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# Essay Book 1

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**ForumIAS**

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## Essay writing Tips for beginner as well as experienced aspirants

### **Prologue:**

This write up derives from observations of ForumIAS Mentors, made over a period of the past ten years with respect to Essay Preparation, including the phase where candidates were required to write only one Essay. With the introduction of the Two-Essay Pattern, subtle and slight changes in strategy are needed. Candidates are requested to go through the Essay copies of Previous Year Forum IAS Essay Module Students – Anudeep Durishetty (Rank 1), Apurva (175 Marks in Essay) etc. to fully understand the content of this article, and devise a strategy of their own.

### **A. How to Choose an Essay Topic**

- Choose a topic on which you have read substantially during the course of your preparation
- If you have read an entire book on a certain topic, you can choose that topic. Also feel free to quote the book and author
- An Objective topic is one where there is scope to write a lot of factual / objective arguments. A philosophical topic is one where there are lot of subjective/philosophical arguments. There are lots of tangible points to be written on an Objective Essay Topic, while for Subjective Essay Topics, you may not have lot of tangible points to write. In such a case, you build your points. For example an essay on Cyber-terrorism / Artificial Intelligence, Non-Alignment Movement etc. has tangible points that you would read in newspapers, coaching notes, classes etc. On the other hand, on a topic like "Change is the end result of all learning", you would not have read objective points on it in newspapers, coaching notes, classes etc.
- An argument or statement is said to be subjective when more and more people have differing views / interpretation of it. An argument is objective when more and more people have nearly the same / similar views / interpretation of it.
- An objective Essay topic is generally chosen by all. The risk - reward index of an objective answer is lower than that of a subjective essay. Thus these topics are often touted as being "safe".
- If you choose a philosophical topic / quote based topic, make sure you have enough content on it. Good Language skills become significant for a philosophical essay topic, but is of less importance for an objective essay topic.
- Read the Essay Topics at least 2-3 times, and do not pick up a topic which sounds familiar immediately. If you just pick up a topic and get started with it, without even reading the other topics, you are likely to make the same mistake that people make in Prelims - marking a choice without reading other choices and getting it wrong in the end.

## **B. Don'ts when choosing an Essay Topic**

- Unlike a newspaper opinion / column, an essay for UPSC is NOT your opinion on something. So avoid choosing a topic where you have read just ONE newspaper OPINION article, and plan to write your entire essay based on that article. This can be fatal especially if the base article is highly opinionated one. If at all you chose such a topic where you have read just one newspaper opinion article, make sure that you accommodate other or alternate views as well as counter arguments to it.
- Do not copy-paste any single work / source in your essay. You will invariably be penalized for it.
- Exceptionally high marks or low marks are awarded to philosophical essays (Refer to Apurva Pandey's Essay Copy - 175 Marks in Essay) and see the choice of Essay and Language used). This, however, should not be the ground for choosing an Essay Topic. Choose a philosophical Essay Topic only when you are uber confident about it.

## **C. How to begin writing your essay | Doing the rough work**

- It is recommended that you do some rough work on the page provided at the back for your Essay. You may also do the rough work in the first two pages and begin your Essay from Page 3.
- It is advisable to carry a pencil to do the rough work, as it looks neater as compared to a rough work done by a dark pen / gel pen
- On the rough work page, first think of ideas and keywords that come to your mind when you think of the essay topic.
- Think along lines of phrases such as "Feminization of labour", "Sanskritisation" etc - whatever you can think of related to the topic.
- Think on the lines of these dimensions - Social, Economic, Political, Historical, Philosophical, Environmental, Futuristic, Scientific etc.
- Think on the lines of stakeholders: Women, Children, Differently abled, Dalits, Tribals, Environment, Nation, Society etc.
- Ask four or five major questions that you can ask on the topic and which you plan to answer in the Essay. You can even ask those questions in the second paragraph, after introducing the Essay topic.
- Organize your rough work into coherent ideas and get started with your Essay.

## **D. Introducing Your Essay**

There are four or five primary ways of beginning your essay

- **Beginning your essay with a quotation:** This approach, while may sound novel, is actually the most common way of introducing an Essay, and invariably every second candidate, in our limited experience of essay paper evaluation, uses this approach. This is a good approach, as long as the quote is meaningful and related to the topic.

- **Begin your essay with an anecdote or a story:** This has been a very rewarding way to introduce an essay. There are again multiple approaches to how you do this. One, you can begin with an anecdote and never get back to it throughout your essay. Second, refer to the anecdote at the conclusion. Third, begin with an anecdote and refer to it, time and again throughout your essay. Do take a look at how good candidates who have secured high marks have done it, by referring to their answer copies so that you get a fair idea on this approach.
- **Definition Approach:** This approach is a very classical approach, and often considered a safe approach to introduction of an Essay Topic. For example, on an essay on Globalization, you could begin with simplifying what Globalization means by defining it. This approach has the benefit that it may not be a marks booster, but ensures that you do not end up with a poor impression, due to improper application of other strategies.
- **Scenario Approach:** You can begin your essay with a scenario. For example, in a Science & Technology / AI etc. Essay - you can begin with - "The Year is 2100. Mankind with the help of Science, has won over two of her biggest challenges - Poverty and Cancer. Machines are deployed to do all manual work and all men and women are provided with a Universal Basic Income to sustain a good life. What was earlier thought to be a Utopic idea has been achieved on Earth."

The introduction should be brief, precise and give an idea about the topic. It should be interesting. Avoid dragging the introduction. Avoid including details, examples, arguments, conclusion etc. in the introduction. Remember, the introduction is just supposed to introduce the topics. The rest of the things could be included in the Main body of the Essay.

### **E. Sentence Construction and language competency of Essay Writing**

- There are certain aspects of writing that have a psychological impact on the examiner and may not look very significant at first, but are very important from the perspective of fetching marks. These small things make a lot of difference on why some people, predictably score high marks while some do not.
- First, write short sentences. You can follow two ground rules for deciding if a sentence is too long. One, read it aloud, and if you either run out of breath or forget what the sentence was all about (and require to re-read the sentence), it's probably a long sentence. Second, any sentence that can be broken into two, must be broken into two.

- Second, write qualified sentences. For example, anything that you say, must be substantiated by a fact or an argument that should follow it. When you write - India is a poor country, do follow it up with a fact or an argument like - 70% of its population is still dependent on agriculture which is neither remunerative, nor capable of absorbing her labor force. Your sentences are assertions, and follow them up with arguments and facts.
- The sentences should be simple and easy to grasp. Try to be clear and concise in communicating your ideas. Avoid grammatical errors. Put appropriate punctuation wherever needed. It is appreciable if you are able to demonstrate good vocabulary and command over the language. However, avoid being too flowery or poetic. Usually, in the quest for being too flowery and poetic, people overlook the substantive part of the essay.

