VISION IAS

www.visionias.in

SUBJECT:	ESSAY	Test Code:	2	1	2	5
Name of Candidate	SIDDHARTH BHUKLA					
Medium Hindi/Eng.	ENGLISH	Registration Number	6	3	2	8	0	3
Center	ONLINE	Date	1	1	0	9	2	2

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Page No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks :

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 that 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।

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

The flame that burns twice as bright, burns half as long

"It does not matter how slowly you walk, unless you do not stop"

– Confucius.

It happened once, a King became happy with one of his subject. He said to him - "from tomorrow morning to sunset, whichever land you would cover by your feet, would be granted to you".

As soon as the sun rose the man started to run, he ran till the evening, continuously. When the sun was about to set, desire gripped him and he started to run faster. Exhausted in body and mind, the man suddenly collapsed. The King's

surgeon examined him, and declared him dead.

Witnessing this spectacle, a child thought that though the man did a legendary feat (he ran for eight hours continuously) with great intensity, but to what avail. The man did burn brightly, but the same brightness ultimately extinguished his flame. The desire for possessing all land ultimately led him to die as a landless person.

In this essay we will analyse the various flames that guide our life, the relation between intensity & actions and their sustainability. We will feurther analyse whether the contemporary society is burning bright or burning sustainably.

giving corrective measures.

Understanding flames and brightness

The fire, zeal and motivation with which an action is done is called it's flame. Those actions and processes which are done with great intensity or speed, are akin to flames burning brightly

How long does a flame burn?

In this context, the time period for which an action or process yields positive result, and continues in existence is the lifetime of the flame.

Burn brightly, extinguish quickly

When actions are taken with great intensity, their sustainability

decreases remarkably.

Imagine Usain Bolt running a marathon, he will take the lead quickly, but whether or not he would finish the race, cannot be said with certainty.

In the social sphere, societies that put growth and achievement above sustainability suffer. For example, Japan after Meiji Revolution (1868) burned brightly. Japan became industrialized by 1900, in 1905 Japan defeated Russia. Later in 1937 Japan almost colonised China. Japan burnt so brightly that it forgot human values and indulged in atrocities during world war II.

Ultimately Japan was defeated in Second World War followed by

occupation of Japan by USA. Thus wanting to control entire Asia, Japan lost its own independence.

Similarly in the economic sphere the East Asian nations put growth over sustainability and stability. They burnt brightly, economic growth @ around 10% per annum in early 1990's but the East Asian crisis of 1997 devastated East-Asean economies, casting a shadow over their economic flame.

further, in the environmental context humans are literally burning energy resources, viz - coal, oil, natural gas, at a remarkably high pace. As a result of this overexploitation, these resources are nearing their end. Further the concomitant global warming and

climate change due to burning bright (coal, oil) leading to climate crisis of 21st century, an event which threatens the flame of life on Earth.

The question naturally arises - Why does burning bright shortens the lifespan of an action or event?

Firstly, because, imagined actions have to mindful of reality, the flame must burn in accordance with the length of candle i.e. development must be mindful of sustainable use of resource

Second, by burning brightly more energy is lost, for instance if a worker, works 20 hours a day, for an entire week, he might reasonably become unproductive for his

entire life. A balance between present work and future work is required.

Third, by burning brightly. Individuals or groups tend to create inequality within the inter-dependent global system. For instance the new billionaires founders of facebook, Amazon etc are shining brightly, but the growing monopolisation of digital economy is bound to have consequences.

Is burning bright, always bad?

No, rather it is necessary in some circumstances. For instance, consider the internal flame, also called the flame of wisdom. This flame of wisdom burns more brightly than anything, but it does not diminish. As says the Buddha:-

Thousands of flame can be lighted from one flame, and it's life won't be shortened. This internal flame consists of love and compassion, hence it transcends time and space

further, history is witness to the geniuses who live briefly but remarkably change the world. Philosophers such as Friedrich Nietzsche and writers such as John Keats, lived for a short period of time, but they burnt so brightly that their flame could be felt even now.

furthermore sometimes burning brightly becomes more necessary than burning long. Consider the lives of Bhagat Singh and Chandrashekhar Azad, though they died at young

age but their actions galvanised Gandhi's freedom movement.

