

## Test - 3

### Section - A

① We are what we are because we have been  
what we have been

Start writing from the below line:

Yuvraj Singh, world class Indian  
Cricketer who don't need any formal introduction.  
How can Indians forget those times when he  
Smashed 6 sixes in a single over against  
England.

Unique  
hook!

But Yuvraj's life is much more than  
being a cricketer. If we can look little deeper  
we can understand how his past has shaped  
his present self. Unfortunately Yuvraj was  
attacked by Cancer at his peak stage of career.

He fought that battle and emerged as a Cancer survivor. In one of the interviews he talked about how cancer has changed his habits and perspectives on life. Not only that, he has founded "You We Can Foundation" to increase awareness, reduce stigma about cancer. This anecdote shows how past of a person ~~shaped~~ present perspective and actions.

The past is the permanent dimension of human consciousness and values which shapes the present. As an individual or society, our past actions, choices, experiences will have <sup>good</sup> profound impact on what we are today. Not just present, past also decides our future actions. On the other hand our future aspirations also ~~play~~ a significant role on current actions and perspectives.

Before we proceed forward and explore various dimensions of this topic, let

us understand what the phrases, "what we have been" and "what we are" represents in our life and society.

"what we have been" represents various things such as our civilisational values and culture, already faced difficulties and challenges, our experiences in life, our past knowledge etc. "what we are" represents our current ideas, beliefs, identity, wisdom, socio-economic status and actions.

These two can be interlinked by understanding core aspects of our Indian Society. From time immemorial Indian society has been known for its features of acceptance and assimilation. This led to emergence of various religions in our country such as Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism etc. This very value shaped our current secularism by emphasising on the aspects of "Sarva Dharma Samabhava". → nicely written!

## Past : The Holy scripture

Now let us look into the question of what valuable things and lessons that we can learn from past which will help our present self.

What we have been in the past tell us, "why we have been that". This will show us the right and wrong things, decisions that led to that outcome. Right after Independence India adopted inward looking policies without opening up the economy for long to the world. This approach of India is due a bit to its colonial past of exploitation where in rich western countries destroyed local industries and handicrafts. But in reality those policies didn't help us much.

That is the very reason why we opened our economy through LPG Reforms. The current approach of India in inviting foreign investments is based on the

learnings from past mistakes.

Unlike India, if we don't learn from our mistakes then "History Repeats itself", First as a tragedy, Second as a Farce". This can be clearly understood by looking into the world politics of 20<sup>th</sup> century. "Germany" as a country lost World War-I and faced severe economic losses due to war and Treaty of Versailles.

Germany failed to understand its past mistakes and triggered world war-II under the leadership of "Adolf Hitler". At the end Hitler killed himself and German army surrendered unconditionally bringing to the end of world war II.

Eventoday Germany and its people feel a "collective guilt" for what they have done in the form of holocaust and war atrocities → Concise and link to the topic better.

Therefore, past acts as a guiding compass to the present in shaping what we are in terms of thought process, beliefs and actions.

## Introspection : The Bridge

Introspection is the bridge that connects our past with our present. This introspection leads to evolution of self and society. What we have been told, advised, taught, forced in the past will decide what we are today.

In this process of evolution, all our past actions would have met with either punishment or re-inforcement. Punishments will change our attitude and actions where as re-inforcement strengthen our beliefs and values. This can be understood <sup>by</sup> how parents and society shapes children behaviour.

Shivaji Maharaj as a kid has been constantly re-inforced by his mother for his good actions: courage, respect and at times punished him for his bad actions. The way Jijabai has shaped Shivaji Maharaj made him a hero in the current era.

aptly written!

## Past to present: The continuum

When situations are unfavourable, what we are today will be same as what we have been in the past without any improvement.

This can be understood by the concept "Culture of poverty" by an anthropologist called "Oscar Lewis". Culture of poverty says that those people born into poverty became adapted to poor mindset due to helplessness, marginality and dependency. Those mindsets cause people in poverty to continue in poverty and pass it down <sup>to</sup> generation after generation.

Today similar issues such as helplessness, marginality and persecution are faced by "Kurd ethnic group" all over the world. Their centuries old struggle for rights, autonomy and an independent Kurdistan has been marked by marginalisation and persecution.

↳ chose a better substantiation!

## Past outshines the present

Often the transition from 'what we have been' to 'what we are' is seen in a positive light in terms of development, knowledge and wisdom. But this is not completely true. Many times we go through a transition of better past to bad present.

Lets look into some of the urban features of Indus Valley civilisation (IVC).

IVC is known for efficient water management, sanitation and drainage systems. Even after thousands of years, so called modern cities all over the world faces urban floods due to poor stormwater management and every now and then some or other disease out breaks due to low sanitation. Urban flooding in London city and Dengue outbreak in Delhi corroborates the above argument.

↳ Over elaborated

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↳ Choose a better substitution'

## Trilogy: Past - Present - Future

On a contrary line, to the given statement. In the current era, Future is shaping our present more than past and only Past is not just shaping our present but also what we will be in future

What we aspire in future will decide our current path. Today we are more climate conscious as we don't want to reach the global boiling temperatures. Initiatives such as International solar alliance, Nationally determined contributions through "Panchamrit" objectives signifies the profound impact of future on present.

On the other hand we can't ignore the role of past in shaping future. What we are going to be tomorrow also depends on what we have been yesterday. The emergence of Covid-19 pandemic not only impacted our

present but also raised profound questions on how to be ready to face such things in future. The future of building better <sup>medical</sup> infrastructure, efficient planning etc.

Will be shaped by the past.  
good

Power of second hand experience

Unlike the previous cases of learning from our own mistakes of past and shaping our present, it is also equally important to learn from others mistakes.

"It's good to learn from your mistakes."

"It's better to learn from others mistakes"

This can be understood from the women suffrage movements. So called self proclaimed developed nations such as apt America and other European nations didn't give equal voting rights to women in the beginning. This led to women suppression and lack of participation and representation.

↳ write concisely!

Our makers of constitution learned from the mistakes of other countries. We emerged as one of the few nations which gave equal rights to women from the very beginning. This led to women's increased participation, representation and empowerment.

To summarise, our past holds significant impact in shaping our present and future. By acknowledging and reflecting our past, we gain a deeper understanding of our current selves and the potential for growth and change.

The threads of time and past woven carefully and intricately create a fabric called the present. Those threads of time connect the ancient with the contemporary offering a glimpse into the roots of our existence and the threads of past tell the stories of empires rising and falling, revolutions that reshaped

Societies and innovative minds the sparked  
Paradigm shifts. Therefore what we are  
in the present is an intricate complex  
function of what we have been in the past.

At present we are at junction of  
Past and future. What ever we are now  
will become new threads in the fabric  
fostering a sense of connection and continuity  
in ~~creating~~ <sup>better</sup> new versions of ourselves.

Good conclusion!