

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.

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5.

6.

All the Best

①

Commitment to ideals, not idols, is the need of the hour.

→

John would often earn money by selling helium balloons. One day, he bought different coloured balloons, like black, red and green, filled it with helium and released a few into the air. This attracted children to his place and his business expanded.

One day, a child came to him and asked, "Sir, if you release a yellow balloon, will it fly in the same way as other coloured ones". Hearing this, John replied, "Son, it is not the colour, but that which is inside the balloon, makes it fly!"

The moral of the story is that while we are attracted by superficial attributes, we fail to understand the core values. In today's world, we often idolize individuals, objects, philosophies etc. but we fail in committing to the core ideals, the ideals which make our idols who they are.

For example, when Mahatama Gandhi idolized Gokhale, he did not mean it only in words, but also ensured that he followed Gokhale's ideals as well. This ~~was~~ ^{in turn} made Gandhi an idol for many others. However, in today's era, we often observe that commitment to ideals has taken a back seat be it in social, economic, political or any other field.

Hence, to better understand the importance of ideals being committed to ideals, this essay will argue on various dimensions regarding the same. Let us talk about the social sphere.

In India, we often idolize rivers, pray to them as Goddesses. But are we committing to the ideals like keeping them clean. Rampant pollution by discharging untreated wastes, disposing dead bodies etc. have even made Ganges the rivers unfit for any purpose, and has even earned Yamuna, the title of "naali (drain)".

Similarly we idolize women by praying to them in the form of Goddesses Lokshmi and Saraswati, but despite that, as per NCRB, sexual crimes against women have gone up by over 10%. Isn't this a violation of our commitment to ideals like protecting the dignity of women?

Further, we as Indians idolize Ambedkar, take pride in calling him "Uda Sahab". But are we committing to his ideals like protecting the vulnerable, treating them with dignity, equality of opportunity etc. Rohit Verma suicide, huge prevalence of manual scavenging etc. says otherwise.

Even in the field of education, we celebrate Teacher's day with great pomp, we idolize personalities like S. Radhakrishnan. But we fail to value the ideals. Disrespect for the teachers is on the rise. And far more serious issue is that we have failed to understand the

true meaning of education itself. Rather than utilizing it as a tool for holistic development, we indulge in rote learning, thus defeating the very purpose of education itself. In a way, we fail in committing to the ideals of a responsible student.

Even in the religious sphere, Indians often take pride in calling our self "the land of diversity". We idolize Hindu ideal philosophy like "Vasudhaiva kutumbakam". But then, are we committing to that ideal. Communal riots like the one in Godra, Muzaffarpur etc speaks other wise.

Not only in social and religious sphere, but even in the political sphere, the situation is not so ~~encouraging~~ encouraging. While politicians idolize the Constitution and take oath against it on one hand, on the other, there is rampant corruption, use of muscle and money power etc. All this defeats the ideals of a democracy.

Further, if we look in the economic sphere, we often idolize the success of America, Japan and more recently China. But then, ^{widespread} influences of economic inequality, gender pay gap etc is an indication that we do not commit ourselves to the ideals economic ideals like ensuring equal pay for equal work, equitable distribution of wealth etc. Even as individuals, we often fail to "adopt the ideals of our idols".

For example, we lack commitment to ideals like Japan's work culture, Scandinavian countries honesty, America's dedication and spirit of entrepreneurship and China's ideals of inclusive growth. In a way, our lack of commitment to ideals represent a poverty of thought, belief and action in the economic sphere.

Similarly, in the administrative sphere, ~~we~~ civil servants often idolize personalities like Sardar Patel, VP Menon etc. But they question is, do they commit to their ideals like unity, integrity honesty and compassion. Reports like Asian Centre for Human Rights (ACHR) point out that custodial death are on the rise. There are increasing incidences of ~~to~~ intolerance apathy amongst the civil servants. Further, scams like Coal Block, 2G spectrum have questioned their ideals of honesty.

