

ESSAY TEST - 3

F-IAS-T-MGPE3

ForumIAS

ACADEMY

ForumIAS Offline Centre, Shop # 6, 3rd Floor, Old Rajinder Nagar Market, Delhi -- 110060 Mail: student@forumias.academy | Call: 9821711605

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions :

There are Two questions printed in ENGLISH. Each question has four choices. You have to write on 1 topic from each part.

One question in each part is compulsory.

Content of answers is more important than their length.

Answers must be written in ENGLISH medium only.

No marks will be given for answers written in a medium other than ENGLISH.

Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

Name: D. ANUDEEP

Test Date: 24-9-2017

Email id: [REDACTED]

Phone no: [REDACTED]

Start Time: 3:00pm

End Time: 6:00pm

Sl.No	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
Q.1		
Q.2		

ECN Code:

Date:

ForumIAS

1. Change is the end result of all learning.

परिवर्तन सभी शिक्षण का अंतिम परिणाम है

2. Democracy is the road to socialism.

लोकतंत्र समाजवाद की राह है

3. India's youth – democratic dividend or impending disaster?

भारत की युवा - लोकतांत्रिक लाभंश या आसन्न आपदा?

4. Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.

शिक्षा जीवन के लिए तैयार नहीं है; शिक्षा ही जीवन है

1. Change is the end result of all learning

In the 1980s, Govt of TamilNadu was confronted with a serious problem. Education levels of school going children kept dwindling down and the drop-out ratio was unacceptably high. The govt had commissioned a detailed study through which they learnt that ill-health, and acute malnutrition were the causes of falling education standards and high drop-out ratio. The state govt decided to introduce a unique ~~problem~~ scheme to solve the problem - the mid-day meal scheme. Within a couple of years, the education levels started rising and the dropout ratio was

ForumIAS

kept firmly in check. Even today, as Amartya Sen observes, the mid-day meal scheme is the prime reason for high performance of Tamil Nadu in primary education, compared to any other state.

This incident proves the age old saying that change is the end result of all learning. Both learning and change are indispensable in order to be better humans, build better societies and shape great nations.

In this essay, we will examine what is meant by 'learning' and 'change'. We will then examine how learning led to change throughout the history and across the geography. Next, we will discuss the problems and hindrances in learning and changing. Finally, we will conclude by seeing how we can instill change in our lives through constant learning.

ForumIAS

LEARNING & CHANGE : DEFINITION

Learning can be understood as the process of acquiring new ideas, examples and processes that add value to our knowledge and thinking. For instance, when we teach a child that stealing is bad, he learns that he should not do it. When we teach children that men and women are equal, they learn that patriarchal society is unjustified and immoral. Thus it can be seen that, from learning comes change.

Change refers to a fundamental transformation in our attitudes, values and belief system. The more we learn about the society and the world, the more amenable we become for change.

HOW LEARNING LEADS TO CHANGE: ACROSS SPACE & TIME

Historically, from 1500 to 1860, for 350 years, slavery was considered the norm.

ForumIAS

But Abraham Lincoln showed the world that, American Civil War was not only about saving the Union, but also about abolishing the unjust, immoral practice of slavery.

As the US learnt a bitter lesson through war and bloodshed, it decided to abolish slavery through 13th Amendment to US Constitution.

Back home, Mahatma Gandhi united the country and taught the world about a non-violent struggle. The world had ~~learned~~ changed their outlook and changed its attitude about violence.

Similarly, in the economic field, it was earlier thought that Capitalism was the panacea for curing poverty. But unbridled capitalism ravaged societies in poor countries of India and Africa. No country today allows complete freedom of markets. All countries have now changed towards a mix of capitalism and

ForumIAS

Socialism as followed by developed Nordic nations such as Denmark & Sweden.

Further, ~~it~~ GDP was the single parameter to gauge prosperity of a country before 1990. Through Mahbub-ul-Haq and Amartya Sen's efforts, we have learnt

that human development index is a much better parameter to capture all round development. Thus the nations of world changed from GDP to HDI through learning and change.

