

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.

Q4. We can only know that- we know nothing.
And that- is highest- degree of human wisdom.

'Vidya Vinayen shobhate'

(importance of wisdom is enhanced by humility)

The Sanskrit- proverb mentioned above highlights how important- it is for a knowledgeable person to be down-to-earth and to have hunger to learn more.

For the above reason, Plato admired Socrates. Socrates was an epitome of knowledge and influenced Plato, the 'father of Political Philosophy'. Yet- he always accepted that- he is ignorant- in some aspect-, and there are limits to his knowledge.

This quality of Socrates helped Plato

be more inquisitive, curious and humble. It helped Plato scale further heights. Infact modern statecraft, concept of Justice, virtuous rule and theory of education are all flowing from Plato's work (as one of many sources).

Thus, taking a cue from the Sanskrit proverb and Plato's example, we will explore this essay topic. We will first analyze why we need to know that- we know nothing. And then see how it helps attain wisdom.

Then, we will also analyze the pitfalls of being complacent- and thinking that- we know everything. And finally, we will look at how contemporary era demands being humble and yet- being confident, simultaneously.

But- before we proceed, let- us get-

familiarized with the key terms.

Human wisdom, humility and delusion : A nexus

Human wisdom is a blissful state when one knows the limits of her knowledge. Also she is able to distinguish between good and bad, true and false, immoral and moral and ethical and unethical aspects of life and society.

In Gandhian terms, it refers to chasing truth, finding kingdom of god within us and being an enlightened individual. Shrimad Bhagvad Gita relates human wisdom to the state of being sthit-Pragya, when an individual is undetached, and when her thought-speech-action are coherent.

whereas, the act of knowing is being aware about spiritual and material reality.

Socrates defined this awareness a true knowledge. knowing also reflects humility in one's persona. It also reflects confidence, as one is able to distinguish between ability and limitations.

on the other hand, there can also be a delusion of knowing. In this case one develops a false grandeur, which detaches him or her from reality. This leads to faulty decisions, conflicts or failures.

For instance, an individual venturing into a dangerous beach may be swept away by waves or swallowed by whirlpool, if he is ignorant about dangers, or over-confident about swimming skills.

Having focused on key terms, let- us now explore the importance of knowing our limitations.

Knowing nothing can lead to knowing many things

Confucious opined that- on 'if one thinks that she is the smartest- person in a room, then she is in a wrong room'. This shows the importance of being self aware for self development.

Therefore, we need to know that we know nothing as then we can be more focused on learning. we can be a good listener. we will be more humble and welcoming towards new ideas. And we will also keep room for course correction.

For example, Gautam Buddha was aware of the fact- that- he did not know

the root cause behind pain and sorrow,
thus he ventured out to witness a dead body,
an old man and a sick man. His humility
and hunger for learning made him Gautam,
who gave four-noble truths and eight-fold
path to the world.

Similarly, handhi ji termed his auto-
biography as my Experiments with Truth. It
was because he was aware of limitations
of his personality, and desired to devise
newer methods to fight novel challenges of
racial discrimination faced in South Africa.

Further, in social sphere, Raja Ram Moh-
an Roy ~~believed~~ believed in amalgamating
oriental and western knowledge to solve problems
of sati, subjugation of women etc. He was
aware that only traditional beliefs were not-

enough in imparting humanism in Indian populace.

Also, Dr. Ambedkar was knowing that he knew less about caste system initially. He therefore conducted an anthropological study of evolution. This helped him build concrete argument for abolition of discrimination.

In scientific realm, Einstein always mentioned how much needs to be explored regarding atoms, energy, velocity and light. Then his work became basis for theory of Relativity, gravitational waves study and nuclear physics.

In modern era, it was humility of Dr. Kalam and Vikram Sarabhai which made them work hard, and achieve great milestones in missile and space technology.

respectively.

Further, our Constituent Assembly gathered as a set of curious mind, who debated and explored each issue, rather than being prescriptive and having a delusion of knowing things already.

Also, if we follow interaction between Indian PM and USA's President, we realize that both attend meetings with CEOs as listeners, than describers of situation. This eagerness to learn helps them take sound decision for entire nation.

Now, we analyzed the importance of being humble and self aware. So further, let us analyze the dangers of thinking that we know everything.

Delusion of knowledge can be regressive

A fool knows just one side, while a wise man knows that many sides of truth exist (mills, J.S.). Thus delusion of knowledge makes us ignore many facts and makes us regressive.

