

VAJIRAM & RAVI

ESSAY PROGRAMME

Test - 2

ADMIN. NO.:

Mains Roll No.

NAME:

MOBILE NO.:

EMAIL.:

SUBMISSION DATE:

UPSC CSE 2024
AIR-145

Overall Performance

Essay 1

Essay 2

Evaluator Code and Signature:

Essay 1:					
	Parameters	Below Average	Average	Good	Excellent
Introduction	Context building; Thesis Statement; Scope				
Body	Presentation (Handwriting etc)				
	Macro Dimensions				
	Micro Dimensions - Arguments				
	Supporting examples/facts				
	Objectivity				
	Content Relevance				
	Continuity/flow in writing				
Conclusion	Overall Summary; Vision; Tone etc				

Essay 2:

	Parameters	Below Average	Average	Good	Excellent
Introduction	Context building; Thesis Statement; Scope				
Body	Presentation (Handwriting etc)				
	Macro Dimensions				
	Micro Dimensions - Arguments				
	Supporting examples/facts				
	Objectivity				
	Content Relevance				
	Continuity/flow in writing				
Conclusion	Overall Summary; Vision; Tone etc				

Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



👍 😊 All the Best 😊 👍



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breakfast, but it cannot be a substitute for the main course or the supper.

While hope is undoubtedly a valuable and motivating force, but it has its limitations. What are the positives and drawbacks of hope? How can hope be balanced with realism? What other traits are required? Let us explore these in this essay.

HOPE : THE SILVER LINING

Hope is an important ingredient at the outset of any pursuit; it ~~provi~~ provides the required motivation to overcome the inertia.

Hope is also an evolutionary force. 'The out of Africa Theory' suggests that the hope to find better environment, more food

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and security made the Homo erectus embark the journey which finally resulted in the evolution of Homo sapiens, or modern man.

Moreover, it provides us with the resilience and perseverance to sustain the difficulties encountered in such journeys.

J.K. Rowling's hope helped her sustain 15 rejections before her work became the best seller - 'The Harry Potter' as the world knows it today.

Similarly, it is this hope which enables a society to co-ordinate and, cooperate & follow the ethical standards and morality, with the hope of collective security and progress. This can be seen in endeavours like cooperatives, farmers' self help groups etc.



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Further, hope can be harbinger of innovation as is exemplified by the invention of bulb. Thomas Edison's hope helped him persist through ~~a~~ thousand failures. multiple failures.

Additionally, hope can inspire change. It can help people imagine a better future.

"I have a Dream" of ~~of~~ were the lines of Martin Luther King Jr., which filled the American society with the hope of a more equal tomorrow, ~~more~~ just future.

Moreover, ~~at~~ psychologically too, hope helps achieve positive mindset. It is not just a passive emotion, it often leads to proactive behaviour. For example, people ~~positive~~ people who are hopeful

are more likely to take positive actions towards their goal.

Having discussed the essence of hope and its importance for personal and social well being, lets ~~at~~ investigate its limitations.

HOPE : LIMITATIONS

While hope, while often celebrated as a powerful and positive force, has its limitations. If not rooted in realism can lead to complacency and ignorance. The 1962, Indo-China ~~at~~ war, can be the example for the same. where our unrealistic hope of 'Hindi-Chini Bhai Bhai' [Indians and Chinese are brothers], resulted in our embarrassing defeat.

over emphasis on idealistic hope, can make us over ~~the~~ look the ground realities and can hinder proper analysis

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of situation; for instance, governments initiative of community development program which idealised equality, ignored the caste dynamics and despite high hopes faced fatal failure.

Similarly, hope at times can prevent adaptability and hinders re-planning and re-strategising. This can be seen in ~~the~~ our ongoing fight against climate change, where despite clear evidence of ~~the~~ inadequate commitments by nations to limit temperature ~~rise~~ within 2°C , there is little effort to course correction.

Additionally, ~~however,~~ hope can create dillusions which can be detrimental for introspections and improvements. For example, Nokia dillusioned by its market capture, hoping for status quo, never ~~switch~~ delayed its switch to smartphones, this

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led the company face situations of near bankruptcy.

Moreover, hope can be exploited as tool for manipulation and exploitation of the vulnerable.

The crimes of human trafficking are instances of the same, where the hope of better of better tomorrow are used as bait:

Similarly, hope can deter decision making resulting in missed opportunities. India's decision of not joining UNSC despite being offered twice, in hope of having a better circumstance ~~and~~ at home ~~and~~, has today resulted in India knocking the shut doors, which are now heavily guarded by the PS.

