



# VISION IAS

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| SUBJECT:          | ESSAY         | Test Code:          | 1 | 7 | 5 | 4    |
| Name of Candidate | UTKARSH KUMAR |                     |   |   |   |      |
| Medium Hindi/Eng. | ENGLISH       | Registration Number | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1    |
| Center            | ONLINE        | Date                | 9 | 0 | 1 | 2022 |

| INDEX TABLE           |          |               |                | INSTRUCTIONS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------|----------|---------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Q. No.                | Page No. | Maximum Marks | Marks Obtained |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                       |          |               |                | 1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).<br>उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                       |          |               |                | 2. All questions are compulsory.<br>सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                       |          |               |                | 3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.<br>प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                       |          |               |                | 4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.<br>प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे। |
|                       |          |               |                | 5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.<br>प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                       |          |               |                | 6. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.<br>उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काट जाना चाहिए।                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Total Marks Obtained: |          |               |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Remarks :             |          |               |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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## 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.

3.

4.

5.

6.

## SECTION-1

Action without thought is empty. Thought without action is blind.

The 1930s was a tumultuous and horrendous period for the world. Hitler led Germany kept expanding aggressively annexing regions like Austria without sparing a thought about the repercussions. On the one hand, this was an action without thought. It led to world war, no one benefited from such incidents and thus the action was empty. On the other hand, the thought of avoiding a war, after world war I had led to creation of League of Nations. While a noble thought, its failure to act against Germany made it a blind body as it stood there without direction clueless on how to resolve situation thus showing how thought without any action can be blind.

Let us simplify the above illustration by talking about what thoughts are. Thoughts are ideas, beliefs. And, by using word 'empty' here means.



having no worth or utility for anyone. On the other hand, we can understand the use of the term "blind" to mean lacking any sense of direction.

Having understood the meaning of the terms above, we can now understand the essence of our assertion. That is, when we say action without thought is empty, we mean that actions that lack any worthy idea or intent are of little use or benefit to anyone. Take the simple case of road rage: Road rage only involves violence between people with no one gathering any benefit; each of fighting party get hurt, traffic is halted.

On the other hand, when we assert that thought without action is blind, we can understand that ideas need nurturing via actions to take a strong shape or develop. Without any effort to nurture them, they simply remain directionless.



So, with this analysis in mind, let us now see to what extent each of these assertions hold. We will first look at the assertion action without thought is empty and analyze in detail. To start with, let us see what some philosophers <sup>from ancient history</sup> have said on this idea?

Philosophers from ancient eras have focused on how humans were unique as only they possessed rationality. Aristotle said that for humans to be happy, it was important for them to think. Socrates too had said, "The unexamined life is not worth living". Thus, from these quotes and arguments by learned men, we can see how <sup>action without</sup> thoughts can be empty as it may not lead to "happiness" unless proper thought is put in. Why only philosophers, if we look at some recent instances, we realize the same assertion holds true. Look at Indian

society for instance. Till recently, it was characterized by large family size. Family planning initiatives were started. such as use of contraceptives, sterilization in 1980s, but none had limited success. <sup>ie. had empty impact</sup> Why? Because

the action was not backed by comprehensive thought. The action didn't focus enough on thoughts of women education, women empowerment, ending patriarchy, all of which was crucial for success. Thus, this instance shows without proper thought, action is empty as it yields limited result.

In the international arena, Pakistan provides us with an interesting analysis too. Pakistan harps endlessly on being victim of terror and claims to have acted on terrorists by freezing funds, arresting them etc. However, the world knows it is only an empty act. This is because this action lacks any thought of empathy for victims of terrorism, nor does



Pakistan think enough on how terrorism  
is affecting adversely everyone including  
itself economically and socially. No wonder  
these empty actions have made no difference  
in ending terrorism as seen from frequent  
terrorist attacks <sup>supported</sup> from Pakistan in Kashmir.

However, it is interesting to  
note, that not all actions without thought  
are empty. In fact, some actions without  
thought can be dangerous. A good instance  
to support this would be China's constant  
actions of border intrusions in Taiwan  
and India. Such thoughtless provocations  
damage bilateral relations and international  
peace. Thus some actions without thought  
can be dangerous. This is in fact a major challenge.

Thus, having analyzed the  
1st part in detail, let us now talk about  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> part which is how thought without  
action can be blind. A beautiful example to



understand this comes from history of space  
aeriation. Almost every human <sup>has fascinated by</sup> thought of  
flight, the idea of flying with the birds  
& going to outer space, the moon etc  
in sky. This thought would have  
remained a thought i.e. wouldn't have  
progressed or moved forward had it not  
been backed by countless actions by  
people designing different models of flying.  
from hot air balloons, to helicopters to planes  
by Wright brothers, the thought without  
these actions would've remained blind.  
The same goes for development in space sector till now.  
Coming to today's scenario  
in India in particular, every resident  
citizens hopes to be treated equally. It  
was this thought that <sup>was</sup> also on minds of  
our constitution makers which led to  
Article 14 - right to equality being made a  
fundamental right. However, this thought  
made a part of Constitution would've  
remained a thought had it not been

translated to action by the government.  
However, we still have some way to go,  
as equality of women, vulnerable sections  
like transgenders, despite government  
initiatives is still not reality. Thus, any  
thought without real world <sup>and implementation</sup> action will  
remain blind i.e. dissectionless and undeveloped  
and non-existent.

