

UPSC

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(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

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कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या से अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

उम्मीदवारों को इस हद्दिय में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।
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Section-A.

2.) Talent hits a target no one else can hit ; genius hits a target no one else can see.

Its the story of 1704 Battle when few siths faced humongous army of opponents. The leadership talent of guru gobind hit his followers with unparalled call - "Sava Laakh se Ek Ladau" (I will make fight one sith with 1.15 lakh opponents). This filled valour & courage amongst siths who hit their opponents as no else can hit.



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However, one humble yet genius Sikh - Bhai Kanhaiya ji hit an unique target. He, in the name of god, was servicing water to all wounded soldiers, including opponents. His golden message melted hearts of all - solution is not at battlefield, but in love for humanity.

So, Talent is display of skill set which helps one to achieve desirable goals. Genius, in men, displays creativity of something new.

Civilizations are blessed with such talented individuals who establish best practices & achieve excellence in their endeavours. But, the wheels of progress are turned by genius minds who deconstruct, discover better practices and



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shift the paradigms towards unexplored reality. let us explore how talent is more than inherent capability. And see from eyes of genius, what to target & what to overlook.

To begin with, let us see what is the basis of Talent as well as Genius. Two cardinal virtues in talented people are self-confidence and Courage. Mohammad Ali, the greatest boxer defeated sunny liston hitting the target which was impossible at his age.

Genius people, on the other hand, are blessed with critical thinking and Aptitude. Talented Mohammad Ali, showed his stroke of genius when

he refused to serve in Vietnam war in 1967. He temporary lost his boxing titles, but he hit the ~~target~~ unseen target with his principles.

It is worth discussing that Talent is not always inherent in an individual. The person has to overcome failures and sharpen his moves until he becomes indomitable. We celebrate Marie Curie for achieving two noble prizes - one in Physics & other in Chemistry.

She was able to hit these targets not only because of her radioactivity adventures but she geniusedly navigated in male dominated sphere, raised her daughters single handedly and overcome fears.



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Talent is just the tip of iceberg which all people see. What people don't see is unhidden missed targets, broken arrows and injuries.
Going through all these, Talented people establish best practices & set records.

Thomas Edison discovered electricity and sets ~~the~~ one such record.

However, genius people are always needed to discover better practices to the established best. Thomas

Edison's Direct Current (DC) was not feasible for sending electricity to miles.

It was genius Nikola Tesla who discovered Alternate Current (AC) which is the reason behind ubiquitous spread of electricity in our lives.

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Another contrast between Talent & genius is knowing the difference between 'what you can hit' and 'what is the right thing to hit'.

To illustrate, Western powers have capability and talent to put economic sanctions on Russia to threaten it against Ukraine crisis.

However, Genius powers such as India uses soft power to reduce tensions. For example, India assisted Myanmar against Cyclone Mocha through its Operation Karuna. Geniusly, ~~they~~ it showed the hidden compulsion of indivisible security of region.

Nevertheless, Talented Hands and genius minds are not always hitting the desirable targets. In their

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endeavours, they might be self-interested. Talented yet people with poor integrity use their skill set for cybercrimes, moneylaundering or terrorism. No all can do sophisticated scams such as Satyam scandals which hit hard earned money of many people.

Similarly, genuinity of mind can reason out wrong ways of addressing problems. What was the guilt of 19 year Aryan Mishra who was targeted by Cow vigilantes? If no one else can see, A genius can be hitting targets blindly.

It reasons out importance of Quality of our Targets. Irrespective of uniqueness or record breaking targets, they must be fine-tuned to ethics of

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Care and common well-being.

The best talents are visible when the society is under crisis.

COVID-19 was one such crisis when vaccine manufactures like Pfizer, Moderna showed their talents by making vaccines in months which normally took years. These targets ~~can~~ ^{may} never be hit in normal times.

Similarly, Genius approaches are showcased in tense circumstances. Once wristwatch of C. Rajagopalachari's friend slipped off in moving train. All get worried, except Rajaji who kept counting. On arriving station, he told number of telegraph posts, 'since the watch fell down. His friend's watch was discovered, because he hit 'out of box' target.

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नहीं लिखना चाहिए।
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This shows how talented people remain focused and genius people remain calm while hitting their targets. This makes them extraordinary out of ordinary people.

Nevertheless, Ordinary people can also hit any target or see hidden clues without any formal talent or reasoning like genius. One such ordinary woman was Onakke Ovakka who hit the Hyder Ali soldiers entering into Chittorgash fort just with her presence of mind.

She was not a trained warrior but an ordinary lady. She thought less and picked up a pestle to kill incoming soldiers from a hidden passage. Her calculated risk made her true warrior.



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Conversely, if Talented people and genius minds fail to take action, they remain ordinary without hitting new targets. The failure of Kodak company who were first to create Digital Cameras is one such missed target. They kept on making traditional films & eventually failed because of inertia to hit innovative targets.

Both Talent as well as genius minds are required for humanity's quest to know. Talented and genius Boyan slat is one such synthesis who developed ocean Cleanup Project to remove plastic garbage from laurie ocean. We can also see problem of Ocean pollution, but Boyan slat not only saw the solution (Genius) but also hit the problem (Talent).

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This can be concluded that along with honed skills and reasoning, the vision for perfection, innovation and collective well-being can hit, hitherto unachieved goals.

