



INSIGHTSIAS®
SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

I - WIL MAINS TEST SERIES – 2022

TEST CODE - 9

Test Roll No. XXXXXXXXXX

UPSC Roll No.

Name

Date	19	07	2022
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INDEX TABLE

INSTRUCTIONS

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
Part - A		
TOPIC:01	125	
TOPIC:02	125	
TOPIC:03	125	
TOPIC:04	125	
Part - B		
TOPIC:05	125	
TOPIC:06	125	
TOPIC:07	125	
TOPIC:08	125	
Total Marks	250	

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

- The ESSAY must be written in English medium only.
- No marks will be given for answers written in any other medium other than English. 4
- Write two essays, choosing one from each of the following Section A & B in about 1000-1200 words.
- Any page or portion of the page left blank in the question cum answer booklet must be clearly struck off 4
- Second essay has to be started from page no-15.

Remarks :

OUR TEST CENTRES



BENGALURU



DELHI



HYDERABAD

EVALUATION PARAMETERS

	Adequate	Fair	Absent
INTRODUCTION			
1. Context & Background			
2. Element of Interest			
3. Outline of Core Argument			
4. Thesis Statement			
BODY			
1. Coherence			
2. Clarity of thoughts/Concepts			
3. Diversity of Ideas			
4. Linkages between Ideas			
5. Transitions and Connectives			
6. Originality			
7. Reasoning			
8. Arguments			
9. Counter Arguments			
10. Facts/Examples/Illustrations			
11. Persuasion			
12. Objectivity			
13. Sub-headings			
CONCLUSION			
1. Reiteration of Main Argument			
2. New Perspective/Insight			
3. Completeness			

Overall Observation y an examiner on candidate's essay-1

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Overall Observation y an examiner on candidate's essay - 2

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Instruction: Write essay in about 1000 - 1200 words.

SECTION-A

1. Irrationally held truths may be more harmful than reasoned errors.
2. Reputation is what people think of you, character is what you are.
3. Cultivation of mind should be the ultimate aim of human existence.
4. The one who plants trees, knowing that he will never sit in their shade, has at least started to understand the meaning of life.

3. Cultivation of mind is the ultimate aim of human existence

The middle ages in Europe is widely considered as the dark age of mankind. We could be forgiven for thinking that this timeline was considered a dark time because of the many evils that were prevalent at the time, destitution, religious warfare among them. But the true reckoning for such a scornful epithet is because this period roughly between 6 to 13 century AD saw no advancement in the humanistic arts or the geographic sciences.

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What instead perpetuated was religious dogma, indoctrination that had no basis and subjugation of the human mind to religious dictates.

Born out of this darkness, was an era of possibilities. It was a period that shed its past baggage of mindless aimless wandering and stood steadfast in pursuit of discovery. The era of Renaissance had begun and the soul of humanity received a fresh lease of life.

Until then mankind's progress was hindered by the non application of its mental genius. Soon after, took shape advances in all fields, sciences and the arts, and propelled mankind to its present existence.

Perhaps it's pertinent to trace this pursuit of through the ages. Inherently all species seek to procreate and continue their existence in perpetuity. But the alpha species

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of Humanity, after conquering the apex of the food chain had other questions to ask himself. "What is the meaning of life?". To address this query and to seek an epistemological understanding of his existence he began his journey towards unravelling the meaning of life.

What is life?

Sages of millennia past, scholars of reknown, thinkers of today have all troubled themselves with this singular question. What are life's true underpinnings, and what is the purpose of existence. To address it and to attempt to understand life, an ending process of cultivation of the mind is key, without which all of human existence may be equated with that of an ant - without a larger purpose.

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What is the larger purpose

A question that has haunted man since dawn of civilization is what it means to exist and where the metaphorical river eventually leads. Varied schools of thought have differing opinions but ^{they} all agree that their suppositions are largely speculative. Buddhism believes that the cycle of suffering must end through enlightenment that can only be found within oneself. Jainism disagrees with the means to this end. Hinduism speaks of a different variant of moksha, instead focusing on deeds.

