

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.

All the Best

1. If you want peace, prepare for war

The Middle East has been a zone of turmoil, conflicts and frequent wars. Amidst this chaos, Iran has remained relatively peaceful since 1979 revolution. It is not like their peaceful world faces no danger. Israel, USA and Saudi Arabia create constant threat and yet Iran has faced no direct threat.

This peace of Iran is established on the idea of preparing itself for any direct threat in future. Nuclear deterrent is the centre-stage of this preparation. Its opponents currently pose no direct threat as Iran continue to prepare for any eventuality.

But is this actual peace? Can preparing for wars bring long-standing or inclusive peace? Or are we just covering our wounds for the time being. In this essay, we will try to find some answers to these questions.

Before moving to the main dilemma, we need to clarify about what peace do we mean and want. There are three levels of peace that need to be established. At the macro level, one want inner peace. It entails true conscience, no inner conflicts and some kind of satisfaction. Gautam Buddha attained this peace through self discovery and meditation.

At the meso level, one wants peace at

the immediate societal level. It is characterised by equality, no conflicts, prosperity and social well-being. Individual and societal peace are inter-related. One can hardly find happiness in a polarised society.

Moving to the macro level, peace ultimately is established between nations. This is because direct wars and conflict generally happen between at least two modern states. Our world has seen relatively more peace since the second world war.

In between all these levels, we can have many other kinds of peace. Between humans and other species, humans and natural environment and ultimately everyone wants a peaceful life.

Similar to peace, preparing for war can have various meanings depending on the context. At an individual level, one can prepare for crisis of conscience which can disturb peace. For example, telling a lie to save friend can cause cognitive dissonance but if one prepares himself by weighing which values to prefer, this can be avoided.

The most visible dimension of preparing for wars is when various nations actually mobilise their troops and create some kind of deterrence. India and China has militarised the whole western border so that peace is at least established through deterrence.

In between these two, society can be

more stable and prosperous in the long run if some sort of preparation is done to avoid conflicts. Constitutional safeguard against untouchability in India is to prepare for any caste chauvinism. The question then arises is why do we even need to prepare for war to establish peace.

The above question can be answered through security dilemma. In real life, an entity faces numerous (perceived) threats. To counter this, the entity wants to create some deterrence. The idea is to avoid a perceived threat from becoming a real threat. This can be illustrated by recent Russia-Ukraine war. Since the cold war, USA has seen Russia as a threat and established NATO as deterrence. In turn, Russia also

perceived as a security threat. So it attacked Ukraine because of the expansion of NATO.

As we have seen in the case of Ukraine, preparing for war doesn't always lead to peace. As Machiavelli said, "you can't avoid a war, you can only postpone to the advantage of other party".

Despite the risk of proliferation, which we will discuss later, preparing for the war is a tool to postpone it. This allows one to establish at least conditional peace. By postponing, this also gives the opportunity to bring all the parties to the table to discuss everyone's concerns. ~~That~~ Peace talks by

the Indian government in the North-East is the perfect manifestation of this. By enacting AFSPA and using military force, it created the foundation for talks which ultimately has led to peace.

Moreover, preparing for any conflict allows one to deal with any externalities. It gives time to analyse the problems and an opportunity to find out if there is any alternative. For instance, ISRO is launching various test rockets to find out if all the components of its Gaganyaan project is safe and effective or not. By preparing for any harsh eventuality, ISRO aims to conduct a peaceful suborbital journey.

Further, long-standing peace can only be achieved by preparing for the probable wars.

The epitome of this is nuclear peace. Despite the world witnessing the savages of nuclear bombs in 1945, it has till now not been used again. There has been no third world war because of peace manufactured by nuclear deterrence.

On the extreme end, peace is the result of war. By preparing for the same, one makes sure that he is ~~at the~~ on the correct side of the result. For example, Reliance and Amazon both fought for the ownership of Future group. But the former emerged victorious because it was prepared for it.

