



# VISION IAS

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VISION IAS

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| SUBJECT:          | ESSAY              | Test Code:          | 1  | 2  | 5  | 3 |
| Name of Candidate | CHANDRAJYOTI SINGH |                     |    |    |    |   |
| Medium Hindi/Eng. | ENGLISH            | Registration Number | 3  | 7  | 7  | 5 |
| Center            | OLD RAJINDER NAGAR | Date                | 14 | 07 | 19 |   |

[illegible]

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).  
उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. All questions are compulsory.  
सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.  
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.  
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.  
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.  
उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा 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.

All the Best

Rough:

Nearly all men can withstand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.

① Power corrupts quote.

② The office instance. ④ Mussolini

③ Hitler's example - war, jail.

④ Napoleon → CENTRALISATION. Impeq.

⑤ ~~M. Robespierre?~~

IG:

⑥ Stalin.

⑦ Political = concentration in 1 person  
strict control over those to whom  
it is delegated. Stifling of rights

⑧ Society → suspicion.

⑨ Eco. → No freedom

⑩ Good leader remains the same.

JLN:- faith in the same ideals.

← Great power, great resp.

CHILDREN

This too shall pass

→ To be taught to delegate  
→ stay true to one's ideals  
→

## Section - B

Nearly all men can withstand  
adversity but if you want to  
test a man's character, give him  
power.

"Power corrupts, absolute power  
corrupts absolutely."

- Benjamin Disraeli

In a particular episode of  
the long running popular TV  
series "The Office", the branch  
manager, Michael Scott decides  
to let his second-in-command  
take over his post and is himself  
demoted to the latter's post.

The change in Dwight, the  
new branch manager's behaviour  
is appreciable as he is downright  
humiliating to his coworkers and  
his previous sense of 'respect' for

Michael is lost. One sees that as soon as he is handed some degree of power; he becomes high handed revealing to us his true character.

History is replete with instances of men and women who have suffered adversity with resilience. Yet, when the same men and women are handed power, they are unable to deal with this new found authority and cling to it as a newborn clings to its mother.

All of us are familiar with Napoleon, who led his army to numerous victories. Born in Corsica, a little island off the coast of France, he was not even considered French. He began his career from scratch.

as a low placed soldier. Over the years he rose to the position of General and soon became the Emperor of France. As the emperor, he showed a tendency to centralise power in himself. In the political arena, he held the supreme authority and parliament counterpart of the period could only vote on his decisions. Local self government came to an end and the prefects were centrally appointed. At the economic front, he did not have clear policy except the fact that Britain's loss would be French gain. This led to the materialisation of the Continental system - which

proved to be a failure.

In the sphere of religion, he sought to subordinate the Catholic church to his authority. Similarly, he plundered his neighbouring nations, thinking that this would keep the troops satisfied. Eventually, however, he met his downfall at Waterloo but not before revealing to all his true nature. His hardwork and perseverance may have led him to the top, but his lack of foresight, planning and a dictatorial attitude was his downfall.

In a similar vein, one can view Hitler. He had humble origins and one cannot deny his tenacity. Through the first world war and his time

in jail, his spirit never broke. While in prison, he chose to use this opportunity to write "Mein Kampf" (My Struggle) to propagate his views for a better Germany. When he was eventually elevated to power, it was thought he would be easy to control. He proved his opponents wrong by passing the Enabling Act, allowing him to circumvent Parliamentary Authority. Soon, he christened himself the Fuhrer and sought to control the country's economy by telling each section exactly what to produce and in what quantity, polity by concentrating all authority in himself and society by committing

programs and educating the future generations in the "Nazi ideals".

Thus, he not only centralised authority in himself but his character as that of a cruel dictator who killed nearly 6 million people was unravelled.

Closer home, we have the example of Indira Gandhi, who was known as the 'Gungi Gudia' (Dumb doll). Yet, ~~as~~ no sooner than she was appointed the Prime Minister, she chose to sideline the syndicate. Later, she sought to impose emergency when protests broke out regarding the poor economic situation of the country. Her true face was revealed — a dictator who would not stand anyone who dare question her authority.

