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उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है। Candidates must not write on this margin

खण्ड–A / Section-A

Q.1 Little strokes fell great oaks.
छोटे – छोटे प्रयासों से बड़ी सफलता मिलती है।

Q.2 Judge a man by his questions rather than his answers.
किसी व्यक्ति का मूल्यांकन उसके उत्तरों के स्थान पर उसके प्रश्नों से करें।

Q.3 Great principles, great ideals know no nationality.
महान सिद्धांत, महान आदर्श किसी एक राष्ट्र से संबंधित नहीं है।

Q.4 In struggling with misfortune lies the true proof of virtue.
दुर्भाग्य से संघर्ष करने में ही नैतिकता का सच्चा प्रमाण निहित है।

IN STRUGGLING WITH MISFORTUNE LIES THE TRUE PROOF OF VIRTUE.

One often finds the statue of the smiling Buddha in a shop or at someone's home. It is considered as a symbol of good luck and prosperity. But, seldom do people know about the misfortunes of the smiling Buddha. He used to wander the streets of china with no certainty of food & shelter.

However, he chose smile as the chosen vehicle to deal with ambiguities.

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And, despite the misfortune kept smiling and shared happiness with whomsoever he met. This shows how virtuous he was since the most adverse conditions couldn't impede him from sharing. Thus, ~~misfortune~~ struggle with misfortune is the true proof of virtue.

But, before one can look into the main idea of the essay, one needs to know, about the misfortunes of the life.

- ~~for~~

| Life is not a bed of roses |

For some of the people the life starts with an accident of birth and they are kept lingering to the sticky floor. For instance, caste, gender and poverty. ~~Eg~~. Dr. Ambedkar had to fight against a lot of odds to make a name for himself.

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उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है। Candidates must not write on this margin

However, for some other people life is like a tide and ebb. People witness accidents of life like losing the business, getting disabled etc for example, Thomas Alva Edison's life work got destroyed due to a fire incident at his workshop.

These misfortunes kill the voluntariness and will to act in an ethical way. And, people in most of the cases commit crimes, take a road that's against one's conscience. For example, Harshad Mehta decided to turn his misfortune into fortune using immoral means.

But, this is the litmus test of virtue as. "Adversity brings out the best in a man" - William Shakespeare. And, knowing this. one can delve deeper into how the struggle with misfortune is the true proof of virtue.

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STRUGGLE WITH MISFORTUNE : LITMUS TEST OF VIRTUE

उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है Candidates must not write on this margin

Not everyone is born with a silver spoon. People often have to keep trying despite multiple failures. It's upto a person to despair or use failures as stepping stone towards success. For example, MS Dhoni not giving up his dream to play for India, shows his virtue of perseverance.

Further, people's life might witness sudden onset of poverty and loss. And, it may be difficult to uphold virtues like empathy. But, people like Raja Harishchandra who decided to give up his good deeds' profits for his subjects so that they could go to heaven, epitomises the virtue of empathy.

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उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है। Candidates must not write on this margin

Also, the test of virtue becomes evident in the struggle with natural disasters. While one can lose hope but the virtue of courage is tested in "Need ka Nirman firfir, Srishti ka Avahan firfir" (building the nest again & again, welcoming the world again) - Harivansh Rai Bachan.

Similarly, our soldiers who guard the border or don't even think once in entering the enemy territory epitomise the virtue of patriotism. They may be captured as prisoners of war but do not succumb to any pressure. For example, Abhinandan not giving up secrets ~~in~~ when caught in Pakistani territory.

In the same way, some times the fulfillment of duty brings upon the wrath of superiors and invites

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hardship. like "transfer industry" as pointed out by 2nd ARC. But, officers who discharge their duty despite these issues extoll the virtue of honesty. eg IAS Ashok khemka unearthing various scams despite multiple transfers.

