

खण्ड-A / Section-A

Q.1 If you look into someone's face long enough, eventually you feel that you are looking into yourself.

यदि आप किसी के चेहरे को काफी देर तक देखते हैं, तो अंततः आपको महसूस होता है कि आप अपने भीतर ही देख रहे हैं।

Q.2 We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.

हम उस बच्चे को आसानी से क्षमा कर सकते हैं जो अंधेरे से डरता है; जीवन की वास्तविक त्रासदी तब होती है जब लोग रोशनी से डरते हैं।

Q.3 It is the province of knowledge to speak and it is the privilege of wisdom to listen.

बोलना ज्ञान का क्षेत्र है और श्रवण करना बुद्धि का विशेषाधिकार है।

Q.4 Drop the question what tomorrow may bring, and count as profit every day that fate allows you.

यह प्रश्न छोड़ दें कि कल क्या हो सकता है, और हर उस दिन को लाभ के रूप में गिनें जो भाग्य आपको अनुमति देता है।

Q.1 If you look into someone's face long enough, eventually you feel that you are looking into yourself.

In the famous Louvre Museum of Paris (France) there is a painting which has created a lot of curiosity among the admirers. The painting I am talking about is the famous "Mona Lisa" Painting which has dynamism attached to it. It is believed that it shows or reflect the onlookers

own perception & reality.

Thus, many scholars believe that by observing or looking at something for a long time, we generally create a perception which is nothing but our own reality. There can be many reasons for this process of self discovery through observation of others.

It could be because, we relate or identify ourselves with the common characteristics of others, it can be due to sense of comparison of our physical & personality traits, it could also be due to realisation of our own thought process, values, emotions & attitude when we judge others and at last it could be also because the way the other person shows his/her expression when we face each other.

PROCESS OF SELF DISCOVERY

For an Individual this wisdom hold significance because it has direct implication on his cognitive, affective & behavioural characteristics which shapes his personality, reality, attitude & emotional Intelligence.

For Instance, Gandhiji seeing the face of British empire for long time in South Africa & India helped him shape his knowledge of colonialism, compassion & empathy for poor peasants, understanding of his strength of belief system like Non-violence among other self realisations.

Similarly, at societal level, It helps the society to understand their morality, meaning of true justice, meaning of religion, present state of

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social development, etc. It happens when society look into their surroundings be it nature, or other societies or people/groups within the society.

For illustration,

Ancient Indian society looked deeply into the nature & its processes thus it realised that nature is sacred which helped our society to understand that human life is made up of soil of mother nature and one day after death we all will go back to nature in form of ashes.

It also help nations to look into their own developmental levels, security, level of freedom, contribution to environmental degradation, etc. When we witness the rapid development of countries like china, we realise how much more we as a nation has to do. Similarly,

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When western nations complain about carbon emission by emerging economies, they must get a sense of their own contribution to it in the past.

After understanding the importance of the wisdom for self discovery, we should try to explore how does this process operate or how looking at someone's else face eventually make us feel that we are looking into ourselves.

AS MANY WORLDVIEW AS PEOPLE

According to David Hume, "Reality is a construct of the mind; Perception is the architect". When we look at someone's face long enough, it creates perception regarding physical features, personality, potential, etc which may create our own

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reality that may be true or false.

Our Interaction or our action will depend on this reality which is our own thus in turn it shapes our own personality. For example, In Christopher Nolan's Batman movie series, Bruce Wayne looking at injustice for long in Gotham city developed certain perception which made him realise his own strengths, fears & purpose.

Similarly, Tyler Durden in Fight club movie says that the people watching advertisement for long-long hours realises their materialistic urges to buy cars, clothes, expensive electronic equipments even if they do not require them for their survival.

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The process can also be understood by the power of Identification with Role models. Role models such as celebrities, political leaders, civil servants, sports personality, etc are looked at all the time. They help us to identify our own ambitions, value systems and understanding of right & wrong behaviour.

