

Duration: 3 Hours

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DATE	24-05-2023	APSC ROLL NO:	4006465
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Medium:

English ☐Assamese ☐

INDEX NUMBER			INSTRUCTIONS
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 4 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			
3			
4			
Section - B	125		
5			
6			
7			
8			
			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		
Organisation	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

Q1. We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.

Q2. Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.

Q3. Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will.

Q4. Poverty is the worst form of violence.

(1200 words)

ESSAY - 2

During the 1980s & 1970s, the F1 races were deemed to be the epitome of technology and innovation. However another aspect of the races were forgotten i.e., the willpower of the racers.

Nikki Lauda, a German racer, was one of the finest and greatest ever racers of the time. However, he was too calculating and timid. On the other hand, there was a flamboyant British racer named James Hunt. He was energetic, fiery and liked to take his chances. He would take risks to ensure his win.

On one fateful race, while the conditions were too drastic for racing, Nikki-Lauda suggested to postpone the race but James

Hunt said that all the racers came to F1 knowing the risks. The competition demanded to draw the innermost fear of competitors and it was as much a test of skills as of the mind. Thus, he convinced his fellow racers that conditions were equally dangerous for all, and their skill in driving while mitigating this danger would determine the winners.

What James Hunt didn't say aloud but were implicit from his words were that they must race today because tomorrow doesn't exist. They must live like they have to finish everything today itself. There is no tomorrow because you could very well die tomorrow.

This represents the philosophy that one must always be present in the moment, in the present. In modern spiritual language, we call it mindfulness.

Live as if you were to die tomorrow

This line highlights the transience of the next moment. We never know what's really going to happen next. So instead of postponing our work for the next moment, we should do all we can to complete our work in the present.

In the famous race of tortoise and the hare, the tortoise toiled every moment just to complete the race. It knew it had a great disadvantage, so it took one step at a time without thinking about the outcome. Each moment was precious to the tortoise. It was a question of his honour, so instead of worrying about the injustice of the race or thinking about the looming threat of not even completing the race, the tortoise chose to focus on the present.

Whereas, she had assumed that it was going to win. She tried in the future where she could see winning the race. So she rested believing the win was already here instead of toiling in the present. Thus, when the tortoise won the race, she had didn't just lose the race, she also lost the ~~race~~ test of life.

Death is the ultimate stop of the transient life. It is the end of materialistic life. Thus we must try to achieve all our dreams before that day so that we can live and die without regrets. While it is important to live a good life, it is much more important to live decisively. Decisive living requires to never shirk away from one's responsibilities and strive to complete one's activities in the given time.

" Kal Kare So Aaj Kar, Aaj Kare So Ab
 Pal me Pardai Haggi, Bahuri Karega Kab "
 - Kabir

Above couplet aptly sums up the attitude one should have in life towards work. It is especially true for the working class population of India. To delay in our work means procrastination. Procrastination never leads to fulfilment of our needs & desires. It makes one more lazy and affects the organisation also as the work in a firm is largely interdependent. So delay in one cog-of-the wheel can set the whole machinery behind.

Procrastination also signifies one's attitude towards work. It means the person values inactivity more than activity, i.e., the person is less interest in work and no motivation to achieve personal &

organisational objectives which may require putting in some effort. Not giving effort or running away from one's responsibility is a sure-shot way to become an underachiever. "If one doesn't do his work or the "dharma" one can never attain peace or prosperity in life" - as mentioned in Bhagavad Gita. Bhagavad Gita further says that to achieve liberation one must do their duty without worrying or bothering about the outcome of their duty.

Immanuel Kant's philosophy of - "Duty for the sake of Duty" - is very much similar to the ancient tenet of Bhagavad Gita. Although one can also live without working, but even our body cannot sustain without doing work like respiration or digestion. Thus, it is in our nature to work and so we

must definitely act according to the "dharma" we set for ourself. And following this dharma includes not procrastinating.

From above arguments we can surmise that life is limited and so we must act in the present to fulfil our desires. But just as life is limited, our desires are unlimited. Our unlimited desires requires prompt action from us. Additionally it requires us to have the necessary knowledge to fulfil our desires.

For eg we may be very eager to become a pilot and fly a plane. But without proper training we can never be able fly a plane. And such training requires knowledge and application of knowledge.

Thus, in addition to prompt action we also need adequate knowledge to help us achieve our dreams.

Learn as if you live forever

Chinese philosopher Confucius had said that wisdom is earned in three ways- reflection (which is the noblest), repetition (which is the easiest) and experience (which is the bitterest). So we can have many different avenues of learning.

Whether we learn by the noblest, easiest and bitterest way, we learn nevertheless. And this learning can take time depending on the nature of the person.

An open-minded, humble and eager person can learn from all whereas an over-confident, close-minded and carelessly ending person usually neglects the knowledge that life teaches. So to be a good learner one must first be a ~~good learner~~ good receiver. One must listen to every iota of knowledge around himself and draw lessons and immerse himself in

This new Knowledge.

