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SUBJECT:	ESSAY	Test Code:	2	51	9
Name of Candidate	ATUL TYAGI				
Medium Hindi/Eng.	ENGLISH	Registration Number	7	6	8
Center	ONLINE	Date	0	3	0

INDEX TABLE				INSTRUCTIONS	
Q. No.	Page No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	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।	
Total Marks Obtained:					
Remarks :					

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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

① WE CAN KNOW ONLY THAT
WE ~~CAN~~ KNOW NOTHING.
AND THAT IS THE HIGHEST
DEGREE OF HUMAN WISDOM.

"Katrathu Kai Mann Azhavu,
Kallathathu Uzhagalavu."
(Thiruvukural)

This English transliteration from the
Tamil bible of Thiruvalluvar means:
What one knows is equal to
a fistful of sand. What one doesn't
know is equal to the size
of the whole world. Realisation
of the same is true wisdom
as it embarks one on a
journey of lifetime learnings.

As per the Indian philosophy,
'Consciousness' (Chetna) is the highest

gift to mankind. The ability to assimilate the trinity of past-present-future and self-reflection is what sets us apart. In the western philosophy as well, the 'thinking man' has made itself the master of earth. It is this never ceasing quest for knowledge that makes humanity capable of wise wonders.

Furthermore, the difference between knowledge and wisdom is expressed as knowledge being what one takes and wisdom as what one makes of it. It is thus that Gandhi Ji said - "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you are to live forever." This attitude is possible only when once we

acknowledge the limitations of
our knowledge, and thus stride
towards wisdom.

This is evident in its most
charming form right in our
childhood itself. John Locke
called the child's mind a
tabula rasa, a blank slate.
However, more than blankness it
is perhaps the innate wide-eyed
curiosity that makes expansion of
ones understanding of the world
a child's play!

No wonder we are advised to
always keep the child in us
alive. Moreover, with age and
experience, human beings are
capable to delve into deeper
explorations - the self. Be it

Socrates' pithy wisdom to
'Know Thyself' or Tolstoy's
'Kingdom of God within' or Indian
Yoga sciences all begin with the
acceptance of one's ignorance of
ourselves. It then fuels a journey
towards the 'Truth' - real wisdom.

Beyond the individual, the same
principles apply in our inter-
personal and social relations as
well. 'Man is a social animal'
but Samuel Huntington foretold

'Clash of civilisations'. This was
because one society may not know
enough about another's cultures
and thought systems, yet ignore to
accept that. Recent communal
clashes in India's Nuh district
are a manifestation of this rigidity.
Unwise violence is a result of such
a societal setup.

Reforms are therefore the norm for progress. India has prohibited practices like Sati, child marriage and untouchability while providing for affirmative action like reservations. It has also expanded social recognition, acceptance & respect to communities like LGBT+. This was possible only by accepting that we knew less than what we know now and then apply wisdom of the times.

This is even more relevant in the present globalised times. We're constantly being introduced to new ideas, customs, belief systems and people different from us. Recent frictions like the freedom of speech vs religious faith debate in Sweden Quran burning case is an example. In the words of Bertrand Russell:

"There is co-existence or no existence."
And the courage to accept that
we don't know enough about other
cultures and to engage in
wise discussions is the way ahead.

In this era of inter-connected
globalisation, other domains have
also challenged static wisdom such
as in economics. The 2008 financial
crisis shocked the world that
relied on laissez-faire logic.
The USA government had to accept
that they were complacent in their
regulatory functions and thus carried
out restructuring. Flexibility is thus
the fulcrum of financial wisdom too.

In the same manner, the world
has been on its toes on the
international relations front too.

After the COVID pandemic had
already disturbed supply chains,
the Russia-Ukraine war has set

new trends in nation life the NATO expansion through Finland & Sweden. In the wise assessment of honourable External Affairs minister, Dr. Jaswant Singh, there are the times for : reassessment, reevaluation, re-negotiation and realignment based on the evolving wisdom.

Consequently, changes are ripe in those administering these times too. Indian civil services are now moving from a rule-based to role-based approach. From know-it-all generalists, the steel frame of India is shifting to never-stop-learning specialists, such as with mission kamayogi. Only this approach can do true justice to the motto : "Yogah Kamasu Kaushalam" - Excellence in work is Yoga.