### **F. Building the Main Body of the Essay | Organization, Structure and idea development**

- You can refer to Point (C) for generating content for the Main Body of your Essay. However, you can also follow these additional pointers.
- Try to make essay objective, for example, when you write "Subsidy has several benefits", so write the benefits of it by putting a Firstly, Secondly, Thirdly argument. That way the monotony is broken and examiner can see that definite / concrete points have been added to the Essay.
- Depending on your essay topic, do come up with Suggestions/ Solutions/ Way Ahead. Note that this section depends on the Essay topic, but if your essay topic allows this, you must go for it.
- Try to address all the necessary dimensions associated with the topic for a holistic idea development.
- In order to bring coherence in your idea development, you may prepare a rough sketch before beginning to write your essay. Also, avoid random introduction and abrupt cutting of ideas. Try to build a smooth flow in you essay. Try to transition smoothly from one idea to another. Try to give a finishing touch before ending an idea. Try to introduce new ideas by way of connectors. Introduce a new idea gradually, by giving a background. Example – If you have to transition from the negatives to positives about the condition of women in India, you could do as follows.
- These statistics and facts point to the darkest aspects of the Indian society and could easily induce hopelessness as far as the future of women in India is concerned (finishing touch)
- Connector- However, as they say, every cloud has a silver lining. Amidst the bleak prospects of future and the darkness of pessimism there emerges a thin ray of hope and a glimmering streak of optimism.
- Introduction of a new idea – There are some women in India who have broken all the stereotypes and given the women of the country some shining examples

which they can look up to. Also, the figures pertaining to Maternal Mortality Ratio show some encouraging signs of improvement.

- Thus, you should also ensure that there is a connection between a paragraph and the succeeding one. The last sentence of the previous paragraph should give a hint about what would come up in the next paragraph.
- Avoid bullets, numbering etc. in an essay. The essay should not look like a GS answer. Try to make good use of paragraphs. The paragraphs should have appropriate length. They shouldn't be too long (two to three pages just for a paragraph) or too short (just a sentence or two)

### **G. Conclusion**

- The conclusion is often one of the most overlooked yet important aspects of an essay.
- Try to sum up your conclusion in a single paragraph. Try to separate your suggestions, if there are any, from your conclusion. Avoid including your suggestions in your conclusion.
- Try to make it brief or long. It should not be short or abrupt.
- It should not be just a summary of your essay or a re-iteration of what you have already written in your essay.
- Try to go beyond what you have already written in your essay. The conclusion should be forward-looking or visionary as well as optimistic.

### **H. Dealing with Philosophical Topics / Quotation Based Topics | Some Pointers**

- There are a few approaches that can help you address Philosophical Topics / Quotation Based Topics / Subjective Topics. Apart from the ways to introduce the Essay that you have already gone through in Part D, below are few pointers.
- Analyze the words of the question/ Essay and deliberate on them. Refer to Essay "Change is the end result of all learning". Mark how the candidate has analyzed the words "Change" and "learning". Interpret the words in your own language
- Categorization / Identifying Typologies: This is applicable not just to Philosophical essays but to others as well. For example, when you read the words "Change", analyze it and think of what are the types of change - Internal vs External / Progressive vs Regressive etc.

**I . General Pointers for Essay**

- Make sure that you refer to the Essay Topic a few times during your essay. This re-assures both the examiner and yourself, that you have not deviated far from the Essay Topic
- Do excessively dwell upon a single point. State, instead of explaining.
- Do not be mesmerized with one idea, and make it the theme of your Essay. There are more dimensions than one to every essay. Make sure that your essay does not become uni-dimensional.
- No matter what one says, on Essays that have pros and cons, or double polar arguments, you do state both sides of the topic - both Pros and Cons. For example, on a topic like Capital Punishment, even if you do not approve of Capital Punishment, do mention arguments both in favor of and against Capital Punishment. An Essay on a topic as such is not seeking a final verdict on the Essay from you, but a multi-dimensional analysis of the topic
- In an Essay which is in the form of a Question - (e.g. Is NAM dead?), **do not begin with answering the question**, which is often a rhetoric or an approach like "According to me, with the end of Cold War and beginning of a multi -polar world order, NAM is dead". It is always better to first write about what is NAM, why the questions of its utility is being asked, and at the end of the Essay, arrive at the conclusion. Do not begin with the conclusion.
- Make sure that you give equitable time to both the Essays. One key reason why people with good essay writing skills get low marks is because out of three hours they devote 2-2.25 hours on one essay and only 45 - 60 minutes on second essay. Avoid this. Knowing that this problem can occur and being prepared in advance can solve half the problem.
- Practice writing on Philosophical / Abstract Topics, and write at least 2-3 essays on it. Like in UPSC 2016, the entire paper had abstract topics only. So be prepared for it.
- Unlike earlier times, people these days do dedicated preparation for Essay. So your general reading may not be sufficient to prepare for the essay, and we recommend writing at least 3-4 essays before the actual examination. Also, you may need to spend time collecting data, facts, figures, idioms and phrases, anecdotes etc.

**J . Preparation for the Essay**

First, go through Past Years Papers ( Handout #1 ) that have been given to you . Analyze and identify list of themes on which Essay has been ask. You can find out some recurrent themes as below:

- Health
- Education
- Media

- Internet
- Social Media
- Gandhi
- Internet
- Artificial Intelligence / Fourth Industrial Revolution
- Farming / Agriculture Issues
- Cybercrime / War
- Science / Technology
- Women
- Poverty & Development
- Society

In case you have a writer's block, and you are unable to pick up a pen and write a "perfect" essay, as per "UPSC norms", a good way to begin is to just write an essay - not a perfect essay. Just write down a few essays, without seeking perfection. Then, when you enjoy writing, start writing as per UPSC requirements - in the time limit provided.

### **Following is a comprehensive list of previous year papers with classification**

#### **A. Quotations, Ethics and Philosophical Topics**

- Joy is the simplest form of gratitude **(2017)**
- We may brave human laws but cannot resist natural laws **(2017)**
- Need brings greed, if greed increases it spoils breed **(2016)**
- Lending hands to someone is better than giving a dole **(2015)**
- Quick but steady wins the race **(2015)**
- Character of an institution is reflected in its leader **(2015)**
- With greater power comes greater responsibility (2014)
- Words are sharper than the two-edged sword (2014)
- Be the change you want to see in others (Gandhi) (2013)
- Discipline means success, anarchy means ruin (2008)
- Attitude makes, habit makes character and character makes a man (2007)
- There is nothing either good or bad but thinking makes it so (2003)
- If youth knew, if age could (2002)
- The paths of glory lead but to the grave (2002)
- The pursuit of excellence (2001)
- Search for truth can only be a spiritual problem (2002)
- Disinterested intellectual curiosity is the lifeblood of civilization (1995)
- Our deeds determine us, as much as we determine our deeds (1995)

- Youth is a blunder, manhood a struggle, old age a regret (1994)
- Useless life is an early death (1994)
- He would reign within himself and folds his passions and desires and fears is more than a king (1993)
- Compassion is the basic of all morality would (1993)
- Truth is lived, not taught (1996)

