institutions are also evident in the tussle between centers of power and various government organs. The executive-judiciary conflict is noteworthy. The executive defers hard decisions to the judiciary, and the judiciary often passes orders that exceed the scope of its power. Further, as the recent Finance Bill showed, executive can take large powers to appoint judges of the very tribunals before which it appears as a litigant.

Often, the use of Article 356 of the Constitution and the imposition of President's rule in States erodes the confidence of state residents in democracy. As democratic governments are dismissed

at will, citizens wonder whether the democracy lacks sturdy institutions.

This further brings up the topic of the legitimacy of those elected. The recent flare up on the topic of faulty electronic voting machines exposed low confidence in institutions. The first past the post system too is being discussed by a parliamentary panel, for its inequities.

All of this leads to poor service delivery. Health and education indicators suffer. Hospitals and schools are built, but there is no ready corresponding change noticed in the outcomes. A comprehensive lack of social security net funded of taxpayers' monies adds to the woes.

While this situation leads to a complacent ('chalta hai') attitude in the citizenry, the scenario has many achievements too. Indian

democracy has achieved success in many fields due to its powerful and integral institutions. Our Constitution has survived the trials of time, even as other countries frame and reframe their founding documents.

The army in our country has ensured the success of democracy by never attempting ~~to~~ a coup on the democratically elected government. This situation of de-facto power being with the army is the reason behind Pakistan's fragile democracy.

Our Courts too have upheld the Constitution by invalidating many legislative Acts using judicial review. Whenever the Courts realise they have been unfaithful to their role as a guardian of civil liberties, they are quick to change course. This was seen after the widely criticised ADM Jabalpur habeas corpus case in emergency.

era.

The institutions of Comptroller & Auditor General, Central Vigilance Commission, Central Information Commission and various Parliamentary committees ensure that our legislature and executive remain accountable and act responsibly.

Democracy has also ushered in an era of previously unthought of social mobility. Reservations have ensured high posts for previously oppressed castes and tribes. Even publicly funded temples such as Kerala's devaswom have introduced reservations in the appointment of priests.

Democracy and its strong institution of the bureaucracy in India is the reason why there are no famines anymore in India. Our country has greatly improved

its educational and health parameters. Financial inclusion, transparency through the RTI Act are all outcomes that showcase the success of democracy.

The testimony to the presence of strong institutions in India was given by OECD's Government at a Glance report, wherein 73% Indians have faith in the government. Even so, a number of reforms can be initiated to make our strong democracy sturdier to cure the defects mentioned previously.

The way forward would be to promote a value based model of democracy which does not thrive on divisive lines. In this regard, a mandatory short course on ethics for newly elected politicians could be introduced.

Further, the lokpal Act must be urgently implemented as directed by the Supreme Court. The electoral reforms as suggested by the Law Commission in its 25th Report should also be considered.

The role of civil society organisations which is so vital in our country should be institutionalised. The NITI Aayog has already taken a lead in this by having a partnership mechanism for NGOs. Such collaboration will help achieve favourable health and education outcomes.

Antyodaya, or welfare of the poorest, should be the goal of democracy. Democracy is a great way to bring social change and development for all. Further strengthening the existing institutions,

and establishing new ones where needed is essential. Strong institutions will lead to a prosperous populace, the support of which will ensure the infallibility of democracy.



Section - B

Investing in human capital: Need
of the hour

It is estimated that by 2040, India will overtake China to become the most populous country in the world. As the world ages, India will have the youngest population, ready to power the economy with the fruits of its labour and effort. The demographic dividend in front of us opens up exciting possibilities which could redefine the Indian experience if harnessed properly. For this end, India will have to invest massively in the development of human capital.

Human capital refers to a set of competencies in humans

which make the population a productive asset. The human capital indicators of a country largely determine the level of inclusivity in its development.

Human capital ensures that growth is not just about double digit GDP growth and hard labour, but also about inclusive, holistic human resource development.

The recent Global Human Capital Report, 2017 released by the World Economic Forum places India at a low rank of 103. This puts India, with its high economic growth and world power, far behind countries like Myanmar who are torn with civil strife.