But once we start to open ourself to Knowledge around us we realise there is too much to learn and we as humans have too little time on our hands. At this stage, if we try to hurry ourself, then we realise at later stage that we missed many of the lessons. And life continues to repeat its lessons until we learn it. Hence, we must first stretch every moment into infinity and realise there are infinite lessons to be learnt. If we learn with objective of near term goals, we may fulfill those immediate desires but miss on some more important goals. For eg. If the revolt of 1857 had succeeded, we may have thrown the British out of our country but the country itself would have

returned to the medieval society of 15-16th century.

Thus, keeping in mind the social and economic condition of our country and knowing the knowledge of the west and its implication for modern world including the ideals of liberty, equality & justice, many intellectuals preferred to not support the revolt.

Thus, by focussing on the long term goals and stretching each moment into infinity & we become aware of the 'infinite' knowledge. Then we sit down to learn from this infinite knowledge. Learning this infinite knowledge gives true happiness and it has been described as the "Brahman" in Hindu scriptures. As the moment passes, we learn new ideas and this is called ~~being~~ learning as if we live forever.

Humanity is different from all other known form of life because of its consciousness. And this consciousness is the result millions of years of evolution which was kickstarted by the spark of curiosity. Just like a small spark can cause a wildfire, similarly curiosity and thirst for knowledge has advanced humans from ape-like existence to apex creatures on earth. And this evolution has ~~not~~ been possible due to our curiosity - learning new knowledge and acting promptly of these knowledge to build a better society.

"It is impossible to stop an idea, whose time has come".

We should enable best possible outcomes of such ideas by prompt action.

Section - B

Q5. Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.

Q6. Don't limit a child to your own learning, for she was born in another time.

Q7. Non-violence is the first article of my faith. It is also the last article of my creed.

Q8. Saving our planet and lifting people out of poverty --- they are one and the same fight.

(1200 words)

Essay - 8

Historically we have kept people and planet apart. We have had separate ethical standards for welfare of people as well as welfare of nature. While the welfare of people concerned their physical welfare and spiritual well-being, the welfare of nature had largely been ignored. One of the reasons could be nature was worshipped in the form of many deities. That nature could be associated with worship is evident across many culture and geographies. The Greeks had gods resembling different elements and forces of nature, India had similar forms of natural elements like Indra (thunderstorm), Varun (water), Agni (fire), Surya (sun

Chandra (Moon), etc. Even the Egyptians had gods & goddesses dedicated to different elements of nature.

The worship of nature thus represented the belief that nature was superior to humans. And from this belief arose the different religions. Religion of ancient times promoted the superiority of nature and expected humans to live in accordance to nature.

Now, the word religion is derived from the ~~word~~ word religare which means to connect people. Thus religion in those times meant connecting humans by their common devotion to nature. If the gods asked for some activity, it was dedicated to a certain nature god, by the activity or sacrifice of human. If the gods were happy they would reward all humanity in the form of plentiful food, safety & security and material prosperity. Thus human well-being

was intricately connected to satisfying nature itself.

But over a period of time, due to enhancement of scientific knowledge as well as understanding of physical world, our dependence on the nature and natural forces reduced. We became the master of our own fate. We depended on ourself for supply of foodgrains through more fields for agriculture, we organised ourself into society, Kingdoms to better protect ourself. We started trading among ourself for getting the material prosperity. Thus, the dependence on physical nature for our survival was reduced. This is reflected in the beliefs of those times as many religions arose which advocated the primacy human welfare. Although nature was not insignificant, but it was no longer

necessary to placate nature-gods through rituals and sacrifices. While old religion focussed on common devotion to nature new religion sought to bind people to the idea of self-improvement, improvement of society, ideal governance. Man had drawn a zone of influence around himself and nature was beyond this zone of influence. This meant that humans could never control the nature, so it's better to focus your endeavours on factors that can be controlled such as self-control, behaviour, values, social conduct, relations, tenets of political organisation, economic integration and social stratification.

Although this new doctrine reduced human dependence on an ~~sp~~ unpredictable external factor, it also created new issues and avenues of conflicts.

This new social order resulted in discrimination amongst humans and rise of a class based order of society.

Thus while elite class had access to wealth and all material excesses, the impoverished class also arose who had difficulty arranging the bare minimum for their survival. This social stratification resulted from the belief that one's social status resulted from one's action.

Although taking responsibility for one's own action is admirable, the problem was certain scrupulous segments promoted the idea of lower class & upper class to discipline the psyche of society according to their own ideals. Thus, if a man did certain ~~the~~ activity they could be declared as outcast and their descendants would also be discriminated against.

Naturally, people would follow the social dictat set by the ruling upper class

to avoid such social banishment. This began a cycle of poverty which started after Man's independence from nature and beginning of self-determination.

Another effect of human independence from nature was the objectification of nature and its plentiful resources. Thus, while ancient traditions asked to exercise restraint while harvesting resources from nature, the new religious order which gave rise to a new social order ignored such warning and started unabated exploitation of nature. While old religions connected people by devotion to nature, new religion put humans at the centre of the universe and decreed nature as just a tool, a means to an end. The new order believed that nature existed to serve the needs of the humans.