Change, therefore, is the only constant. By posturing that we know all, we can only stifle growth of the self and the society at large. Ulysses bravely proclaimed:

"Made weak by time and fate,
But strong in will,
To strive, to seek, to find,
And not to yield."

It is wisdom that he sought throughout his 10 years adventure, not yielding to dogma and statism.

All the moral giants of the world have lived to this ideal. Be it Socrates who was deemed by Delphi as the 'most wise man' because he accepted that he knew nothing. Even Gandhi Ji who is considered to be adhering to deontology, that is principles that don't depend on situation, always kept on experimenting.

and growing from 'truth to truth', in his own words.

Even science which is said to be grounded on objectivity begins with hypothesis. From observation, analysis & deduction, laws of nature are arrived at and theorised. But as G.B Shaw said - "Science never solves a problem without creating ten more." It is always a process of experimentation and exploration. From Newtonian physics to Einstein's theory of relativity and now Quantum physics, each theory is open to a counter and from this dialectic, wisdom progresses.

On a contrary to this, those who believe they know all reduce subtleties to sweeping generalisations. This then create stereotypes and

limiting worldviews like patriarchy.
As Laura Bates talk of sexism:
"It is not a man versus woman
issue. It is a people versus prejudice
issue." The society loses out
on so much talent just because
that talent wears a skirt. In
no way is this wise for humanity.

When these rigidities take
a more explicit form they
can actually take dangerous
consequences. Hitler's racist
Aryan-supremism theories clouded
collective wisdom of millions.

Instead of accepting that they
knew nothing of the horrors, his
followers actually believed that
Hitler knew everything. Destructive compliance

is the only result of this.

A spirit of enquiry is central to prevent such catastrophies. While one may now dismiss animism, that is worship of nature such as rain-god, as primitive-fear driven, due to lack of knowledge of how thunder works, it still leaves a question : Is it still better than the environmental havoc mankind has wreaked with that knowledge?

Einstein's quote that "Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school" finds resonance here. It is essential to teach students not what to read, but how to read. As we move educational paradigm from learning

of facts to training of mind to think, we finally give rise to conscious beings.

Throughout history and across domains, testimony has been borne to the fact that human destiny is a tryst with knowledge. The same when refined, matures into wisdom. Humility is the stepping stone to this adventure where "where nothing is permanent, except change."

In the wise words of Savitribai Phule :

"Sit idle no more, go, get education.
End misery of the oppressed and the forsaken."

To open arms for new knowledge, embrace wisdom and then work wisely is the way to a worthy life.

Q2.

DO NOT GO WHERE THE PATH
MAY LEAD, GO INSTEAD WHERE
THERE IS NO PATH AND
LEAVE A TRAIL

"Two roads diverged in a wood - and I:
I took the one less travelled by."
- Robert Frost.

This moment of Frost making an
unusual choice "that made all
the difference" has been poetically
immortalised. Diverging from the
conventional route, he ventured
at the path 'less travelled
by' and encountered new experiences.

The message of not going
'where the path may lead',
speaks of going beyond established
ways. A road that has
already been paved and is being

treaded upon by the masses
don't need one more entrant
into the rat-race. Moreover,
what is in place need
not always be right. Blind
adherence can thus lead one
to a pitfall only because
it is where the road leads
and we don't know how to
shift away from it.

History has been full of such
examples where sluggish
compliance has prevented reform.
The middle ages in Europe are
designated as the Dark Ages
because social conformity and
religious dogma were the norms
of the era. As against this,
the Age of Enlightenment ushered in
new explorations: both literal across seas

and metaphorical in the realms of science.

Even in the present times, the set path may lead to questionable practices. The caste system, for example prevails in India through endogamy. While ignoring benign elements of our culture like the egalitarian Bhakti-Sufi movements, many comply with these divisions in the name of established customs and traditions.

Similarly, at times the whole state-structure in itself has driven citizens at large to undesirable destinations of discrimination. Apartheid was one such system and an alternate path was necessary to be forged by Nelson Mandela. In the absence of it, masses were reduced to mute multitude.

with no real agency.

Strength of the masses was also recruited against the exploitative economics across history.