For instance, in social sphere, the delusion of knowing leads to continuation of evil customs as caste system, patriarchy, child marriage and even system of sati (which has been abolished). It happens as few men develop myopia, and think that what they know is best for society.

Similarly in political sphere it hinders growth and development of a nation. The Generals in Pakistan and Kim Jong Un in North Korea block any attempts for improvement.

This has led to instability and economic stagnation in their nations.

on academic front, a wiser student may become C V Raman or Jundar Pichai. while a complacent student may consider his graduation degree to be an end of knowledge. This may lead to mediocrity.

In corporate sphere, we witnessed how Kodak and Nokia assumed that they knew pulse of market. But they were myopic. They were beaten in their own game by Smartphones. At the same time, Steve Jobs assumed that he was clueless, and thus he explored consumer sentiment, has to create iPhone.

In environmental sphere, our belief of knowing everything about ecology, led to blatant industrialization. And currently we

are at a stage when climate change is turning into climate crisis.

And finally, had the nations of Russia and Ukraine been aware of limitations of their strengths and pitfalls of war, they might have gone for negotiation than war.

Thus, the delusion creates complacency, as visible in the hare (of hare-tortoise story). It hinders hardwork, and perpetuates chalta hai attitude. It also ignores issues of vulnerable groups such as PVTGs, farmers, oral women, transgenders and LG BTQ community.

Therefore to overcome above fallacy, and to tackle new age challenges we need to improvisise our approach.

Contemporary challenges demand humility as well as confidence

We need to be humble and accept our limitations when necessary. This will help us learn newer technologies as Artificial Intelligence, machine learning, Blockchain, Drone technology, space technology etc.

At the same time, we need to keep our eyes and ears open to understand challenges faced by even the person staying in remotest part. This can help us attain 'antyo daya' by being 'dandya-narayan'.

Also we need to apply what we already know to solve certain challenges. For instance, we are aware of problems as hunger, thirsting, poverty, illiteracy. we

also know solutions and interventions which can help us overcome these challenges and attain sustainable development goals. For example, mid day meal scheme and National Education Policy 2020 if implemented well, can be a solution to many problems.

We can take a cue from startups in economic domain. Ola, Zomato, Amazon etc. focused on basic problems faced by populace and simply applied law of aggregation and internet to solve them. Key aspect was being aware, and applying what was known.

thus going by Aristotle's saying 'what has already been explored', we need to focus on what we know also. Apart from accepting our limitations and sticking to

improve ourselves -

So following words of TS Elliot
come handy in this journey -

'What we call a beginning is often
the end.'

To make an end is to begin.

The end is where we start from'

Thus we need to end our complacency
and delusion by beginning to be curious.
The road to ending predicament for ourselves
and the marking begins with our
sincere steps towards learning and applying
what we would have learnt!

Section B

Q6. The Economy is a wholly owned subsidiary of environment, not the reverse.

Edurdo has been a passionate football fan. He would play it regularly on beach sand near his house. But one fine day a large cyclone came and swept away his house and all other belongings. He was left with only debris from his house, his football and a barren beach. He belongs to coastal Mozambique, prone to cyclones.

Tofo's house is on Borneo Island. Earlier his village was like a small jungle with dense canopy of trees surrounding it. But what used to be a treat for eyes, turned into a monoculture plantation of Palm trees. Few orangutans, macaques and

rabbits who used to be Joto's childhood friends, were no more to be spotted.

Pankaj used to work a tour guide. Everything was going perfect for him, untill monsoons of 2023 came. one fine day a torrential rainfall brought flood in river near his house in Kullu. The flood swept away Pankaj's taxi and house. He was left with nothing but tears!

Although, the three individuals above belong to three totally different seasons and faced different problems, yet there is a common link. All three suffered because of wrath of nature. And this wrath was invited by nobody else, but us human beings.

And, this wrath was invited as somewhere during our economic growth journey,

we started treating environment- as 'means' to growth rather than 'end'. Hence environment was considered as a subsidiary of economy.

Thus in this essay, we will analyze why environment- should not be considered a subsidiary of economy. We will also look at- disastrous consequences of considering it a subsidiary. Thereafter it also needs to be seen how economy should be made a subsidiary of environment-, and also how economy can protect- environment-

But before we proceed further in our journey we need to dissect the key terms - environment-, economy and subsidiary. And also how these terms are inter-dependent-

Environment- and Economy: Friends or foes?