All of these examples illustrate that most people may seem like good leaders but when they are placed in positions of authority they reveal themselves individuals incapable of handling the situation. Behaviour of such individuals can wreak havoc on the lifebreath of the nation.

Politically, it may result in strict control over all aspects of people's lives and a stifling of rights. Socially, every individual is viewed with suspicion and societal levels of trust go down. Such behaviour was seen during Stalin's USSR where even children reported their parents in the hopes of receiving accolades from their leader.

In economic terms, the idea of free market is under threat.

Even in companies and administrative institutions, weak individuals are often given power. With this newfound power, they lord over their coworkers and the people they have to serve. A common instance of this is the arrogance of a District Collector when a poor farmer seeks his/her help.

Instead of helping the particular individual, they choose to show off their authority to him. What is extremely ironic is that these are same individuals who will bow down to their politicians without an ounce of self respect!

So, what sort of an individual should one aspire to be? It is

understood that a good leader and a great man demonstrate the same behaviour when they are down or placed above the rest.

A case in point is our first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. As the leader of the national movement, he spent years in jail, which he too used to write books.

After independence, he was elected the Prime Minister but he remained true to his democratic ideals, which he himself popularised in the pre-independence era. His respect for his ideological opponents did not allowed him to request them to join his cabinet as well. Leaders

of the same period whose countries attained independence alongside India did not show such tendencies. Ghana's leader Kwame Nkrumah became a dictator while Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt was not far behind. As a result, the idea of democracy never took root in these countries while today in India, we have a vibrant democracy.

Thus, one sees that a ~~great~~ ~~roman~~ man who remains the same in adversity and prosperity understands the maxim "this too shall pass". When in power, such men also understand that with great power comes great responsibility.

As individuals who are going to be the leaders of tomorrow, it is important for us to understand the importance of these ideals.

It is necessary that we form an identity besides the post we hold as a firm or as administrator. It is this independent identity that will allow us to better at the tasks we perform in our professional capacities. One must learn the importance of delegation. ~~for~~ A true leader is one who enables and empowers those under him to undertake tasks even without him.

While real life may not always provide justice,

One gets poetic justice in 'The office' when Michael reveals to Dwight that he was just testing him. Dwight crumbles in front of him and like his real life counterpart reveals himself to be a weak character.

To sum up, while it is true that a man's character is put to test when he is given power, it is too late then to prevent the repercussions of such actions. So, to overcome this, will humans bring in anarchy or will we become better judges of characters? Only time will tell.

~~Rough~~

Commitment to ideals, not idols, is  
the need of the ~~hour~~.

① → MPs leaving parties to join NPA/BJP  
Trajectory of polity.

② → Hitler and no respect for ideals  
of democracy.

③ → Modi - inspirational figure

→ Yoga

→ Swachh Bharat SOLUTION

④ → Anti-Defection Law - ~~idea~~

⑤ → Idols behaviour may change.  
~~get~~ Const - IG India is India

⑥ → Successful democracy - Basic  
Structure. Secularism etc etc.

⑦ → Dictatorship - Pak. idols keep  
changing. Perhaps ideal of  
dictatorship has been adopted

⑧ → Idols pass on, ideals live forever

⑨ → Structural strength to an org/country  
Base for future generations.  
Bhakra Nangal, BARC, IIT.

⑩ → Blind faith - NG for democracy.  
Dissent

Debate

→ Indian  
culture  
Kutagarashale

Section - A

Commitment to ideals, not idols, is the need of the hour.

In the current political climate, if we turn to any page of the newspaper we see news of MPs and MLAs switching their allegiances every other day. It makes one wonder if it's so easy to switch to another ideology or is it because following another leader is politically more expedient.

Commitment to ideals means having deep faith in a particular way of thinking.

On the other hand, I simply do not believe that there is such a concept as commitment to an idol. Supporters of a particular tend to worship them as long as they are in authority and discard them

as soon as they are out of fashion. It, thus, is clear that commitment to ideals is the only way forward. But, what happens when people do show their "allegiance" to a leader?

