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ESSAY COMMENT SHEET

Name of Candidate	Aranksha Yadav				
Medium Hindi/Eng.	English	Registration Number	974747		
Test Code	1458	Date			

INDEX TABLE				INSTRUCTIONS	
Q. No.	Page No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	- 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)। - All questions are compulsory. सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं। - The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं। - 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। - Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए। - 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

SECTION - A

प्रश्न में दिए
अंकों में से
किसी एक या अधिक
प्रश्नों का उत्तर
लिखें।

Nothing ~~thereens~~ ^{strengthens} authority so much as silence

"The darkest places in hell are reserved for those who maintain their neutrality in times of moral crisis"

From the hunger-power protest led by students against Vietnam was to the lone man standing in front of ^{battlefronts in} Tiananmen square in 1989, history is replete with examples of individuals speaking truth to power. The

image of a young Russian girl Olga reading the constitution to the riot police comes to mind. Earl Warren had said; there may be times when we are unable to prevent injustice but there should never be a time when we fail to protest.

The Supreme Court of India had recently proclaimed "dissemination of the safety nature of democracy" without it, day and night we will be led like sheep-to slaughter.

Perhaps, this is why the colonial government was wary of the voice of the individual that is brought laws like Vernacular Press Act, Press Regulations

1823, Napoleon had realized long back that "four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand lancers".

The colonial government put sedition charges on our great freedom fighters Nehru and Tilak because

they ~~are~~ dare penetrate the wall of silence that surrounded the British colonial consciousness.

In another part of the novel in 1989, 41 years of communist rule was brought down by the voices of the common people that demanded freedom. Hence, breaking the oppression of silence led to democracy in erstwhile Czechoslovakia by what was called the gentle revolution.

"We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim" - Elie Weisel. It is often said that the path to Auschwitz was paved with indifference. This

is what Hannah Arendt termed as "banality of evil". Inaction and silence enabled the

Genocide of millions of Jews, Gypsies and disabled that marks the darkest hour

of history.

Humanity is tied to each other by threads of mutuality. Martin Luther King

proclaimed that "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere". Indian leaders having witnessed the dehumanizing effect of colonial rule, decided to support ^{anti} colonial struggles throughout the world. (example against Dutch rule in Indonesia)

Nehru realised in collectivity our voices are stronger. After all, it takes a loud voice to make the deaf hear.

~~the~~ The collective voice of nations boycotted South Africa. The white supremacist

government of South Africa in early 1990s could no longer hide in its ivory tower and was forced to answer to the world. Eventually Apartheid ended in 1994, planting seeds of Mandela's Rainbow nation

we have thus seen that challenging authority is not just fighting for one's own rights but the rights

of humanity as a whole. This is of possible through communication, which is the ^{opposite of} silence. Communication includes the adherence to the social contract between the governed and government. Government is established for the benefit of the governed and not the generous. Our constitution framers had the foresight to guarantee right to freedom of expression (Article 19).

Ambedkar had rightly observed that the function of our new found liberty was to transform the social system.

This essentially means giving voice to the voiceless. So that they can challenge their oppression and reform the status quo to make it inclusive.

Women's movement is the 1970s and 1980s having

spurred by statistics like the Mathura rape case; made the government hear the marginalized women of modern India.

Police reforms and strengthening of laws that followed were a stepping stone towards a more gender just society.

A just society works on the principle of equality and dignity. The state (Authority) is guided by the responsibility of representing popular sovereignty that belongs to the people. It listens and accommodates the voice of all; rich or poor, men and women; powerful and the weak.

"They make a declaration and call it peace" Tacitus.

The task of political activity of questioning and challenging lays the seeds of

authoritarianism: For constant night is the price of freedom. Rights lost cannot be gained back by making appeals to the conscience of the usurper, observed Ambedkar. Hence, it is the duty of all to penetrate the silence of oppression

It is not just the outside authority i.e. the state that has the potential of suppressing freedom & liberty. Rousseau had observed that "Men are born free but are everywhere in chains"

These chains are as much our own limitations. Our Prejudices often come in the way of doing what is right. The silence that we impose on our own conscience is the

undoing of ourselves. When we fail to act against poverty, violence and climate change because it doesn't affect us, we

become prisoners to our own
indifference.

Greta Thunberg asked the
General Assembly "filled with
learned men : we deserve a
safe future and we demand
a safe future. Is that too
much to ask for?"

The challenge very little
girl is a wakeup call to
the conscience of the whole
world. When silence is the
norm, even one voice can
be powerful.

Another young woman,
Anjala Yousufzai, was shot
four times in ²⁰¹⁵ for not
succumbing to silence and
demanding her right to
education.

These stories of
courage force us to

U.P.S.C.

9

प्रश्न पढ़ें
या फिर
(Don't write anything
in this part)

Component the culture of silence
that enables oppression .

