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खण्ड–A / Section-A

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

Q.1 Reason has always existed, but not always in a reasonable form.
तर्क सदैव अस्तित्व में रहा है, परंतु हमेशा युक्तियुक्त रूप में नहीं।

Q.2 The opposite of poverty is not wealth.
गरीबी की विपरीत स्थिति केवल दौलत होना नहीं है।

Q.3 To forgive is to set a prisoner free and to discover that the prisoner was you.
क्षमा करने का अर्थ है अपने भीतर के एक कैदी को मुक्त करना और यह पता लगाना कि वो कैदी आप ही थे।

Q.4 A man who wants to lead the orchestra must turn his back on the crowd.
जो व्यक्ति ऑर्केस्ट्रा का नेतृत्व करना चाहता है उसे भीड से मुँह मोड़ लेना चाहिए।

Question 1 - Reason has always existed, but not always in a reasonable form.

Once there lived a Musk deer in a forest. One day, in the morning he suddenly woke up to a very pleasant sensation of smell. Determined to find it, he set out in the forest, following the direction of smell. Over time, he got confused since no matter how much he chased, he could not find, even after scaling the mountains, lifting through marshes, through grasslands. Eventually he gave up as he got tired and could not continue further.

Eventually, as he sat down, realized

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that it was his own Husk sack he was chasing all around, he finally found the reason of his chase and got immense satisfaction.

Throughout history, we've been perplexed by the complex and mysterious nature of the world and ourselves. Though we see things around us but have been incapable to produce the reasons for everything. As a result, we found superstition, theories, tradition, dogmas and sometimes even further to uncover the myth. However, the reasons have always been there, it's our capacity how we uncover them.

Thus, in this essay, we shall look into the dimensions of 'reasons', why some things remains out of our cognition and why don't they. We would examine the context and trends of future towards uncovering myths. Lastly, we would conclude with the ethical dimensions of our narratives.

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Since we know that nature works according to set rules yet they remain elusive to us. It is one of the greatest ability of ours to find reason in everything. Yuval Noah Harari calls this "Cognitive Revolution" in his book 'Sapiens: A brief History of Humankind'. However, we often tend to ignore rationality due to multiple issues such as ignorance, religious orthodoxy, dogma, and label it as myth.

However, more often than not, we have uncovered the reasons for several mysteries. For instance, nobody understood why things fall on earth, it was Isaac Newton who discovered Gravity after an apple fell on him. Similarly, it was Karl Marx's ingenuity who uncovered the reasons for the poverty, inequality and exploitation in society. Similarly, leaders like Dadabhai Naoroji discovered the real reasons behind colonisation and so through his 'Economic

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Drain of wealth Theory

In the present context, through the further research we found the reasons for continued persecution issues of non binary individuals as we found the ~~t~~ which was difference between Gender and sex. The instance of modern diseases like COVID, its characteristics, spread and lethality and Origin was found through the genetic sequencing. Lack of such reasoning resulted in death of million during spanish flu, black death and Babonic plague.

Thus, we understand that change and reasonability of humans is highly variable. It depends upon the level of technology, geographical factors, temporal factors and human factors like religion and culture which shape the perception of man and turn the deterministic world into a possibilistic world.

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There are many ways through which we have found reasons to unexplainable things. Through Technology we have found workings of genetics and quantum realm, through research, we came to know about big bang, through rationality we understood reasons to ethical dilemmas and many times through divine intervention like accidents that helped to discover penicillin.

However, there exist complexities especially when there are reasons inherent of us - reasons to unreasonable now but due to our ignorance, become persistent ills. Poverty has clear reasons but continues to exist, Climate change, despite multiple reports of IPCC continues to persist. Similarly, countries are aware & informed about refugee crisis but act irresponsibly. Thus it is not always the solution or quest for answers but the moral attitude towards those reasons that matter.

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Other times, while reasons have existed, they are often misinterpreted or manipulated. Such manipulation or distorted reasoning had been used to propagate Apartheid in South Africa, Racial Discrimination in US and Caste System in India. Visionaries have used rationality to shatter these misconceptions like Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King Jr and Dr BR Ambedkar to bring the reasons and reasonability to the public & protect liberty.

