

# VAJIRAM & RAVI

## ESSAY PROGRAMME

### Test - 1

ADMIN. NO.: 

1	7	3	0	0	2	0	9	
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NAME:

\*Mobile No.:

\*Email.:

**UPSC CSE 2024**  
**AIR-06**

### Overall Performance

Essay 1

Essay 2

VAJIRAM & RAVI

**Evaluator Code and Signature:**

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

Essay 2:					
	Parameters	Below Average	Average	Good	Excellent
<b>Introduction</b>	Context building; Thesis Statement; Scope				
<b>Body</b>	Presentation (Handwriting etc)				
	Macro Dimensions				
	Micro Dimensions - Arguments				
	Supporting examples/facts				
	Objectivity				
	Content Relevance				
	Continuity/flow in writing				
<b>Conclusion</b>	Overall Summary; Vision; Tone etc				

**Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions**













# U.P.S.C.

1 (a) The only wealth which you will keep forever is the wealth you have given away.

The lifestory of Baba Amte is the shining example of permanence of wealth. Himself billionaire, he dedicated his entire wealth for treatment of leprosy affected people. By donating his material wealth, he gained permanent wealth of inner contentment. He understood that by accumulating wealth for himself only, was not something that give meaning to his life. The meaning of life lies in helping people out of misery and disease.

Today, lakhs of leprosy affected people give blessing to his endeavour and his legacy.

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will last forever. By donating his transient wealth, he has gained permanent wealth that will last forever.

This example ponders us to think wealth ~~is~~ beyond mere understanding of material accumulation.

Wealth is anything over and above our basic ~~needs~~. Any kind of material, currency, skill that we acquire ~~contributes~~ to our wealth. It can vary from mere possession of things like house, land, money etc to more discrete form of wealths like inner peace, mental & physical health etc.

However, with Industrial Revolution, meaning of wealth has altered significantly. In quantitative terms,

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it refers to material & physical wealth that determines one's status & hierarchy in society.

It has led to division of society on basis of economic status. This search for rising in social hierarchy often results in mindless accumulations of material wealth.

World Inequality Report stated that top 1% population owns more than one-fourth economic resources of world. This stark inequality is resulting in poverty, crimes, wars and leading to loss of humanity as a whole.

Humans are different from animals due to their ability to convert mundane into material.

The discovery of fire from spark between stones is an example of

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this ability of humans. But we must ponder ~~with~~ whether it was the fire that was ultimate wealth <sup>or was it</sup> the intellect that discovered it and used it to for benefit of humanity? The answer lies in example of Buddha, who gave away his entire wealth in search of cause of suffering and ultimate truth of get rid of it.

History is a reminder of rise and fall of kingdoms based on their material wealth. None of them lasted forever, neither their wealth. But the legends of kings like Lord Ram who faced immense pain for protecting people reverberate annals of history and will last forever. Ravan also had

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immense wealth but his legacy is about atrocities he made. While Lord Ram never really went after wealth accumulation is remembered forever.

These examples show that the only wealth which lasts forever is the wealth we have given away. Ram ushered peaceful Ramrajya while Ravana gave chaos to the world. Similarly, Both are remembered for what they gave to the world.

Similarly, it is said that, one who opens a school, closes a prison. The wealth of knowledge and education that our gurus, teachers, parents, forefathers have given us continues to pass generation after generation. People who gave money are forgotten but

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people who gave life lessons are remembered forever, because money doesn't last long but education lasts lifetime.

Sindhutai Sakpal, Padma awardee, also revered as 'mother of orphans' nurtured many orphan children with her ocean of love and affection. She transformed lives of many children who were thrown to misery by accidents of life. She gave her love wealth of love that will last forever.

Time and again, it has been proven that what one gives to others make huge impact on others life as well as one's life. The value of sacrifice for others need even at cost of own happiness gives us the wealth of satisfaction. Even ancient scriptures

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mentions 'Dana' as the ultimate Dharma.

But the problem arises when one gets too much attached to material wealth. People often do heinous crimes like hafficking, robbery, murder out of greed. They accumulate wealth but lose their peace, love, affection and humanity. This greed of money has the potential to engulf entire humanity.

~~The~~ Drastic changes in environment and species extinction is a case in point. ~~Here~~ By exploiting natural resources, humanity has drastically accumulated wealth and luxury. But ~~this~~ has left ~~the~~ entire humanity at gulf of extinction. We have

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already ~~lost~~<sup>made</sup> irreplaceable losses  
like species, forest and resources.

Had we nurtured our environment  
and gives our care & love to it,  
we would have accumulated  
this beautiful wealth of nature.

In our welfare based  
democratic model of governance,  
governments are supposed to  
give services like health, education,  
food to poor. Statesman like

Lal Bahadur Shastri ji always  
prioritised giving away. But

today criminalisation of politics,  
politicians & criminals nexus are  
snatching public resources for  
their own gains.

The life of corruption and  
exploitation is short but it  
impacts society heavily. Thus,

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ideal is to give away wealth to foster equality in society. In Jataka story of 'Shibi Jataka' King Shibi offers his own flesh to hungry pigeons. This is spirit of giving away.

The wealth that is given lasts forever because it nurture humanity and inherent goodness of human beings. It provides self-satisfaction and meaning to life. The ancient shloka of "Sathasta Samahar Sahastha-hast sankirah", i.e. earn by hundred hands and distribute by thousand hands aptly describe the value of wealth sharing.

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The wealth that one accumulates ends with demise of person but wealth that is given away reverberates in annals of history.

People give blessings and good wishes for time immemorial. Nobody

remember Ravan or Duryodhana

but Lord Rama and Pandavas

are revered because they focused on giving their wealth for welfare of their people.