But nature has always been independent. So the more nature was exploited, the more adverse impact was faced by humans. The more harm humans did to nature, the nature in turn harmed humans several times.

For eg. the black death in Europe wiped out a third of the population of Europe in few weeks.

The harms caused by people on the nature includes pollution of rivers, air, land, oceans, etc. Global warming is also an effect of human adverse activity on nature. In turn nature has caused massive damage to humans through natural disasters like cyclones, floods, epidemics, etc.

Taking example of recent Covid-19 pandemic outbreak, the virus was borne by fruit bats which jumped to humans.

Now the bats themselves are usually creatures confined to rainforests. But destruction of their habitat caused them to adapt to human civilisation. And it has resulted in more than 300 million deaths worldwide.

Thus, looking at this disbalanced world we must ask ourself what can be done at this stage? The answer is we have to reconcile the ancient tradition of devotion to nature with modern values of human-centric development. And the first step in human-centric development is to eradicate poverty.

We have to realise that saving our planet and lifting people out of poverty are the same fight. One will lead to another and we have to ensure that our social structures enable this conver-

gence.

Saving Our Planet & Removing Poverty - One and Same Fight

Let's take a look at how how saving our planet will end poverty:

- ① Saving our planet will include afforestation. Forests will lead to more resources and livelihood for tribal people, who are some of the most impoverished people.
- ② Then curbing pollution will improve the quality of our natural surrounding. This will in turn keep our future generation healthy.
- ③ Judicious usage of resources will ensure that we are meeting our present needs while leaving enough for the natural resources to regenerate themselves. For, eg while harvesting herbs and fruits from trees, we can leave enough fruits to ensure their natural re-production.

④ Promoting renewable energy would ensure that while we access to infinite energy, the fuels don't pollute our environment. This will secure the energy needs of upcoming generations.

⑤ Adoption of Circular economy will ensure that waste is reduced and prevented from polluting our environment. At the same time recycled resources could make our economy more efficient.

Similarly, saving our people or reducing poverty can protect our planet:

① Education and healthcare with emphasis on environmental ethics can teach us to be sensitive and satisfied to our environment at the same time make us more capable of contributing to our society. This will also lead to protection of environment. Eg. mission LIFE

aims at changing our lifestyle for enhancing the environment.

- ② Attitudinal change - by giving people power to change their fate through self-employment and government support to entrepreneurship, we can promote a more problem solving attitude which in long term make us responsible for our actions and critically analyse before making decision.

Thus, it is time for us bring our ancient ethos of priority to nature. But we have to ensure both are kept on equal footing without giving more preference to either. Environment or the planet has to be an equal stakeholder in human development story.

SPM IAS ACADEMY
SHAPING BRILLIANCE

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anything beyond
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ROUGH PAGE

ROUGH PAGE

live as if you were to die tomorrow, learn as if you were to live forever.

- don't postpone, be at present ②
- mindfulness ①
- every moment is infinity - infinite lessons ⑬
- "lessons of life are repeated until you learn it" ⑫
- "Kal kare so aaj kar" - Kabir ⑥
- transience of next moment. ③
- life is limited, desires are unlimited] connecting ⑩
- live life without regret. ⑤
- Death is ultimate stop for materialist life ④
- Delaying action → procrastination → no interest ⑦
- in work
- No work no +ve outcome ⑧
- Geeta - act as if sacrificing, duty for sake ⑨
- of duty.
- Wisdom → reflection (wisdest) ⑪
- repetition (easiest)
- experience (bitterest)
- learn now moment changes ⑮
- stretch every moment and learn new - true happiness ⑭
- humanity = curiosity = consciousness ⑯

Anecdote: Kaikadas → foot stuck in a Kali Temple, read the Bhagavad Gita - became learned man.

Famous Hunt F1 racer,

Nicki Lauda F1 racer.

↓
mindfulness

live as if

Eg. Minim Life

Eliminate poverty

→ education → satisfaction

→ Health → under-stand, protect ecosystem

→ less use of fuel, more physical work

→ fruits & veggies

→ protect environment

→ Attitude → find solⁿ to exist

→ change → ing prob

→ support by govt. & society

→ employment

→ wealth re-distribution

→ don't exploit resource

→ inequality → reduce envy

→ greed → satisfied

→ -ve concept

not to do

certain human

action.

Saving our planet - poverty same fight

Religion → religare → connect people

① People ≈ planet → old religions - nature worship

② People harm planet → green house

planet harm people → disaster, climate change

protect ecosystem

Save planet

③

Circular economy

Renewable energy

employment

→ afforestation → livelihood & tribal

→ Curb on pollution → improve health

→ resource usage judicious → sustainable growth.

→ resource usage judicious → sustainable growth.

→ resource usage judicious → sustainable growth.

Questions**Section – A (125 marks/1200 words)**

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Section – B (125 marks/1200 words)

- Q5. Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.
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