Moving on, a very pertinent  
example comes from the coroid pandemic  
era. The coroid pandemic led everyone  
to have thoughts on developing vaccine  
to counter it. Had we not undertaken  
research in the form of animal trials,  
human trials, we would never have been  
able to develop safe, effective vaccines.  
The idea of vaccine wouldn't have remained  
blind i.e. aimless in its progress without  
action



However, it is interesting to note that sometimes not all thought without action is blind. At times, a strong conviction in one's thought may result in a thought with a clear vision even if it is not developed upon by action. A good example is that of faith of humans in religion. No matter what actions are done, god may never be found in real life, yet thought or belief in god has a clear cut vision like what god wants us to do, how god wants us to behave.

Thus, to conclude, we can indeed realize that in most cases, action without thought is empty and thought without action is blind. So, the question is how do we utilize these inferences to ensure progress, peace and happiness for all?

To start with, it is imperative for all to be provided education, especially in science and morals. This will help inculcate the idea of positive, constructive thoughts that will help build the world into a better place.

Next, it is important to involve and encourage deliberative mechanisms. This will be where people will be encouraged to develop, discuss, their thoughts and envisage a concrete planned action so

that thought can be given a clear vision. A great case in point is the case of climate change <sup>via UNFCCC</sup>, we need thoughts of climate friendly technologies to be developed and implemented.

To monitor the implementation of the above ideas, we can have.



incubators, mentor institutions so that every thought is given proper action and is brought to reality as intended. India has made some good steps in this regard.

Not only does India have good thoughts on ~~how~~ <sup>pressing issues</sup> climate change, women empowerment, but we have also taken considerable well planned actions to give vision to our thoughts. This includes incubators under Atal Innovation Mission, INDCs to lay the path for climate friendliness, strengthening of women welfare schemes like Maternity Benefit Act.

Thus, in conclusion, we must remember that we must ALWAYS think properly before we act.

and that an idea can change the world  
only if we bring it to reality. With  
proper thoughts and actions, we will be  
able to ensure success in achieving  
sustainable development goals & put  
humanity on path to peace & prosperity



## SECTION B

Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a covid 19 world.

The father of our Constitution, the great B.R. Ambedkarji had said that he measures the progress of a nation by the degree of progress women have achieved.

And what better way to determine women's progress than looking at how many women are in leadership position. Unfortunately the world, including India has a dismal record in this respect. However, does the covid 19 world provide more threats to women leadership or new opportunities for an equal future? Let us look at this in detail.

To start with, it is important to understand what the covid 19 world means today. In a nutshell, we can say

that covid 19 world is a world where there are challenges such as fake news, economic shocks, job losses from the pandemic, healthcare, mental health challenges like anxiety challenges, but at the same time is presenting with opportunities in the form of work from home, online education etc. We will look at this in detail.

And, what would we understand by equal future with respect to women leadership? This can be thought of as a world where leadership positions not only are occupied by women but where women are playing an active role in bringing about positive change.

A question that may arise from this is why should we bother about women in leadership? The simple answer is, in today's complex world filled with challenges in cybersecurity, fake news,



pandemic, technological disruptions, lockdown etc, we need the world's best brains in leadership position. So, the surprise is with women constituting almost 50% of global population, are we functioning at maximum potential without getting them equally involved? No! Some of the best brains are being wasted,

Now that we have understood it is extremely important for an equal future for women leadership, let us take a look at what the situation has been till now. In simple words, it has been dismal.

In the political arena, women have <sup>been</sup> ~~seldom~~ <sup>allowed to</sup> ~~made~~ it to top political arenas. India, for instance, has been led by great women leaders like Sarojini Naidu, but they have been

few in number. The women representation in Parliament is a dismal 14%. This is among other factors due to strong patriarchal structure that puts restrictions on women.

In the economic sphere too, the world paints a sad picture due to the glass ceiling. Women are often <sup>WRONGLY</sup> seen as liabilities due to the maternity breaks they may need. This explains why the world has relatively seen few women being able to make it to top. Some cases include Sheryl Sandberg (top executive at Facebook), Indira Nooyi etc

In the society as well, in families, women are often not given a leadership position. Their opinions are not taken into account as they are seen



by patriarchy as child bearers and child raisers who are inferior to men. India's latest NFHS survey shows the same where it is women who are often made to undergo sterilization and that are more anemic as they are subordinated to husband's will.

To make matters more challenging, the COVID 19 world too presents several sets of difficulties. For instance, COVID 19 has seriously affected health sector. Thus, care needed by pregnant women, mental healthcare professional availability has been reduced which has taken women out of labor force due to weak health. The case of US Olympic medal winner gymnast who had to withdraw due to mental health issues is an example.