In politics too, there is always a constant flux. French Revolution was the result of learning that all humans are equal and liberty, equality and fraternity are every person's fundamental rights. This simple realisation led to abolishment of dictatorship and establishment of the French Republic. Even today, the Arab Spring gives us a good example of how when

ForumIAS

people learn about new ideas it leads to change. This relationship between learning and change extends to social sphere as well.

Before 1950s, women were thought to be inferior to men. Their freedoms were restrained and rights restricted. But as we learnt about the inherent equality between men and women, we are constantly striving to achieve gender justice. India was one of the first nations to grant universal franchise to all — thus marking the beginning of change.

Similarly today, our regressive attitudes towards LGBTQ community are constantly being demolished as we learn about the scientific and moral reasons to recognize and celebrate LGBTQ community. The struggle to repeal Sec 377 of IPC is a journey towards change.

ForumIAS

Moreover, even in the administrative sphere, we see the interplay of learning and change. As we learn that corruption is a result of officer's discretion, the govt is framing laws to move towards only online delivery of services (Eg: Direct Benefit Transfer) Govt Schemes such as Soil Health cards, Start-up India are all result of learning and changing policies for a better future.

Lastly, learning and ~~change~~ change are most relevant in tackling climate change. There is strong scientific consensus - 97% - that man made causes are the prime drivers of climate change and planet destruction. This learning has challenged our previous beliefs that climate change was a natural phenomenon. And so, the world got together at Rio in 1992 to establish UNFCCC and changed the discourse on climate. Paris

Climate deal of 2016 is a step towards this major change so as to ensure safety of our planet.

Having discussed the importance of learning and change, and how learning has led to change throughout space and time, let us examine the obstacles to learning and change.

Learning & Change : The barriers

Firstly, Change is never easy and there is always fierce resistance to it. There are always vested interests who want to maintain the status quo. Eg: How dictator Bashar-Al-Assad has crushed rebellion in Syria is a case in point.

Secondly, poverty, ignorance and disease keep people uninformed about their rights and prevents them from changing. For example, majority of Indians

ForumIAS

practice open defecation due to lack of viable, functioning toilets. Thus, even though a poor family wants to forgo that practice, they cannot, due to lack of resources.

Thirdly, we must realise that free speech is fundamental for learning and change. The moment there is a threat to free speech, we lose an opportunity to learn a new idea, a novel perspective. This keeps us in a perpetual state of ignorance and thus prevents us from changing. For instance, in England during Queen Victoria's reign, there was a clampdown on any criticism of religion or ideas of Church. This made them ignore gender rights and gender justice. Thus dogma and intolerance are enemies of learning and change.

Lastly, another major barrier is the phenomenon of fake news we are witnessing recently. Our lives have become so much dependent on ~~to~~ online content that any fake whatsapp forward, a false story on Facebook etc can keep us entrenched in our own ideological echo chamber thus preventing us from appreciating others perspective. So how do we overcome the barriers so as to ~~learn~~ ^{learn and} change ourselves and our societies?

LEARNING & CHANGE : TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE

'As Nelson Mandela had famously said, "If you want to change the world, start with children."

Inculcating the right values and attitudes among children is essential to build a better tomorrow. Children must not be taught what to think, but

ForumIAS

how to think. Critical thinking, reasoning and logic are our tools that can shape children's thinking. So that when they are faced with a new idea, a new perspective they shall evaluate it critically with reason rather than getting mixed in dogma. As children learn through imitation, by telling examples from lives of great persons such as Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King; we can mould them in a way that challenges their own beliefs constantly.

Similarly, for constant learning, education must be free and decentralised. With the power of technology, we have the tools to take ideas and education even to the remotest corner of the world.

Further, our country also needs to set an example of how we can learn and change to better

ForumIAS

ourselves.