Environment- comprises of everything around us. It could be terrestrial or aquatic or even in the air. We humans are a key components of environment. The other key components of environment- are rivers, forests, ocean, groundwater, geological resources, biodiversity, mountains and so on.

on the other hand, economy is what we humans created with the help of resources we possess. Any productive work or process involving contributes to economy. For instance, agriculture or forestry is an economic activity. At the same time a sophisticated factory producing semiconductor chips is also a part of economy.

thus, broadly we can say that- while environment- comprises of natural components, economy is structured more by anthropological factors. However, one question which is unanswered is : whether they are friends or foes? It actually depends on whether we consider them to be complimentary to each other or subsidiary of one another.

So let us focus on the term 'subsidiary'. A subsidiary refers to an entity subservient to parent- entity. It functions for the sole purpose of benefitting parent- entity.

For instance, if environment- is considered subsidiary of economy, it means that environmental factors are being exploited for economic benefits. And it leads to catastrophe - for example deforestation, uncontrolled mining, global warming etc.

However, if economy is considered subsidiary of environment, then all economic factors need to work for betterment of environment. A company producing sewage Treatment Plants, or a company producing engineered sand actually helps environment-
conservation and pollution reduction.

Both the above perspectives occur in real life. Hence, to begin with let us see why economy is a subsidiary of environment.

Economy: an offspring of environment

For an economy to function smoothly and for GDP of nation to grow and for an individual to earn, environment plays a crucial role. An economy derives land, water, natural resources and raw material from environment. Even the labour is a component which sustains due to environment.

For example, to lead a good life we need electricity. It comes from Power Plants, while Thermal Power Plants run on coal buried beneath earth crust, Hydro-power plants need water from rivers. 57% of electricity in India is derived from coal-based power plants.

Also, to make sure that we are mobile, we need fuel. All our vehicles - from a moped to planes - are powered by refined crude oil found in nature.

Similarly, we cannot imagine our life without gadgets, utensils, furniture or machines. Everything needs metal. From iron ore to manganese to copper, everything is a product of environment. Even our new-age smartphones are powered by lithium and designed

and programmed by silicon chips. Both silicon and lithium is a gift from environment.

Similarly, without soil, water, crops and favourable climate, we would not have had our food.

So imagine, if someday, environment decides to shut it shops, many aspects of our life would come to a standstill. Life would be dark. And how great would that darkness be!

And without this environment. . . .

our crops would not grow. . .

our planes would not fly. . .

our homes would not be lit. . .

And would we have material even

to construct our houses? . . . maybe not. .

Hence from mining to energy, from steel

to semiconductors, from shipping to fishing and from tourism to medicine, environment permeates through most of the industries. And thus economy appears to be its subsidiary.

Yet there are instances when environment is indeed treated as a subsidiary.

When economy overpowers environment-

whether it is deforestation in Borneo (impacting Jaka) or in Amazon's rainforest, unending economic thirst has impacted our forests. Our oceans have become dumping ground for plastics. The Great Pacific Gyre is an example.

Also, our rivers have become a repository of sewage and effluents. The condition of mitthi rivers in Mumbai and the froth in Yamuna says it all. CPCB has

identified 350+ polluted river stretches in India, mostly in the holy Ganges.

Further, waste management is becoming an issue without remedy. The landfills in Delhi might one day rival Anavalli in terms of height.

Also, whether it is in Odisha or Chhattisgarh or Australia, coal mining is creating soil, water and air pollution everywhere.

This has not just created resource exploitation and pollution. But has also accentuated global warming. As per IPCC AR6 report, we are fast reaching a 1.5°C temperature rise scenario.

It is creating problems for indigenous

Communities, Island's inhabitants and finally impacting all others on planet. And that is why environmentalists as Sumita Nair call our economic model 'utilitarian', which abuses environment.

Thus we need to make economy, once again a wholly owned subsidiary, where environmental considerations dictate economic activities and also reap benefits. Let us see how, this can be done

Making Economy a subsidiary of environment

We need to focus on circular economy as a concept. For instance Tata Steel is focusing on green steel manufacturing. We also need to focus on creating wealth out of waste. For example electricity can be created from municipal solid waste.