Also, misfortune might strike in the form of thunder. and the situation is of "survival at any cost". But, in these moments, we get to know about the Godliness in our parents. For instance, Aishah gave ~~two~~ three dates to a poor woman & her two kids. But, the poor woman ate none & gave it to her kids. Prophet Mohammad said, "she will attain heaven".

However, one may also think that- "is misfortune the only way to test true virtue?" Certainly not.

NEXT IAS
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FORTUNE: AN ALTERNATIVE TEST

उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है। Candidates must not write on this margin

"If you want to test a man's character, Give him power!" - Abraham Lincoln. It's true because some use the people as ladder and kick it off once atop. as said by shakespeare in Julius Caesar. Virtue of is ~~to~~ shown only if the person acts like APJ Abdul Kalam who was called "People's President".

Similarly, wealth can also test a person's virtue. One has two choices - either go for wealth without conscience (Gandhiji's 7 sins) or go for trusteeship doctrine and act as a trustee of the wealth for the welfare of people ~~eg~~. Ratan Tata opening up cancer hospitals

Further, fortune manifests as happiness. "And happiness is true only if it's shared." But, it's dependent on a

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person's virtue whether he wants to spread happiness like the smiling Buddha or keeps it to himself.

So, in the struggle between fortune & misfortune as the true test of virtue. whose which one's victorious? None.

THE GOLD STANDARD FOR VIRTUE

The true proof of virtue lies in equinamity. - the concept of 'sthitprajna' in Gita. Be it fortune or misfortune, one has to uphold Entegrity. Lord Rama's even handedness prevailed in 'Van Vaas' as well as 'Ram Rajya'.

Also, the true proof of virtue is in the fact that one can convert his misfortune into fortune with courage. And, this process upholding the categorical imperatives simultaneously.

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उम्मीदवारों को इस मार्ग में लिखना मना है। Candidates must not write on this margin

As. Ayodhya singh Mavoodh says, "Ho gaye ek aan mein unke bure din bhi bhale" (in a flash thir bad days converted into good ones" This was said for the karmveers & karmyogis.

Finally, the gold standard of virtue lies in the fact that despite the circumstances one can always think about "We" and not "me". For example, Gandhiji said, "losing oneself in the service of others to find oneself."

Conclusively, one can ask "what is virtue?" And to this Socrates would say, "Knowledge is virtue". Hence, each one of us must herald a culture of knowing ourselves. And try to purge the ignorance of our breathren. With this the society can rise and usher in the "Kingdom of Ends".

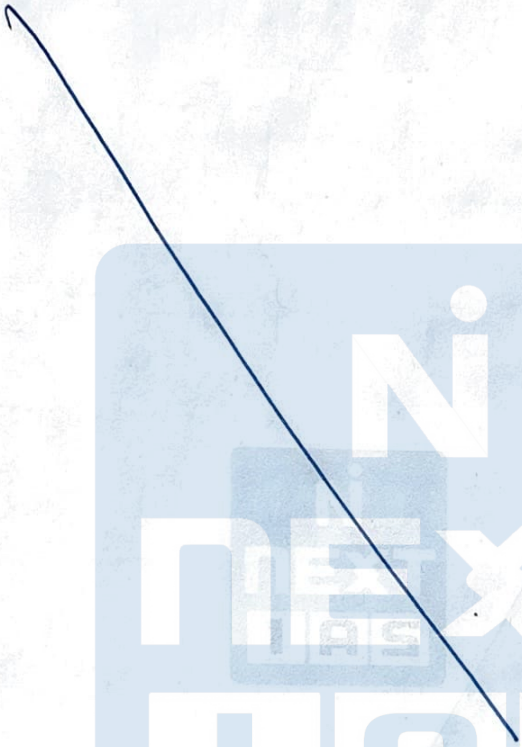
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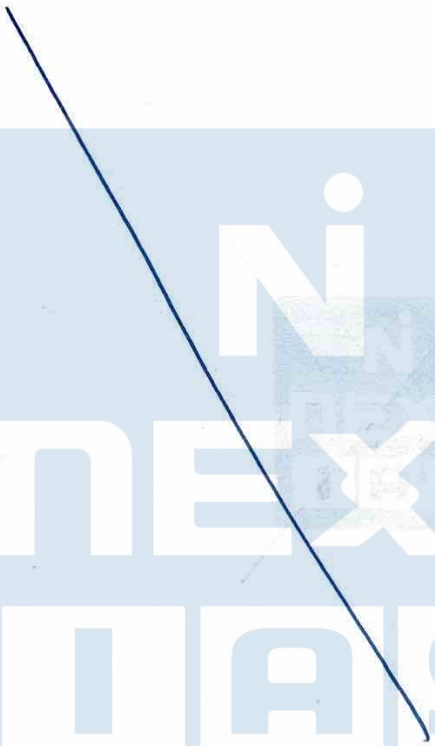


