



SUBJECT:	Essay	Test Code:	2	1	2	1		
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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

Section - A

3. "There is no path to happiness.
Happiness is the path."

A young boy called "Siddhartha"
left the 'worldly pleasures' of the palace
in search of a happy life. However,
he was unaware about the true meaning
of happiness. On this journey, he saw
four sights of suffering - an old man,
a poor man, a sick man and a dead
man. This made him realize that there
is no end goal of happiness. It was
along this journey that he attained
"Enlightenment" which became his eternal
state of bliss or happiness.
The journey of transformation from
Siddhartha to Buddha is a reflection of
what true happiness is. Had this young

boy not realized the real meaning of happiness, he would not have become an example of enjoying the journey of self discovery. Happiness is not tied to tangibles only. It carries a deeper meaning in life.

Just like our lives are different, so is the meaning of happiness. It is an individual's perception about life that decides what constitutes happiness for him or her. For a child, happiness may be getting a new toy. For a sick person, happiness might be good health and so on.

Hence it becomes difficult to put happiness as an 'end goal' and chalk out a common path to achieve the goal of happiness. It is human fallacy that tries to link happiness

to an outcome and in this process we experience 'dissonance' which is completely the opposite of our end goal.

Then why do people think that there can be a path to happiness. Also, what happens to those who walk on a path thinking that it will lead to happiness.

The answers are complex yet simple. Most often people link happiness to 'material satisfactions'. This has been evident historically in the 'Charvaka' philosophy of 'take loan, drink ghee'. For such people wealth is probably the highest form of satisfaction. But is there an end to wealth?

An example of this can be seen in increasing scams around the world. The pursuit of 'money' as happiness has

led to great scams like the 1992
Harshad Mehta scam, the Satyam scam
the Colgate, the dehman crises and
so on. But what remains constant
is that ^{and} they achieve happiness? The
answer is all in front of us.

keeping happiness as the end of a
path will lead to a feeling of
relative deprivation. This feeling of
deprivation is exploited by some who
guarantee us happiness in the end. The
rise of NRI is based on this. They
exploit the feeling of deprivation and
brainwash the youth with an assurance
of attaining 'happiness in heaven'.

Similarly, for some people happiness
is power. They carve a path which
would make them the most powerful
and happy person. Had power brought

happiness, the world would have not witnessed devastating wars - Iraq Iran war, Syrian Civil war, the Russia Ukraine war - even after facing the brutalities of two world wars.

This shows what uncertainty the future holds. Thinking of happiness as a near end is a fallacy. There is no end or perhaps everything can end in the blink of an eye. The catastrophe of COVID pandemic showed the momentary nature of life. When life is momentary, how can happiness be a fixed end of a path.

The real meaning of happiness is living in these moments. These small moments which make the path of our life's journey. Walking on this path might not be easy, we might fall, we might become lonely or people might

made at us but this journey is what real happiness is all about.

Happiness is about enjoying the process than worrying about the outcomes. This is often said for an IAS aspirant. To be happy is to fall in love with the journey of becoming an officer. This reminds of the famous lines - "Safar Khoobsorat hai manzil se bhi" (meaning: Journey is more beautiful than the destination)

On walking the 'path of happiness' and not the 'path to happiness' we lose ourselves to discover a new version of ourself. We shed our existing notions of happiness and discover that happiness is now. It is here. The rise of spiritual leader - Sadguru - is an example of this. The man happily lost himself and his life of worldly pleasures to find that it is

the path of life itself which is happy.

Walking on such paths and understanding that happiness lies in the journey requires a different mindset. It needs us to shed our preconceived notions of happiness. the story of APJ Abdul Kalam is one.

When APJ Abdul Kalam was rejected from being admitted to the Indian Air Force, his happiness was shattered. But it was his teacher who encouraged him to take up Aerospace Engineering and thus what we know today as the "Missile Man of India". Had he tied his happiness to one end goal, we would have lost a gem in the stones.

Happiness is the path in which a person gives up his worldly pleasures - the material incarnations - and finds satisfaction in being himself. Swami Vivekananda, despite being honoured greatly

by the world, went to the Chicago conference, in 1893, in his orange coloured robe. Happy he was because he was living the life on his own terms. He was not taken adrift by the worldly show of great powerful leaders.

It is possible that on this path of life and happiness one might encounter failure. This can make one wonder that his happiness is getting lost. However it is essential to understand that the failure is transient. It is an opportunity to redirect the happiness of life.

The story of Thomas Alva Edison is an example of how one should use the failures of life to redirect their happiness. The nine hundred and ninety nine failures in making a bulb glow did not stop him. It was

the final thousandth stroke that finally led to the discovery of bulb. This was possible because Edison enjoyed the process of discovery and not discovery itself.