History has shown us that, change is the only constant in life. Without learning and change, we risk stagnation as individuals, as a society and as a nation. Let us avow to be constant learners and be agents of change so that we build a ~~built~~ better world for everyone. For that ~~see~~ learning should never cease and change must begin from us. As Gandhi ~~one~~ said - "Our greatness lies not so much in changing the world as in changing ourselves."

Feedback

Feedback to be provided in terms of (1) Introduction (2) Sentence Constructions (3) Paragraph Formation (4) Legibility (5) Deviation from Topic (6) Coverage of dimensions (7) Simplicity / ease of reading

ForumIAS

1. The science of today is the technology of tomorrow

आज का विज्ञान कल की तकनीक है

2. Age of acceleration – Technology, Globalization and Climate change.

त्वरण की आयु - प्रौद्योगिकी, वैश्वीकरण और जलवायु परिवर्तन

3. No challenge poses a greater challenge to future than climate change.

कोई भी चुनौती जलवायु परिवर्तन की तुलना में भविष्य के लिए एक बड़ी चुनौती नहीं बनती है।

4. Where Women are respected, God resides.

जहां महिलाओं का सम्मान किया जाता है, भगवान रहते हैं।

3. No Challenge Poses a greater challenge to future than climate change

Scenario 1: Little girl Anjali, aged 7, dreamt of becoming a pilot one day. She wanted to study well and make her parents proud. But on a fateful day in 2013, cyclone phailin ruined her home and broke her family. Her dreams, just like her home, lay in ruins. Anjali has been a victim of climate change.

Scenario 2: In the faraway hinterlands of Vidharbha in Maharashtra, Baswant Rao is mired in deep debt. He is hoping against hope to have a bumper crop this season so that he can pay off his debts. His fate would have it, monsoons refused to visit his farm

ForumIAS

and his crops died a slow death, leaving Baswant Rao and his family in unspeakable misery. Baswant Rao, too, is a victim of climate change. ~~too~~.

Like Anjali and Baswant Rao, climate change is wreaking havoc in millions of lives and is leading to destruction of our planet. It has become the greatest challenge to the survival of future generation. Therefore, this calls for a careful ~~and~~ analysis of the problem.

In this essay, we will examine 'what exactly do we mean by climate change?' What are the driving factors and how it is posing a major challenge to future generations? In the end, we will explore solutions as to how we can overcome this challenge to build a sustainable, prosperous future.

ForumIAS

CLIMATE CHANGE: MEANING

Climate change refers to the long term alterations in weather, temperature and rainfall patterns.

There is strong scientific consensus (97%) that this change is purely driven by human actions. The trend for the past century has been unmistakable — the temperatures are on the rise, rainfall more and more erratic, and majority of land ~~get~~ increasingly under the threat of desertification and loss of biodiversity:

So what are the reasons and consequences of climate change?

CLIMATE CHANGE: A DAUNTING CHALLENGE

Social factors One of the prime reasons that contribute to climate change is poverty and deprivation. Without adequate resources and means,

ForumIAS

the poor are compelled to adopt unsustainable practices. For example, slash and burn agriculture is prevalent mostly among tribes of India because they do not have access to fertilizers, farm equipment and weedicides. Similarly, the poor take to open defecation because of lack of access to toilets. From a nation's perspective too, developing nations such as India, Nigeria contribute to climate change because of absence of technology transfer from developed nations.

This had led to an unprecedented challenge to our biomes. As temperatures rise consistently, it is leading to desertification of farm land and depletion of ground water table. UN agencies estimate that by 2030, almost 60% of productive landmass face threat of desertification.

ForumIAS

This poses a serious question on viability of food chains, thus posing risks to future generations.

In the same vein, as the glaciers in melt at the poles, waters are rising to unprecedented levels - putting island nations such as Pacific island nations, Maldives at the risks of complete submergence. Scientists project that the future refugee crisis will not be due to wars but due to climate change. If the Syrian refugee crisis tells us anything, it is that such unprecedented displacement of people is a major threat to social order and global peace in future.