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खण्ड–B / Section–B

उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है। Candidates must not write on this margin

Q.5 The whole purpose of Education is to turn mirrors into windows.
शिक्षा का सम्पूर्ण उद्देश्य दर्पण को खिड़कियों में बदलना है।

Q.6 To dwell is to garden.
निवास करना बगीचे के सामान है।

Q.7 Reality is the shadow of ideas.
सच्चाई विचारों की छाया मात्र है।

Q.8 We can not despair of humanity, since we ourselves are human beings.
हम मानवता से निराश नहीं हो सकते, क्योंकि हम स्वयं भी मनुष्य हैं।

THE WHOLE PURPOSE OF EDUCATION IS TO TURN MIRRORS INTO WINDOWS

In the mid 17th century, Commodore Perry compelled Japan to open it's doors to USA. And, with this got control over the politico-economic system of Japan. This naturally, created resentment amongst the Japanese. and they realised that they were living in chambers of mirrors.

So, in order to be liberated they sent a group of people to look outside the window and learn from others. And, this laid the foundation

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of Meiji restoration. Thus, education acted as a catalyst to turn mirrors into a window of opportunities.

But, before one can look into the multiple contours of Education's purpose (i.e. to turn mirror into window), one needs to know, "How one's life is surrounded by mirrors? And how these mirrors impact one?

LIFE : A CHAMBER OF MIRRORS

A person is often motivated by his or her values, and attitudes. One's perception about others is the reflection of self. And this creates a narrow world view much like the frog in the well. For instance, Aurangzeb's narrow world view about religion based on his own reflection.

Similarly, the chamber of mirror

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makes one look after oneself only. As Hobbe's calls this, "man is sefish and brute". The mirror doesn't let a person to act in an altruistic spirit. For example, the vaccine nationalism of countries during COVID-19 was a result of looking into the mirror, neglecting the woes outside the window.

उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है। Candidates must not write on this margin

Not only this, just by looking into the mirror one becomes inward looking. This kills competition and brings out a poor assessment of self. For example, India in pre 1991 reforms era had wrong assessment about it's potential because of the trap of mirror.

Now, having discussed the issues of a life with mirrors, one can delve deeper into how education's purpose is to convert mirror into windows. and how is it beneficial. for a person.

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EDUCATION: REFLECTION TO REFRACTION

A life of mirrors is like getting trapped into a cave of illusions. Education acts as a philospher king and opens up the view to the window of reality. For example, Bahubali was trapped in the egoism (reflection of self) and fought his own brother. But, enlightenment let him shed off anger and he became immortal as Gomateshwara.

Consequently, the window of reality also opens up window of competition. (The mirror as already discussed gives a wrong assessment). This compitition can create better outcome. For example, India on the verge of reaching a USD 5 trillion economy.

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उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है। Candidates must not write on this margin

Further, education helps to shed off the false pride and ego ~~due to~~ of historical self image. It helps to open the window of renaissance. For example, Europe was trapped in the mirror of dark age. And, education through the enlightenment project eg. age of explorations opened a window of opportunity.