## **B. Economy, Development & Social Welfare**

- Farming has lost the ability to be a source of subsistence for majority of farmers in India  
**(2017)**
- Impact of the new economics measures on fiscal ties between the union and the states in India **(2017)**
- Innovation is the key determinant of economic growth and social welfare **(2016)**
- If development is not engendered, it is endangered **(2016)**
- Near jobless growth in India: An anomaly or an outcome of economic reforms **(2016)**
- Digital economy: A leveler or a source of economic inequality **(2016)**
- Crisis faced in India – moral or economic **(2015)**
- Can capitalism bring inclusive growth? **(2015)**
- Was it the policy paralysis or the paralysis of implementation which slowed the growth of our country? (2014)
- Tourism: Can this be the next big thing for India? (2014)
- GDP (Gross Domestic Product) along with GDH (Gross Domestic Happiness) would be the right indices for judging the wellbeing of a country (2013)
- Is the criticism that the 'Public-Private-Partnership' (PPP) model for development is more of a bane than a boon in the Indian context, justified? (2012)
- Should a moratorium be imposed on all fresh mining in tribal areas of the country? (2010)
- Are our traditional handicrafts doomed to a slow death? (2009)
- The focus of health care is increasingly getting skewed towards the 'haves' of our society (2009)
- Special economic zone: boon or bane (2008)
- Protection of ecology and environment is essential for sustained economic development (2006)
- BPO boom in India (2007)
- Globalization would finish small-scale industries in India (2006)
- Economic growth without distributive justice is bound to breed violence. -1993
- Ecological considerations need not hamper development. -1993
- Multinational corporations – saviors or saboteurs -1994

- Resource management in the Indian context. -1999
- Urbanization is a blessing in disguise. -1997

### **C. Education**

- Destiny of a nation is shaped in its classrooms **(2017)**
- Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make a man cleverer  
Devil **(2015)**
- Is the growing level of competition good for the youth? -2014
- Are the standardized tests good measure of academic ability or progress? -2014
- Credit – based higher education system – status , opportunities and challenges -2011
- Is an egalitarian society possible by educating the masses ? -2008
- Independent thinking should be encouraged right from the childhood. -2007
- “Education for all” campaign in India: myth or reality. -2006
- What is real education? -2005
- Modern technological education and human values. -2002
- Privatization of higher education in India. -2002
- Irrelevance of the classroom. -2001
- Value-based science and education. -1999
- Literacy is growing very fast, but there is no corresponding growth in education. -1996
- Restructuring of Indian education system. -1995

### **D. Society, Culture, Indian Democracy, Religion & Beliefs etc.**

- Dreams which should not let India sleep **(2015)**
- Fifty Golds in Olympics: Can this be a reality for India? -2014
- Is the Colonial mentality hindering India’s Success? -2013
- In the context of Gandhi’s views on the matter, explore, on an evolutionary scale, the terms ‘Swadhinata’, ‘Swaraj’ and ‘Dharmarajya’. Critically comment on their contemporary relevance to Indian democracy -2012
- Does Indian cinema shape our popular culture or merely reflect it? -2011
- Geography may remain the same; history need not. -2010
- From traditional Indian philanthropy to the gates-buffet model-a natural progression or a paradigm shift? -2010
- ‘Globalization’ vs. ‘Nationalism’ -2009
- National identity and patriotism -2008
- How has satellite television brought about cultural change in Indian mindsets? -2007
- Globalizations and its impact on Indian culture. -2004

- Indian culture today: a myth or a reality? -2000
- Modernism and our traditional socio-ethical values. -2000
- Why should we be proud of being Indians? -2000
- Youth culture today. -1999
- The composite culture of India. -1998
- The Indian society at the crossroads. -1994
- Modernization and westernization are not identical concepts. -1994
- New cults and godmen: a threat to traditional religion -1996
- True religion cannot be misused. -1997

#### **D. Bilateral & Global issues**

- Has the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM) lost its relevance in a multipolar world? **(2017)**
- India's role in promoting ASEAN co-operation. -2004
- The masks of new imperialism. -2003
- As civilization advances culture declines. -2003
- The implications of globalization for India. -2000
- My vision of an ideal world order. -2001
- India's contribution to world wisdom. -1998
- The world of the twenty-first century. -1998
- Preparedness of our society for India's global leadership role. -2010
- The global order: political and economic -1993
- Importance of Indo-US nuclear agreement -2006
- Good fences make good neighbors -2009
- Terrorism and world peace -2005
- Restructuring of UNO reflect present realities -1996

#### **E. Political & Administrative Issues**

- Water disputes between states in federal India **(2016)**
- Cooperative federalism: Myth or reality **(2016)**
- Creation of smaller states and the consequent administrative, economic and developmental implication -2011
- In the Indian context, both human intelligence and technical intelligence are crucial in combating terrorism -2011
- Evaluation of panchayati raj system in India from the point of view of eradication of power to people. 2007
- Justice must reach the poor -2005
- Is autonomy the best answer to combat balkanization? -2007
- The country's need for a better disaster management system. -2000
- Are we a 'soft' state? -2009

- Judicial activism and Indian democracy. -2004
- How should a civil servant conduct himself? -2003
- What have we gained from our democratic set-up? -2001
- Urbanization and its hazards -2008
- Food security for sustainable national development -2005
- Water resources should be under the control of the central government. -2004
- The misinterpretation and misuse of freedom in India. -1998
- The language problem in India: its past, present and prospects. -1998
- Reservation, politics and empowerment. -1999
- When money speaks, the truth is silent. -1995
- Politics without ethics is a disaster. -1995
- Judicial activism. -1997
- The VIP cult is a bane of Indian democracy -1996
- Need for transparency in public administration -1996
- Whither Indian democracy? -1995
- Politics, bureaucracy and business – fatal triangle. -1994
- How far has democracy in India delivered the goods? -2003
- What we have not learnt during fifty years of independence. -1997
- My vision of India in 2001 A.D. -1993

#### **F. Science-Technology Based Essay**

- Cyberspace and internet: Blessing or curse to the human civilization in the long run **(2016)**
- Technology cannot replace manpower **(2015)**
- Science and technology is the panacea for the growth and security of the nation-2013
- Science and Mysticism: Are they compatible?-2012
- The march of science and the erosion of human values. -2001
- Increasing computerization would lead to the creation of a dehumanized society. -2006
- The lure of space. -2004
- Spirituality and scientific temper. -2003
- The cyber world: its charms and challenges. -2000
- The modern doctor and his patients. -1997
- Computer: the harbinger of silent revolution. -1993

#### **G. Women empowerment, Issue based Essay**

- Fulfilment of 'new woman' in India is a myth **(2017)**
- Managing work and home – is the Indian working woman getting a fair deal?-2012

- Women's reservation bill would usher in empowerment for women in India. - 2006
- The hand that rocks the cradle -2005
- If women ruled the world -2005
- Whither women's emancipation? -2004
- Empowerment alone cannot help our women. -2001
- Women empowerment: challenges and prospects. -1999
- Woman is god's best creation. -1998
- Greater political power alone will not improve women's plight. -1997
- The new emerging women power: the ground realities. -1995
- Men have failed: let women take over. -1993

### **H. Media Issues**

- Social Media is inherently a selfish medium **(2017)**
- Is sting operation an invasion on privacy? -2014
- Responsibility of media in a democracy. -2002
- Mass media and cultural invasion. -1999
- Role of media in good governance -2008

