

खण्ड-A / Section-A

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इस भाग में
लिखना मना है।
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- 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।

DROP THE QUESTION WHAT TOMORROW MAY BRING,
AND COUNT AS PROFIT EVERY DAY THAT FATE ALLOWS YOU

The concert was jam packed. People were enjoying the live music performance of their beloved singer. Many were live on facebook and instagram to express their happiness. Childhood memories and first crushes were being revisited with a slight smile and sparkling eyes.

Suddenly, KK had to go offstage because of discomfort in his chest. Shortly after, news came in that he was no more. Whole country was shocked and sad. Eulogies were ~~being~~ written. His songs were played. Tears were dropped.

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We all know about K.K.'s untimely demise. Even in our personal lives, most of us know somebody who left us all too soon and suddenly. ~~Suddenly~~, ~~was~~ For a brief period, we are brutally reminded that the future is uncertain, that we should seize the day (carpe diem!), and express our love unapologetically. However, a few days go by and we are back to our usual selves, fretting about the future and remorseing about the past.

WHO KNOWS WHAT TOMORROW MAY BRING

If we were to keep track of the amount of time we spend on the question of what tomorrow may bring, the results would be both, shocking and embarrassing. We all spend ~~more~~ far too much energy on this than we care to admit. The real question is why?

A major reason is in fact biological. The evolution of modern human has encoded in us a need for planning the future. As hunter-gatherers, we had to plan for food and protect ourselves in the wild from ~~all~~ ^{all} sorts of threats. Upcoming monsoon season meant storing food in our rock-shelters, and having a child meant planning a safe environment ~~to~~ for him.

But in the modern context, most of us don't ponder over such questions of tomorrow. For many, it is a creative exercise. Humans are blessed with phenomenal imaginative faculties, and future is its canvas. With our colors of imagination, we like to paint. There is no dearth of movies and novels which are set up in the future. From Interstellar's time travel to Frankenstein's monster, the mystery of tomorrow has been contemplated by many. A bored student looking outside through his classroom's window is no different in many ways. We all have day dreamed, ~~just~~ just for the sheer pleasure!

Contemplating and planning the future is also a necessity though. If ~~was~~ we were to truly believe that there is nothing ~~to~~ more to life than just the present, the present would lose much of its meaning. A family planning a vacation to the beaches is also engaging with the future, and wouldn't leave house if it deemed it too uncertain.

Similarly, future many times gives us hope, and in the process gives us the strength to shoulder the present. A student

putting in hours of study every day does it with the hope that his ~~results~~ efforts will bear fruits. That his selection into IIT or AIIMS or civil services will make it all worthwhile.

With so many seemingly good reasons of contemplating future, why the age old advice to live in the present then?

NOBODY KNOWS WHAT TOMORROW MAY BRING

'We suffer more in imagination than in reality.'

This crisp one line is a major reason why living in present is an age old advice.

Despite all our efforts and planning, the future is and will always remain uncertain. There are just far too many factors at play, and our actions are irrelevant beyond a point in the scale of things.

First and foremost, the biological reasons of worrying about future are largely irrelevant in the 21st century. Our current problem is obesity, not hunger; and neither is the attack of a tiger on our child a plausible threat. The functional purpose of planning the future obsessively was survival, and a worry of the bygone era. ¹⁰

Similarly, ~~and~~ contemplating future as a creative exercise is not without its drawbacks. Hitler dreamt of a Germany which ruled the world, and where Aryans claimed their 'natural' place ~~among~~ in humanity. The horrors of concentration camp is a case-in-point of what being overly obsessed with future goals can do to the present. Engaging with future is all good, but focussing on the present is better.

Closer to ordinary lives, day dreaming once in a while is ~~rejuvenating~~ rejuvenating and refreshing. But being obsessed with it or making it a routine escape is detrimental.

The student dreaming of clearing competitive exams can only clear it with studying, not just by thinking scenarios of how life would be afterwards. On the other extreme, being too worried about the future could be worse (say, suicide).