Another view on this happiness as a path was seen in our freedom struggle. It is said that 'If you want to walk fast, walk alone but if you want to walk together walk slow'. Leaders like Gandhi, Bose, Bismil, Ashfaqullah, Nehru and many others enjoyed the battle of freedom struggle. Had they just relentlessly ran after 'Bharaj' for happiness, the end would have been different.

But not all people can understand this. Despite so many examples around us, we still look for happiness as an end goal. There needs to be a change in the perspective of life in our minds.

The driver of this change has to be the family, the school, the peers and the society at large. Our value systems need to be developed to look beyond the 'carnal' satisfactions.

The glory behind materialism as happiness must be shed off. This is an endless pursuit. True happiness can only be attained by enjoying the 'little deeds' of life.

It is in these deeds that we shape the path of our life. The Wardha school of Gandhi could popularise this to some extent - "Learning by doing". Amidst the uncertainty of life, all we have is the present moment to find happiness. A small verse by Rudyard Kipling in his 'If' best captures this - "If you can fill the sixty unforgiving minute with sixty

seconds of distance run, yours will be the Earth and everything that's in it."

Happiness thus comes down to walking the path of life with all dedication and effort. It is this path which we will create determine the quality of our life. This is because, in words of Robert Frost ('The Road Not Taken')
"I chose the one less travelled by, and that has all made the difference".

Section-B

7. Wealth is what you don't see

Krishna was the Prince of Mathura.
He was the possessor of the great
worldly treasures. On the other hand,
his childhood friend Sudama was a
poor Brahmin. One day when this
poor Brahmin went to meet his
rich prince, he carried a handful of
puffed rice.

When he met Krishna, he was
astounded of the poor 'present' which he
had brought for him. However, the
prince Krishna hugged his friend and
heartfully accepted the present. This shows
that for Krishna, it was not the
monetary wealth which was important.
Rather, the richest wealth was to have
a true friend with emotions as pure as
gold.

The story of Sudama might have become old for us. But the lesson it taught is still valuable. For most of us, the simple meaning of wealth is 'money' or something that can be bought with this money. Nothing delights us more than seeing a '12-digit bank balance'.

However this bank balance cannot help us in buying the real wealth. The sad part is that most of us are unaware of what this real wealth

is. This unawareness is not new. It has been ingrained in the human civilizations since times immemorial. The story of 'Kuber' ka khazana' has created a perception in our mind about wealth. The money, the gold, the riches and luxuries of life are some of

them.

We are blinded by the materialistic wealth that we often go to any extent to amass it. The ancient temple raids at 'Somnath temple' by 'Mahmud Ghazni' were one such attempt to hold wealth. But this is a thing of the past.

In the present times, we could have at least expected a change in our attitude towards wealth. But it is said that 'To err is human'. The dominance of greed over the need can be seen in our society even today.

An example of this is rampant corruption. The raids by enforcement agencies in scams like the Fodder scam, the 2G scam etc. show the greed of acquiring the 'Kudrati Pot'.

The greed for wealth does not end here. We even begin to value humans

in terms of wealth. the prevalence of 'dowry - the price tag of a groom' is an outcome of misplaced notion about wealth.

At a larger scale, we have seen nations also running after wealth. It is a mad race to become the superpower in terms of GDP in the global economy. Unsustainable development models are adopted by countries to win this race of wealth.

however, it is rightly said that 'All that glitters is not gold'. this race for wealth has created sharp inequalities in our society and in the world. This is evident in the poor development levels of the African countries whereas on one hand, the rich bosses, like America, UK, France

continue to prosper out of the resources of these countries.

It is this inequality because of which top ten percent of population holds more than sixty percent (60%) of the wealth. This inequality has disturbed the social order thereby leading to crimes, war, militancy across the world.

But this is not the final truth. The universe has mysterious ways of making humans realize their fallacy.

One fine day, a tiny virus, smaller than the size of dust, wreaked havoc on this planet. The richest of the rich were also not spared. No amount of wealth could buy a simple four letter word - 'LIFE' during covid.

It thus made everyone say in sync - 'Health is wealth'. But this was not just linked to health. The covid

pandemic is a blessing in disguise that made us realize that wealth is something that we don't see. Good health is just an example of it.

It thus becomes necessary to understand this hidden wealth. It is not in the luxury of life but more in the 'quality of life'. This quality of life depends upon both internal and external factors.

One of the internal factor that decides what this wealth is, is the value system of people. The story of 'Rich dad vs. poor dad' shows how the rich dad could only offer a generational wealth but the values given by the poor dad would live through ages.

In the world of technology where we are deeply soaked in our mobile

phones, the real wisdom of life gets missed. The children today forget that the wealth of life is not in phones but in the age old wisdom of our grandparents.

It is such wisdom which makes up our character. Gandhi's example shows how a dhoti clad man fought against the mighty and wealthy British empire on the basis of his strong character. Thus it is said that - 'If money is lost something is lost, but if character is lost everything is lost'.