Also, education busts the image of self adequacy which is truly an illusion of the mirror. Education opens up its one to the window that, "there are better practices than best practices.". For example, World development report talks about the Shaji phenomenon. In this, a well educated migrant busted the myth of self-sufficient village & used Taobao villages to turn around the economy.

Not only this, education also

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tries to break the echo-chamber of the mirror. Looking at oneself reinforces the biases & prejudices. But, education helps to throw this away. For example, the artificial intelligence creates an echo-chamber and reinforces beliefs on internet. But, fact checking websites educate a person to break this chamber ~~into a~~ through a window of reality.

Further, education breaks this sense of looking after one's own interest. It helps to understand that purpose of life is much bigger. For example, "Winston Churchill says, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

The zest for scientific discoveries and innovation is a logical extension of above → where scientists

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work & to break the mirror of stagnation and open a window of progress & the mission Horizon includes multiple domains to open up windows of new opportunities.

उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है। Candidates must not write on this margin

However, education is also about a journey from outside to inside.

Education: TOTAL INTERNAL REFLECTION

It is famously said that "knowing oneself is the beginning of true wisdom." so, education's purpose is self reflection in a mirror as well. This gives access to one's own strengths and weaknesses. For example. Lord Buddha's philosophy of "Atma deepo Bhava".

Also, education's purpose is to ensure that a person isn't trapped in distractions. And hence. education helps in weeding out the external noise.

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उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है Candidates must not write on this margin

For example, the batsman Steve Smith talks about his own bubble. while batting. He wasn't bogged down by the severe 'booing' he received on the comeback after sand paper incident and scored a century.

Further, education is about using the mirror to build internal strength. for the external world is full of impediments. For instance, wisdom lies in being vocal for local which can increase atma nirbharta. eg. India's Atma Nirbhar Abhiyan.

However, education is not about the tussle between the mirror and the window. After all only a thin coat of paint differentiates both.

EDUCATION: A BALANCING ACT

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उम्मीदवारों को इस भाग में लिखना मना है। Candidates must not write on this margin

Education does provide a window of opportunities through competition and exposure to new ideas. But, simultaneously it addresses the training of the head and the heart eg. Gandhiji's NaiTalim. And, Narayan Murthy's compassionalt capitalism being a fine balance of both.

Also, education is about looking outside the window, and losing oneself in service of others. But, this attitude can be developed by looking inside through the mirror. For instance, Swami Vivekananda says, "dont talk to yourself once a day else you will lose an opportunity of talking to an amazing person."

Further, education is about looking after one's own mental peace. Looking outside can be tiring and demotivating. And hence, the importance of self

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reflection through mindfulness in Happiness Curriculum of Delhi government.

Conclusively, one can say that the true purpose of education should be to use the mirror, to be able to look outside the window. And, once one is outside, one can act as mirror for others. Just like Japan acts as a beacon of hope and development for the rest of the world.

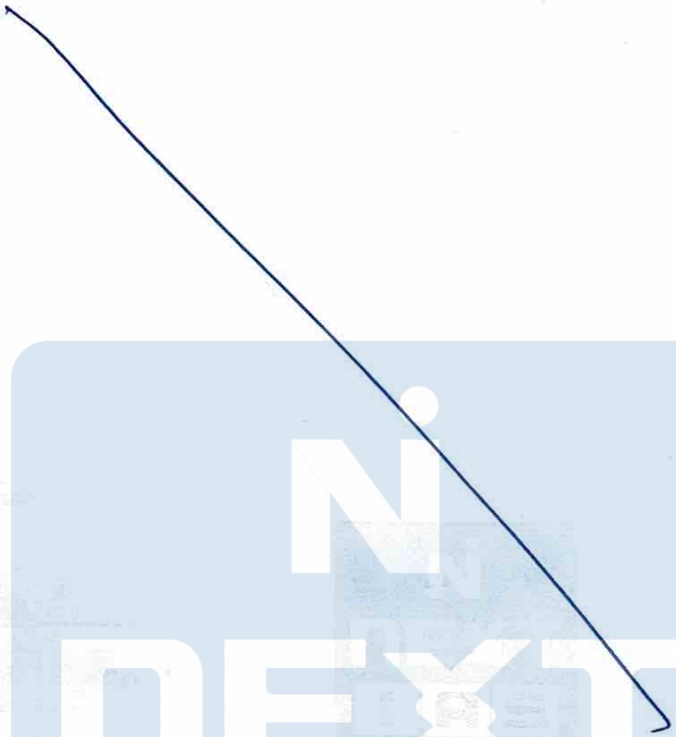
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The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.