All this is to say that nobody knows what tomorrow may bring. We use our imagination to explore one possible picture of the future, and sometimes work in the present to make that particular picture a

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reality. Hitler, one can reasonably assume, didn't plan his death the way it actually happened, defeated and shameful. What then is the right way to live?

~~THE PRESENT~~

BALANCING THE PRESENT AND FUTURE

The key, like most things in life, is to balance. The immortal lesson is that we are mortals. Dropping the question of what tomorrow may bring is neither possible nor desirable. Ability to think about future is in fact a distinguishing feature of homo sapiens. A dog doesn't have plans for weekend, we do. And sometimes, these plans are necessary to motivate us for work.

In fact, much of the progress that humanity has shown is because of our ability to imagine the future. Gandhi ji imagined an India without many of its flaws, ~~which~~ is why he lived and died for the country. Lincoln wanted a future without ~~slave~~ slavery. Mandela fought against apartheid. For every Hitler, we also have such gens who made our future brighter.

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Future gives us hope. It gives meaning to our present. It gives us ~~strength~~ ^{strength} to suffer.

The key here is to imagine a future guided with values like hope, compassion, happiness and growth, and then to consider us lucky that we have the present to work for it.

But in this cat and mouse game of life, pockets of reminders that this future that we have imagined and that we are working towards, is as uncertain as ever, is also necessary. It is a key part of the balance that is required. Not being disheartened by failure, or too overjoyed with success, because life is as fickle as ever. So news of death of famed personalities like KK or Cyrus Mistry also serve the same purpose, that in the end, we are lucky to be alive. Everything else is just a distraction.

Certain exercises and actions can help us achieve this balance. Meditations is one example, for it brings us to the present, and makes us aware of our thoughts. We all can find similar activities towards this end.

To conclude, questions of tomorrow are very intriguing, but even our present was a "future" some time ago. Thus, focussing on present is our ultimate aim for a happy and fruitful life!

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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।

ACT AS IF IT WERE IMPOSSIBLE
TO FAIL

When ISRO announced its Mars Orbital Mission, Mangalyaan, with a budget less than the Hollywood movie Gravity, more than a few eyebrows raised. Questions were raised on its necessity, and its chances of success. No country in the world had succeeded in its maiden attempt, and here was India, punching above its weight, with a very tight budget.

Fortune rewards the brave, and ISRO did succeed. Everyone praised and congratulated India for its innovativeness and contribution to furthering humanity's collective knowledge.

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The elite club of inter-planetary exploration countries had to admit a new member.

FAILURE AND SUCCESS: TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN

ISRO's success once again cements what we know but often forget, that acting in the face of constraints scripts the best victories. Challenges shouldn't stop us, instead they should fuel us and strengthen our determination to succeed.

Failure and success are two concepts that guide our life a lot. Every action that we take has an objective, and whether ~~or~~ or not it's met is what determines its success. From the simple act of asking someone a favor to appearing in a job interview, there is one outcome ~~at~~ ~~the~~ we deem desirable. But is it really this straightforward?

To examine this, we need to delve deeper. What exactly is "failure"? Why do we want to avoid it at all cost? If we really think about it, fail is perhaps a ~~a~~ wrong word, and a ^{very} ~~very~~ harsh one at that. So what if ~~the~~ the favour we asked was turned

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down, or we didn't get the job we were interviewed for? May be the person actually couldn't grant us the favor, and may be we'll land a better job next month. Looking back with enough information, neither will seem a 'failure'.

To take examples from history, Gandhiji failed in all the three major movements that he launched for India's independence, be it Non-Cooperation Movement or Civil Disobedience Movement or Quit India Movement. Neither of the three achieved independence as an outcome, but only a ^{naive} ~~naive~~ would call these movements a failure!

But we are often taught to act as if it were impossible to fail. There is merit to this advice, but only when it's understood comprehensively. First and foremost, the very word fail needs a broad outlook as discussed. We only fail when we don't learn anything from the attempt, otherwise all such "failures" are nothing but milestones on the road to success.

