

UPSC

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space) कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या को अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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✓ "History is a series of victories won by the scientific man over the romantic man" ✓

The quest for power often makes the individual surrender to his/her inner demons. When Ashoka stood at the banks of the blood-red Daya river post the Kalinga war, he came to a similar realization. His romanticism for gaining more territory had killed the humane aspect of his personality.

The pre-Kalinga Ashoka is a personification of the romantic man who is so consumed by his inner demons that he fails to see the larger meaning of life. He tends to

become a slave of his individualistic emotions and irrationality.

On the other hand, the post-Kalinga Ashoka personifies the thinker, a sagacious prudent man who understands the merits and demerits of every action. Such an individual ^{presents} ~~is~~ the epitome of logical exposition and prefers to analyze before acting.

History is replete with victories, successes, triumphs and value additions done by the scientific man and failures, stupidity and illogical acts of the romantics. This makes us ponder why the

scientific man consistently tends to
win over the romantic man!

One of the major reasons
is that the romantics tend to become
a slave of their emotions. They prefer
to live in the moment and carry
the myopic view of satisfying the
immediate feelings without thinking
about the long term consequences of
their actions.

A prominent case here is
of Prithviraj Chauhan who had the
opportunity to change history by
killing Ghori after 1192 Battle of
Tarain. But he preferred to let
Ghori go because of his obsession

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with the value of not fighting with an unarmed enemy. 2 years later, he was defeated in the same manner, i.e; without arms!

Such obsessions are not rare. Flipping through the pages of history we find rulers obsessed with either their religion or their figments of imagination. However they forget that what is good for individual satisfaction might not be good for the society $\neq$ in general and the empire in particular.

The mediaval age presents such a contrast between Akbar and the later Mughals like the orthodox Aurangzeb or the "rangeela"



Muhammad Shah. The scientific Akbar knew the value of tolerance and succeeded in not just building a huge empire but also setting a precedent via his Sulh-i-kul. On the other hand, the self centric Muhammad Shah & or the Sharia centric Aurangzeb did incalculable damage to the very foundation of the empire by propping up and attracting hostilities.

✓ Not just some narrow success but also significant value addition is done to the human horizons by the scientific men who break the long standing superstitions and idiocracies. They usher into an

era of critical thinking and instill a scientific temper among the coming generations. In this way they free the man from the shackles of the "dark age" and become the trailblazers of the "Renaissance".

✓ People like Galileo and Magellan are the key examples of such men. Both of them showed remarkable fortitude and courage of conviction in shaking the foundations of the irrational, delusional and suppressive "truths" borne out of the romanticism of the Church for hegemony and social control. The heliocentricity theory of Galileo breaking the myths of the Ptolemaic

belief are a case in point!

Another reason why the romantics are defeated and forgotten is because they tend to stick to their comfort zone. They are like the ship ^{which} ~~who~~ is stuck at the harbour due to its antithetical attitude towards facing the uncertain and taking the challenges head-on.

today's context
Such a reversion to one's turtle shell is borne out of the compulsion to follow instincts as highlighted by Darwin in his "origin of species". The romanticism borne out of instincts puts us on the auto-pilot mode where we are

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governed by our emotions and such mindlessness often leads to under-realization of full potential if not a complete travesty of life.

In fact such an emotional evasion of the real and the rational isn't just confined to history. Today also the romanticism of instant gratification, consumerist lifestyles and the notorious hookup culture are putting humans in the same category as Hitler or Stalin, just a bit more subtly. Just like the travesty of irrational ideas led to the Holocaust or the Holodomor (famine), humans today are suffering from emptiness, mental disorders and even mass suicides

due to the murder of wisdom.

→ Despite all the criticism it would be like looking at flesh without blood if we don't realize the importance of romanticism. As it is said that poets are the un-acknowledged legislators of the world, their romanticism has played a key role in not just instilling empathy in people but also ^{in the} shaping of laws that are more humane.

✓ A similar look at the recent 5 suicides in Kota show how all logic is making humanity bleed. The rat race of getting jobs borne out of the logic of ^{achieving} economic and monetary prowess is killing the



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focus on the individual's locus of wants and needs. It is leading to an inhumane method of treating those kids as just data points on an excel sheet — waiting for their turn to participate in the GDP growth.

✓ Likewise, violation of the ecocentric principle for rampant ignorant and calculative development has led to the ~~#~~ anthropocene era deprivations. Such a cost benefit analysis always puts the environment on the backseat.

Further baking of this half baked cake calls for the "Golden Mean" of Aristotle which tries to synthesize the necessity of scientific approach with the lack of its

sufficiency. Realizing that humans are ends in themselves and catering to their emotional needs too when needed is an essential step in building a vibrant society.

✓ Furthermore, learning from history, we must realize that romanticism beyond a point tends to chain us down to our own fancies.

True liberty lies in fulfilling our fundamental duty and instilling a scientific temper. In the modern era of guided missiles and unguided man, the human rationale has the ability to ^{some} shine, light and illuminate the path of perpetual progress of humanity.