Even in the environmental sphere, there is a lack of commitment to environment ideals. We all value the environment, take keen interest in environment summits, and idolize Paris guidelines as the means to an end of climate catastrophes. However, when countries like USA quit the Paris deals or when developed countries fail to accept IPCC's warm climate

Warning regarding dangers of warming beyond 1.5°C, the same question again arises, "Are we really committed to our ideals" of sustainable development and healthy climate".

Further, there have been instances of failing to adhere to international ideals. For example, we all idolize UN Human Right Conventions, Geneva Conventions and other such international laws. However, when America indulges in a self serving Syrian war, Saudi Arabia's interference into Yemen turns it into the "worst humanitarian crisis" and so on, isn't it our failure to commit to international ideals of peace, humanity and protection of human rights.

If we go by reports, as per FAO, for the two first

time in a decade, the number of hungry people in the world has risen, mainly driven by conflict and climate change. Isn't it a reflection of ~~our~~ ^{world's} lack of commitment to ~~apathy~~ ^{sympathy} ideals like ~~sympathy~~ ^{sympathy}? While on one hand, we spend huge amounts on charity and aid, whereas on the other, powerful countries engage in acts which nullifies the support.

Further, in the scientific sphere as well, there have been neglect of ideals. Science is a tool to help humanity. We have idols like Einstein, who often said, "Try to be a man of value", which meant that science should be utilized to help humankind. But it seems that we have embarked on a journey quite opposite.

There is a famous saying, "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in a final sense,

a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed." Isn't it a fact, that science which created bombs, nuclear weapons, and biological weapons, has turned itself from a saviour to destroyer?

Isn't it that we have failed to commit to the ideals of science, which involves ~~helped~~ progress of humanity and not its destruction?

Till now, it seems to be clear that while we idolize different persons in different fields, we fail to stick to their ideals. There is a saying, "A man without ethics is like a wild beast loosed upon this earth"

And ethics is in a sense, commitment to ideals. Hence, we must take efforts to cultivate this feeling of commitment in the society

And this cultivation should start from childhood. "For a child, there are no seven wonders, there are seven million". Hence,

Whatever a child is taught, he carries it with himself till the end. The success of Finland in several Human Development Indices has been due mainly due to its focus on child development.

To start Hence, to start with, value based education should be promoted at school level. Developing ~~commitment~~ on attitude of commitment through moral education will ensure that a child commits to bigger ideals in future.

Similarly, societal awareness campaigns against various ills like honour killings, communal violence, women's harassment etc. should be organized. Cases like "Muslims opening up mosques to help Hindus during Kerala floods" should become our idols and we should commit to this ideal of fraternity and secularism.

Further, at organizational level, there should be focus on ideals like honesty, integrity and devotion to work. This could be achieved by adhering to a "code of ethics" and "code of conduct". Likewise, for a public office, adhering to ideals of public service and Citizen's charter will go a long way in developing commitment to public ideals necessary for a government servant.

Further, at the national level, India, or for that matter, any country should ensure that poor and vulnerable countries are not exploited. There should be a commitment to ideals like protection of Human Rights, world peace and inclusive growth.

Last but not the least, at the international level,

a consensus should be developed on the commitment to ideals like fair play, equitable opportunities for developing and developed countries, non interference in other countries matter, and coordinated approach to issues like climate change. Here, Panchsheel ideals could show the way.

There is a famous saying, that road to development is not decided by how much resources do we have, but how effectively we utilize them. Here, our resources are the people and the society. As a result, it is important that ~~before~~ ^{while} we undertake a development-tal path, we should also ensure that the society develops on an attitude of commitment to ideals. This is the only way to develop sustainable.

Calgary Towers in Canada, which is over 190mts., has 60% of its length inside the ground.

This shows that even the tallest towers have the strongest Foundation.