Our Constitution through its various directive principles of State policy and fundamental freedoms

focuses upon the realisation of human capital. Even so, we are a long way from achieving the lofty goals proclaimed by our Constitution Drafters. What could be the reasons behind our abysmally low human capital?

A dismal state of affairs

Democracy in India has not completely translated to effective service delivery. Scarce resources are inequitably translated into wide disparities among classes on various outcomes.

Education remains highly lopsided. The IITs, IIMs can best be described as 'islands of excellence in a sea of mediocrity'. As successive Annual Survey on Education [ASER] Reports of Patham show, primary, middle and senior secondary

education all have poor outcomes.

Despite India's Dr. Soumya Swaminathan represented at the highest levels of the World Health Organisation, hundreds of children still die from simple diarrhoea. The Gorakhpur tragedy is a grim reminder of how stressed our health system is.

Basic service delivery of piped water, electricity and internet connection which is increasingly becoming vital remains absent in many villages. People in Chambal's valley still have to battle crocodiles in order to fill their earthen pots with water for daily use.

Due to the multitude of deprivations, very less effort goes towards acquiring skills and higher education. Consequently, a large part (45%) of our population remains under-employed in agriculture.

While India has succeeded immensely on various fronts, our development cannot be true until it reaches even the most deprived soul. There is an urgent need to turn our large population into an asset that will guide us on the path of equitable & sustainable growth.

The prospects of human capital

Any investment in the development of human capital will yield enormous dividends on multiple fronts. Presently, our expenditure on the two key sectors of health & education as a percentage of GDP is a low 1.9% and 4% respectively, which needs to be raised.

Better outcome-oriented education will result in youth which will be well competent to

lead tomorrow's world as teachers, doctors, scientists, businessmen & politicians. Improved health indicators will lead to planned population growth, and an aware populace which realises the value of preventive medicine.

Once the prime worries of health and education are taken care of, the healthy and well-educated population will be psychologically free to take up productive activities and aspire for an ambitious life. Ideas will be more likely to turn into useful innovations, which will not only boost the economy but also the intellectual property wealth of our country.

Education will also curb the phenomenon of jobless growth, as the gap between skills required and

skills available by the workforce closes. The threat of automation will also be countered. Care economy and other sunrise sectors will see a push, leading to a skill-based growth.

Further, investment in human capital is also likely to create a well-informed citizenry that is responsible in its conduct. Elections and paying taxes could become important, as people realise the significance of fulfilling their civic duties. The phenomenon of 'donkey voting' as described by the 255th Report of Law Commission could also reduce.

Further, the social mores will also change as people pursue more rewarding and fulfilling life paths. Female foeticide, child trafficking, superstitions could come down. Environment protection and

VISION IAS™

the use of more efficient energy use, efficient products could increase. A bottom up approach to climate change prevention can work well if the citizenry is healthy, educated and productive.

Such a citizenry is also likely to be more aware, push for better implementation of laws. Effective social audit & better service delivery will raise the accountability of the government, and ultimately reduce the burden on the Courts for enforcement related PILs.

The Way Ahead

The possibilities of a well developed human capital are endless, as illustrated above. Therefore, it is imperative to have high investments in this field. There are

many ways to achieve this goal.

A strong political will to take difficult decisions is most important. While short term and immediate return - giving decisions help seize the vote bank, it is usually long-term decisions which give the highest dividends.

The budgetary component of human capital related sectors should be increased. Effective & real powers should be devolved to local bodies to ensure higher accountability in service delivery. The best practises collated by the NITI Aayog should be widely disseminated with relevant state functionaries.

The continued cooperation of both the voluntary and the

private sector should be taken in this regard. The public private partnership model which is being tested in various districts in health & education is a good way forward.

The gap between cities and villages must also be reduced, as presently villagers migrate to cities to have a better life. The rurban mission is a good step in this regard.

Reforms in education such as SWAYAM massive online courses, setting up of Higher Education Regulatory Authority [HEERA] and the similar financing authority should be expediated. Further, adequate state support should be provided for continued implementation of

Start Up India, Stand Up India & Skill India Missions. Digital India and the DISHA scheme must also be pushed forth to take technology to all through the JAM trinity.

Investment in human capital is our chance to ensure that the demographic dividend does not turn into a demographic disaster. The Indian elephant must dance, and now is the time to make it happen.

————— X —————