Education plays an important role in building this character. Thus one such hidden wealth is education.

There is a famous saying - 'If you give a man a fish; you feed him for a day; if you teach man how to fish you feed him for a lifetime'.

These hidden elements of wealth have also led to a change in notion of development. Where once GDP was the measure of a country's wealth and progress, new metrics like Human Development Index have been evolved.

Taking a step further to human development, which measured still in terms of health, education and per capita income, a more qualitative view of wealth has been developed. It is World Happiness Index. This is because it is often seen that while a rich man sleeps in anxiety and fear, the poor man is often content in his life. This makes no doubt about what is this unseen wealth.

There is an answer to this also. Freedom to make choices is also

a component of wealth which we cannot see. A country like UAE with the wealth of oil still might not be wealthy enough because its women still cannot make independent choice. India in this respect deserves an applause indeed.

The freedoms help an individual in building relationships. They form the basis of our 'social capital'. This is the wealth which is essential in maintaining trust and harmony in the society.

Another example of diverse capital which we cannot see is the 'natural capital'. The recent climate changes which has led to increased global temperature and disasters like cyclones, floods etc. gives a tough message. It forces us to see the wealth of a pristine environment in our lives.

But then a question needs to be addressed that is the wealth of money no wealth at all? the answer is not all black and white. This can be understood from the example of USA which being the globally richest nation has often used its wealth in disrupting the global order. The Afghan crisis is an example.

Contrary to this is India which is far below in terms of wealth to USA. However India has still used its limited wealth for global welfare as seen in 'Vaccine Maitri' campaign during covid.

This brings us to a balanced view of wealth. It is not how much we acquire but it is how effectively we put the wealth to

use. The wealth can be both tangible and intangible. But the end goal of prosperity is to have a peaceful state of mind. This should be utopian idea to strive for.

Our health, education, relationships, environment, technology, culture, values should all help in liberating our mind to achieve excellence. This is ultimate wealth as also quoted by Shri Rabindranath Tagore - 'where the mind is without fear and the head is held high'.

Vol.

- Robert Frost

Scanned

① Sudama Krishna story

② Lesson from story. - ~~main~~ + theme: ~~poor~~ ^{poor} vs rich

③ What is 'wealth' in general ~~but~~ ^{layer}?

④ Why we don't see wealth?

⑤ Blinded by materialism

⑥ Greed Wealth. bride price

What is real? One incident that showed us what is wealth. ~~but~~ ^{what} ~~for~~ ^{changed} ~~what~~ ^{what}

⑦ Good wealth / Good story

⑧ Education - If you find a man a job.

⑨ Make informed choice / freedom of choice.

⑩ Concept of develop changed (British)

⑪ Freedom = wealth (UAE).

⑫ Social capital

⑬ Family values. Age of Technology.

⑭ ENV

⑮ All these.

But rich are ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~not~~ ^{not}

Every one comes with a price.

⑧ Rich and poor.
 - Richer.
 - Crises.
 - Rich vs poor dad

⑧ Rich is the high value system

- Teacher for character

+ Gandhi.

⑧ Opposite is in no wealth. It is not what we put into.

eg. vs. of good vs. doing.

There is no path to happiness. Happiness is the path

③ Robert Frost - Road not Taken.
Buddha's life, Gandhi, Vivekananda,

What is happiness? → bliss
→ satisfaction
→ peace
→ friendship / relation

Exercise.
Kalam = Shanti

Why no path?

→ endless / naturalism (Aharashu)
→ dissatisfaction
→ deprivation → 1815.
→ uncertain future → Covid.

Happiness = path

→ meaning
→ proven enjoyment
→ meeting new challenges
→ walk slow / walk together.

→ greed / territory / war
→ 1-11

→ no preconceived notions
→ shedding your barriers
→ look beyond selfish interest.
→ (I vs We)

Family System / Ground Points

VISION IAS

Don't write anything this margin (इस मार्ग में कुछ न लिखें)

Wealth is what you don't see

Passive Economy
Grim Salary

① Growth point → GDP → Inclusive development

② ~~Capital~~

- World Kaplan Index

✓ Health is wealth.

✓ Education = Wealth

Freedom of choice

✓ Value system

✓ Character = highest virtue

✓ Social capital

✓ Friend in need = friend in need.

✓ Walk fast walk alone.

✓ Keys to riches? Shakti / Alakshay

✓ earn vs. steal.

✓ Environment - CC / Pure earth.

✓ Global (VS) - wealthy? / Real wealth = peace of unity.

Blinded by wealth inequality

✓ Mental health

✓ four sleeps in peace

Corruption V. Law

QRT = Sen

↓ Pamir

↓ Arms of weapons

↓ Wahen Zaka

Krishna VS Indira Begin

✓ need vs greed / honesty BM

✓ British - Wealthy / but Friend