For protecting environment and prevent-

climate change we need to focus on
reducing climate emissions and achieving
Carbon neutrality in sustainable manner

India's Panchamrit plan announced at
Glasgow COP26 to attain renewable
energy target of 50%, and reducing energy
intensity of GDP shows a way forward.

Also, to protect land, water and
biodiversity we need to focus on initi-
atives by UNCCD, UNCBD, Green India
mission etc.

For mitigating impact of climate
change on environment, we need to take
the initiatives of CDRI, ISA, Sendai
Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
forward.

Lastly, we also need to promote certain economic activities which actually treat environment as 'end' and not 'means'. For instance, alternative building material can reduce sand mining. Alternative fuels such as biofuel, green Hydrogen reduces need for fossil fuel. Ocean plastic waste can be turned into sport-shoes (by Nike)

And, all our economic activities can have a prefix green to it - for example Green Buildings, Green Energy, Green urban Spaces and so on. This needs to be not just in letter, but also in spirit. So that we repay debt to environment and mother earth.

And to conclude, we need to remember the Gandhian wisdom - that our

earth has enough for our 'needs' but not for our 'greed'. And to satisfy our greed we may need 9 more earths. So why not just preserve the one we have!

If we truly preserve our environment and make economic activities complementary to it, rather than making environment a subsidiary, we can attain the goal mentioned in Brihadaranyaka upanishad:

'Saure sukha Santu, Saure Santu niramaya!

'Saure Bhadrani pashyantu, Ma kashchid
duhito Bhavet!'

(May all be happy and healthy. May all be prosperous and nobody be in grief).

This way we can end predicament of people as Edwards, Toko and Pankaj!

Rough work

VISION IAS™

Don't write anything this margin
(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

we can only know that we know nothing. And that is highest-degree of human wisdom

Intro

vidya vinayen shobhate

Plato, Socrates debate

Thesis

Defn human wisdom, (Confucius)

- knowing - ignorance
- ~~narciss~~
- delusion of grandeur - humility

we can know - we know nothing

- Buddha, Gandhi
- Einstein, Oppenheimer
- Social - R.K., B.R. Ambedkar,

why needed

- humility - listening
- self awareness - correct connection
- hard work.

Flow highest-degree

- strive for best
- Plato -

- startups
- PM, US Pres - attending

we know - everything (2)

- ^{so} Regressive attitude - Pak, Carter System - EIC
- ^{pol} hinders growth - Pak, North Korea
- Acad life - Pichai vs mediocre student
- EG: innovator Kodak, Nokia, HMT
- vs. Apple, Amazon, Twitter.
- war - Rus - UK

- Complacency - Toiletise
- Lack of hard work - chalta Hai pendul, Agri in British Ind
- Ignore issues - PVTI, MDM - malnutrition
- Davidar Navayan

New era - (2)

- Accept ignorance - learn
- ^{US} AI, ML, Drone, Space
- Blockchain
- Apply what we know - cut-up, sci, etc
- Ola, Uber, Zomato
- Amazon
- SDG, CC, terror, Ecolan, peace

Conclusion (1)

- TS Elliot - ...
- Beginning - end of ignorance of efforts.
- end is where we start from.

Rough work

The Economy is wholly owned subsidiary of environment,
not the reverse

Introduction

Economics, Bismil, Pankaj Land-slide
Mozam, Tony, Borneo, HP

Thesis

Defn

Economy, Environment

- subsidiary - traits of wholly owned

Env not a sub

- why we derive from env
- land - climate
- resources - labour
- water - safety

res - Coal, water, oil, minerals, wind/solar
rare earth, lithium

Indust dep on env -

mining - semiconductors
metals - forestry - medicine
oil - shipping - fishing
tourism

Env treated as sub

- exploit - Borneo - forests in Amazon
- Phavalli
- River Potom
- mangrove
- indigenous community, loss of biodiversity, ecology
- CC, GW, NP
- water table
- food Potom
- latest rivers

Making env sub

- circular eco
- waste to wealth
- low - UNFCCC - Panchamail - COP 26
- EV, RE - ATM, CDRI, ISF, London
- Alternative mat
- Apprentice - STR / river
- Air Potom - CEP, Thermal
- Water - SPS - Plants, Agri, Household
- Green Buildings

Way forward

- Smart - eco - community, tech
- SDGs, NAPCC, RE Gen
- London, CDRI, ISF

Conclusion

- Save
- cleanth