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ESSAY COMMENT SHEET

Name of Candidate	Rohit Kumar				
Medium Hindi/Eng.	English		Registration Number	972717	
Test Code	1752		Date		

INDEX TABLE				INSTRUCTIONS	
Q. No.	Page No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	- 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)। - All questions are compulsory. सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं। - The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं। - 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। - Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए। - 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

Mind - a good servant but a dangerous master

Dr. Kalam, in his much celebrated autobiography 'Wings of Fire', has beautifully said, 'Words comes second, thoughts travel ^{much} ^{its important to} far, so [^] control your thoughts'.

The cognitive abilities in a human which differentiates it from other species can be both an asset or liability. It offers ~~us~~ us both opportunities if regulated - innovation, wisdom as well as ~~as~~ challenges if allowed to take control of the body.

History has witnessed the several inspirational personalities who could reach the pinnacles of success by skillful application of their ~~so~~ beautiful minds. On the other extreme, books are filled with examples of rulers and leaders who could not control their lust, for power and pleasures.

Muhammad Shah Langella, a later Mughal failed to consolidate the declining empire due to his lust for short lived pleasures — wine.

Robert Clive, a competent general of East India Company, succumbed to the desire for material wealth — ironically ^{leading} to his unfortunate demise.

What makes mind a good master?

An emotionally intelligent mind ~~with~~, unbiased in nature, can be a beacon light for impartiality and neutrality in the society. Judges excusing themselves on grounds of conflict of interest shows the clarity in their minds.

A regulated mind helps to attain discipline in our work, culture, food habits and personal domain. Michael Phelps, 8-times Olympic gold medalist, said in an interview, 'It is not physical

strength but a strong, determined mind that helped him succeed.

Life brings us all forms of challenges in our endeavours. The ability to accept failures and learn from them is a cornerstone of any successful story. This requires a compassionate, visionary and objective ^{mind} which ~~can~~ ^{goes} through the failures. Elon Musk, SpaceX founder, said that grit and perseverance ~~are~~ his only friends during his ~~were~~ struggle period in the last decade. Inspiring stories of life story of JK Rowling also highlights that a stable mind is a pre-requisite to survive the storm before the sunshine.

More importantly, emotional intelligence forms the basis of harmony in society. A mind which is empathetic, tolerant and compassionate helps in the

preservation of self and society.

Mind - a dangerous master

Losing control over our mind is also an art. Today, we are dumped with information from across the globe with no mark of credibility.

Noam Chomsky ^{asked} said, 'Why is it that we are flooded with so much knowledge, yet we know so little?'

Misinformation propagated in a targeted fashion can lead to radicalisation and brainwashing.

There is no question what a dangerous uncontrollable mind can do — 9/11, 26/11, Christchurch attack. and what not.

The inability to distinguish between means and ends can lead to a corrupt mind, something that Kant feared. A mind not driven by rationality ~~by~~ but by selfish ~~and~~ goals can be detrimental for the society.

Nirav Modi and Vijay Mallya in their pursuit for material gains sidelined the ethicality of their conducts.

An unregulated mind can lead to chronic addiction for short lived material pleasures. Addiction can be a strong drive for the degradation of morality in the society. Addiction for power was the forced Danvers Pargayren to burn the entire city ~~in~~ (except from Game of Thrones).

Mind can become dangerous masters if it is devoid of truth. This can build prejudices, stereotypes and unscientific superstitions which can be difficult to erase. ~~in~~ It creates a breeding ground for communal riots, conflicts and ethnic riots. This Kashmir riots which forced pandits to leave their homes is a case in point.

What external forces control our minds?

Religion, based on fear rather than love and devotion, can have a negative impact on minds.

Wrong interpretations of religious philosophies can radicalise youths to commit ~~suicides~~ murders and kill thousands of innocents. because 'their Gods' want them for this purpose.

Socialisation process involving parents, teachers and leaders nurtures the mind from an early age. Values based on family norms and societal beliefs are instilled through reward-punish and classical conditioning. Gandhi learnt the value of honesty from his father. On the other hand, Chinese schools teach their students the demerits of democracy and what makes it unsuitable for PRC!

Need for a regulated social media

The rise of IT revolutions has streamlined the flow of information which offers both opportunities and challenges.

It helps in the pursuit of truth — bringing us news from all around the globe ~~at~~ in a few clicks. It helps to become an informed individual creating space for rationality. Democracies require an objective mind to function (Socrates). This demands free flow of information.

However, there is also a rising trend of fake news and disinformation on social platforms. It can have a detrimental effect on our minds, converting it into a dangerous, uncontrolled master. ISIS and other terror outfits use AI Based Tools to target vulnerable youths for radicalisation.

The rise of cancel culture on Twitter and Instagram tends to present a distorted truth. A disciplined regulated mind requires truth which the social platforms are very capable of hiding.

The need is to create a regulated ecosystem with legal + institutional safeguards. The onus must be on social media to control the flow of misinformation while enabling freedom of speech.

Quest for mindfulness

* The journey towards a nation of beautiful minds requires a multi-stakeholder approach — role of family, teacher, leadership and society being paramount.

The need is to realise the true teachings of religious philosophers. Buddhism advocates that an enlightened mind alone.

is capable of achieving nirvana (freedom from the cycle of birth and death).

Bhagavat Gita also highlights that 'only a stable mind which is unaffected by joy and sorrow can help in achieving 'Siddhi' - ultimate happiness'.

Our mind is capable of fulfilling our purpose in life, offering plethora of opportunities for innovation. It depends on us whether we are able to take control over it or are controlled by it.

Q Is inequality an inevitable outcome of growth?

