

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Section A

"THE FLAME THAT BURNS TWICE
AS BRIGHT BURNS HALF AS
LONG"

In the evolutionary context of human civilization, our consciousness has an ingrained impression in it that the functions or reforms appearing very fast usually last lesser.

It is equivalent to the difference between a sprint and a marathon, where a sprinter running with a very fast speed runs for a lower time than the person doing marathon.

At an individual level, a person may use her intelligence or physical energy in a concentrated and fast manner. But it is not sustainable and thus lasts lesser as the mind or the body gets fatigued.

For instance, a person solving an examination paper might perform much above her potential in first hour, but the overall performance may not be sustained in the course of another two hours.

In the historical context, the Portuguese were the first to embark upon the colonialism of India in 1498, thus gained

huge advantage over their European
peers like British, French. They also
succeeded in colonizing East Indies
regions, thus gained a lot of
area in India and East Indies in
comparatively lesser time.

However, in their zeal for colonial
ambitions, they pursued religious
intolerant policies, ^{tried to} monopolized the trade
in Indian ocean. This led to
rivalry with Indian rules as well
as other European powers and led
to quick ending of Portuguese
presence in India except in Goa.

likewise, the French had bigger
stakes in India as they had
started ~~earlier~~ with a outright focus

on colonial ambitions. This finally led to Seven Year War with British and ending of French ambitions in India.

Also, in Indian modern history, the revolutionary nationalism of the 1920s was a high-pitched call for quick reforms in struggle tactics.

However, despite their legacy contributions in a much lesser period, the revolutionary movement couldn't be sustained for long, especially after March 1931 i.e. hanging of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, Rajguru.

In terms of scientific understanding,

this concept can be interpreted through the physical phenomena of friction. As a body moves on a surface at a faster rate, the friction, being proportional to speed, increases as well and at some point, brings the object to rest.

Comparing Nicad battery with lead acid battery, while the former has higher charge as well as energy density, the latter has low self-discharge rate and thus greater lifetime.

Similarly, in space launch vehicles, the specific thrusters or boosters in engine may provide faster initial speed, but may not sustain

the movement for long-run
outer-space missions.

In defence missiles as well, many
of the supersonic missiles moving
at more than 2-5 Mach speed,
have an overall lesser strike range
than the slower-moving subsonic
missiles.

For instance, Brahmos has a range of
300-400 Km, being a supersonic missile,
while Agni 5, being a subsonic missile,
has a range of 5000 Km.

In the economic context, while
Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI)
come into the economy at a
faster rate than Foreign Direct
Investment (FDI), they also leave

at a faster rate, thus lasting comparatively shorter. It is evident in an all-time high FDI in Indian economy recently, but a very quick withdrawal of FDI due to various domestic and global factors.

Also, a fast-growing economy based on certain favourable factors may not enjoy this rate of growth for long. For instance, in the 1920s, the US had very high rate of growth due to its loans to Germany as well as the allies in Europe. But, it saw it declining rapidly due to the 1929 wall street crash and the consequent Great Economic Depression.

Now, in environmental domain, the Green Revolution of 1960s in India led to very fast rise in production of crops and ensured food security. However, over the course of time, its utility has diminished due to ecological problems as well as perpetuation of regional inequalities.

Likewise, single-use plastics (SUP) were considered a huge revolution in the packaging industry in 20th century, but its environmental and human health effects, are leading to nations discarding its usage. For instance, India has banned use of single use plastics from 1st July, 2022.

Further, in governance reforms, various schemes, policies may lead to quick outcomes in short-run, but may fail to sustain their ability in the longer-run. For instance, in India, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Bima Yojana (PMFBY) had a higher rate of participation from the farmers in early years, but, of late, the coverage has been declining.

On a similar note, in the international relations, the post-cold war era of 1990s, 2000s saw a very rapid upscale in economic and cultural globalization. However, due to the cultural backlash and economic fragmentation in the world, especially

after 2008 financial crisis, this phenomenon has slowed down and we are witnessing a trend of de-globalization.

Similarly, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of China saw a rapid adoption by various nations across the world from 2013-17.

However, due to debt-trap diplomacy, opaque financing, political backlash, slow implementation etc., the progress of BRI has slowed down since 2017 and may thus be heading towards stagnation and low utility.