For us, this foundation is nothing but our commitment to ideals and principles. As the saying goes, "Most people go to their graves, with music still in them", the and the reason is that lifelong, they fail to commit to their ideals. Hence, we must make sure that such a situation doesn't arise.

"There is nothing stronger than an idea whose time has come", and for me, the time has come that we value our commitment to our ideals. India, which has embarked on a journey to grow into a \$5 trillion economy along with achieving its SDGs, requires a society, wherein, citizens not just commit to idols, but also commit to ideals.

"Nearly all men can withstand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power"

→ Suppose a person is made a creator - with the powers of God. He has all power in the universe to create a world as he desires. What will be his course of action? Will he create a just world? Will he create a world full of suffering, inequality and discrimination?

As John Rawl answers this question, if the ^{original} person creates a world ~~wherein~~ ^{if he} enters at a random point with no privileges, ~~where~~ even the inhabitants are unaware of his Godly status, and is able to enjoy equality with equal opportunities for growth, where he is not discriminated

against, then can we say that he created a just world. In other words, ~~such person~~ he can be considered a man of good character, as he had all the powers to mould the world, but he decided to bring justice in it.

The above scenario is an attempt to explain that a person's character is tested if he utilizes his powers for public welfare, puts other's interest above his own, and hence does justice. A man, not corrupted by power, but uses it as a "means to a good cause" is a man of good character.

However, in most cases, we often judge a man's character by his ability to withstand adversity. But we fail to understand that withstanding adversity is an inherent quality.

of most men. 10.

As Aquinas has pointed out, survival is a fundamental trait of human kind. For example, if a person sees a lion, he will automatically start running to survive. No one needs to teach him that. Similarly, a person who is drowning tries frantically to survive. In few cases, people had even learnt swimming while trying to save themselves from drowning.

In other words, adversity brings with it a challenge to survival, and most men withstand it due to their inner inherent desire to survive, to overcome the challenge. True character is tested when a person with ultimate power uses the same for bringing others out of adversity or not.

For example, when British came to India, they overcome several adversities like wars with kingdoms, unfavourable public opinion, loss in terms of money and manpower. But can their withstanding of these adversities be a good judge of character? Can we say that British rule was good?

British overcome adversities because of their desire to rule. However, ~~we~~ when they come to power, they misused it for torture and exploitation. And it is because of this abuse of power that ~~we~~ judge the British, not because of their ability to withstand unfavourable conditions in a new country like India.

Hence, power tests a person's character. It is true in majority of cases, but at an individual level, societal level or so on. For example, when Mahatma Gandhi was prompted by his

teacher to cheat in exams, he refused to do so. This was a test of his character. Despite having the power to cheat, he refused.

Similarly, most of the crimes happening today are more of a show of power. When Nirbhaya rape occurred, the victim's body was badly injured. It was not a sexual violence case, rather, it was a display of power by the criminals, an illusion of power over a woman whom they considered as inferior. The criminal may have been a successful person ~~or~~ and have ^{in life} withstood several adversities, but this act of abuse of power is the sole judge of his character.

Even at the societal level, the community leaders have great power over the community members. However, we have examples of sarpanch who ordered honour killing in the famous Manoj-Babli case ~~on~~ on one hand, while

sarpanch like that of Haryana's
Bibipur village, who initiated
"selfie with daughter" campaign
to bring about women empower-
ment. Isn't it a contrast, that
one leader utilizes his power to
bring about a radical change
while the other causes a social
evil. ?

Further, at the political
level, politicians wield huge
power. However, those indulging
in corruption and scandals,
like fodder scam, Vyapam case
etc. ~~become~~^{are} looked down upon
in the society, while politicians
like Nehru and Sardar Patel,
who utilized their powers for
nation welfare are revered.