The best example is Nazi Germany where Hitler enjoyed the blind faith of his fellow countrymen. This led to not only an extremely stifling political order, but a lack of freedom to pursue one's economic desires as well as ~~the~~ creation of a regime that ~~not only~~ ~~spied on its citizens~~ ~~but also~~ and had no respect for the <sup>human</sup> rights of Jews.

In India, we too have witnessed the rise of towering personalities such as Indira Gandhi, J. Jayalalithaa, Narendra Modi amongst others. The cult of Mrs. Gandhi was summed up in D.K. Barua's quote "Indira is India & India is Indira". A lack of respect for democratic ideals during her prime ministership lead to excesses of emergency which saw political opponents being jailed, forced sterilizations and a censorship of media.

In the present day context, many individuals are trying to create a cult around P.M. Narendra Modi. Instead of idolizing the man, we must idolize the ideals he stands for. We are enamoured by his personality yet how many

of us follow his dictum of a Swachch Bharat or even his commitment to a Green India?

The political, social and economic implication of putting one's blind faith in a leader are devastating.

Politically, it leads to a policy paralysis because policies are not rooted in ideologies but the demands of the leader. Dependence on a single leader weakens other organs of the government.

This was seen when the judiciary was unable to do anything when people filed habeas corpus writs in the Supreme Court. It stifles dissent as people are afraid

of repercussions that this may have on their personal & professional life. This was seen when individuals sharing memes on political leaders were jailed.

As dissent is the safety valve of democracy in the words of Justice DY. Chandrachud, the very existence of a democracy is under threat when people show their so-called commitment to a leader.

Socially, there are rising suspicions in the society and it often leads to 'otherisation' of those who do not show 'commitment' to a leader.

Their lives are often under threat for expressing any opinion contrary to the idol's.

In a country like Pakistan where dictatorships are the norm to the extent that one can say that the ideal of dictatorship <sup>has taken root</sup> ~~is known~~, the economic situation is worse off. It is dependent on World Bank loans and loans from allies such as China which further increases their dependence. Years of authoritarian rule have killed any spirit of entrepreneurship and kept foreign investments away.

Through the above illustrations, one must be convinced about the efficacy of committing to ideals. The successful functioning of a state can only happen if the constitution

commits itself to certain ideals. In our case, these ideals include sovereignty of the nation, socialist economic policies, secularism, democracy and republicanism. It also guarantees justice, equality, liberty and fraternity to its citizens. Our judiciary went a step further in enshrining these ideals by declaring certain sections of the constitution as its basic structure.

Faith in certain ideals provides a structural base to a nation, thereby strengthening it. For instance, Jawahar Lal Nehru's Prime Ministership entrenched the

ideals of free and fair  
elections under an independent  
election commission. They  
also give the nations a  
set of economic <sup>and social</sup> goals to  
achieve. When Nehru called  
Bhakra Nangal dam the  
"temple of modern India",  
he set the nation on the  
path of economic growth.  
Similarly, the ideals of  
scientific temper took root  
when he established IITs  
and other such educational  
institutions in different  
parts of the country. The  
infant nation witnessed  
the strengthening of various  
organs of government as well  
state governments.

We have also taken legislative measures to curb the rise of the "Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram" phenomena. The Anti Defection Legislation was passed as the 52nd Amendment Act to our constitution in 1985. However, it is a travesty of our polity that we need laws to ensure allegiances of our leaders to their ideologies.

In this context, it is important to note that commitment to ideologies was not only popular in ancient Greece but also in ancient India. India witnessed vociferous debates in Kutagarashalas amongst the proponents of different.

ideals. While people disagreed with each other, there was a sense of respect towards one another for their ability to commit to an ideal, live it and defend it. In this sense, we, Indians, were the first ones to put Voltaire's idea "I may not agree with what you say, but, I will defend your right to say" into practice. Thus, we see that commitment to one's ideals in itself is essentially an Indian ideal. At the same time, we foster respect for others of a differing viewpoint.

To conclude, commitment to ideals is not just

important for our economic,  
social & political well being.  
It is important to realize  
that idols may be broken,  
they may pass on, yet ideals  
live in the minds & hearts  
of people forever, inspiring &  
guiding them to newer  
heights











