



ESSAY Test_TS - 3 (APSC Mains 2023)

Duration: 3 Hours

NAME	ANKITA BARUAH	PHONE NO :	
DATE	15th May, 2023	APSC ROLL NO:	4001510
Email Id:			

(Please fill your details correctly)

Medium: English ☒

Assamese ☐

INDEX NUMBER			INSTUCTIONS
Q.NO.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained.	Please read each of the following instruction carefully before attempting the questions: - Essay paper will consist of two Sections, each Section containing of 2 Essay topics, out of which the candidates will be required to write one topic from each of the sections A and B, in about 1000-1200 words each. - Each Essay will carry 125 marks. - There will be word limit and page limit for the essays. - The duration of the test is 3 hrs.
Section - A	125		
1			
2			
Section - B	125		
3			
4			
			Remarks: Signature of the Student: 
TOTAL:	250		



Brief report of Performance Evaluation of student in the paper

Parameter / Criteria	Aspect Considered	Total Marks	Essay 1	Essay 2
Basic Format	Introduction + conclusion	10		
	Body	15		
Content	Data/ Facts/ Interpretation/ Analysis	25		
Orgainsation	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		

Parameters	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor
coherence				
Language				
Handwriting				

Detail Feedback

Section - A Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

2. "You cannot step into the same river twice"
An orphaned teenager lived with his
uncle and aunt who mistreated him.
He lived under the stairs passing his
days in misery. On his 11th birthday,
he found that his parents were
actually wizards and he too had
magical powers. He was invited to the
Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and
Wizardry to cultivate his magical
powers. His life changed completely
since that day. This is the story of
the famous character Harry Potter by
J.K. Rowling. The knowledge about
his origin changed Harry's life.

The adage "You cannot step
twice into the same river, for it's
not the same river and you are
not the same man" also talks about
change as the only constant in life.
Like the river flows eternally,
waiting for none, change is a

constant and Inevitable. The river flows day in and day out constantly. As people we also are not the same person we were yesterday. How ever we try we cannot replicate yesterday nor can we be the same person we were yesterday.

"Time and tide wait for none".

Living ~~learning~~ life from a mother's womb to old age one undergoes a plethora of changes. From learning A, B, C's and 1, 2, 3... we learn the most complex things in life. Even the simplest of learnings change us in ways we cannot fathom. Early human beings discovered fire, invented the wheel and could not even imagine the world we live in today and a person in 21st century cannot imagine life without fire and wheel. It's very simple for us to ~~imagine~~ ^{define} fire today or make hundreds of use of the

wheel but for the early humans these were big and profound changes.

Like the flowing river, almost everything undergoes variation more or less. The society we live in today has undergone so many changes to be in the shape that it is today. India at one time was gripped by evils like untouchability, Sati. It underwent revolutionary changes to reach where it is today. The practices once thought of as significant in culture are now criminalised. In future, we can hope to see a world without the practice of dowry, child marriage and equally dignified life for the people from LGBTQ community. What seems unimaginable now should be the reality in society in the coming days. Society also goes through crests and troughs to shape itself in current form. The women of Iran before the Islamic revolution could never have thought about the plight of Iranian women today.

The field of medicine can also be cited as an example to signify how like the everchanging river, almost everything is dynamic in nature. Before the discovery of vaccine by Edward Jenner, children and adults died in huge numbers. The accidental discovery of vaccine changed the whole face of the world in a way.

From times when people had to wait several weeks or even months to receive letters from loved ones to present times when any person you love being just a click-of-button away, the world has evolved beyond fancy. The planet is a global village now. Times have changed and here! The AI Artificial Intelligence (AI) means that is on the rise now will further revolutionalise human society and human nature. The award winning movie 'Her' talks about the

relationship between a man and an AI-robot and it doesn't seem very far from being reality eventually.

In India, the election process can be seen to have undergone changes and not being the same procedure as it was about say 50 years ago. From legal voting age being reduced to 18 years and voting process shifting ~~from~~ to Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), the electoral process has also drastically changed. The foreign policies of India have also underwent major turnarounds. From Nehruji's Non-Aligned Movement to the current Multi-Alignment Policy, India has learnt ~~se~~ and re-evaluated and has constantly and persistently tried to improve.

We can also look at the world before and after COVID-19 to analyse the ever-changing dynamics of the world. Before corona hit the world, we had an attitude of being invincible.

People were perpetually ~~only~~ thinking about giving their all to work — almost being married to it. They would ignore their health, children, loved ones, hobbies and completely submerge themselves in work in an attempt to earn more, to spend later. But that 'later' hardly came and people were caught in a web. The lockdown in 2019 because of corona broke people's perception, opened their eyes to a world beyond themselves and their work. In a post-pandemic world people can be seen to be more empathetic towards each other, focusing on community growth, finding time to spend with family and friends, spend time to pursue hobbies and passions. The rise of gig economy is an outcome of the changing or altering thought process of the human mind.