In conclusion, it is essential to realise need vs

want. We should strive to fulfil

our needs but after that instead

of mindless accumulation, the

wealth should be shared with

underprivileged and provide opportunity

to others to grow.

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People like Baba Amte, Buddha,  
Sindhutai Satpal lived for  
others by sharing their wealth.  
In this process, they have  
created wealth that will last  
forever as their legacy. In  
words of Swami Vivekananda,  
"They alone live who live for  
others, rest are more dead than  
alive."

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2(a) The only thing we learn from history is that we learn nothing from history.

"Hard times create strong men,  
strong men create good times,  
good times create weak men,  
weak men create hard times."

This cycle has been repeating throughout human history. Yet, we didn't learn anything from it. Why don't we strive for good times where strong men are at its frontier.

Out of miseries and difficulties of war times, many strong souls has emerged. They strive for good times for future generation. Why ~~there~~ war happens again? Why after disastrous World War I, second war happened? Even

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numbering world wars shows  
pessimistic human nature about  
possibility of this series to continue.

The reason, it seems, is that  
we don't learn lessons from history.

Human beings having striking  
intellectual capabilities and  
comprehensive skills still fail to  
learn from past experiences. They  
wage wars in order to keep peace.

History has been witness that  
wars waged for peace itself  
shows seed of impending disasters.

A case in point is Paris  
peace treaty and creation of League  
of nations after WWI to prevent  
future wars. But what was result?  
They themselves resulted in  
inflict injustice and unfairness &  
resulted in WWII.

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The question now arises is that are we not capable enough to learn from history? or we don't want to learn? In terms

of capability, we have proven time and again that human intellect is nothing short of miracles. We converted fire into electricity and coal into energy. So capability is not an issue.

If it's not issue of capability, is it that we are willingly ignoring important past learnings and continues towards destruction?

The case study of climate change proves the fact of our repeated failure to learn from past experiences.

Evolution has shown us ~~that~~ over & again that extinction is not an imaginary concept. Yet, we ~~ourselves~~ have ignored the

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warnings and heading towards  
sixth mass-extinction of anthropocene.

Not only climate change, but  
in domain of institution buildings  
as well, we haven't incorporated  
our past learnings. The famous  
book, "Why Nations fail", suggests  
that nations fail because of  
extractive institutions that exacerbate  
injustice, inequality and discrimination.

Yet, even the noblest of  
institutions today suffer from crisis  
of legitimacy. United Nations, World  
Bank, IMF are resistent to  
change. They are not incorporating  
history lessons and people are  
losing faith in them.

There are plethora of other  
examples that prove the fact that

we are willingly ignoring lessons and choosing not to learn from history. If its intentional ignorance, what explains it? Why don't we learn from history and make future bright?

There are many reasons to it. First, it is difficult to learn and apply as circumstances have changed. New times have new problems. As it is said, "We do not step twice in the same river." for it is not same after some time and we have also changed. for example, warfare techniques have immensely altered from past.

Second, we have confidence that we can approach the problem differently than our forefathers. As Sartre said, "Existence preceds essence."

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The egoistic essence of humanity chase to ignore history lessons and creates illusion of control. For example, we used to ~~though~~ think that we can prevent global warming using engineering techniques but this illusion has come to end because systems are immensely interlinked. They cannot be looked in silos.

Third reason of not learning from history is related to human vices. Greed, selfish interests and overarching desires of few influential people always ~~tend to overlook~~ miseries of rest. In the wars of rich men, it is the poor who dies.

Political leaders and other influential people tend to repeat the cycle of good times & hard times for their vested interests. For example, mastermind behind attack on October 7 attack are still alive while poor people & children

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are dying and facing hard times.

After understanding about why we don't learn lessons from history, now it is time to ponder over what can we learn if we try to find how can we learn them?

'History repeats itself, first as tragedy then as farce'. This quote highlights the repetitive nature of historical events. There are some fundamental similarities in history and present. We need to learn those similarities and patterns. For example, one lesson is that any form of injustice leads to state of war as said by Simone de Beauvoir.

The case of women emancipation

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is testimony to this. From Vedic times to medieval to today's modern world, we are still yet to fully learn the lesson that a bird cannot fly with only one wing.

Another learning history has to offer is violence begets violence.

Wars waged to usher peace will never result in peace. It will create perpetual cycle of violence.

In this light, there is need of immediate ceasefire in Russia-Ukraine war & stopping hostilities in Israel-Hamas saga.

In addition to this, an important lesson is - poverty anywhere is threat to prosperity everywhere as ILO declaration highlights. This means we need concerted efforts from entire globe to

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eradicate poverty & misery if we want to create a prosperous world. We must come together to tackle issues like forced migration, persecution and human rights violations of people in any part of world. England riots today, is an example of this.

last but not least, is the lesson of need of continuous and progressive reforms in society. Stagnation leads to degeneration and exploitation. In order to usher justice and egalitarian society, suited to modern needs, reformative changes should be accepted. As it is said, "Change is the only constant".

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Now the second dimension of question that was raised earlier - how should we learn these lessons.

In order to learn, efforts should be made at multiple levels. First, at individual levels, education imparted should be holistic and history should be taught ~~is~~ without distortion and manipulation. Individual character development should be done to ensure tolerant, reformative and intellectual citizens.

Second, at societal level, ethical deliberations and historical learnings in form of stories, texts, religious teachings should be passed generations to generations.

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At national and global level, inclusive institutions should flourish instead of extractive institutions. In words of Carl Sagan, "We need to learn to live together or we shall perish together."

In conclusion, humanity must learn lessons from history to avoid disasters and create state of eudaimonia. We should work to create good times with strong men who can break the cycle of bad times and weak men. This can only be done by incorporating historical learnings in lens of present and future.