Also, in 1990s, Taliban came to power in Afghanistan in only a span of 3 years i.e. formation

in 1993 and seize of power in 1996, however, due to its medievalistic ideology, cropping up of terror groups etc., it lasted for a less time of 5 years (1996-2001).

However, it is not true that all things which perform or happen fast ~~are~~ necessarily last for only a shorter period of time.

For instance, Lithium ion battery used in today's electric vehicles, has a high charge, energy density, while at the same time, having an overall long life-time due to low self-discharge rate.

Quantum Technology, similarly, can

revolutionize the encrypted communi-
cation at a fast rate. Since it
is a future-proof technology, it
would ultimately last longer as
well.

Also, the FDI may, at times, be
attracted to an economy at a very
fast rate. As they are more
stable in movement, so they last
longer as non-debt finance sources.

The concepts such as circular economy,
if adopted at a fast rate by
economies, can actually lead to
a sustained benefits of sustainable
development and ecological preservation
in
further, post-independence period, India

moved quickly towards roles on
global stature in 1950s such as
Bandung Conference, role in Korean
peace Agreement, Non-Aligned
Movement etc. Today, after 75
years of independence, India still
leads the discussions on issues of
global importance such as climate change,
non-proliferation, digital technologies etc.

Thus, it is evident that the ultimate
lifetime or sustainment of a fast
process, phenomena, behaviour, reform etc,
actually can vary depending upon
factors behind the fast process,
contextual factors and the foreseeing
of future likely outcomes in advance.

A change like adoption of circular

economy concept can lead to long-term benefits, while unsustainable economic development leads to growth for a limited period only.

We need to maximize our efforts towards changes, processes which are quick as well as long-lasting. The innovations, research and development (R&D) etc. can be vital in this aspect.

Hence, we must let the flame of human progress and prosperity across individual, societal, national and international levels, burn at a fast rate through human capital development, economic growth etc., while being mindful of its sustenance of burning for the longer-run. Only then can we can achieve the holistic advancement and evolution of human civilizations.

Section - B

^{CAGE}
"A GILDED IS STILL A CAGE"

The word 'Cage' traditionally refers to the pigeon's cage, or the cage in which animals are kept. It signifies the entrapment of the physical movement of a being.

But the word can be broadly interpreted in terms of social freedom, political freedom and the tendency to think freely in an innovative and scientific manner.

A cage is usually gilded through proper facilities, support, with the ultimate intentions behind this

being reduction of suffering, isolation and thus demonstration of care and pacification. For instance, proper feeding items, sun warmth etc. for a caged parrot, would mean a gilded cage.

However, it is still a cage in the literal sense. The liberty and the potential for exploring the world, reaping true potential and the recreational activities are largely not addressed even in a gilded cage.

For instance, the gilded cage for an animal lacks all the essential elements of true liberty and freedom, in comparison to the

national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.

In human history, the Soviet Union undertook various political and economic reforms to pacify the discontent among its satellite Communist states. But its efforts ultimately failed and led to the ushering of democracy in these states after the fall of Soviet Union.

Likewise, in a patriarchal, unscrupulous society, a woman may be provided all the facilities for comfort, ease of living within the four walls of home. But, it still falls short of her ability to reach and realize true potential.

for empowerment.

Further, a society having high rate of economic growth and prosperity, but having conservative outlook, rudimentary beliefs, represents a gilded cage.

For instance, in Haryana, low child sex ratio due to son neta-preference, discriminatory attitude towards girls etc. represents a cage of rational, progressive thinking. However, its economic growth represents gilded cage.

Similarly, in the economic context, while India's growth in the pre-liberalisation period was truly

significant, but it was a cage of license-permit, nationalisation, import substitution policies-led growth. The participation of prince players, foreign companies and liberalization of external trade in 1991 reforms signified loosening of that caged economic mentality.

Now, coming to bureaucracy, websterian norms of strict adherence to rules and procedures, though backed by attractive perks, represents a gilded cage.

This is evident in form of red-tapism, corruption and a regressive bureaucratic attitude among the bureaucrats. Only a fresh

outlook towards democratic attitude,
ethical governance and a creative
and out-of-the-box thinking
can lead to true abolishment
of the caged bureaucracy.

In the context of governance,
internet shutdowns represent a gilded
cage, when backed by adequate
social services, subsidy benefits etc.
to people.

The people can have good life
due to basic support from the
state, but still it is a cage
as there are cuts on freedom,
human rights violations and the
virtual annexation of fundamental
rights by the state.