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Similarly, the word impossible merits a deeper look. We all know nothing is impossible, including ~~failure~~ and especially failure. But it helps to think so, for we should be guided by positivity and optimism. In our heads, once we have decided a goal, we should take actions as if we will succeed. Doubting our actions all along just because failure is a possibility is a self-fulfilling thought.

The most important word, however, is act. Act we must. Often the fear of failure is so crippling that we procrastinate actions as much as possible. A student having fear of public speech will probably skip school the day he is supposed to address the morning assembly. For him, this advice is bad for he is sure that he'll be nervous in front of hundreds of his peers. ~~the~~ And he is right. What is the solution then?

ACT AS IF OUTCOMES DON'T MATTER

Unflinching self-belief is a life altering

trait to have. If only it were possible! We all know our limitations, and like the boy afraid of public speaking, we all harbor fears in the darkness of our hearts, far beyond any light of hope could reach it.

In such situations, we need to act as if the outcomes don't matter, only the attempt matters. Or better still, we need to redefine success. The boy needs to redefine his success as simply turning up and not fainting! That is a good starting point. Perfection is the enemy of good after all.

Gandhiji too was a terrible public speaker at first, but with time as he undertook more such endeavors, the results are there for all to see. Each iteration makes it a little better.

However, acting as if outcomes don't matter doesn't mean it is a license to fail. We need to put in the work and act honestly. Only then can we take pride in the outcome without attaching notions of

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success and failure. The boy needs to practise in front of the mirror, and may be even in front of his friends to overcome stage fright. Putting in targeted efforts is what makes the act meaningful and rewarding.

NOBODY IS INVINCIBLE

Everything said and done, we'll all fail. Failure is what makes us human. Even Sachin Tendulkar scored zeroes, and we are not even gods!

But to gather ourselves from shortcomings ^{then} and trying again, incorporating learnings picked up along the way, is the real victory. That is how we have progressed as humanity.

Edison tried hundreds of materials for his light bulb before landing on anything remotely stable. As he famously said, he didn't fail, but rather found out what didn't work. That is the attitude we need!

In the current consumption driven world which celebrates achievements and penalises failures harshly, such attitudes are

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getting difficult to circulate. Often, it even takes a toll on one's mental health, but the stigma around it and around failure prevents us from seeking help. We need to build a society where failure too is celebrated, for it shows that we tried. Social media is full of posts and expressions of success, ~~and~~ and we need to start conversations on failure.

ISRO too failed in its landing on moon in Chandrayaan-2, but that didn't deter it from planning Chandrayaan-3. What's more, it's even planning a manned space mission, Gaganyaan and an international space station. This is what we need to ~~go~~ do in our personal lives as well. Act, "fail", learn, and then ~~re-attempt~~ ^{re-attempt} with even bigger objectives! Success is bound to come then.

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Space for Rough Work

Start 1st → 00:40 m
Start 2nd → 1h:40 m

Drop the question what tomorrow may bring,
and count as profit every day the fate allows you
↳ out of context

start by → 10:36

* intro : Cyrus Mistry road accident
↳ sudden deaths: irifan / Sridhar / shane warne / cyrus mistry / KK