For example, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam exposure to Homi-J. Bhabha & Vikram Sarabhai made him realise his ambition to develop missile system for India, values of leadership & empathy, and understanding of importance of humility, equality & fairness during his tenure as President of India.

Thus, we can see how perception plays a major role in

understanding of oneself but, with the changing world with advent of technological revolution and cut-throat competition, we have to understand that process is not so simple & has become complex.

MODERN WORLD: CLOUDS OF CONFUSION

Globalisation, westernisation, Individualism and competition has led to value degradation which makes the process of self introspection rather difficult in present times. Sometimes, we can become so self centered that despite looking or judging someone for long, we may not be able to realise our own deficiencies.

For example, In the present era of competitive geopolitics, European

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Union observing Manipur clashes criticised the inaction of Indian Government without self-introspection of events like riots in France or open burning of Quran in Sweden.

It has also become complex due to outsourcing of self discovery to technology. One can look into oneself only when he takes the pain of thinking & critical thought process but, in today's world, social media like Whatsapp & Twitter shaping people's opinion both of themselves & those of others. It is correctly depicted in Pablo Picasso's "Girl before the mirror" painting which gives the message of duality of face.

Thus, there is need for containing the degradation of value systems

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and also imbibe the ability of self introspection in our children so that they can develop self-awareness & emotional Intelligence in today's world of cut-throat competition.

The wisdom is important to develop values like growth & expansion of mind, open & accomodating the diversity, Imbibing care & empathy values toward others ~~as~~ because if we look at someone with positive attitude, It will boost our own morality & thus improve our self-esteem.

For Instance, Maya Angelou in her book "why caged bird sings" mentioned how her observation of racism & Injustice in American society made her look into her values of

equality & fairness which imbibed confidence in a self-conscious young girl.

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Thus, we should understand that how we look at others does not only help us look into ourselves but also help in altering our life for better future as famous American Philosopher and Psychologist "William James" once said :-

"The greatest discovery of my generation is that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes of mind".

खण्ड-B / Section-B

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- Q.5 Truth, like a torch, the more it is shook, it shines.
सत्य, मशाल की तरह है, इसे जितना अधिक हिलाया जाता है, यह उतना ही चमकता है।
- Q.6 Art is I; science is We.
कला मैं है, विज्ञान हम है।
- Q.7 Only the dead have seen the end of the war.
केवल मृतकों ने ही युद्ध का अंत देखा है।
- Q.8 Act as if it were impossible to fail.
कार्य ऐसे करें जैसे कि विफल होना असंभव ही था।

Q.87 Act as if it were impossible to fail

Michael Jordan, the famous basketball player & legend, own the title of "Air jordan" because of his exceptional leaping abilities. At the age of 15, he couldn't make it to the college Basketball team due to his short height.

One night

think increasing height is impossible through artificial means & thus even if he was to get into the team, he was destined to fail but, Michael Jordan

had other ideas, he acted in a way that made it impossible to fail. He increased his height by 10 cm in summers and went on to win 6 championships with Chicago Bulls to become the most famous Basketball player ever.

This shows how our action determines failure or success. The reason for the same is that when we give our best efforts with total honesty to our hardwork with proper strategy, planning & mentorship. It helps us to reach perfection and thus avoid failures in life & profession.

In this essay, we will first see why it is important to act in such a way that it becomes impossible to fail? Then we will see

When is the right time to act and what all things to keep in mind for our action? Then, what if we do not act in a way which makes failure impossible? We will also explore why sometimes failures are required? and at last we will try to explore way forward.

ENSURED SUCCESS : NEED OF THE HOUR

At Individual level, failure proofing & ensured success is required to avoid pain & associated deepression of failures and its consequences. It is required due to cut-throat competition. For example, Cristiano Ronaldo, the famous Portuguese & Al-Nassar football player had humble begining in Poverty which made him act in a way that he can have everlasting success.