This argument leads to the question whether war can lead to peace. Can preparing for war to achieve peace can actually lead to the opposite. As we saw in the case of Ukraine,

it did result in anything but peace. But why is this so.

First, preparation creates artificial suspicion. As much as we like it to be, we are not good communicators. So, our actions communicate our intentions. When we start expanding our influence on the perceived threat, it becomes an actual threat. When we poke a bear, it will retaliate. He doesn't know if we are poking it for food or endangering it.

Second, there is not a single instance of a bad peace or a good war. What happens when we prepare for a conflict is that we, ^{think we} are fighting a moral and good war. But in a complex world, this creates a domino effect and at end our own interests

are jeopardised. For example, a father can beat his children to send them to school. He thinks it is a good cause but in reality the children will not be completely interested in studies.

Finally, only fractured and short-term peace can be brought about by preparing to defend so called peace. India and China mobilising their troops along border can only create short term deterrent. The conflict manifests itself in other fields like trade wars.

To conclude, peace is dynamic. It can have different meaning for different entities. By preparing ourselves to defend our peace, we

ensure that the enemy is more careful in its approach. At the same time, we saw how this creates security dilemma and can further create conflict rather than provide peace.

As Exhe Eisenhower said, 'war and peace are the two sides of the same coin'. Bringing back the case of Iran, it is preparing for the war by creating nuclear deterrent and also trying to establish peace through talks under JCPOA. So, the wisdom is to come under the same roof and vent out our concerns to the other party. Peace brokered through conciliation is always better than one brokered through deterrence.

7. No man's knowledge can go beyond his experience.

Sometimes, the Bollywood factory does produce some good movies. One of this was a movie released during height of Pandemic - Aukhon Dekhi. As the name suggests, the protagonist has this epiphany that he will believe in only those things that he directly experiences. This creates some comical situations and also some profound questions. The most prominent of which is can our knowledge go beyond our experience.

According to Aristotle, knowledge is the greatest virtue. While Nelson Mandela called it the most powerful tool to change the world. So what is knowledge and how does one gain it? According to Albert Einstein, knowledge is something

that allows one to learn throughout his lifetime. Here, comes the role of experience.

There is a Chinese saying that nature provides us experience as a comb when we are bald. It is through experience only that we grow our hair, i.e. knowledge. Most of the times, it is direct experience. We learn in schools, from parents, by reading on our own and witnessing some events. It was Prince Siddhartha's direct experience of a corpse, an ascetic, a sick and a poor man that gave him the knowledge that life is suffering.

Another way to achieve knowledge is through indirect experience. Here, we base our understanding through correlations. During freedom struggle of India, many

revolutionaries took inspiration from Irish Nationalists and Russian Nihilists. They didn't directly witnessed the acts of these revolutionaries in their respective countries but indirectly knew that the same acts can serve the common purpose - establishing self government.

So people learn through experience but why one can't go beyond experience. First, anything learned without direct experience won't have surety. There will always be questions about the validity of knowledge. For example, many climate ~~skept~~ skeptics question climate change theory because they have not directly experience the effects of the same.

Second, when our knowledge is not based on direct or any indirect experience, we can't internalise the same knowledge. We can at best comply with the knowledge. Children don't want to go to schools because they lack experience that it is the knowledge that can make their life meaningful. So, parents who have themselves experienced the same forcibly make children comply to their wishes of gaining education.

Third, knowledge without any experience creates the menace of fake news and post truth world. The purpose of knowledge degrades and it gets replaced by information. There's very minute difference between information

and knowledge and understanding this difference requires experience. A distorted video - for example potato gold speech of Rahul Gandhi - on social media can create perception of knowledge. But since this is often not based on ~~knowledge~~ direct experience, it turns out to be fake knowledge.

Fourth, since knowledge is something that requires continuous updation and deletion, it can only be achieved through direct experience. For instance, a scientific theory get modified and corrected several times based on new evidences. Earlier people thought sun revolved around the earth but as we expanded our inference we realised the truth.