Likewise, in North Korea, people enjoy good economic as well as social prosperity which signify the gilding.

But the citizens there are deprived of ^{potential} benefits from opening up to the world such as exports-led growth, leading on global issues, thereby achieving and exploring their maximum potential.

On the similar lines, in the Indian education system, there is a prevalence of rote learning with a little focus on innovations, creative thinking.

While this may ensure good performance

ce in the examinations, it is still a cage due to lack of free thinking, out-of-the box creativity, research etc.

Talking about scientific research and innovations, various nations provide attractive perks and benefits to the scientists for new research in areas like nuclear technology, space, defence etc.

However, the agenda and the end-usage of the research outcomes are largely dictated by the state. This represents a gilded cage due to lack of control over one's intellectual property and thus being used as a tool by state.

Also, analysing in terms of ideas,
Indian foreign policy in 1950s
was largely guided by the principles
of non-alignment and ethical
idealism. This actually helped India
in punching above its weight in
international affairs like North Korea
deal, non-proliferation etc.

However, India faced reverses in
form of China war in 1962
due to lack of ideological
flexibility in strategic elites of
that time. India corrected this
scenario in the form of the policy
of strategic realism in post-1962
period.

So, it is quite clear that a cage, however gilded it is, in terms of attractiveness, pain mitigation policies etc., is still after all a cage. Gilded cage mainly represents a temporary illusion.

However, in various instances, there is a need for cage, be it gilded or not. The cagement of a man-eating tiger, for instance, is very necessary to avoid man-animal conflicts and thus save human lives.

Also, people are made to live in shelters or put under lockdown confinements, for the

larger purpose of disaster
management and ultimate well-
being of the people at the cost
of temporary suffering. This was
done during the COVID-19
emergency response.

further, the internet shutdowns are
the last resort of the administra-
tion in various situations to
avoid social violence, hate speech,
spread of fake news and law
and order problems. It is in
the larger interest of safety
of the people and the national
security.

Similarly, the freedom of ideas,

Speech is needed to be curbed at times in order to avoid threats to national security, maintain foreign relations etc. For instance, the research on sensitive intelligence operations need to be regulated. Also, the research of ^{on} weapons of mass destruction (WMD) need to be curbed, if done without state's consent.

So, it is obvious that a cage is not a good solution in any form, gilded or un-gilded. A gilded cage can only help in creating a short-term illusion in the minds of the subjects.

But in the context of long-run
or a broader perspective, it only
represents a over-glorified cage.

While a cage is necessary in various
extreme circumstances to uphold
human rights, national security etc.,
but it is not a ^{regular,} gentle
proposition for any policy, be
it for regulation of ideas, research,
people's movement or the internet.

The fact that it may be needed
in dire situations represents more
of an exaction and exceptions
are not a rule. It can't be
considered as a matter of regular
policy.

Hence, a gilded cage is ultimately
a cage ^{only} and the freeing
of movement of people, their ideas,
potential for development etc. can
lead to the ultimate growth
and prosperity at an individual,
societal, national and international
levels, thus progressively shaping
the evolutionary story of the
mankind.

Rough work

Don't write anything this margin
(इस मार्ग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Planner that builds

Quality ↑ → Life ↓

Individual level → Intelligence

↓

Scientific innovation
~~Societal level~~

Energy ↑ → ↓ Long-term

variation v/s ~~spirit~~ spirit

friction concept

→ ~~friction~~ v/s lead acid

→ Space launch vehicles

→ Fuel efficient v/s non-efficient vehicles

Economic level

→ Post growth based on debt

↓
Recession, Depression (1920s, US)

→ Investment (FPI quickly then FDI)

→ Labour productivity (Automation, 4th IR)

↓
But costs less

Environmental (UR)

→ water

→ Land Reclaiming

→ Biodiversity

→ SUP

→ Unsustainable dev

→ Global Warming

→ Cold war

(IR)

→ India v/s China

(debt trap, BRP)

→ Taliban 1990s

Saddam Hussain (1990s)

Corruption → Refunds

(Sri Lanka Organce family e.)

→ Schemes implementation (PM FRY)

However

Subsidy → Li-ion battery

→ NGVs

→ AI, big data

Quantum Tech.

Economy → POI ↑

→ Lobbying

→ China

Enforce R.G. Circular Economy

IR → India as leader

(ARM) global stage

→ All communities