### **Analysis of the trends in the Essay papers from the past few years**

Let us try to analyze the trends in the essay papers according to the classification done above for the recent years' Essay papers viz. 2015, 2016 and 2017. Maximum essays came from the following topics (2015, 2016 & 2017)

- Economy, Development & Social Welfare - 8
- Quotations, Ethics and Philosophical Topics – 6

#### **Second most frequent topics**

- Science & Tech - 3
- Political and administrative issues – 3
- Education – 2

#### **Rarely occurring topics**

- Society, Culture, Indian Democracy, Religion & Beliefs etc.
- Bilateral & Global issues
- Women empowerment, Issue based Essay
- Media Issues

## GS Paper-wise analysis of Essay trend (2017)

### Section A

Farming has lost the ability to be a source of subsistence for majority of farmers in India- **Agriculture-Major Crops and Food processing industry- GS PAPER 3**

Impact of the new economic measures on fiscal ties between the union and states in India - **Indian Economy, Fiscal Federalism- GS PAPER 2 and PAPER 3**

Destiny of a nation is shaped in its classrooms –**Social Justice - Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education and Human Resources- GS PAPER 2**

Has the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM) lost its relevance in a multipolar world? **International relations-Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests - GS PAPER 2**

### Section B

Joy is the simplest form of Gratitude - **Attitude: content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behavior; moral and political attitudes- Ethics, Integrity, and Aptitude- GS PAPER 4**

Fulfilment of new woman in India is a myth –**Society – GS Paper2 and Social Justice – GS PAPER 3**

We may brave human laws but cannot resist natural laws- **Environment - Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment – GS PAPER 3**

Social media is inherently a selfish medium- **Security- Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges- GS PAPER 3**

Thus, it is to be noted that most of the Essay themes occur from either **General Studies Paper 2 or Paper 3**, or by making a synthesis of both or overlapping the two papers.

Also, most of the philosophical topics could fall in the category of **General Studies Paper 4- Ethics, Integrity and Aptitude.**

- Thus, it is to be noted that a holistic study of General studies, especially Paper 2 and Paper 3 basically gives you sufficient food and fodder for writing any Essay that might occur in the Civil Service Mains Exam.
- Similarly, a comprehensive study of General Studies Paper 4 might allow one to choose and effectively deal with philosophical or abstract topics too.
- Optional subject such as Political Science, Philosophy, Sociology and Public Administration might give you an edge in dealing with philosophical or abstract topics while Optional subjects such as Geography, Public Administration etc. might give you an edge in dealing better with the Objective topics.
- Thus, nothing can be said to be out of syllabus as such in an essay paper. Also nothing can be said to be completely new or totally alien to you. You would at least know something about each topic, which you can expand into a well-organized comprehensive essay.
- It all boils down to your ability to coherently organize your knowledge and ideas and present them systematically and effectively so as to give a comprehensive coverage of various dimensions of the topic.
- Regular reading of newspaper editorials will certainly help improve your content as well as your language competency. Apart from that, you can also develop your essay content by reading good books for instance – “Can the Elephant Dance” by David Malone or “PaxIndica” – By Shashi Tharoor, can provide you with good food and fodder as well as valuable insights about International Relations, India and the World and so on.
- Watching TV News debates particularly RS TV, daily writing practice and other such constructive activities would also certainly help hone your essay writing skills.

### **Essay theme: Democracy**

- “Democracy is a device that insures we shall be governed no better than we deserve”- G B Shaw
- “My definition of democracy is - A form and a method of Government whereby revolutionary changes in the social life are brought about without bloodshed.” - Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

- “The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter.” - Churchill
- “The tyranny of a prince in an oligarchy is not so much dangerous to the public welfare as the apathy of a citizen in a democracy” - Montesquieu
- “The ballot is stronger than the bullet.” - Abraham Lincoln
- “Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters.” - Abraham Lincoln
- “There cannot be daily democracy without daily citizenship.” - Ralph Nader
- “I understand democracy as something that gives the weak the same chance as the strong.” - Mahatma Gandhi
- “The spirit of democracy cannot be established in the midst of terrorism, whether governmental or popular.” – Mahatma Gandhi
- “Democracy is not law of the majority but protection of the minority.” - Albert Camus
- “In a democracy, the individual enjoys not only the ultimate power, but carries the ultimate responsibility.” - Norman Cousins
- “Social and economic democracy are tissue and the fiber of a political democracy”- Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
- “In democracy it's your vote that counts; In feudalism it's your count that votes.” – MogensJallberg
- “That government is best which governs least.” - Henry David Thoreau
- “The strongest democracies flourish from frequent and lively debate, but they endure when people of every background and belief find a way to set aside smaller differences in service of a greater purpose.” - Barack Obama
- “It is a besetting vice of democracies to substitute public opinion for law. This is the usual form in which masses of men exhibit their tyranny.” - James Fenimore Cooper

- “The death of democracy is not likely to be an assassination from ambush. It will be a slow extinction from apathy, indifference, and undernourishment.”- Robert Hutchins
- “Democracy is a charming form of government, full of variety and disorder, and dispensing a sort of equality to equals and unequal alike.” – Plato
- “Democracy, like liberty, justice and other social and political rights, is not "given", it is earned through courage, resolution and sacrifice.” - Aung San Suu Kyi
- “A democracy is nothing more than mob rule, where fifty-one percent of the people may take away the rights of the other forty-nine.”- Thomas Jefferson
- “An imbalance between rich and poor is the oldest and most fatal ailment of all republics.” – Plutarch, Greek historian, first century AD
- "As long as the differences and diversities of mankind exist, democracy must allow for compromise, for accommodation, and for the recognition of differences." - Eugene McCarthy
- “Democracy does not guarantee equality of conditions - it only guarantees equality of opportunity.” - Irving Kristol
- “Democracy forever teases us with the contrast between its ideals and its realities, between its heroic possibilities and its sorry achievements.” - Agnes Repplier
- “In politics, an organized minority is a political majority.” - Jesse Jackson
- “In true democracy every man and women is taught to think for himself or herself.” – Mahatma Gandhi
- “It seems to me that whereas power usually means power-over, the power of some person or group over some other person or group, it is possible to develop the conception of power-with, a jointly developed power, a co-active, not a coercive power.” – Mary Parker Follet
- “Voting is one of the few things where boycotting in protest clearly makes the problem worse rather than better.” - Jane Bowles
- “Democracy is never a thing done. Democracy is always something that a nation must be doing.” - Archibald MacLeish