We live in two Indias — one where farmers export premium quality GI Tagged Basmati rice and one

where farmers still follow slash and burn ^{farming} for subsistence.

We live in two Indias — one with majestic residential complexes of billionaires in Bandra - Worli, and one where eight people live in a cramped slum dwelling with leaking roofs and waterless taps.

Growth and development, marked by rising per capital income, and sophisticated quality of life and filled with amenities, it has also led to rising disparities across sectors, regions, gender and ethnic lines.

Since time immemorial, the ^{story} of development of one is written at the cost of others. Magadhan empire under Ajatsatru grew at the

expense of Anga and Koshala dynasties. Mughals rose to power at the cost of Rajputs and Ahoms. British empire flourished in seventeenth and eighteenth century by draining wealth from once-prosperous Bengal. The story, unfortunately hasn't changed post independence and formation of nation-states.

• Is growth inherently ⁱⁿ equitable?

Economic survey 2020-21 highlights that, growth in India, characterised by reduction of multidimensional poverty index from 54% to 27%.

between 2005 and 2015, has been accrued to growing size of GDP pie rather than equity in resource distribution.

Green Revolution in 1960s led to rising spatial inequity between Punjab-Haryana and eastern India.

Post 1991, the growth of service sector - contributing today around 56% of India's GDP, has outpaced the growth in agriculture and manufacturing sector. India's trajectory to a \$5 trillion economy is also marred with deteriorating performance in WEF's Gender Inequality Index (140/156).

More importantly, the growth in socio-economic sphere has turned a blind eye to environmental degradation. Vast tracts of commercial oil palm plantations in Malaysia and Indonesia has witnessed clearing of thousands of hectares of rich tropical evergreen forests. There exists an underlying belief that economic growth cannot carry ecological sustainability on its shoulders.

2. What makes growth inequitable?

^{Marx} ~~Kant~~, in his famous work, 'Critique of Pure Reason', advocates that a capitalist economy witnesses the growth of bourgeoisie at the cost of surplus of proletariat. Bourgeoisie gain capital which should have been accrued to working class.

This is evident in US' Kuznet curve, which highlights that US growth, post 1950, has relied on rising disparity in per-capita income.

Gunnar Myrdal's cumulative causation theory beautifully shows how the growth of urban centres like London had been based on 'sucking' resources, investment, labor from rural landscape.

Theories and models, drawing inspiration from US' Marshall Plan of rebuilding Western Europe also.

advocates that ^{only} certain regions with inherent advantages grow in size leading to spatial inequality.

How has pandemic altered the growth - inequality equation?

Pandemic witnessed widened the gap across multiple dimensions. There was a rise in business of e-commerce, Big Tech while around 10 million in India lost their jobs. While the developed nations like US and other G7 countries hoarded 60% vaccines, African nations could manage less than 5%. China witnessed a growth in GDP while south Asian nations contracted by 8-10%.

Within our societies, the consequences has been starking. Women, post COVID recovery, contributed merely 30% of the total increase in labor force participation rate as compared to 70% by men.

NITI Aayog reports that rural-urban divide got widened due to poor digital literacy, Internet penetration and absence of infrastructure.

Pandemic has turned out to be a poison for the sickness, that is, growth sponsored inequality.

Paradigm shift — Inclusive growth

The world today has, however, concentrated on. shifted to inclusivity as an important ingredient in its recipe of long term development.

The focus has shifted from socio-economic parameters to ecosystem approach. Development programmes give utmost focus to ecological sustainability. Zero budget natural farming, diversification based on agro-climatic regionalisation, soil health card scheme and integrated watershed development programmes are some examples.

The government's focus on mainstreaming tribals, vulnerable caste groups and geriatrics as an active participant in growth process has led to declining disparities. Agricultural export policy's target to double exports to \$60 Billion relies on developing value chain networks and forward linkages as part of Van Dhan Yojana. Digital India Mission aims to reduce disparity in digital literacy in rural-urban landscape.

Past failures of 'trickle down' approach has led to bottom-top approach with decentralised planning with and people's participation.

Today, the world talks about sustainable, inclusive urban development, characterised by geriatric friendly transport, women safety, housing for all,

absence of class based stratification with special focus on welfare of immigrants.

Agriculture across the globe has shifted from ^{being} an isolated sector to a 'farm to fork' initiative approach. Israel's success story underlines that agriculture - industry can be developed in a continuum, resulting in higher employment, higher income, better connectivity and sustainable growth.

Inclusive growth has the potential to minimise conflicts and differences. 'A crack in a wall, no matter where, can collapse the entire structure'. Reducing gaps ~~be~~ therefore becomes important for a healthier, continuous and sustainable growth.

The road ahead.

There is a growing need for South South collaboration on areas like emerging technology, food security, disaster management and supply chain resilience. India needs to shift focus from OECD nations to African Union and ASEAN nations.

The need is to strengthen initiatives like One Sun One World One Grid, CDRI and South Asian Energy initiative (SAGE) for equitable growth.

There is a need to reverse the current trends of trade nationalism, trade wars and currency manipulation. Equity demands rising role of WTO, exemptions for developing nations and LDCs.

Moreover, India needs to leverage its demographic dividend with special emphasis on role of women and tribals in realising our potential. The need of the hour is

to push for economic independence through formation of women SHGs, tribal FPOs, cooperatives coupled with social reforms.

There is a need to go back to Rig Vedic times — when life was simpler and much more egalitarian. Equity in growth can help us realise Gandhiji's ideals of 'Ramrajya'. India has the potential to lead the way by following the ideals of 'sabka sath sabka vikas'.