They all exhort that existence must be grounded in relevance. The atheistic school of thought prevalent today however does not believe in a larger purpose. In the trenchant disagreement of all these schools we realize the meaning of life is still evasive.

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But we also understand, the only way to ever come to comprehend the meaning of our existence is ~~to~~ in continually digging for it. If we commit to ceaselessly deconstruct this monolith of a question, we will one day uncover what it means to be alive, what it means to exist.

And in this end, the cultivation of the mind is indispensable. To stop engaging with the question would thrust us back to the dark ages of humankind, the obscure vacuum of time where existence is meaningless.

The mind is the gateway to infinite possibilities, to roads uncharted and discoveries unheralded. We cultivate our minds with thoughts and beliefs, with certainty and resolve.

What do we cultivate?

Parochialism is the bane of human existence. It is prudent that the human mind is not limited in what it is fed. The brain must be nourished with inputs of diverse forms, it must be sprinkled with ideas not intrinsically in agreement with. It should be ploughed with articles of scientific nature all so that it may enhance its receptivity.

By not limiting our mind to any form of opinion we do run the risk of being exposed to dogma, and senseless putrid, poisonous agendas. But if the mind is allowed to think for itself, it is no doubt that it will by itself reject such machinations. To give the mind a taste of liberty is what the primary goal must be.

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Values of temperance, forbitude and kindness may be peppered ever so often so the human mind stay truly rooted to humanity. Tolerance, compassion and other ideals may accompany teachings of objectivity.

The Bhaskaracharyas, the Pythagoras of ancient past and the Ramanyas of today are testament to what may be achieved if the mind is unshackled. It discovers and uplifts all of humankind.

~~What do we~~

Why do we cultivate

The primary purpose of this exercise is to understand ourselves. But there are other worthwhile considerations for us to lend an ear to. In our act of opening our minds, we create avenues for compassion

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and tolerance. We endeavour to understand others as we understand ourselves and in doing so spread the wings of peace and shared prosperity.

Perhaps the current conflicts of ^{arguably} Ukraine - Russia, devices of one man's hubris, may not have transpired had the application of this principle truly occurred in letter and spirit. The world would have been a place of active cooperation rather than a battleground for ideological considerations, if man truly expanded his understanding.

A cultivated mind, surely would not succumb to the pitfall of violence that is senseless. A receptive mind cannot conscientiously choose death over diplomacy.

The scientific achievements of today are further evidence of the importance of engaging the mind. The International Space Station

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is a habitable station suspended 400km above the earth, Someone in the 15th century CE would deem it witchcraft, the 17th CE as an attempt at humour, the 19th CE as a improbable phenomenon. Yet the twentieth century man sees it as an everyday part of life. The marvel of this, is not in the ISS, but in how attuned the human mind is to the changing realities, adapting to newer advances and nonchalantly brushing them off as artefacts.

Furthermore, our need to cultivate our minds is as much a continuation of heritage, as it is a gift to our children. We are merely continuing the long tradition of our ancestor, a million times removed, who struck two flints together in curiosity and discovered fire. We must persist with our efforts as a tribute to him, and we must do so as guardians of humanity.

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If cultivation of human mind is the ultimate aim, ~~thereby~~ semantics informs us that there must be a penultimate aim.

PENULTIMATE AIM OF EXISTENCE

The child inside us seeks an understanding of existence. But some parameters may be met before attaining our ultimate goal.

To cultivate our mind, we need implements drawn from common use - the hoe, the sickle, the plough. - We would also need water in abundance and most significantly the seed.

The seed we may refer to here as education - the single greatest tool of empowerment. The water may be seen as regular motivation which is required in frequent intervals.

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But the devices of our cultivation are what makes this entire ordeal stand apart from any regular exercise. Much like the ecosystem is a community thriving on interdependence, the human mind is not the brain of a single individual. It is the combined capacity of all human beings, none ~~the~~ lesser than the other.

The hoe, the sickle, the plough in this context would be equality, social justice and liberty. The human mind cannot be cultivated with enduring poverty, discrimination and disorder. To uplift humanity cannot be done by individualised efforts. It must be the collective that is empowered. Therefore it is critical that the lowest common denominator is as empowered. Structural impediments must be uprooted lest the entire exercise is a trial in futility.