"Our voice is a gift,
A song of freedom,
That heals humanity's rift,
Let it not be lost in
the din of violence that
thrives on our silence"

Challenges of water management in the 21st century

In the sweltering heat of June,
tourists of Delhi decided to
escape to the hills of Shimla.
A rude shock awaited them.
There was no water

On the otherside of the
subcontinent, the Brahmaputra
rages furiously taking in its
fold houses, lives and dreams.
Floods in Assam have become
a calendar event.

This is the paradoxical
state of affairs that confront
us in the 21st century.

In the Anthropocene era, we
go on conquering ~~technology~~ nature
with technology yet the
basic need of water threatens
to unrail us.

"When the well is dry, they
know the worth of water"

- Benjamin Franklin

According to Niti Aog, by
2020, 21 cities will run out
of groundwater. We are
presently in a "water stressed"
situation and march on towards
a position of "water scarcity."
By 2025 water availability per
capita will fall to 1341 cubic
square. Where are we going
wrong?

More than 80% of rainfall
is brought to the country
by the South West Monsoon.

We harvest only 8%. While
in those four months, news of
floodings dominate, for the
rest of the year we are
forced to contemplate scarcity.

Another aspect is the
wrong incentivization in policy
making.

Agriculture in India uses 90% of freshwater. 95% of irrigated area is under flood irrigation which is highly inefficient method. This is compounded by the MSP regime that promotes cropping of water intensive plants like

Paddy.

By providing water and power subsidies, water is seen as an unlimited resource by consumers. The Dublin Principle postulates that water's pricing should reflect its "scarcity value".

Revamping our agriculture system will be central to solving water management challenges of our country. PM Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (More crop per drop) is a ~~good~~ step in the right

dissection in aligning agriculture to India's more than 120 agro-climatic zones.

While Agriculture is confined to the rural areas, the other major challenge is uniquely urban. World Bank estimates by 2030, half of India's population will be living in urban areas. About 21 Indian cities are expected to run out of groundwater by 2020.

The shift from rural to urban in the development discourse cannot forego accounting of the carrying capacity of our cities.

Water is seen as a "one time use" resource not be used again. The 3Rs of Reuse, recycle and refuse are central to shifting to a

life cycle approach of water that will sustain urban development that powers our economy.

Learning from other countries can help us in this endeavour. Israel recycles 85% of its water and is known for extensive use of greywater in many development activities. Collaboration also brings in new ideas. The LOTUS-HR project with Netherlands has greatly added to sewerage treatment technology.

Much of our environmental and economic activity is determined by the Anthropogenic principle. We fail to see how our actions have implications for the rich flora and fauna of the world.

Essely had said - "Of these is magic on this planet, it is contained in water".

Unfortunately the species that inhabit this realm are struggling.

Niti Ayya reports that 70% of our national aquatic animal, our national aquatic animal,

the gentle Gangetic dolphin is one of the many victims of the falling water quality.

Bad water quality is a concern for the [health] of many of our citizens.

Around 200,000 people die annually due to polluted and

inadequate water. Thamya Sen had one described India as

having "pockets of California" in a sea of Sahara".

The water challenges

are unequally distributed. They disproportionately impact the

already marginalised like the poor, women, disabled, minorities and the socially weaker sections

The poet W H Auden had noted "Thousands have lived without love, not one without water". Efficient water management that keeps in mind the needs for equity is a moral imperative for the state under Article 47 of the constitution.

The world is caught in a web of mutuality and the complications caused by climate change and the ongoing pandemic have exposed the fallacy of and limitation of unilateral action. "No country is an island unto itself."

Water flows don't respect national boundaries. Resource scarcity threatens a descent to "water wars". Recently India has expressed anxiety over Chinese dams on the Yarlung Zangbo river that can reduce ~~water~~ river flows to India.

Information sharing and trust building is crucial to ensure political conflicts do not threaten environmental management. The Indus Water Treaty signed in 1960 between Pakistan and India still stands today despite the ongoing rifts in the relationship. This is a sign of political maturity.

Back home, our states are caught in inter-state river sharing disputes on

Mathadhye, Mathanadi, Krushna and so on. Resource scarcity has the potential for stoking social conflict. Efficient water management is essential to avoid it.

Going back to history can prove to be useful.

From Rani ka Var in Gujarat to the Kare system of the Adil Shahi

era in the south, Indian history holds a lot of lessons to deal with the issues of the present. Reviving traditional water systems like Surangams, Karez etc will empower local communities to manage their resources.

Gram Panchayats and WUAs can promote a bottom up

and participatory approach that
argues well for resource
efficiency.

The earth still has as
much water as it had
200 million years ago. We forget
that the water cycle and
the life cycle are one. We
are not masters of nature
but residents of ~~an~~ complex
web of living beings.

Humility of man in
understanding his position
will be key in managing
the complex water management
issues that face us. We
can conquer nature by
defying it.

After all, "Nothing is softer
or more flexible than water
yet nothing can resist it"
Lao Tzu