Culture & Religion plays a very important role to providing a reason to everything. It is done by creating stories that everyone believes in. For instance, the God - Brahma & Jesus have created everything around us, they are supreme & we must worship them, that rains are blessings of Lord Indra or even that Earth is centre of Universe.

The Objective had been to satisfy people's curiosity and arrange humans into a definite social structure. Thus, were born myths.

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However, Indian culture had answers to many unreasonable phenomena too. We understood the physical and spiritual workings of humans. The ancient people are believed to have a long life expectancy, discovered a medicine system Ayurveda, the techniques of mental balance through Yoga and conquering the mind through meditation. It is ironical that reasons once existed & known are unknown today and been lost in time. We still wonder if there existed nuclear weapons like Brahmastra, may be the reason is not in reasonable form.

One of the consistent confusion has been in the realm of ethics and morality. Given its subjectiveness, people are unable to come to reason. To bring it into reasonable form, Aristotle devised the dialectal method of cross examination and today we have answers to many of moral questions like what is a good life, Dharma, Euthanasia, etc.

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There always had been a curiosity about why we are the way we are. Why do we feel emotions, why is our mind constantly thinking and why we die or even what happens after we die. The most important discovery in this field had been of Genetics and medical science. Today we know, we have the reason ~~why~~ what does "Happiness comes ~~has~~ from within" means. It means that we come under influence of serotonin, dopamine and oxytocin in our brain.

Through the same genetic enquiry, we are looking for other reasons like why do we dream, does subconsciousness mind really exists or why can we understand ~~of~~ what others are thinking (Telepathy) or If we can proceed to next stages of evolution. Genetics have been the reason that had always existed. A person considered Demigod in past, only had good genes in present context.

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Thus, our quest to discover reasons is like a never ending column of stairs. There are several questions whose reasons are still beyond. Like if aliens exist? How can humans attain immortality? About space travel or even God particles. Each quest ends with a big question — what do we do when we have all the reasons? History is the testament to that we've mostly taken the path of destruction.

Thus, a big factor in our quest must be of developing a good moral compass. Rationality and reasonability is incomplete without Responsibility, the responsibility of Goodness and Righteousness.

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खण्ड–B / Section–B

Q.5 International Trade is a good indicator of National Security.
अंतर्राष्ट्रीय व्यापार राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा का एक अच्छा सूचक है।

Q.6 It is not that we use technology, we live technology.
ऐसा नहीं है कि हम प्रौद्योगिकी का उपयोग करते हैं, हम प्रौद्योगिकी को जीते हैं।

Q.7 There is more to life than simply increasing its speed.
जीवन में केवल अपनी गति बढ़ाने के अलावा और भी बहुत कुछ है।

Q.8 Nature is neither a servant nor a master, but a necessary partner.
प्रकृति न तो सेवक है और न ही स्वामी, बल्कि एक आवश्यक सहभागी है।

Question 7: There is more to life than simply increasing its speed.

In a famous experiment, scientists connected electrodes to brains of rats, enabling animals to create sensation of excitement simply by pressing a pedal. When the rats were given a choice between tasty food and pressing a pedal, they preferred pedal. The rats pressed pedals again and again until they collapsed from hunger and exhaustion.

Similar are the lives of people today. Modern Technology, a quest to make life

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more comfortable, to consume more, communicate more has trapped us in a vicious that make so much so, we forgot why we exist in the first place.

Life isn't only about high paychecks shining jewelry, new iPhones or flashy cars or houses. It is about the pleasure of existence, the nature around us, the people we care about and realizing the details of life. We've become like robots in an Assembly line who work and work until we can't, on top of that, more work doesn't translate into more happiness.

Thus, in this essay, we shall: we shall look into dimensions of fast life and its impact. We would then examine what is more to life and how conclude by looking into ways about how we can experience it.