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At societal level too, it is important as it ensures social harmony, equality, justice, dignity of life, etc. For example, Supreme Court acting in best way possible through basic structure doctrine & Judicial review to protect the fundamental rights without which our constitutional democracy may fail.

At National & global level, actions which avoid failure are of utmost importance for achievement of SDGs. In the times of resource crunch, climate change, extreme weather events and pandemics, economic uncertainty, etc. nations need to take such actions which ensures minimum devastation & loss.

For example, cyclone management in state of Odisha have been

failure proof in last decade helping in minimising loss of life, similarly RBI conducting stress test & thorough regulatory reforms like Prompt corrective action has ensured that large banks are impossible to fail despite US & EU banking failures.

After establishing the importance we need to explore when is the right time to act and what all things need to be kept in mind while devising our action for ensured success.

ACTIONS WHEN SUN IS SHINING OVER THE ROOF

In the book "The Prince", by Machiavelli, It has been mentioned that the ruler should be encouraged to study warfare in peace time as it is the

time when mind is devoid of any pressure, emotions or subjectivity.

Today, the world is not facing any major currency crises but still many countries including India is forwarding the idea of de-dollarisation to save themselves from any future currency failure.

Similarly, In case of climate change, world has not seen the worst yet thus through IPCC, UNEP & UNFCCC, countries are urged to achieve NET ZERO target by 2050 to save themselves from climate failure. WWF living planet report warned that, this is the first & last generation to understand & do something about environmental degradation.

BUILDING BLOCKS OF ENSURED SUCCESS

Any actions which were to make failure impossible should have certain components like at individual level, one should know his/her strength, weakness, opportunities & threats. Weakness & can be converted into opportunities with help of continuous learning, mentorship & hardwork.

For example, Lionel Messi had strength as his dribbling & left foot but weakness of defending & using his right foot, thus with help of world class managers like Pep Guardiola & Luis Enrique along with his hardwork in training he overcame these weakness & went on to become one of the greatest players of all time.

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At the level of nations too there is need to understand the resource availability, level of technology, threats from nature & other nations, etc to ensure failure proof action. For instance, COVID-19 handling by India was praised because it handled it despite limited healthcare facility, extensive use of IT&ICT (COWIN, Arogya Setu, etc) & imposed strict lockdown.

After understand the Importance, when & how to act to make failure impossible, we also need to see the other side of it i.e. what if we do not act in a way that make impossible to fail? What will be the consequences?

INACTION LEADING TO UNDESIRED RESULT

Failure to take actions result in results & consequences which we may

not have imagined or hoped for.
It not only leads to Incongruence
between thought, words, actions & aspiration
but also may leave deep imprints on one's
own self identity.

For example, a person
preparing for JEE or NEET does not
solve any MCQ during preparation but
dreams of getting into IITs may face
lack of self confidence, loss of self esteem
& depression post results.

Inaction also causes
devastation & loss of life. For example,
despite CAG report on Advanced signalling
system & derongestion of railways, the
inaction led to unfortunate Balasore
train Accident 2023 causing 273 deaths
& thousand injured.

Thus, actions should be such that it avoid failures but, there are many counter-ideas by scholars & philosophers that sometimes failures are necessary for success. let us explore this idea in brief.

BETTER PRACTICES TO BEST PRACTICES

Man learn more from adversity & failures than from success. To win the battle of life & avoid failure in life one need to develop courage to face adversities. It helps in Innovation, growth & progress, self awareness, etc.

For Instance, ISRO, SPACE-X, and other space agencies are today fail proof because they saw failures in past. Similarly, the famous Thomas

Elva Innovation of bulb after 1000 failures shows how failures are important components of success.

In Bhagwat Gita, Lord Krishna advocate for Niskama Karma which says "don't focus on results, just do your duty" thus we should focus on actions rather than failure or success which is also dependent on external factors.