If there are such detrimental impacts of unbalanced hope, how can we stri

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So, If hope alone ~~cannot~~ be insufficient, what are its complementaries that can help achieve success?

BALANCING THE ACT

To avoid the pitfalls of overreliance on hope, it is essential to balance it with realism and action.

This requires acknowledging the challenges ahead and developing clear plan to address them. For instance, Elon Musk after 3 failures of Starlink space ship re-strategised to achieve success.

While hope can ignite the fire, it is the fuel of hard work which keeps the fire alive. Hope without hardwork is destined to shatter. For example, any professional while hopes for promotion, must also strive for constant skill upgradation and

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uptaking more challenging roles to achieve the same.

Additionally, it is also important that in hope of success one must never compromise with one's ~~ethics~~ values and morality as it is said that "it is better to be a dissatisfied human than a satisfied pig".

Further, hope must also be accompanied by perseverance and courage of conviction. This is best exemplified by Gandhi ji who through his unweaving determination brought the mighty British Raj on its knees.

Moreover, while hope can set us on a journey, our actions must be guided by NISHKAM KARMA; ~~focusing on the purity of means and~~. The focus must always be in the purity of efforts being put into.

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Additionally, while hope give us positive ethos to pursue our goal, we must also be also be prepared for failures.

If hopes not realized it can lead to profound disillustionment and despair. This can lead to a loss of morale, a sense of betrayal, or even a complete abandonment of the original goal.

Thus, making it more impor tant that we understand the true meaning of success. while being hopeful we keep retain our commi. commitment to critical thinking, self-reflection and sustained efforts.

In conclusion, while hope acts as a source of inspiration and motivation. It acts as the silver lining and help us rebound

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in darkest of ~~the~~ times. It
is hard our positivity and often
to innovate. However, relying
only upon hope to achieve
success can be disastrous. It can
lead to complacency, ignorance,
detachment from reality and can
even serve as our weakness to be
exploited by others.

Thus, as the day progresses
the journey progresses, progress
must be supplemented by
critical actions, strategic thinking
and realistic understanding
of the world. Only then can
the promise of hope be fully
realised and the goals set at the
start of the day be brought to
fulfillment by the end.

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The higher pedestal for women is as much a prison as any small, confined space.

'Reena' is often referred to as the 'Devi' within her society. She is an ex-software engineer, a dedicated mother of two, and a caring wife and daughter-in-law.

To be placed to this high pedestal, Reena left her hard earned job to take care of her children, she has taken up the entire responsibility of household with no time for herself and an ever diminishing scope of returning back to her job.

In the process of becoming the Devi for society, Reena lost the Devi in her. Indeed, this high pedestal is a kin to a prison where space to exercise her

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individuality and agency keeps
shrinking day by day.

Reena here represents
a normal women in our society
who are subjected to impossible
standards of womanhood.

What is intriguing is what is
this pedestal? How is it like a
prison? ~~to~~ How what contributes
to construction of this pedestal?
~~As~~ Is there any importance of
this pedestal? How can it be
demolished? Let's explore these
in the incoming essays.

PEDASTAL : A PRISON

In many societies, women are
often placed on pedestal, which
is a position where the virtues
of womanhood are venerated.
Her purity, beauty, sacrifice and

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selfless ~~to~~ nets are recognised and idealised.

while this might seem like a position of honour, a closer inspection reveals that this elevated position can be as confining as any physical or social limitation.

This pedestal built on the notions of ideal womanhood deprives women of her freedom, her agency, her very right to be treated as an equal human being. She is chained with strict norms and impossible expectations.

Her ~~the~~ sexuality and chastity are closely guarded to retain the social structures like caste. Any deviation on her part to exercise her will is seen as a threat to social order and is met with harsh punishments like khaap panchayat and honour killing.

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To make her fit the ideal mould the wings of her aspirations are cut right from childhood. She is though taught what are more suitable subjects a woman should pursue - discouraging her to choose STEM subjects.

And at times she is denied higher or even basic education.

Her honour becomes the IZZAT of the family and clan, to protect which she is confined in veils and denied freedom of movement.

Her career decisions are often dictated by the career projections of her husband and her reproductive duties.

In order to ensure every other stomach goes full in the family, she is trained to

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eat at the last, often compromising
on her health and taste desires.
The result of which is that 57%
of Indian women and girls are
anaemic.

she is made to forget
that she has her own desires,
her own aspirations and her
own agency. From womb to tomb
the pedestal dictates her life.