"Thanks to the lockdowns, education and skilling programs of women have been affected. This problem is compounded by digital illiteracy in women which prevents them from using online initiatives

From an ethical perspective too, things have gotten worse. Reports suggest that during lockdown, more women suffered from domestic violence in countries like India. Such problems severely challenge woman's ability to work let alone becoming a leader.

In the economic sphere, as well, due to covid there have been lay offs. ~~and~~ The recent lay off by of 900 employees by Vishal Garg; CEO Better-um is an example from the USA. In addition, in



countries like India, women are majorly employed in informal sector like construction which was decimated by lockdown & covid as we saw during the migrant labour crisis

Finally is the challenge of reduced political will as the entire attention has been diverted to fighting

the pandemic. In India too, repeated attempts at reservation for women in legislatures has been shelved due to lack of political will.

So, there are several challenges. But, there is a way ahead to lay down an equal future for women leadership. This partly is also because of the several opportunities

that are interestingly emerging in the covid 19 world. Let us look at them."

To start with, one initiative needed is the digital literacy of women.

This will help utilize the new opportunities of online upskilling options like

upgrad.com, udemy, coursera etc

In addition, online school education will also help prevent female dropouts due to education from comfort of home irrespective of lockdowns & covid.

Next, is the need to focus on health of women. Without healthy women, we can't have women leaders. Initiatives to tackle stress, anxiety,

anemia, pregnancy care among leaders others will be crucial for women.



The corporate sector in the economic sphere must also take the lead. ~~for~~ ~~the~~ women can utilize the new opportunity of being able to work from home so that even current homemakers can get back to work; improve skills and become leaders. Progressive policies like the concept of menstrual leaves by comata is a great step to boost women's capabilities. Government too must incentivize such moves.

On the political front, there are several actions needed. There is a need to ensure safety, security for women in workplaces so that they are encouraged to work and lead.

Swift action is needed against sexual offenders like the case of Harvey Weinstein to encourage women to speak up and continue leading

Countries should consider offering women reservation in areas like legislatures, higher educational institutes. In addition, global bodies like UN, WHO, IMF need to be more active in supporting women centric initiatives to <sup>will</sup> serve political

Finally, the current women leaders like Jacinda Ardern, New Zealand prime minister, sports world leaders like P.V. Sindhu must exercise their social influence and persuade women to ~~go~~ start working and to <sup>assume</sup> leadership positions

India, in particular, has taken good steps in this regard. Initiatives include reservation for women in IITs,



, new encouraging maternity benefits Act, Prevention of sexual harassment Act for their safety; and skilling & startup initiatives like Stand Up India Kudumbaree is a woman self help group that is a good example of success.

Thus, in conclusion, we must remember the words of Ambedkarji mentioned at the start of this discussion: ~~McKenzie~~ IMF too has mentioned India can gain 27% to its GDP by ensuring gender parity in labour force. The potential is too high to lose out on. IMF ex-chief Christine Lagarde too had said that women empowerment is not just a moral imperative but also an economic no-brainer. In this Covid 19 world, let us start afresh & ensure an equal world.





\*Intro → ~~about~~ Germany Hitler League of men

\* ~~before~~ <sup>what</sup> → <sup>1st</sup> ~~we thought~~ Thought → idea, belief

empty  $\rightarrow$  lacks <sup>whole</sup> worth, impact ~~pattern~~

Thought & action is blind → lacks any <sup>sort of</sup> direct

\* Essence  $\Rightarrow$   $\phi$  Act<sup>n</sup> w/o thought lacks impact or worth as there is no idea which can make the act useful or impactful.

The road sign  $\rightarrow$  is of no impact, helps ~~not~~ ~~no one~~ as there is nothing achieved from it.

★ Thought vs act<sup>n</sup> → as ~~thought~~ ideas need  
 nurturing via act<sup>n</sup> to develop them. If not, then they only  
 remain ~~as ideas~~ ideas can't be moved or developed upon

★. Decm w/o thought

~~India would have Kalinga war~~

\* Moral <sup>Must</sup> → Rationality is unique to humans ~~that is~~ that, is

A. Moral <sup>Must</sup> → Rationality is unique to humans  
 b/c happiness not possible. So called "the animal  
 planning" → divorced from reality

\* happiness not possible  
 \* family planning → divorced from reality  
 \* ~~control measures~~ → ~~what's left~~ → hence still on

\* Family planning → advised  
 \* ~~and measures~~ → what says advice  
 \* Pak. against terrorism → hence still on grey list.  
 \* or - linked → means effort

Thought w/o act is blind

\* Hist → ~~base~~ <sup>Anatom</sup> w right broken

\* ~~Grandhi~~ would Ast 14 → trans through actn.  
not poor

\* ~~Gandhi~~ → would Ast 14 → ...  
 \* covid vaccine → idea w/o venar not possible  
 \* Act 10% thought → can be dangerous → US capital attack → China's border moves  
 → ... it goes → a part with H.L. platform ...

(★) thought 10% not → not always blind → as it goes  
 to next step (★) thought 10% planned act on the platform  
 Not just act based on risky but ponder

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