Economic factors On the economic front, unfettered consumerism, globalisation and blind pursuit of development are posing severe threat to future generations.

ForumIAS

Consumerism is the dogma that tells us to consume and buy more than our needs. Global retail chains such as Amazon, Walmart, KFC etc, have made more and more people part of ^{this} consumerism frenzy.

It leads to severe strain on earth's resources, and irredeemably pollutes its ecosystem through generation of waste. To illustrate, every year, an area equivalent to state of Maharashtra is cleared in Amazon forest to cater to our 'needs'.

As forests are cleared, and ecosystems disrupted, it disturbs the carbon sinks of the earth. Thus we fall into the inevitable vicious circle of lack of carbon sinks leading to further rise in carbon dioxide, thus leading to climate change & global warming.

ForumIAS

With increased levels of carbon dioxide, unchecked mining, we are witnessing rise in inequality, and pollution levels in atmosphere and marine ecosystem.

For instance, today, New York Square consumes more electricity in one week than Zimbabwe does in a whole year. Also, inevitable rise of respiratory ~~diseases~~ diseases, lifestyle diseases are posing a major threat to ~~future~~ public health.

Ethical factors

Climate change is also driven by being unethical. Mahatma Gandhi famously said that "our earth is not an inheritance from our ancestors, but a loan from future generations." But what ethical example are we setting to our future generations?

Industrial farming of animals is one of the major drivers of climate change. Millions of gallons

ForumIAS

of water and thousands of acres of food are being used not to feed the hungry, but to raise animals and slaughter them later.

With erratic climate patterns, rainfall and storms becoming the norm, such practices are vulnerable to destruction, thus threatening not only us but also the future. Intensive farming strips the agricultural land of its life, rendering it useless for future.

International Factors

Climate change is a global phenomenon and no one nation can solve it. However, ever since the world came together at RIO in 1992 to draft the UN convention on Sustainable development and subsequent climate protocols such as Kyoto, Montreal etc., the contribution of developed nations has been found wanting.

ForumIAS

The United States, the world's biggest polluter never signed the Kyoto protocol and also recently pulled out of Paris climate agreement. The UN climate Fund of \$100b to be transferred to developing nations never took off.

This stubborn attitude of developed nations is posing a major challenge to future. Developing nations also need to pursue development to lift their people out of poverty. Why must they be punished for what is largely a contribution

of developed nations? Such an impasse, therefore, has the potential to debase international community's ability and will to take on climate change.

Having discussed how climate change is posing a major challenge to future, let us turn our attention to how best we can solve it.

ForumIAS

The world has a human development Index and even a happiness index. What we need right now is a sustainable living index. People must be made aware of their lifestyle's impact on the ecosystem (carbon foot print) so that they take to a life characterized by 3Rs - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

There must be a worldwide movement to educate people ~~to~~ on climate change and practices they can adopt to mitigate it. Innovative measures such as vertical farming (growing plants on buildings), using energy efficient buildings, switching to electric vehicles and solar energy can go a long way in making our lifestyles sustainable.

Forum|AS

Finally, the international community must recognise the core principles of equitable climate emission norms that is - Common but differentiated responsibility and obligation to transfer clean technology to developing and least developed nations. India must do its part in meeting emission norms as per our INDCs (Intended Nationally Determined Contribution) through effective implementation of National Solar Mission, National Mission on Electric Mobility ~~etc~~, and promoting sustainable agriculture practices.

The nations of the world have come together before to abolish practices such as slavery and collaborated in declaration of human rights for all. To meet the challenge of climate change, the need is now more than ever for the world to collaborate and ensure that we leave a planet to our future generation that is better than what we have inherited. Only then ^{we}₂₃ we can ensure that millions like Anjali and Babwant Rao have means to live a prosperous life.

ForumIAS

Feedback

Feedback to be provided in terms of (1) Introduction (2) Sentence Constructions (3) Paragraph Formations (4) Legibility (5) Deviation from Topic (6) Coverage of dimensions (7) Simplicity / ease of reading