Also, at economic level,
businessmen wield huge power
of over nation's resources. How
they utilize this power becomes
a yardstick to judge their
character. For example, we have
businessmen like Nitin Modi

and Mehul Chawlski who misused their power on one hand, while businessmen like Ratan Tata and Dhirubhai Amboni are revered for their ethical business practices. No doubt these two companies are amongst the most renowned and ones.

Not only in case of businesses, but even in public administration, we have examples of misuse as well as rightful use of power. For example, we have IAS officers like Armstrong Pone who constructed a 100km road ~~on~~ without government support. This earned him public accolade. On the other hand, we have been plagued with several scams like Coal Block, Bofors etc, ~~at~~ which brought national criticism and lowered our international image, all due to corrupt civil servants who misused their powers.

Similarly, powerplay happens frequently in Judiciary. Judiciary is common man's

hope for justice. And it has been due to wise use of power by judges which led to several progressive judgements like Repeal of Sec. 377, Sec. 497, Right to Privacy. However, misuse of power by judges like Soumitra Sen (charged with corruption) has affected justice delivery and damaged judiciary's image.

Further, in the environmental sphere, every individual has the power of nature. But how we use this power tests our character. For example, we have Mohon Bhargava who gave 90% of his wealth to develop technology for saltwater desalination to fight water crisis due to climate change, on the other hand, we have individuals and business who continue with their environment threatening activities. Amazon rainforests being cleared to make way for development points to the selfish character of humans

B Further, if we look at the international levels, we have cases of misuse of power, which ultimately become a judge of character. On one hand, we had Abraham Lincoln who brought about radical change in American society by ending apartheid, and is widely praised as a kind hearted compassionate person. On the other, we have Hitler who brought about great destruction in the name of war. It is no doubt that Hitler is hated for his violent character.

Power Hence, we can see that power becomes a yardstick for judging a person's character. At lower levels, we have doctors who are reversed to as gods by the patients. They are in ultimate authority. However, cases like Tamil Nadu's organ removal case is a blot on such doctors' character.

Similarly, at higher levels, we can take the case of scientists. A scientist has the power of science. But on one hand, we have scientists like Marie Curie, who utilized the power to develop radiology to benefit humankind, while on the other, we have scientists like Vladimir Demikhov, who performed several inhuman experiments.

Hence, power indeed becomes a yardstick for testing a person's character. As a result, there is a need to ensure that those in power utilize the same for wise purposes. This can be achieved through moral education.

Aristotle
As Nelson Mandela had said, "Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all", and it is through the moral education

can we ensure that power is used judiciously.

Through education can we ensure that a civil servant uses his powers for public welfare, a politician uses his power to serve the citizens and an individual uses it to respect the law, protect the vulnerable and ~~be~~ play a role in society's progress.

Also, there needs to be limits to powers of an individual. This can be done through better monitoring ~~so~~ (like 360 degree appraisal for civil servants), transparency through e-governance, social audits etc. RTI is a good initiative to check misuse of powers of a civil servant.

Further, there should be guidelines to channelize the use of power. This can

can be done through mandating a code of ethics for organizations, enforcement of citizen's charter. etc

Power has an inherent tendency to corrupt. For example, when MN Buch emergency was declared, MN Buch, IAS MP cadre ordered the media to not fail to criticize the administration despite emergency conditions. The reason was to check misuse of power by government machinery. Hence, above steps could be followed to ensure that power is utilized judiciously.

In today's world, widespread economic growth and development has caused inequalities in status and opportunity. There has been a rise

in number of persons weilding
power. They may be CEOs, politicians,
civil servants and likewise. As
a result it becomes a necessity
that people in power utilize it
judiciously. This would ensure
that the world gets rid of it
inequality, discrimination and
injustice.

To so The topic can be ~~beautifully~~
summarized as follows

" Those who do not get spoiled,
By power or by greed;
Those who do not desert their
true selves,
In times when they have
control over everyone else ;
It is then can we say,
That the person is of good
character,
In every possible way "