The values people had ignored and almost became mechanised are resurfacing. Love, kindness, patience, compassion as values have been recognised with renewed enthusiasm. People needed a pandemic to break away from the shackles of a life without human values. Human values were celebrated worldwide during and after the pandemic. The world as a whole managed to emerge from a 'joyless economy'.

Stepping into the same river is not feasible and ^{is} being stuck in ~~the~~ the same place in life. With every dawn dusk, there is the hope of a new dawn. We do not remain the same person we were yesterday or the day before yesterday. Tomorrow is always around the corner, change is always happening. Buddha had stepped out of his palace as Siddhartha but did not remain the same person

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
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thereafter. Gandhi's journey out of India to South Africa and back to India in 1915 was not the same nor he was the same person. He had different tales to tell, different teachings to impart.

There is an old saying that goes, "You can sell sour mangoes only once". A bad deed can be done only once without getting caught. A vendor can learn by selling bad, sour mangoes only once in the same location. Doing so repeatedly will expose his misdeed. Good or bad we need to recognise that once we do something we cannot change it. ~~We can't be doing~~ we are a changed person every day - we learn new things, we do different work, we speak differently.

Life is vibrant and fast-paced as the water in the river. With the passage of time, nothing remains the same. The world is

the last minute has changed - I have written another sentence, a person has lost her loved one, a mother is born, someone won a lottery. The ever-changing nature of life is constant. Anything that is lost once is gone forever and anything that is won once cannot be won the same again. There is a Japanese art of sticking back the pieces of broken crockery together - kintsugi or golden sewing. It signifies that ~~its~~ flaws and imperfections are a part of life but also signifies that once broken the crockery is not the same again even with gold decoration. ‡

The expression, "you cannot step twice into the same river" teaches us to enjoy life at the present. Buddha's teaching of that suffering of an individual lies in his thought process can be equated with the expression.

If an individual lives in the present the utilisation of his time is efficient. Worrying about the future or repenting about the past is futile use of our time. What is lost in the past cannot be changed, what is in the future is not in our control but here we use the present is in our hands. The present is a gift. The dynamic nature of life and of things should be embraced with open arms. The river flows and will continue to flow. Its discourse always carrying different water. We cannot hold it back. Life is always changing its course, reminding people to be observant and attentive, to live in the present. Like the flowing river we must let ourselves change for the better. inculcate new habits, learn new things, seek out joy in little things, appreciate the present and live everyday like it's our last.

The society's fabric will change and continue to do so till the end of time. What we need to do is to be like the flowing river - gathering knowledge and aspiring to be better than yesterday, keep a hold on things under our control and let go of the past.

As the famous old song goes -
"Que Sera Sera whatever will be, will be"
and like the nature's seasons, change is ~~the~~ predestined, it is inexorable.

Be the change you want to see in others.

Gandhiji as a young boy had set out on a journey to become a lawyer. He went on to become not only a barrister but the epitome of self-improvement, courage and honesty. The atmosphere of injustice around him bethrew him. He himself became a victim of the hatred. Gandhiji observed that his colour was looked down upon. The environment of apartheid, the cruelty meted out to Blacks, the sheer arrogance of the 'whites' shook Gandhi to his core. Instead of sitting back and letting all the evils envelope the society, he took matters to his own hand. Gandhiji ~~was~~ knew the road he had chosen was difficult but he was not one to back out.

In South Africa, Gandhi fought for the rights of the ~~white~~ Blacks and achieved appaloudable success. He ~~dediced~~ decided to act instead of sitting down. He believed firmly that "Silence becomes cowardice when occasion demands speaking out the whole truth and acting accordingly". Thus, he became the change that he wanted to see, he took charge when it was most needed.

At "Be the change you want to see in others" signifies the importance of self-improvement, acting on demand and rising to the occasion. When a young Gandhi returned to India in 1915 he could have easily chosen to turn a blind eye to the injustice going around him, he could have escaped it but rather he chose to tackle the

matter head-on. A very popular incident from Gandhi's life can be cited here to prove his dedication to self improvement - it mother once brought her son to Gandhiji and requested him to ask her son not to over consume jaggery. On two or three such occasions, Gandhiji sent her back and asked her to come another day. Finally, Gandhiji advised the young boy to cut down on jaggery. When the mother questioned why he had sent her back previously, Gandhiji replied that he himself had to quit eating jaggery before he could advise anyone else. "Practice what you preach" Such was his honesty and dedication.