Fifth and most importantly, the purpose of any knowledge is to know what to do at certain situations. This was proposed by Socrates. What we do is based on some beliefs and attitudes. These are more strongly held when they are the result of direct experience. Thus, our knowledge is bounded by our experience. But as we will see below this is not always the case.

Scientists know that our solar system has a tenth planet. This knowledge is not based on any direct ~~sightings~~ sightings but on mathematical models. Knowledge without experience is not only limited to the field of

science and astronomy.

Even in the field of economy, most theories are based on numbers and common sense without any real-life proof. It was widely believed that raising minimum wage creates higher unemployment, or demand and supply is the basis of whole economy. In these, we can't confirm the hypothesis for every life scenarios. It will be applicable in some and not in others. But, it doesn't mean that the knowledge is wrong.

Further, many personally held knowledge can be beyond any experience. for instance, many people believe in God but no one has seen any God. No one knows of scriptures filled with

mythological stories are true or not. Here, our knowledge goes beyond what we can ever prove through experience. But is this knowledge or just belief? Or only those can be considered knowledge that can be verified through direct experience?

Similar to these questions, are all knowledge derived from experience can be considered true knowledge?

Ultimately knowledge is interpretation of truth. People interpret their experience to formulate the tenets of knowledge. Buddhist knowledge is the result of direct experience and its interpretation of Buddha. But

we can't say that these learning derived from experience are always true, and thus is real knowledge.

To illustrate further, caste system in India is based on knowledge derived from direct experience. But is this knowledge? Here lies the idea of going beyond our ~~know~~ experience to gain further knowledge. We don't have to witness untruthability in front of our eyes to shun the practice in totality

Humans can't be bounded by their experience alone. We can learn through someone else's experience too. As St Jerome said, "the scars of others should teach us caution". So,

our knowledge can go beyond our own experience and solve for the fundamental questions that is not always in front of us. Our world is composed of various kinds of matters - anti-electron, higgs boson etc - but we can't experience them all. This should not be a constraint in developing our knowledge about the composition of our world.

Thus, most of the times, humans' knowledge is limited by experience. Understanding this can save many wasted efforts and create a more stable society.

But what are efforts for if not to

waste them to gain knowledge. As we saw, knowledge is not always bounded by direct experience if one makes an effort to uncover the unseen. Going beyond our experience creates the opportunity for learning great things that are not common knowledge.

At the same time, even knowledge that are not the result of experience can never be considered completely true. There can be no God, his teachings can be false and even tenth planet can be hoax until we directly experienced these things. This agains brings us to the same question whether our knowledge is bounded by our experience or not. The answer is not simple for knowledge

is dynamic and it for individual to decides what he/she considers true knowledge. Tell then we should remember that anything that can be presented without evidence can be dismissed without any evidence.

Rough

If you want peace, prepare for war

Intro - Iran's nuclear programme

Thesis - peace ~ war

Dimensions of peace

↳ world peace

↳ Inner peace

↳ At societal level

Preparation for war

↳ diff meanings = mobilisation & rearmament
ready for conflict
preparing oneself emotionally

How does preparing for war leads to peace

↳ security dilemma - counters too

↳ Deterrence

↳ long standing peace

↳ Deal with any externalities

Preparing for war leading to more conflicts

↳ Machiavelli

How to maintain peace & also be ready for war

No man's knowledge can go beyond his
experience

Intro - Ankho Dekhi movie (Chinese saying) and

Thesis - is our knowledge bounded by experience

Meaning of knowledge & experience

Direct source & indirect source of knowledge

How do we learn through experience

Can knowledge go beyond experience.

Why experience bound our knowledge

Manifestations

↳ fake news

↳ post truth world

↳ Beliefs

vas

Nyaya - Inference

Samkhya

Can all experience give knowledge

conclusion