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CONSTITUTIONAL IMPERATIVE

The wisdom of our founding fathers cannot be understated when we emphasize how these tools and the very act of cultivating our mind is embedded in the Constitutional parchment.

As citizens of this republic, it is our moral duty to instill a scientific temper and pursue noble goals of our constitution. Even if the deniers of the theory of "^{larger} meaning of life" cannot see the fruitfulness in scientific pursuits, let them pay heed to the document that sustains their freedoms on this land. Cultivate your mind for at least this human existence.

SECTION-B

5. If we learn anything from the history of economic development, it is that culture makes all the difference.
6. The discovery of agriculture was the first big step toward a civilized life.
7. Science knows no country, because knowledge belongs to humanity, and is the torch which illuminates the world.
8. Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding

7. Science knows no country, because knowledge belongs to humanity, and its torch which illuminates the world.

In an era of material interests and commercial motives, it is critical that we restate the values of science and rediscover its true essence. Perhaps the giants of yesteryear would roll in their graves if they were made aware of the direction that the scientific establishment is being steered in. Therefore it is the purpose of this article to reassert the sole of scientific endeavour.

SCIENCE KNOWS NO COUNTRY

The hallmark of science is its fluidity. Not only does it refer to its ability to conform to emerging challenges, it also refers to its ability to disseminate without regard for barriers, geographic or otherwise.

Through much of history it may be observed that discoveries have spread from region of inception to faraway lands sometimes continents apart. The discovery of the wheel, or was it an invention in fact, rolled through civilization birthing more innovations as it spread.

While stretches of deserts, ranges of mountains and oceans themselves could not prevent the transmission of knowledge

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vis-a-vis science, how may science have any restraints placed upon itself in today's deeply connected world? Science escapes confines as easily as air flows between continents.

Science may also be likened to an untamable beast. It is a living agent in that it seeks to grow, to explore its own capacities, never one to be held down by artificial barriers - the least of all imaginary lines constructed in the sand, demarcating one territory from another. To the spirit, that is science, this form of barrier is a laughable obstacle.

Such diffusion of ideas is evident by way of the paper. Seemingly tracing its origins to China, it gained in popularity as Papyrus in the middle east and eventually enveloped the world today. Gutenberg's 15th

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century innovation, greasing the wheels of Knowledge spread.

It would also be pertinent to note that advancements rarely take shape in one country. The Aryabhatic '0' fused with the Roman numerals dictates the fortunes of everyday trade. Science and its efforts are a synthesis of many unique contributions drawn from diverse setting of nation-states.

It would be remiss to not pay heed to the nationality of most scientists of the day. While the past is studded with examples of individuals moving between nations to complete their work, Sir Charles Darwin's expedition to the Galapagos abutting the Ecuadorian state, for instance, the present day has examples aplenty to substantiate the view that science has no nationality.

Prof CV : Raman's work that won the Nobel in Physics was for large part conducted in the United States of America. Ramanuja's treatise was expounded on the shores of the British Isles. Men of deep honour, conducted their studies elsewhere but never once shed the heritage that is our country. They shared accolades on international platforms but they were Indians foremost. Science has never known any country to call it, its own.

KNOWLEDGE BELONGS TO HUMANITY

Knowledge is a wealth, the body upon which all humanity has an equal claim. Such knowledge cannot be denied on any grounds to those who seek it. While our current reality does not permit such an understanding, a careful review of scientific glory may enlighten us better.

Occasionally, science has asked its practitioners to pay a steep price. The case of Marie Curie may be illustrative. The discovery of radioactivity brought with it an understanding that would guide generations of scientists, but ^{Madam} Curie paid the greatest price when she succumbed to radioactive poisoning.

Her death was held off till she could spread her findings to the larger community who worked on the framework that she laid. It was her efforts that prevented many more deaths of curious scientists in the future. Her work was built upon to lead to other discoveries in other countries but not acknowledging the contribution of her and many others would be a great disservice to science. All of scientific fraternity is one and the expanse of knowledge it produces is to the benefit of all of humankind.