Gandhiji was against violence, untouchability. He swore by the profound benefits of swaraj. His life

is an example of how to live and
be a guiding force. He never tried to
impose his beliefs on people, rather
 showed the way through exemplary
behaviour. He fought untouchability with
 the greatest zeal and with unconventional
ways. In his ashram, he made sure
 everyone ~~cleaned~~ got a chance to clean the
 toilets. He himself did not shy away from
 it. We come to know of an instance where
 he had a disagreement with his wife
 Kasturba bai over the same when she
 refused to clean the toilets. He showed
 her dignity of labour. Gandhiji was a
 firm supporter of cottage industry and
 he himself spent hours on the chakra.
 His commitment to non-violence ~~is~~ has been
 witnessed time and again but the
withdrawal of civil Disobedience
Movement after the Chauri-Chaura
incident deserves special mention - This
 move of Gandhiji has drawn
 massive criticism throughout the

country but his conscience did not let him encourage violence which he was so against of. The quote

"Be the change you want to see in others" by Gandhi is not just a fancy juxtaposition of words but has embedded in it the very philosophy of his life. Whenever he found himself ~~in~~ caught in webs of turmoil, he would see himself as a third entity and act on things as if he would want others to help him in that situation. He also believed in the philosophy of

"Treat others how you want others to treat you". Numerous incidents can be quoted from his life to show how Gandhiji himself would act as the epitome before trying to mould others. The easiest clay to mould is your

men is what he believed in. His journey from Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi to 'Bapu' was not an easy one and ~~it~~ the journey ~~at~~ highlights his love for the process rather than the outcome. His methods were deontological. Gandhiji also showed us how 'True patriotisim hates injustice in its own land than anywhere else'.

Most often we make the mistake of undermining our worth - the worth of individual actions and the worth of our own selves. The great Rumi had said, "You are not a drop, you are the ocean in a drop".

We tend to think that our actions alone won't bring a desirable change to the society but time and again great leaders have shown that we could not be more mistaken. Individual actions have far more impact than we can fathom. If Jadav Payeng had thought on the same lines,

he would not become the "Forest Man".
How much dedication, tolerance
and passion it must have taken to
create a jungle! If he thought that his
actions - planting trees - had no
significance, how different the outcome
would have been! We can also look
at the lives of Kalpana Chawla,
Purnima Devi Barman and so many
others. They believed in themselves, in
their ability to create a lasting
impact. Kalpana Chawla has inspired
generations of women to literally aim
for the sky. Purnima Devi Barman
single handedly created the "Hargilla
Army" and have given new lines,
renewed hopes to so many women in
assam and in the world. They have
established that the world is changed
not by our opinions but by our
examples. Ishtwar Chandra

Vidyasagar was against the shackles that tied the hands of women in society back then. His widow remarriage was a cause dear to him. He not only did put all his energy for the cause but also married a widow himself to do away with the taboo in society. These great people led by example.

In current times, entrepreneurship has gained ~~so~~ significant importance and rightly so. Entrepreneurship in its substantive form is a social cause and it acts as a vessel for change in society. ~~Young the once in a lifetime~~ The rare young demography of India have realised that it is the time to take matters into our hands and have rushed into the entrepreneurship phase. They have set out to give to the society in business what they wanted for themselves. Life does not serve opportunities in silver platter but the young crowd of India is motivated to

set things right. Bringing in the changes themselves, creating in the opportunities themselves is the spirit of entrepreneurship.

Unexamined life is not worth living and not taking action after examining is ~~where~~ blatant disregard for improvement and progress. We should always strive to be better.

In a world which runs on 'survival of the fittest', we should be fit not as to win the race, since everyone is in a different game but we should aspire to be fit so as to inspire, encourage and to also live life to our fullest potential. A drop does not make an ocean but if everyone did their best to bring at least one drop, we can imagine how big the impact will be. Being the change we want to see in others not only makes the world a

better place for us but for the future as well. We can change the collective consciousness of the society through affirmative actions done even in the personal zone of growth. The disappearance of Sati is one such example. More recently the world as a whole had pledged to repair the 'ozone hole' but only individual practices have been the determining factor for the reduction of CFCs. If any country had thought of not changing practices the success story of ozone layer repair would not be true. Sustainable development goals would also ~~have been a~~ success story only if we as individuals decide to bring a change in our habits, if we as individuals were not to hamper the planet that we live in. So when we see our efforts from a microscopic level they might not amount to much but these microscopic efforts of millions will definitely be enough to save our planet from the burning

grasp of global warming. A change in individual behaviour - leading by example is going to be the saving grace of our planet. We should never be disheartened of our small acts of good although they may not seem to be of much importance to us.

King Ashoka after winning the Battle of Kalinga was taken over by a sense of pride. He looked around him and saw rivers of blood, ~~cities~~ piles of dead bodies and rule of destruction. His pride immediately turned into a sense of shock and confusion. If he had really won the war he should have felt happy but the reality was far from it. He realised his mistake and soon thereafter he took the path of Buddhism. He preached love, non-violence, compassion and also showed the path to follow. Example is better than pretext. Ashoka's change

In him ~~was~~ himself was like a ~~leader~~
guiding light, a light house - His
changed attitude encouraged many
others to follow his path. Changing the
course of his own actions led to a
river of goodness following him and he
became Ashoka the great. Being the
change we want to see in others can
inspire others in ways unimaginable to us.
There have been only a handful of
leaders like Gandhiji, Martin Luther
King Jr, Dalai Lama, who have been
able to influence change to the extent
and scale that continues to bring
inspiration in names even today..