Sometimes burning brightly is necessary, but as a principle sustainability of an action is essential for it's success. How does contemporary society fare on such parameters?

Contemporary society: burning brightly or burning sustainably?

The society in 21st century is obsessed with speed. In all spheres of society a perennial race is visible.

In education, parents are pressurising their children to burn more brightly than the brightest. Various competitive exams such as NEET, JEE etc, create spectacle of

~~to bright~~ education. In this rat-race many students commit suicide.

further in economy, the entire emphasis is on economic growth and achieving fixed targets. Growth imperative is used to stall sustainable actions such as phasing out coal

In the modern technological world of 21st century, social media has remarkably increased variety, individuals have surrendered their mental health to the goal of becoming more popular and being more 'liked'. According to Lancet Report one out of seven Indian is suffering from mental health issues

furthermore, there is a race among nations such as USA and China to burn more brightly than the

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

other. This is putting Earth on the path of a new world war.

Balancing the global flame: bright but sustainable

To avert the catastrophic impact of burning brightly the following steps may be contemplated.

First, reform the education system. Curriculum should be built around values and as Hegel said education should become ethical training of man, such that he puts sustainability over materialistic possession.

Second, the principle of sustainability should guide economy. Sound environmental laws and global pacts are required. The recently launched Lifestyle for Environment Movement (LiFE) may aid transition

to a just economy.

Thirdly, there should be a celebration of all, respect for those who burn bright and those who don't. A culture of collaboration and humanism should overtake a culture of competition and individualism.

So, lighten the flame within, envisage an ethical target, and keep ~~burning~~ walking forward. One must persevere in his effort and destiny will arrive. As said Lao Tzu, two things are required to reach your destiny. Start, and do not stop until you reach there.

No man was ever wise by chance

"Master, how is wisdom to be achieved and liberation attained?"

- Ashtavakra Gita

2700 years ago, this question was asked by King Janaka from a little boy, who later became sage Ashtavakra. Such is the nature of wisdom that it may be found at the most unlikeliest of places.

The question naturally arises: who is wise?

The nature of ~~wised~~ wisdom

Wisdom is a state of being in which an individual posesses such intelligence and consciousness, that his decision and

Judgements are beneficial to all.

The Rig Veda ~~defines~~ labels the wise as the propogator of truth. So knowledge of truth and fundamental realities of nature is another attribute of wise

further, wisdom could be best understood by looking at the lives of Mahatma Buddha, Kabir, Guru Nanak and Mahatma Gandhi. Their wisdom manifested most brilliantly in their remarkable love and compassion towards humanity.

Can a man be wise by chance?

No, being wise by chance is a virtual impossibility

firstly, because, wisdom is not hereditary. No one is wise or

one is based on his birth, rather an individuals efforts, knowledge and actions make him wise

Second, wisdom is not an objective entity that could fall in the hand of a lucky person. Wisdom is a state of being, one cannot buy it, it has to be attained.

Third, wisdom is not fixed in time. As chance happenings, which do not have sufficient cause or background, happen only for a fixed period of time, they cannot make one permanently wise. For instance, one might find a box full of gold but that cannot make one permanently rich, similarly chance cannot make one permanently wise; and a wisdom that

is temporary is not true wisdom

fourth, historical experience tells us that the path to wisdom is long and arduous, it is not driven by chance. Consider the story of Mahatma Buddha - Sakya prince Siddhartha Gautam renounced his kingdom and became a pupil of Alara Kalama, dissatisfied with his wisdom, he started indulging in severe penance. He became pale beyond recognition and drowned in Neranjana River. He was saved after the river pushed him to the banks, and he was given food by a little girl.