Right from Marxist ideology of the proletariat's struggle to India's freedom fighter Dadabhai Naoroji against British mercantilism.

The Americans similarly decided to defy the status-quo and demanded no-taxation without representation, leading to a new political economy.

Connected to economics, environment has also borne the brunt of racing across the wrong path. Just because technological advances gave a means to exploit nature, humanity lost sight of the end. Climate change threatens to bring

marking to a dead-end with
no U-turn because there is
no plan B as there is no planet B.

And yet, we aim for the stars!
To go 'where there is no path'
is an invocation to venture
into unexplored territories. The likes
of Elon Musk envision actually
discovering not just planet B but
space colonies. While the end
awaits, the "journey of a thousand
miles begin with a step."

Just a look around us will
make the changes made
possible by new paths evident.
Social truths that we take for
granted right now like women
education were unthinkable at times.
Even expansion of social recognition

& respect to communities like the LGBT has been made possible by questioning the established norms.

This quest for liberty, equality & fraternity found a resounding voice in the French revolution.

It was also a courageous uprising against auto-cratie monarchy towards republicanism.

The movement spread like wildfire across Europe with nationalist movements in Germany and Italy, shaping the present norm of nation-states.

Even within these, unique forms have been taken by countries to mould the institutions as per

their suitability. China, for example has brought out a unique Communist state run capitalism.

Despite its deviance from the free-market logic of western countries, it manages to compete over many of them to become the second largest economy.

Making a niche path for itself has certainly paid off, albeit some negative externalities that are to be checked.

India on the other hand has also risen to its rightful position in the global arena in its own ways. First from shifting from socialist principles to the LPG reforms, it now leads as the voice of the global south.

India's pitch for UNSC reforms

strike a chord due to its own adaptability and resilience to face challenges and come out as a rising power of the 21st century.

However there is no denying the fact that this is not easy.

To be a trail-blazer by carving out a new path requires to go against the walls of status-quo. Inertia is a major hurdle that has to be overcome.

The shift from the rule-based to role-based approach in the Indian civil services is testimony to the fact that change is difficult, but necessary and rewarding.

Moreover Gandhi Ji gave a powerful lesson to be the change

one wishes to see in the world.
Carving out a new path
requires one to first go deep
down in our streets of self-
transformation. Then begins the
journey which Shakespeare describes
as:

"Once we're true to ourselves,
we cannot be false to anyone"—
not to the old path, nor the
ones we create by ourselves.

It is only through these powerful
wills that leaders have left
trails. Rosa Parks act of defiance
to stand up for a racist obligation
led to the equal rights movement.
Chutri Devi in India who was
humiliated through disrobing in the
name of witch-hunting didn't break.
She herself broke the road that
led to women subjugation and now
leads their path to progress.

Having acquired the ability to leave a trail, it is equally important to make sure it is the right path. As is said:

"There's no point in running fast, as long as you're running in the wrong direction."

Oppenheimer unleashed a new power of nature but whether we're to use it to destroy humanity or to enlighten it is the path we choose.

To add on to it, choosing the wrong path can be detrimental to stability. The Soviet Union ^{established} was formed under the high ideological hopes of socio-economic equality for all. However, Stalin's hazy policies led thousands and lakhs into the Gulags.

The Russian proletariat found warmth from the bare Siberian cold - but - only in the grave. The new path literally led them to it.

It is of consequence then that application of rationality is central to going against the grain towards something better. Even after the sermon from God itself, Bhagvat Gita ends with: "Vimarshaye tadoshen, yato ichhami, tatha kuru". It means after thinking carefully, do as you wish. Even the path provided by God need not be blindly followed!

Einstein said that "Education is what is left once we've forgotten what we learnt in school."

The idea is to go beyond
meek acceptance of the order and
question it. Reform it, if necessary.
Examples like Copernicus and Darwin who
changed the worldview from human-
centric to scientific have transformed
human perspective beyond recognition.
A new path was made on which
we all walk today.

It is these sources of inspiration
that extol us to extend our
horizons. Going beyond blind
adherence, it is this spirit that
gives Henry the confidence in
Invictus to proclaim:
"I am the master of my fate:
I am the captain of my soul."

With this we can establish the
future envisioned by Rabindranath Tagore:
"Where the mind is without fear
And the head is held high."