Genius and Talented People can breathe only in atmosphere of Tolerance.
Let us freely embrace new achieved heights. Let us celebrate positive sum games of talent and genius. ~~Too~~ Rather than hitting each other like Israel & Hamas, let us target for long-lasting and just peace.

This match of hitting novel targets shall not cease until we build a kingdom as per Rabindranath Tagore's vision - 'Freedom from all fears!'
We will keep on developing talents and cultivate genius minds for our destiny!



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Essay Edge by Farees Rahman



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Section - B.

Truth is the most beautiful undraped.

The essence of truthfulness is in beauty of transparency. People like Galileo holds the truth of Heliocentrism in beautiful undraped way. But, the people who cannot bear charm of truth tries to drape it. The truth of Galileo was also draped

in colors of his own blood. However, the beautiful truth established itself eventually as humanity progressed.

The spirit of Galileo asks all of us to undrape and see the full beauty of truths.

Truth does not need external drappings. Its inherent beauty can withstand on its own.

This essay is an attempt to undrape the beautiful truth.

The form of truth which has purpose to remove evils in the society, is the most beautiful. We will explore what are reasons and consequences of draping the truth? Can undraped truth be the most ugliest? And why not

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follow the footsteps of great individuals who suffered pain to see the utmost beauty of truth.

Truth is as transparent as sunlight; for our acquaintance with intangible beauty of truth. It involves integrity in one's beliefs and actions.

Also, Truthfulness is being Objective in our evaluations.

An undraped truth melts ignorance and useless shibboleths. It appears beautiful, when people become aware and conscious. When Dada Bhai Naoroji revealed Drain theory of wealth, it showed that Britishers are not with civilizing mission. This carved the path towards Indian freedom struggle.

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Truth served to all people
empowers the people to be optimistic.

As rightly observed by A. Einstein,

'If people are given truth, they
can be depended to meet any national

crisis'. This beautiful capability of
people is shown by Ventatsaipur
village in Odisha which is described

'Tsunami Ready' by UNESCO.

This village undraped the
truth of disasters. In place of
fears, they tried to understand and
adapt to the disasters.

Sometimes, truths are there
but are not clearly visible. Such
truths are like "Covenants without
swords, nothing but words". To illustrate,

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Article 21 embodies the truth of Right to dignified life. However, this truth is foggy until applied in real life.

In Olga Tellis case, Supreme Court of India beautifully undraped truth of Article 21 by upholding Right to Occupation of street vendors. This protected them from unreasonable eviction orders without alternatives.

Nevertheless, Beauty lies in the eyes of beholder. The undraped truth can be ^{most} beautiful for some beholders, the same truth can be ugliest for others. For example, Edward Snowden's revealing of US States' unethical surveillance was the ugliest mirror of truth in front of a hegemon.

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Eventually, such ugliest revealings ~~are~~ become opportunity to relook and refine our approaches.

To illustrate, when Marlon Brando refused Oscar on grounds of racism in Hollywood, it was a wake up call to end discrimination in industry.

Indeed, undressing of Truth is the most beautiful discovery of mankind. Nevertheless, there are occasions when its beauty has less purpose. In Mahabharata, Yudhister told Drona that 'Aswathama, (the elephant) is dead'. He draped the truth by lowering his voice on word elephant. Drona's morale broke down, ~~to~~ he assumed his son has died.

Such drappings of white lies are justified in certain contexts such as

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Privacy for fulfilled life or nobility for collective good.

Nevertheless, we aspire for aesthetic beauty of undraped truth.

The story of electoral bonds which ~~was~~ are now discarded is one such quest. Voters' right to information has been given more weightage than privacy of donors to parties.

However, we must also closely examine how and why truths are draped in society? Foremost denial of truth comes from those who don't want to loose their privileges. Harper Lee's 'To Kill a Mockingbird' shows how white people wants to protect their narrow prejudices. This choice traps them under hell of ignorance.



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Secondly, people overlook beauty of truth when they acquire unthinking. The violence in UK in the name of Islamophobia reflects unexamined racial intolerance ~~is~~ amongst natives.

In order to spread light of truth in darkness of fear, insecurities & cognitive dissonances; there is need of candles who can define & defy these darknesses.

One needs courage and integrity to speak unfiltered truth even to absolute authority. Field Marshall Sam Manekshaw, for instance, spoke absolute truth, ~~that~~ "We are not ready for war" in 1971 when Prime Minister



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Indira Gandhi wants to hear opposite. The absolute beauty in this truth made Indian forces more prepared to win 1971 battle.

An another Fabulous truth was spoken by Nelson Mandela. The truth of empathy & forgiveness merged Blacks & Whites into one society. The disclosed truth was

"Revenge is the poison one drinks, & assumes the other person will die".

Nevertheless, the process of covering truth is not cup of tea. It is the path of horns because societies take time to embrace the utmost beauty of truth. Plato illustrated this in his 'Allegory of Cave', to show

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how sunlight is unberable for one who has ~~first time~~ ~~saw~~ saw it for the first time.

Moreover, Truth is not a singular Concept. Thomas Kuhn analysed that there are paradigms of truth. This ignite us to have meaningful and constructive dialogues to reach at the most beautiful truth.

~~Answer~~ Punjabi poet Paash warns us all when he writes :- (translated)

" Most dangerous is to be filled with dead peace not to feel agony & bear it all."

By our sense of belongingness, we should avoid falling in this dangerous situation and uncover the beautiful world of Truthfulness!

Essay Edge by Farees Rahman