Later, he meditated for forty-nine days beneath a peepal tree and achieved enlightenment.

Don't write anything this margin (कुछ लिखें हाशिये पर नहीं लिखें)

He became Buddha the wise.

This story shows how patient labour and great tenacity is required to be wise and chance does not play a remarkable role.

The path to wisdom

By analysing how an individual can attain wisdom and examining whether chance plays any role in it, the relation between chance and wisdom can be delineated

first step, know thyself. All philosophers and religion agree that without knowing self no one can be wise. Rationally one cannot know the self by chance, it is not that one day we wake up, knowing fully well the nature of self. On the contrary,

knowing oneself is a long process based on meditation and mindfulness.

Second step, acquisition of knowledge. As said Shankaracharya : Jnana marga (knowledge path) leads to wisdom. to be wise one may read various philosophical texts, spiritual texts etc; without knowledge there can be no wisdom. To say that someone can become knowledgable by chance is height of folly.

Third step, Transcending knowledge by experience. The wise not only know the truth, but they have also experienced it. for instance the bhakti leader Chaitanya became wise by experiencing the ultimate.

fourth step, cultivating virtues such as love and compassion. The

wise take a wise decision because they put interest of others above self. The wise scientist Einstein had personal reservation about development of nuclear bomb, but to save humanity from scourge of world war II, he aided the allied powers in developing nuclear bomb.

The first step to wisdom is a never-ending step, it is the perennial vigil of the wise to be mindful and conscious. As said the Buddha- the ~~mind~~ citadel of mind must be guarded from the onslaught of desire (Rasa). Can one be perenially conscious by chance? Seems impossible.

It seems that the probability of a man being wise by chance is a little less than the possibility

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

of the sun rising from the west tomorrow.

Is the modern man wise? what does the modern man think about chance and wisdom?

The modern man and wisdom

'Wisdom' and the 'wise' have become esoteric entities in the modern age. further the modern man has left wisdom to chance. The modern society favour acquisition of monetary resources as primary aim of society. After economic fulfilment, if time permits, comes wisdom.

Thus, modern man has left wisdom to luck, if he is lucky in old age, he will try to be wise. further the path to wisdom has become, following a guru or the wisdom of another.

Making self efforts for wisdom are about to become extinct. Practices such as yoga and meditation are left to chance, to be done either as a fashion or if ~~instructed~~ instructed by another.

This neglect of wisdom and ethical virtues leads to remarkable negative consequences.

Unwise societies are promoting ethnic strife, hatred and violence over humanism. Lack of political wisdom is dividing polities bitterly, unmindful of precedent nations are invading other nations (Russia - Ukraine war).

further, lack of economic

wisdom is building an unequal economy that is bound to create a crises.

furthermore lack of cultural wisdom, has led to adoption of a culture of consumerism, the modern consumerism built on ~~machine~~ mechanised production is eating away the environmental foundation of Earth.

Thus, wisdom is required if humanity has to survive, and create a new dawn, better than this night.

Creating the Age of Wisdom

first of all, the education system should be reoriented towards ethics and values. The lives of wise

Don't write anything this margin (use space at right or back)

men such as Ashtavakra, Immanuel Kant etc. should be at centre-stage of education.

Second, remarkable changes in lifestyle are required. Yoga and meditation must became part of daily routine. Recent efforts such as declaration of International Yoga Day are commendable.

Third, economic and political system must be so organised that ethical values and moral wisdom become an essential aspect of rising up the ladder. A Wise-o-cracy should replace the present meritocracy.

Fourth, humanity must learn from nature, which is the reservoir of wisdom. Experiential learning

through nature should become a subject in its own right.

Janaka's question to Ashtavakra highlighted another thing 'liberation' is not possible without wisdom. Rather than leaving liberation to chance, one must listen to Mahatma Buddha and "strive for one's liberation with diligence. So resolve to walk the path of wisdom for therein lies the future of humanity, and the promise of a new dawn