**Essay Theme: Education**

- “Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.” - Nelson Mandela
- “Cultivation of mind should be the ultimate aim of human existence” - Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
- “Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.” - M. K. Gandhi
- “Children must be taught how to think, not what to think.” - Margaret Mead
- “Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learnt in school.” – Einstein
- “It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.” – Aristotle
- “Education is the manifestation of perfection already in man.” - Swami Vivekananda
- “Education that does not mould the character is absolutely worthless.” – M. K. Gandhi
- “To educate a person in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to the society.” – Theodore Roosevelt
- “Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.” - Martin Luther King
- “You educate a man; you educate a man. You educate a woman; you educate a generation.” – Brigham Young
- “You can never be overdressed or overeducated.” – Oscar Wilde
- “Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence.” – Robert Frost
- “Only a generation of readers will spawn a generation of writers.” – Steven Spielberg
- “Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.” – Aristotle
- “He who opens a school door, closes a prison.” – Victor Hugo
- “To educate a person in the mind but not in morals is to educate a menace to society.” – Theodore Roosevelt
- “All men who have turned out worth anything have had the chief hand in their own education.” – Walter Scott
- “Failure is success if we learn from it.” - Malcolm Forbes
- “I have never in my life learned anything from any man who agreed with me.” - Dudley Field Malone
- “The average teacher explains complexity; the gifted teacher reveals simplicity.” - Robert Brault
- “The average teacher explains complexity; the gifted teacher reveals simplicity.” -Robert Brault

- “Wisdom is not a product of schooling but of the lifelong attempt to acquire it.” – Albert Einstein

### **Essay Theme: Religion, Science, Spirituality, Wisdom**

- “All thinking men are atheists.” - Ernest Hemingway
- “Religion is for man and not man for religion.” - Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
- “The notion that Science and Spirituality are somehow mutually exclusive does a disservice to both.” - Carl Sagan
- “Science without Religion is lame and Religion without Science is blind.” – Einstein
- “What can be asserted without evidence can be dismissed without evidence.” - Christopher Hitchens
- “Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men.” - Martin Luther King
- “Government exists for the interests of the governed, not for the governors.” - Thomas Jefferson
- “The price good men pay for indifference to public affairs is to be ruled by evil men.” – Plato
- “Science is organized knowledge. Wisdom is organized life” – Immanuel Kant
- “Every great advance in science has issued from a new audacity of imagination” – John Dewey
- “The whole of science is nothing more than a refinement of thinking” – Einstein
- “Society lives by faith, and develops by science.” - Henri-Frédéric Amiel
- “Wisdom is not a product of schooling but of the lifelong attempt to acquire it.” – Einstein
- “Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom.” – Aristotle
- “The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.” – Isaac Asimov
- “By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; Second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest.” – Confucius
- “Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself.” – Rumi
- “A new broom sweeps clean but an old broom knows the corners.” -Virgin Islander
- “A proverb is a short sentence based on long experience.” - Miguel de Cervantes
- “One head cannot hold all wisdom.” –Maasai(East African)
- “Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom.” – Thomas Jefferson
- “The wise man hath his thoughts in his head; the fool, on his tongue.” – Ivan Panin
- “Silence is the sleep that nourishes wisdom.” – Francis Bacon

- “God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.” – Reinhold Niebuhr

### Essay Topic: Environment

- “The Earth does not belong to us: we belong to the Earth”- Chief Seattle
- “The world has enough for everyone’s need but not enough for everyone’s greed.” - M.K. Gandhi
- “Water and air, the two essential fluids on which all life depends, have become global garbage cans.” - Jacques Yves Cousteau
- “We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children” – Chief Seattle
- “We never know the worth of water till the well is dry.” Sharon Creech
- “When the last tree is cut and the last fish killed, the last river poisoned, then you will see that you can't eat money.” – John May, The Greenpeace Story
- “Only within the moment of time represented by the present century has one species -- man -- acquired significant power to alter the nature of the world.” - Rachel Carson, Silent Spring
- “When plastic comes of age it shall clog the arteries of those who invented it.” – Anthony T. Hincks
- “Environmental pollution is an incurable disease. It can only be prevented.” - Barry Commoner
- “We won't have a society if we destroy the environment.” - Margaret Mead
- “The future will either be green or not at all.” - Bob Brown
- “What we are doing to the forests of the world is but a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another.” – Chris Maser, Forest Primeval: The Natural History of an Ancient Forest
- “A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people. ” – Franklin D. Roosevelt
- “God's garden has become man's junkyard.” – Anthony T. Hincks
- “It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment.” – Ansel Adams
- “People 'over-produce' pollution because they are not paying for the costs of dealing with it.” – Ha-Joon Chang, 23 Things They Don't Tell You about Capitalism
- “Where do we record the passing of wildlife? Who mourns the silent deaths of the small?” – O.R. Melling
- “We are seeds as well as parasites to the earth. We can either give or take, depending on our perception of growth.” – Zephyr McIntyre
- “All must pay the debt of nature.” – Annie Proulx, Barkskins

- “If civilization is to survive, it must live on the interest, not the capital, of nature.” – Ronald Wright, A Short History of Progress
- “Plastic will inhabit the oceans long after man has gone.” – Anthony T. Hincks
- “Is the deer crossing the road, or is the road crossing the forest?” – Freequill

### Essay Topic: Peace/Justice

- “How can one not speak about war, poverty, and inequality when people who suffer from these afflictions don't have a voice to speak?” - Isabel Allende
- “Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.” - Martin Luther King Jr., A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings
- “Peace comes from within. Do not seek it without.” - Gautama Buddha
- “Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding.” - Albert Einstein
- “When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace.” - William Gladstone
- “Peace comes from within. Do not seek it without.” - Gautama Buddha
- “Peace and Justice are two sides of the same coin.” – Eisenhower
- “An eye for an eye will only make the whole world blind.” - M.K. Gandhi
- “Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed.” – Eisenhower
- “The greatness of humanity is not in being human, but in being humane.” – Mahatma Gandhi
- “There was never a bad peace or a good war.” – Benjamin Franklin
- “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” - Martin Luther King Jr
- “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.” - Martin Luther King Jr
- “Justice is truth in action.” - Benjamin Disraeli
- “It is not enough to win a war; it is more important to organize the peace.” – Aristotle
- “World peace must develop from inner peace. Peace is not just mere absence of violence. Peace is, I think, the manifestation of human compassion.” – Dalai Lama XIV
- “Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is an organized conspiracy to oppress, rob and degrade them, neither persons nor property will be safe.” - Frederick Douglass
- “The dead cannot cry out for justice. It is a duty of the living to do so for them.” - Lois McMaster Bujold

- “Social justice cannot be attained by violence. Violence kills what it intends to create.” - Pope John Paul II
- “There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.” - Elie Weasel
- “Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are.” - Benjamin Franklin
- “Justice is conscience, not a personal conscience but the conscience of the whole of humanity.” - Alexander Solzhenitsyn
- “Throughout history, it has been the inaction of those who could have acted, the indifference of those who should have known better, the silence of the voice of justice when it mattered most that has made it possible for evil to triumph.” - Haile Selassie
- “Extreme justice is often injustice.” - Jean Racine
- “Justice in the life and conduct of the State is possible only as first it resides in the hearts and souls of the citizens.” – Plato
- “Where there are too many policemen, there is no liberty. Where there are too many soldiers, there is no peace. Where there are too many lawyers, there is no justice.” - Lyn Yutang