COLLECTIVE EFFORT

With the sustained advances in science, atomistically dwelling on each aspect, collective efforts have become a requirement for further progress. A cursory look at any Nobel prize list will depict that many individuals win it under one category working on the same premise. The fact that cooperation is key for discovery is underlined. Drawn from different countries and sometimes different fields, teamwork in areas such as genetics has allowed us to deal with crises such as COVID-19 pandemic in a more assured fashion.

The International Space Station - a 5 space agency effort where experiments are conducted to benefit larger human race, the ITER Tokamak - an experiment in nuclear fusion involving 10 countries - whose results may uplift all of humanity may be particularly instructive of how knowledge belongs to humanity.

DEATH OF KNOWLEDGE

As long as knowledge is transmitted it may never cease to exist. Only when the possessor of such knowledge, in an act of unforgivable selfishness, dies ~~to~~ while protecting it, will ~~the~~ knowledge ever die. Of what utility is such wisdom if it cannot be used to help an ailing soul, a needy man. It is imperative that knowledge always be free, otherwise it is not worth the paper it is written on.

TORCH THAT ILLUMINATES

In all of human existence, knowledge has been used as a tool to enlighten, awaken and empower. Quite literally the discovery of fire spread light in darkness, the invention of Edison's light bulb brightened houses. But the ~~most~~ most potent of its powers lies in dispelling mistruths and falsehoods.

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The work of numerous sociologists and anthropologists allowed the falsehood of racism to be firmly extinguished. Under the guise of superiority, the white man wreaked havoc in untold ways on those he considered 'savages', merely because these savages did not conform to his idea of 'civilisation'. When scientific tools were used to call the white man's bluff, knowledge was used. It was shown how socio economic disparity led to difference in ability and nothing is inherent.

Knowledge is a potent tool in the hands of its wielder. Hitler's dream of 'Urbarmenschen' or the purity of the superior Aryan race was dismissed while falsifying its assumptions. As a weapon, knowledge illuminates the world from the clutches of misinformation and disinformation. There is no place for indoctrination and dogma where knowledge is freely allowed to run riot.

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Using knowledge we may lift millions out of destitution. Recent advances allows us to build compact environmentally sustainable houses in small areas, genetic engineering drives away food security issues. Empowering individuals with literacy and education may also allow them to craft identities out of their inherent potential. Knowledge in action is a route to development which is well enshrined in UN Sustainable Development Goals 1 to 4.

Barriers to Scientific Engagements

The modern world is a reality far removed from the ideal. While it may have been unheard of in the past, science has been conflated with commerce, the two, now are nearly spoken of in the same breath.

The deep rooted malaise that is the I.P (Intellectual Product) and the numerous

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institutions it has spawned such as the patent, copyright and other tools are a malaise to the growth of knowledge. TRIPS arrangement under WTO further incorporates knowledge.

While the advancements before were to secure humanity better living standards or to combat plague and disease, today's science is geared towards profit that may emanate from specific innovations. Institutions per excellence such as Oxford would house scientists pursuing experiments but today multinational corporations spend billions to research and development. All of which of course is recovered through exorbitant pricing of its products, fully out of reach of the common man. This malaise festering science deepens inequality and discriminates between the haves and have nots and therefore is the very antithesis of science.

The mushrooming of e-libraries also contributes to the pay and learn model of subscription which is a far cry from the traditional pedagogical training of gurukul that was centreplace of Indian culture.

IN CONCLUSION -

Perhaps Isaac Newton would be dismayed or Einstein would be appalled to learn that science today is an end to satisfy material goals instead of satisfy the ^{thirst} ~~quest~~ for curiosity.

It is pertinent to take the example of Johannes Salk, who discovered the Polio vaccine in the late 20th century. He refused to patent it and this allowed millions of children to receive protection from a deadly crippling disease at virtually no cost. I seek not to eulogise the death of science but sing of its virtue. For every Eli Lilly Corporation that exploits insulin, there is a James Salk. And James Salk will have a place in mankind's memory for all eternity.