Q1. Status of mirror - how?
Q.2. Issues with mirror?
Q.3. Educ^n mirror to window - how?
Q.4. Positives of window & not mirror?
Q.5. Education window to mirror?
Q.6. Education - a balance b/w both?

Space for Rough Work

Mirror
- true
  - inward looking
  - self awareness
- (-ve)
  - self image.
  - selfish.

Q.1. Chamber of mirrors : Life

narrow world view
- frog in the well.

Window
- look out
- learn from others.

1. Our views shaped by our own image.
   eg.
2. Our actions motivated by self interest - egoism
3. poor assessment of ourselves cor. no competn.

Intro - Meiji Restorn.

Concln - Through the window, act as mirrors for others.

Q.2. Educ^n mirror to window?

Education: Reflection to Refraction

Bahubali.

1. Allegory of cave - know about reality.
2. learn from others - better practices to best practices.
3. open up to competn - economy. (fear). Verghese Kurien.
4. open up to new opportunities.
5. science - new expmt, innovn. Shed off past → renaissance.
6. Service of others. egoism to altruism. - Churchill.
7. eco chamber & filter bubble.

Outward A journey from outside to inside.

Isha found^n schools.

Q.3. Educ^n: window to mirror?

Educ^n: A fine balance

1. Self reflection - knowing oneself ----- eg. Mahavira.
   - weakness
   - Vivekanand - talk to yourself.
2. Not to compare with others - no external noise → Smith.
   - distractn
3. build inward strengths - Vocal for local.

1. Vivekanda - serve others but mirror - what you think ---
2. Educ^n about - vocation, competn etc but also head & heart. (MG).
   Happiness curriculum
3. No rat race - Small is beautiful - Schumacher.

Intro - In the mid/early 17th century, Commodore Perry compelled Japan to open it's doors. With this USA gained politico-economy control over JP. This led to resentment amongst Japanese ppl. They got to know rapid chain of events. So went out

In struggling with misfortune lies the true proof of virtue.

Intro.

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Q.1. life's not bed of roses - misfortune?

Q.2. Adversity: test of char?

Q.3. Power: test of char?

Q.4. True proof virtue?

Space for Rough Work

Virtue
- courage
- empathy
- honesty.
- selflessness.
- equanimity.

Misfortune
- a/o birth
- a/o life

Concln.

Misfortunes? A/o birth - sticky floor.
A/o life: ebb & tide.

Adversity test of char?
- disaster
- Tests courage - fig on fifth fifth - H.R. Bachan.
- Tests empathy - Raja Harishchandra. - Poverty.
- Tests honesty - Ashok Khemka. - Transfer
- Tests patriotism - soldier - Abhinandan - War
- Tests selflessness - Mishal Dwary - hunger
- Tests equanimity - Vandan mangunga rakho. - failures
  - self respect.
  - Dhonp
- Tests objectivity - E Sreedharan - Pol pressure

But, fortune test of virtue
- Wealth - Trusteeship/ biz of biz is biz
- Power - Shakespeare -
- Happiness - shared or not.

Intro - Smiling Buddha

True proof of virtue

① Misfortune → Fortune → Karmayog

② Sthitprajna - Equanimous → Gita

③ Despite circumstances - Me to We.

Concln - knowledge is virtue & ignorance is as wickedness as well.