### **Essay Topic: Corruption/Morality/Power/Politics**

- “Righteousness is the foundation stone of peace and good governance.” – Confucius
- “Dhamma is the foundation stone of good governance.” - Buddha
- “The worst disease in the world today is corruption. And there is a cure: transparency.”- Bono
- “Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.” – Abraham Lincoln
- “Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” - Lord Acton
- “Knowledge will give you power, but character respect.” - Bruce Lee
- “Any form of art is a form of power; it has impact, it can affect change – it can not only move us, it makes us move.” – Ossie Davis
- “Power does not corrupt. Fear corrupts... perhaps the fear of a loss of power.” – John Steinbeck
- “Politics have no relation to morals.” - Niccolo Machiavelli
- “Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun.” - Mao Zedong
- “There are no morals in politics; there is only expedience. A scoundrel may be of use to us just because he is a scoundrel.” - Vladimir Lenin
- “Corruption is worse than prostitution. The latter might endanger the morals of an individual, the former invariably endangers the morals of the entire country.” - Karl Kraus

- “The books that the world calls immoral are books that show the world its own shame.” – Oscar Wilde
- “All persons ought to endeavor to follow what is right, and not what is established.” – Aristotle
- “The duty of youth is to challenge corruption.” – Kurt Cobain
- “If A Country Is To Be Corruption Free And Become A Nation Of Beautiful Minds I Strongly Feel There Are Three Key Societal Members Who Can Make A Difference. They Are The Father, The Mother And The Teacher.” – A P J Abdul Kalam
- “The best index to a person's character is how he treats people who can't do him any good, and how he treats people who can't fight back.” – Abigail Van Buren

### **Essay Theme: Caste/Class/Society/Reform**

- “Turn in any direction you like, Caste is the monster that crosses your path. You cannot have political reform, you cannot have economic reform, unless you kill this monster.”- Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
- “There is no caste in blood.” – Edwin Arnold
- “Without any reason or basis, untouchability has been created as a result of caste. It is foolish to think of abolishing untouchability, in the face of the continuance of caste.” – Periyar E.V. Ramasamy
- “It is no measure of health to be well adjusted to a profoundly sick society.” – JidduKrishnamurti
- “The oppressed are allowed once every few years to decide which particular representatives of the oppressing class are to represent and repress them.” – Karl Marx
- “Unlike a drop of water which loses its identity when it joins the ocean, man does not lose his being in the society in which he lives. Man's life is independent. He is born not for the development of the society alone, but for the development of his self.” - B. R. Ambedkar
- “Few people are capable of expressing with equanimity opinions which differ from the prejudices of their social environment. Most people are incapable of forming such opinions.” –Einstein
- “A free society is a society where it is safe to be unpopular.” - Adlai Stevenson
- “No civilized society can thrive upon victims, whose humanity has been permanently mutilated.”- Rabindranath Tagore
- “All that is valuable in human society depends upon the opportunity for development accorded the individual”- Albert Einstein
- “The further a society drifts from truth the more it will hate those who speak it.” - George Orwell

- “Caste is not just a division of labour, it is a division of labourers.” - B. R. Ambedkar
- “Social reforms are never carried out by the weakness of the strong; but always by the strength of the weak.”- Karl Marx
- “Self-reform automatically brings about social reform.” – Ramana Maharshi
- “The best social reform program in the world is a job.” - Ronald Reagan

### **Essay Theme: Hunger/Poverty**

- "Poverty is the parent of revolution and crime." — Aristotle, Greek philosopher
- "Poverty is like punishment for a crime you didn't commit." — Eli Khamarov, writer
- "There are people in the world so hungry that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread." — Mahatma Gandhi
- “Hunger is actually the worst weapon of mass destruction. It claims millions of victims each year.”- Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva
- “66 million primary school-age children attend classes hungry across the developing world.” -World Food Program
- “Every \$1 spent on malnutrition prevention delivers \$16 in economic returns.” - 2016 Global Nutrition Report
- “As long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest.” - Nelson Mandela
- “Poverty is the worst form of violence.”- Mahatma Gandhi
- “Poverty is a very complicated issue, but feeding a child isn't.” - Jeff Bridges
- “There is no humiliation more abusive than hunger.” - Pranab Mukherjee
- "Child labor and poverty are inevitably bound together and if you continue to use the labor of children as the treatment for the social disease of poverty, you will have both poverty and child labor to the end of time." — Grace Abbott, social worker
- “You can't get rid of poverty by giving people money.” — P.J. O'Rourke, political satirist

### **Essay Theme: Liberty/Privacy/Freedom of Speech**

- “They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.”- Benjamin Franklin
- “If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear.” – George Orwell
- “I do not agree with what you have to say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it.” –Voltaire
- “This is my doctrine: Give every other human being every right you claim for yourself.” — Robert G. Ingersoll, The Liberty of Man, Woman and Child

- “The advancement and diffusion of knowledge is the only guardian of true liberty.” – James Madison
- “Liberty without Learning is always in peril and Learning without Liberty is always in vain.” – John F. Kennedy
- “Timid men prefer the calm of despotism to the tempestuous sea of Liberty.” – Thomas Jefferson
- “I believe in only one thing: liberty; but I do not believe in liberty enough to want to force it upon anyone.” – H.L. Mencken
- “Privacy is not something that I'm merely entitled to, it's an absolute prerequisite.” – Marlon Brando
- “Privacy - like eating and breathing - is one of life's basic requirements.” – Katherine Neville
- “It's dangerous when people are willing to give up their privacy.” - Noam Chomsky
- “For me, privacy and security are really important. We think about it in terms of both: You can't have privacy without security.” - Larry Page
- “Censorship is to art as lynching is to justice.” –Henry Louis Gates Jr
- “If freedom of speech is taken away, then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter.” – George Washington
- “Those who make conversations impossible, make escalation inevitable.” – Stefan Molyneux
- “It is not so much freedom of speech but the right to truth that great men protect.” – Criss Jami, Killosophy
- “People demand freedom of speech as a compensation for the freedom of thought which they seldom use.”-Soren Kierkegaard
- “Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high, where knowledge is free. Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls. Where words come out from the depth of truth, where tireless striving stretches its arms toward perfection. Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit. Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever widening thought and action. In to that heaven of freedom, my father, LET MY COUNTRY AWAKE!” – Rabindranath Tagore, Gitanjali: Song Offerings

ESSAY TEST - 3

F-IAS-T-MGPE3

# ForumIAS

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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:

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

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.

## 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.

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 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to US Constitution.

Back home, Mahatma Gandhi united the country and taught the world about a non-violent struggle. The world had learnt 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

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

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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.

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

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 ~~train~~ <sup>learn and</sup> 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

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

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 allow 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 Gandhiji ~~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

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

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.

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.

## 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,

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.

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.

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 <sup>this</sup> 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.

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

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, rainfalls 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.

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.

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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.

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 <sup>we</sup> can ensure that millions like Anjali and Bakwant Rao have means to live a prosperous life.