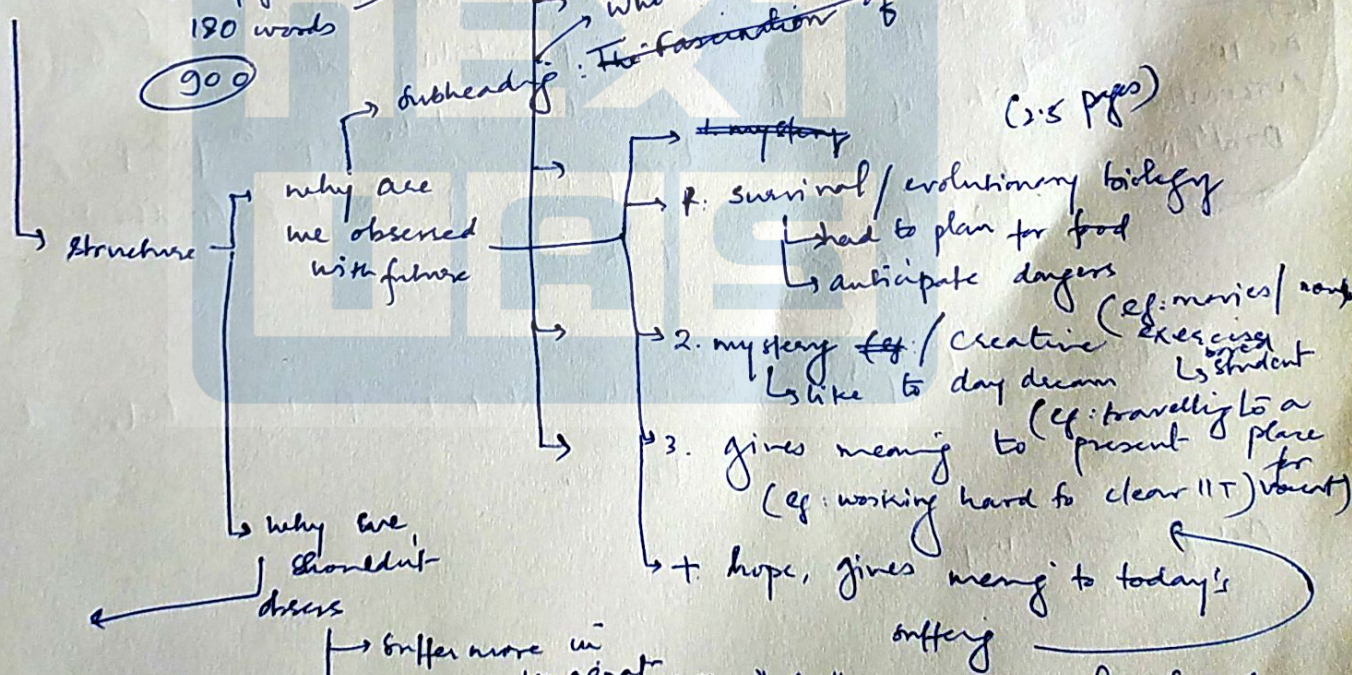
revised
draft 10 + 2h + 20m
(20 each)
↳

* conclusion : Kabir : kal kre so raaj kr 1

↳ call back to KK : ~~did~~ probably died doing what he loved
↳ subheading : IMMORTAL LESSON : WE ARE MORTALS : balance

write
not over
obvious
↳ not
dumb
arbitrary

* main body : 5 dimensions
(1 page each)
180 words
900



subheading : Nobody knows what Tomorrow May Bring

(2.5 pages)

80
191
180
177
169
159
182
32
ho.
words per line
1170
150
7x9
mystery / creative
↳ controlled
↳ not as escape, but a leisure
again, moderate (cf: student suicide)

ACT AS IF IT WERE IMPOSSIBLE TO FAIL

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Space for Rough Work

ef:

Intro: Space jobs / ISRO's Mangalyaan
 ↳ impossible tasks of humanity?
 ↳ budget less than Canada
 ↳ 1st country in the world.

↳ heady: Nobody is Invincible | Failure: Stepping Stones To Success

Conclusion: ISRO did fail C-2, C-3 cong.

↳ doesn't matter, act each time with same vigor, Inevitably learnings

Failure & Success: 2 sides of the same coin

What is Failure

Structure:

fail: wrong word, just means more to learn

↳ Gandhi failed in all: NCM, COM, GI

↳ but did he really?

Success: when objectives are met
 ↳ need change in perspective

ACT MORE IMP

↳ learning showed the the objective (ef:

where not applicable: failure a possibility, always
 ↳ if it hinders action, take step anyway

↳ eg: public speech (ef: Gandhi)

↳ perfection enemy of good
 ↳ eg:

↳ Sachin may have made 100 International 100s. Leteri had zeroes

PESTLE

Acting most important

81
 169
 155
 157
 163
 145
 124

994
 134

7.4