THE DOUBLE EDGED SWORD

The very qualities that are
celebrated in women - her nurturing
nature or moral fortitude - are
often just utilised to justify
her exclusion from the positions
of power and decision-making.

Thus she is deemed
to be too-emotional to be in
leadership role. Too pure to
sustain the tough world of
politics.

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Her house hold responsi-
bilities are used ~~to~~ as an
excuse to deny her promotions
and equal pay - too distracted
to fulfill the job demands.

In fact ~~the~~ society
~~has~~ now there are classification
of jobs that suit her docile,
humble nature - 'The pink collar
jobs:'

The norms of pedestal
at times lead to internalisation
of oppression, where women
themselves begin to accept and
enforce the limitations ~~en~~ imposed
on her.

They feel compelled to
live up to the expectations, the
idealised image, sacrificing their
desires, ambition and even
well-being in the process.

The prison, then, is not just



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external; It is internalized, making it even more difficult to break free.

Having discussed the implications of pedestal, let's try to understand how this pedestal is created in the first place.

THE FORMING AGENTS

The notion of placing women on a pedestal is deeply rooted in the patriarchal values of the society.

The confines imposed on women are attempts to retain the status quo and the power dynamics.

Historical texts such as Manusmriti where a deviant woman is classified as shudra, put moral obligations.

The myth epics and puranas again and again ~~ref~~ show case and idealise a woman



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who is self-annihilative.

Additionally, the biological factors, like reproductive roles, physical strength and other differences between the two sexes lead to division of labour and over time evolved into distinct gender roles and stereotypes.

Further, Media through movie, advertisements and other means ~~just~~ objectify women, setting ~~set~~ unrealistic beauty standards and deepens the gender stereotypes. The recent movie 'Animal' is a point in case.

Moreover, Families, who practice patriarchy, with well defined roles and hierarchy, inculcate the same gender biased value system in the children, where



The children pick these values through observation, treating parents as their role models and long exposure.

Furthermore, the society through its standards and norms exercise social control over any deviation through mechanisms like ostracization, criticism etc.

Having discussed the ~~word~~ mechanisms involved in formation of pedestal, let's analyse how if this pedestal has any value for itself.

The pedestal is a mean to recognize the role of woman ~~is~~, her sacrifices and contributions to the society.

The problem lies in the narrow perspective of this pedestal which the society derives and limits women to their set stand-

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denying her ~~very~~ freedom and humane treatment.

similar to the situation where the society recognises ~~can~~ ~~the~~ ~~hanga~~ as 'maq' and still keeps polluting and exploiting her.

If this pedestal has such negative externalities, what can be done to demolish it? Let's discuss.

THE WAY FORWARD

BREAKING FREE

The way forward lies in dismantling the pedestal altogether, i.e., rejecting the narrow, idealized notions of womanhood and embracing ~~esta~~ a more expansive, inclusive understanding of what it means to be a woman. ~~It~~

It involves recognising women as equal human being



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with their own desires, strengths and weaknesses, which must not be confined to any predetermined role ~~of~~ or expectations.

Role models such as Judha Mukhi, Dhavri Rajawat, Kalpna Chawla must be put forth to ~~set~~ new stand ~~and~~ help women realise their potentials.

Brea further, Breaking free from pedestal also requires challenging the social norms / structures which uphold it. This involves equat advocating for gender equality in all spheres of life - political, economic, social and cultural.

It means creating spaces where women can express themselves fully, without fear of judgement or retribution. Like any other human, a woman must be treated as an end in herself.

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In conclusion, it can be said that the pedestal which venerates women for her sacrifice, dedication and selflessness; becomes prison for the same women by denying her the rights of self expression and agency; denying her the very "basic human rights."

The patriarchal mindset and the agents of family, media and society further re-surrect the pedestal by controlling any deviations.

This pedestal which denies women her full humanity and agency must be challenged and dismantled. This will help create a society where women are free to be themselves, unburdened by weights of idealization and oppression.

Most importantly, we must recognize that the true liberation comes not by being placed on pedestal but by standing on equal grounds with others.

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VAJIRAM & RAVI

[Institute for IAS Examination]

ESSAY PROGRAM

Test No. 2

Time Allowed: Three Hour

Maximum Marks: 250

Write two essays, choosing one from each of the following Sections A and B, in about 1000-1200 words each-2*125=250 Marks

Section A

- a) Hope is a good breakfast, but it is a bad supper
- b) It is seldom that liberty of any kind is lost all at once

Section B

- a) The aim of education is the knowledge, not of facts, but of values.
- b) The higher pedestal for women is as much a prison as any small, confined space.