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

ESSAY TEST - 2

F-IAS-T-MGPE2

# ForumIAS

## ACADEMY

ForumIAS Offline Centre, Shop # 6, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:

Apuva Pandey

Test Date: 21/08/2017

Email id:

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX@XXXXXX~~

Phone no:

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Start Time:

End Time:

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

ECN Code:

Date:

Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language						
Structure						
Innovation						
Handwriting						
Content						
Attempt						

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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①

1. Social Media: An anti-social Media

सोशल मीडिया: एक एंटी-सोशल मीडिया

2. Global Economy: Boon or bane for local economy?

वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था: स्थानीय अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए वरदान या अभिशाप?

3. You can change friends but not neighbors.

हम दोस्तों को बदल सकते हैं, लेकिन पड़ोसी नहीं।

4. Two cheers for Democracy: one because it admits variety and two because it permits criticism.

लोकतंत्र के लिए दो चीयर्स: एक, क्योंकि यह विविधता को मानता है और दो क्योंकि यह आलोचना की अनुमति देता है।

4) Two cheers for Democracy: one because it admits variety and two because it permits criticism.

When India won independence in 1947, there were glimmering hopes and rising expectations in the eyes of millions. But there were also doubts, and not irrational ones, that questioned the future of democracy in India.

The Western press especially refused to accept that India could emerge a successful democracy. To them, India was

(2)

a land of snakecharmers, where poverty cohabited with illiteracy and ~~so~~ ignorance. How could the experiment of Universal Adult Franchise be successful in a land where people are ~~just~~ starving and dying of hunger? What logic, what rationality could be expected from the hungry, illiterate public of India?

Touted as the "Great Indian Election", Western media critically analysed the birth of democracy in India. Fortunately, India not only conducted elections successfully, but the democracy that was seeded in 1951 continues to flourish till date.

One must accept the fact that democracy of India didn't look viable theoretically, but perhaps, that precisely is the beauty of democracy. It admits all variety and permits all criticism, and evolves continuously to fit right into the ethos of a nation.

The concept of democracy finds its roots in ancient Greek thought. While Aristotle was not a great fan of democracy and often compared it to 'mobocracy', he also acknowledged the role of public participation in politics in order to find a 'perverted state'.

Later American and French Revolutions associated democracy with fundamental rights, liberty, equality and fraternity and democracy continued to evolve. The democratic national assembly formed in the aftermath of the French Revolution was a landmark moment in this evolutionary process.

That age was dominated by thinkers like Rousseau who emphatically stated that true freedom lies is achieved only when state is run as per the "general will" of the people,

a clear reference to the idea of democracy.

Eventually Europe was democratized by in entirety, ~~by the end~~ but imperialistic ambitions continued to enslave most of the world. The people of these colonial worlds yearned to find their voice, which they knew they could find only in a fledgling democracy. And so arose the grand national movement of India, firmly embedded in democratic principles, so that new India emerged as a temple of democratic faith.

DEMOCRACY: ADMITS VARIETY

India is a diverse land. It is often claimed that there are more similarities between two nations in Europe than between two states in India. Here diversity itself is diverse, manifesting itself in culture, religion,

language, region, caste, ethnicity and so on. However, such diversity is carefully preserved and delicately held together by democratic culture prevalent in India. The Indian Constitution acknowledges Indian diversity, and through various measures ranging from Article 14 (Equality before law)

to Article 25 (Freedom to practice, profess and propagate the religion of one's choice), it attempts to respect our variety.

Democratic states around the world are generally more tolerant towards differences. While countries like India constitutionally preserve one's right to be different, non-democratic states around the world are seen vehemently suppressing cultural dissent.

Middle East countries are mixed

in religious orthodoxy where any religious difference is seen as an anomaly and penalised accordingly. In Pakistan, minorities are liberally booked under blasphemy laws for following their faith. The impact of army state on Myanmar has ensured that Rohingyas continue to perish and are subjected to unimaginable atrocities. However, the top most contender in this category is indeed Hitler's Nazi state, that mercilessly persecuted any variety it traced. From Jews to Communists, from liberals to those with unique sexual orientations, the Nazi state ruthlessly exterminated variety.

What is common among all these instances is the state's obvious contempt for democracy. Democratically challenged states do not respect

majority because power here vests in an individual or group. Democracy de-institutionalises power, diffuses and decentralizes it. Universal Adult Franchise ensures that the issues of the minorities, marginalized and the queer are also addressed since they too are armed with the power to vote.

Democracy allows diverse groups to mobilise and pool their power together to emerge a dominant force in the polity. For example, the Rainbow Movement in USA, despite being catering to a minority group, the LGBTQ community, garnered sizeable political importance owing to the democratic credentials of the country.

LGBTQ rights issue is being talked about and even accepted in democratic states around the world. Even in India, hue and cry was raised when SC's supreme Court's judgement

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on Section 377 came out. But in non-democratic countries, there is no debate and the voice of LGBTQ community remains stifled so that it is almost like they don't exist in those lands.

Democratic states like UK, France, Scandinavian countries, India, might experience few instances of conflicts based on identity. State might even suppress diverse voices and disrespect variety. However, such instances are isolated and occur once in a while. Undemocratic states on the other hand perpetually impose uniform identity and homogeneity on its people, thereby suppressing variety.

DEMOCRACY: PERMITS CRITICISM

Democracy makes the state accountable to people. While lack of accountability gives absolute power to state, an accountable state allows people to channel their expectations towards the state through criticism.

The famous "Democratic Peace Theory" deserves a mention in this respect.

As per this theory, war is less likely in a democratic state. This is because it is the people who are most affected by war and they can ably criticise and pressurise the state to give up on war when it ~~seems~~ appears damaging to them.

For instance, public opinion in the aftermath of Iraq war has made USA increasingly reluctant in stationing its troops

in the midst of international conflicts, and hence, the No Boots on Ground doctrine.

Undemocratic states, in sharp contrast stifle criticism and fuelly embark on expansionist wars while public simmers in discontent. As such modern world, especially in the aftermath of WWII has rarely seen a war between two democratic powers.

The past couple of years have seen multiple referendums where direct democracy was deployed to ~~to~~ seek answers to crucial questions like BREXIT, Columbia Peace Process, Turkey constitutional reforms and so on. Even though the results of these referendums were surprising and controversial, it suggests that the government and the people are not always on the same page.

Democracy gives public the right to express its opinion, no matter how controversial it may be. But when such power is taken away from the people as in undemocratic states, and when states are ~~inc~~ unable to gauge the ~~op~~ true opinion of their people, as in the above instances, the public begins to feel alienated. It then starts to associate itself with regional, religious or ethnic identities and in turn wage war on the state. Civil wars become the norm when public does not find an opportunity to vent its frustrations through criticism. An obvious example of such a phenomenon is the turn of events in the Syrian state.

Colonial era India had zero tolerance for criticism against state. The Sedition Act, Vernacular Press Act,

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Rowlatt Act imposed inhibitions on the masses and prevented them from airing ~~smear~~ their criticism against the state.

However, post-independence India saw the right to freedom of Speech & Expression, innovations like RTI & the Lokpal Act to provide efficient tools to the common man to criticise the government of the day. As such, individuals today are more empowered and content as compared to public of colonial era. The change in the nature of state from an authoritarian one, claiming to be a "benevolent dictator" to a democratic state through and through, has resulted in massive multi-dimensional improvement in the state of affairs. Such is the power of dissent in democracy.