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Thus, the first question that emerges that how we have come to be like this? The modern Capitalist and Globalized system has become such that it must be always fed. It needs to be fed with with capital, investments, innovation, consumerism, markets, logistics to sustain. Entire economies are built on this system, the system must move forward to survive. The moment we stop or decrease the factors, the system collapses, and nobody wants that.

As a result of this fast moving life, there are expectations like what a human ought to be? He/she must secure good grades in schools, go into a good college by 18, get a good job by 22, make a fortune by 30s and so on. The constant bombardment of goals and aspirations for luxuries takes us away from what more life can be.

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As a consequence of a fast life, there are issues of mental health leading to suicides as seen in instance of 117 Bombay Student, high burden of Non communicable diseases like diabetes, children are not just malnourished but obese too. As seen in case of Manipur, people have become insensitive to victims of harassment as they do not have time. Children are consuming toxic and radicalizing content on social media and falling victim to blue whale challenge. Today, an average human is more likely to die from bingeing on fast food at McDonalds than from drought, Ebola or ISIS attack.

Thus, there comes a question that what else is there to life? Living in harmony with nature, appreciating our relationships, giving time to our grandparents, contemplating our life and enjoying existence the way it is, are some of the ways.

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Aristotle said - "An unexamined life, is not worth living". In present context, the first step of slowing down could be contentment. Contentment with what our lives are and not what else we can be. Yes, we must strive to be better, but better for the good, not to satisfy material needs.

Upon the idea of appreciating life the way it is, the Japanese idea of wabi-sabi is inspirational. No stone or tree or mountain has to meet specific requirements. Nature simply brings these manifestations into the world before they wither away. Wabi-sabi is the experience of how things are, not what they should be in this fast paced life. We must be deeply aware about the ~~impermanence~~ impermanence of this world. We must embrace the simplicity of our life and nature.

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We have habit of imposing standards and assigning reasons for every activity - not just ours but of nature, in order to fit the narrative of fast paced life. We have an engineering based view of everything. If we see birds sing, we say it to be a mating call, giving reason that it needs to reproduce, in turn to survive. But we fail to further explain that why to survive? Thus, everything may not be for survival but for the pleasure of it.

We sing, we dance or create art not to achieve something out of it, just like birds sing and and dance, not merely out of survival. We simply do to enjoy the feel and satisfaction of it. This, according to some philosophers has been the meaning of existence.

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On similar topic of fast paced life, Albert Camus has commented in his book - 'Stranger', that life has no meaning and life is absurd. Universe exists as an accident and we have three options to choose. First, we could commit suicide as a physical escape. Second, believe in God as a psychological escape. Third, we can accept the life as it is and live it best possible way we can. Currently, we lack the acceptance of life and try to meet set expectations.

The theme reflects in our education system where we train children to get good grades, memorize more without values attached to learnings. The digitization has accelerated the pace of life of children through following influencers instead of leaders. Neil deGrass Tyson said - "In the first year of a child, we teach him/her to talk and walk and so for rest of

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this time we ask them to shut up and sit down. There's something wrong there".

Thus, the fast paced life has created many illusions and desires for us, making us loose our direction. In order to realize the meanings and happiness of life we need to slow it down. Gautam Buddha in 6th BCE gave teachings still very relevant today. The idea of 4 Noble Truths and endless desires resonate with today's urban lifestyle.

Also, there exists ways to come out of this rat race by his idea of Eight fold path. Yes, people may not attain Nirvana but atleast a sense of satisfaction would help to slow life down. Another way could be re-connecting with one roots.

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Going back to our villages, our ancestral homes, our school teachers and parents re-connect the bonds we lost in our fast paced life. Standing up against suffering of others by a simple act of feeding a ~~the~~ beggar or providing warm clothes to street dwellers gives a break in life.

Thus, it is time we look within ourselves rather than the luxuries of life and ask ourselves - "Am I really happy, Am I enjoying myself?" and shift our direction towards giving life ~~not~~ more meaning.

To this Mahatma Gandhi said -

"The greatness of human beings lie not in re-making the world, but in re-making ourselves".