In conclusion, we can say that one should focus on giving his/her best efforts with ensuring that our actions are ethical & honest. which should be well intentioned to bring both personal & collective benefits. For this, we need to develop critical

thinking in our education system, encourage social feedback in our governance process & ensure discovery of better practices to best practices.

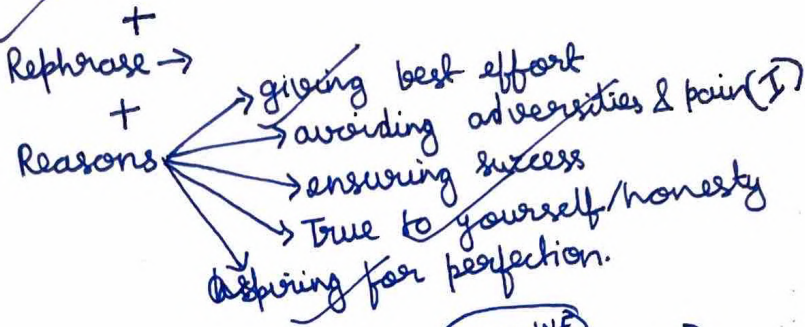
At last, taking inspiration from Swami Vivekanand wisdom we can ensure that India is impossible to fail when it enters its Amrit Kal:-

"Out of the past is built the future, look back, therefore, as far as you can, drink deep of the eternal foundations that are behind and after that look forward, march forward and make India brighter, greater, much higher than she ever was."

Act as if it were impossible to fail

~~Best~~ Better practice to Best practices

① Intro. → Michael Jordan story



when
what
where.

② Body

(How → WF)

- ↳ a) Importance (why) → ensured success, Resource crunch, cut throat competition, rising ambition, climate change warning, too large to fail, devastation (SM), constitutional democracy, etc. (N)
- ↳ b) Deep Insights →
- (i) Act when sun is shining
 - (ii) Require self awareness → plugging weaknesses
- ↳ c) what if not (take some points from Imp.)
- ↳ d) counter
- ↳ Man learn from adversities & failure → Space-X, Thomas Edison.
 - ↳ cannot control nature or external factor completely
 - ↳ Nishkama Karma.

↳ e) Int. event / Indian event

- ↳ No history of debt default by India ever.

③ Conclusion

- ↳ a) Values → all.
- ↳ b) WF
- ↳ c) Quote → Swami Vivekananda

if you look into someone's face long enough eventually you feel that you are looking into yourself.

① Intr. → Mona Lisa painting → tell it in story mode. (1 Para.)
(2)

Rephrase + linking Mona Lisa painting

15 pages

Reasons → perception shape reality, relating oneself with others, judgement tells us about our thought process & values, comparison, understanding our Attitude & emotions, Role models, Personality, Physical traits, self Aw., Attitude, Emos.

② Body (5)

↳ a) Importance of this wisdom

→ Individual → self reality
→ Society → Religion, Poverty, edu, etc.
→ Nations → Development, security, climate action.

eg. Individual (Gandhi) → values

2 pages Society (Hindu society → env. as religion → we are made up of nature)
Nations (India → witnessing dev. of ~~world~~ → realization of its own deficiency)

↳ b) Deep Insights

2 pages
↳ i) Reality is a construct of mind & perception is its architect
↳ ii) self discovery is a complex process

when, why, how, what, where. Love

Batman movie

Fight club movie

↳ c) Counter Argument

↳ i) Value degradation → lack of self introspection in today's world

↳ ii) outsourced to tech.

Maya Angelou
↳ very caged birds sing

↳ d) Int. event

1 page
↳ i) American civil war/Revolution

b) Way Forward (1 page)
↳ school
↳ Gov.
↳ life

③ Conclusion (2)

↳ a) Values (1 page)
↳ Growth
↳ open & accommodating
↳ care & empathy

c) Quote (1 page)
↳ American Philosophers
↳ William James