India's power lies in its ~~3DS~~

3Ds - Demography, Demand & Democracy

Among those too, democracy has emerged as an unwavering value, an unflinching source of light that refuses to be extinguished. India underwent the dark era of emergency where civil rights were practically suspended for more than two years, yet democracy bounced back untarnished and stronger.

Such is the power of people. Once realised, it cannot be stifled no matter how powerful the oppressor. A spark of revolt in Tunisia led to a wave of revolutions throughout the Arab world during the Arab Spring. This indicates how one small instance can lead to massive change if people gain consciousness and take power in their hands.

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Rousseau very famously said,  
" Man is born free but everywhere he goes, he is in chains"

The freedom he seeks indeed lies  
likes in the idea of democracy.

**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

1. Has economic growth aborted the idea of social justice?  
क्या आर्थिक विकास ने सामाजिक न्याय के विचार को निरस्त किया है?
2. Reforms in Medical Education: Panacea to fixing India's healthcare.  
चिकित्सा शिक्षा में सुधार: भारत की स्वास्थ्य सेवा को ठीक करने की दवा।
3. A nation of sheep will beget a government of wolves.  
भेड़ के राष्ट्र में भेड़िये की सरकार।
4. Cyberspace : A new arena of warfare?  
साइबरस्पेस: युद्ध का एक नया क्षेत्र?

3) A nation of sheep will beget a government of wolves.

A few-days old baby elephant was tied to a pole by the mahouts using ordinary ropes. The elephant would pull the ropes all day and strive to break free from its shackles, but it did not yet possess the strength to break the ropes that held it prisoner.

Regardless, the elephant tried every day for a month. Eventually it accepted the fact that the ropes were stronger than its capacity,

and surrendered to its fate.

Six months later, the baby elephant had grown up into a humongous beast that could uproot trees and change river courses. Yet, it never again tried to break free from the ordinary ropes that tied it to the pole. To the elephant, the rope had become a symbol of its weakness and it was convinced that there was no way out from the shackles.

What the story suggests is that belief in one's own weakness will always ensure one's submission to another, regardless of how powerful the other person is.

The story makes perfect sense in the context of governance too. If a nation and its people believe in their weakness and act like sheep,

they are likely to beget a government of wolves.

According to political theorists like Hobbes and Locke, governments are formed out of social contract. This implies that people enter into a contract with the government wherein they surrender some of their rights to the government in exchange of law, order and protection. The question here is the quantum of rights that is surrendered. The question is whether the presence of a government empowers the public or renders it weak.

As per social contract theorists, it is upto the public to decide the extent to which they shall surrender their rights. If in a moment of weakness, they surrender their liberty

there is no way they will escape domination and authoritarianism from a government of wolves.

Indian history is a solid case in point. Indian rulers in the 18th century were a divided lot. The Mughal state had disintegrated and remained a mere symbolic power. The sub-continent had splitted into multiple small provinces with local princes and powerful zamindars in power. There was constant infighting between the Mughals, Marathas, Sikhs and Jats and to top it all, there were raids by Nadir Shah and Ahmad Shah Abdali that left India plundered & devastated.

Under ~~of~~ such political instability and chaos too, the public remained ~~pl~~ pliant to the royal command.

They were meek and timid and accustomed to being dominated by a higher power. It didn't matter to them whether that higher power was sourced in the centralised Mughal authority or in the local zamindar.

They were, in some sense, the metaphorical sheep, ready to surrender themselves at the altar of any higher power.

Taking advantage of the lack of unity among Indian princes and the weakness of the general masses, the British built their dominion on the Indian soil bit by bit. They manipulated the Indian rulers, playing one against the other and went on to lay the foundation of the mighty British Raj in the absence of resistance from the masses.

This was followed by loot and plunder. The drain of wealth from India to Britain and the increasing misery of Indians became a constant feature of British imperialism. The Indian sheep let themselves be devoured by the British wolves.

Imperialism all around the world was based on the inherent innocence and simplicity of the natives who were too naive to comprehend British designs.

In stark contrast, during the Indian national movement, progressive and educated Indians had grasped the true nature of the British state... They further educated public opinion, built national consciousness so that an empowered public could see through British encesses. Only then

could emerge. a mass movement that had the ability to uproot British foundations in India.

Similarly, in Mauryan era, Alexander the Great was offered firm resistance by locals which rendered foreign domination of India impossible.

& another instance is that of Haider Ali and Tipu Sultan who did put up a brave front before the British and held them off for the longest time from Mysore state.

All these examples hint at how bravery and conviction can save entire nations from cruel governments and alter their future permanently.

~~The phrase that~~

The fact that a nation of sheep will beget a government of wolves is not ~~just~~ true just in its ~~contemporary~~ conventional sense.

In domestic context, the weakest sections of the society are targeted first. These sections are most vulnerable and stand little chance unless they decide to fight back.

Any developmental activity threatens poor farmers and tribals who lack the ability to register protest. Their lands are submerged or requisitioned by the government, they are not compensated and neither are they rehabilitated. Governments often play their dirty tricks on the marginalised hoping to embark on development at the expense of this groups.

However, if these groups shed off their sheep-like demeanour and stand up against the state, with support from law and activists, they can

put to challenge the justice meted out to them. A case in point is the protest of Niyamgiri tribals against the Corporate superpower Vedanta that eventually paid off as a consequence of their conviction & self-belief.

In international context too, the sheep is often manipulated by the wolf. For instance, Iraq despite having dismantled its pro-nuclear weapons programme was attacked by the US and its allies in 2003. No evidence of any weapons of mass destruction was found once the war came to an end.

Similarly, Iran despite having dismantled its nuclear programme and signing an agreement with US on the same, has been imposed with fresh sanctions.

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On the contrary, a rogue state like North Korea continues to assert itself on the global stage, owns nuclear weapons and is continuously expanding its arsenal, threatens a major superpower like US with nuclear war yet is unlikely to face a direct war unless it strikes first.

While a pliant nation like Iraq that obediently dismantled its programme was invaded under the pretext of "humanitarian intervention", bold and assertive states like North Korea remain immune from such actions. This clearly implies that a state that lets itself be dominated shall face the wrath of the wolves of international politics.

John Locke famously said that if any government violates the rights of the citizens of a state, the public has the right to revolt and overthrow such government.

Such a line of thought was exemplified during the American revolution where the colonists declared independence from their parent country when arbitrary rules and taxes were imposed on them without any representation in the Parliament. "No taxation without representation" became their war cry.

It needs to be established that people must realise their strength and prevent undue dominance from wolf-like governments. And in this

context, merely voting is not the ~~show~~ realisation of people's power.

Rousseau had said that British citizens are free only once in five years, highlighting the limitations of traditional democracy. What is required is consistent and permanent public participation in political affairs, a sort of deliberative democracy, so that no government can manipulate its citizens.

Citizens must emerge as a strong and vocal civil society so that they remain the true powerholders and governance remains to their benefit.

"Not only is democracy important for civil society to exist, but civil society is also mandatory for a fledgling democracy"

**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**

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