

VAJIRAM & RAVI

ESSAY PROGRAMME

Test - 1

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UPSE CSE 2025

AIR - 414

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 | | | | |
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| | Continuity/flow in writing | | | | |
| Conclusion | Overall Summary; Vision; Tone etc | | | | |

Evaluator/Reviewer Suggestions



EXPERIENCE WITHOUT THEORY IS BLIND
BUT, THEORY WITHOUT EXPERIENCE IS MERELY
INTELLECTUAL PLAY.

Upon return of Alexander from the outskirts of Dhananand's empire, Dhananand was so engulfed in self-pride that he didn't bother about the consequences of disrespecting and ousting his chief advisor and priest, Chanakya on his advice of reforming the tax system. Chanakya had the understanding of public resentment but didn't have the experience of fighting the king. Impressed by the abilities of Chandragupt Maurya while roaming around in Pipalvan, he trained him to finally defeat Dhananand.

Chanakya's insights about the governance system were mere intellectual play, Chandragupta's ~~at~~ war skills were not channeled to produce any productive outcome. However

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Chanakya's theory dubbed with his experience ultimately led to creation of the 1st great empire in Indian history.

Both experience and theory lack ~~individual~~ completion individually. Just theory without empiricism ~~is~~ is truly an intellectual play. On the other hand, just experience without a ~~clear~~ firm basis makes it blind in achieving concrete results.

In this essay, we shall explore the the essence of both these terms, one without other, why is it that often people lack one of these two traits and the ultimate importance of a blend of them in success.

On analysing the first half, that "experience without theory is blind", we may infer that challenges, difficulties or ~~success~~ achievements that one may see in their lifetime, may not produce a greater result. It is like shooting an

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arrow in dark. It may or may not strike the target.

By "Theory without experience" is mere intellectual play, we mean that rationality or logical deductions without the right action is just the preaching of good ideas. Both the individuals are prone to failures.

This contrast is evident in Mahabharat when ~~Pandava~~ ^{Ariyana} ~~Duryodhan~~ (experience without theory) having experience of ~~seeing~~ the greatest warrior's skills sought the guidance of Lord Krishna (theory) to finally emerge victorious.

Similarly Akbar despite his good intention to establish a new secular religion (Din-i-Ilahi) ^{couldn't make it popular} / or Aurangzeb who despite ruling for 60 years couldn't satisfy his subjects. Both of them couldn't succeed in their goals.

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Coming on to the modern era, the efforts of the moderate leaders were motivated by their logical interpretation of British Raj. Drains of wealth, divide and rule were very well understood by Dadabhai Naoroji or Pheroz Shah Mehta. However their actions couldn't bring drastic changes in the colonial policies.

Revolutionaries, on the other hand, had the insight that prayers, petitions and protests weren't causing yielding the results, and decided to use violence as a means. Even they couldn't achieve swaraj as they lacked a strategy, unified set of demands or leadership and thereby reiterating the blindness of just experience.

In the constituent assembly, the debates regarding introductions of the emergency provisions in the constitutions lacked the experience of how can they be misused. and when it was applied in

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in 1970s, ~~has~~ without understanding its actual role which the founding fathers had envisioned, that experience led to the unwanted consequences (blind).

In the 1920s, the stockmarket bubble burst with the commoners losing all their wealth. They had taken loans, sold their houses to invest in the wallstreet. but lack of theory and overwhelmed by the experience of great returns in the past crumpled their future.

Later after even after understanding the Keynesian economics, and facing multiple recessions, countries like Sri Lanka and Pakistan took unsustainable cheap debts, despite the economists warning them. Nothing could have prevented their default and resultant crisis.

Often we see that people lack either of the two traits, experience or theory. What causes such circumstances?

One such reason could be paucity of time in taking decisions. Hasty decisions often ignore the theoretical or experiential aspects.

Let's take the example of "Coronil", the ayurvedic medicine for corona. It was neither backed by theory or clinical trials, but was launched in a hurry, leading to huge criticisms.

Another example ~~is~~ ^{is} the infrastructure projects. Recently bridges collapsed in Bihar due to incessant rains. It was the ignorance of possibility of such downpour that caused the disaster.

Sometimes, the theoretical framework may not suffice for the intended outcome. For example in Chandrayaan's landing,

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The need for expanding the landing area wasn't felt necessary leading to miscalculations in the algorithm and hard landing. This is place where experience from previous events helped us to land ~~2nd time~~ ^{in the 2nd attempt} on the south pole. of the moon.

A balanced approach as Buddha calls the middle path is a better way of decision making. The successful people have intelligently used experience along with rational thoughts.

The success of International Solar Mission was ~~both~~ because of both, understanding the need and scope of solar energy as a renewable source and the past experience of non-compliance to the climate goals. by the countries.

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Similarly the implementation of GST Act. was a well thought decision, scientifically as well as ~~politically~~ politically by considering the concerns of the states and giving them due compensation to minimise the hesitancy.

Today in the era of 4th Industrial Revolution where we have technologies like AI, quantum computing, blockchain etc, their launch was struck an awe on the capabilities of machines however the ethical concerns, data privacy breaches, unemployment etc will only unfold in due course of time. The way we use them today may change in the future when we have experience of it.

Thus theory ^{should} form the ~~the~~ base of our actions and should be verified by past and future experiences to label it as great.

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Even in our Hindu tradition, scholars have differentiated between the concepts of "gyaan" with "vidya". Vidya is mere knowledge however "gyaan" is a superior ~~that~~ wisdom which one gains after thorough testing & application of the acquired vidya. So perhaps that is the reason why a guru, who teaches both the theory and experiential aspects of it is considered superior to an Adhyapak, whose role is just to impart knowledge.

History has time and again reminded us that the only ~~that~~ way to endure a stable success is to blend in the theoretical and experiential aspects. Thus, one should try to harmonise these two virtues to uplift its present and be better prepared for the forthcoming challenges.

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is fine

THE ONLY THING THAT WE CAN LEARN
FROM HISTORY IS THAT WE LEARN
NOTHING FROM HISTORY

History is a circular flow of events, i.e. it tends to repeat itself. Hindu mythology doesn't see time as a linear variable but a circular path. Each cycle has been divided into 4 yugs - Satyug, Tretayug, Dwapar-yug and Kaliyug. Interestingly, each of these yugs ~~are~~ witness the same set of basic events. That is rise of Adharma & reestablishment of Dharma. Ram was born in Treta yug essentially to demolish the evils of Ravana, Krishna was born in Dwapar yug with the same role. Despite knowing that whenever persecution will predominate peace, Lord Vishnu will take an avatar to establish justice, humanity keeps on getting trapped in this cycle by repeating the evils.

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At a lesser level, our written history also exemplifies the same irony of ignorance of man about his history and incessantly repeating the same mistakes. Thus it may not be wrong to conclude that we learn nothing from history.

Right from the Rig Vedic age, where the egalitarian and fluid caste parameters were transformed into rigid, hierarchical and exploitative rules by the later Vedic age, Shramana movement rose to provide an alternate means for just and harmonious living.

However, Gupta era saw reemergence of caste hierarchy, social evils of sati and untouchability which was again

suppressed with the evolution of Bhakti movement in 8th - 15th century ~~and finally~~, by socioreligious reform movements in our modern history. and ^{finally the} constitutional principles in 1950.

Further back in 1191, where Porthwira Chauhan defeated Mohd Ghori 17 times and released him, his ^{ignorance} mistakes ^{precipitated} caused into his ~~defeat and execution in 2nd Battle of Tarrain in 1192.~~, his ignorance of Ghori's repeated returns precipitated his defeat and execution in 2nd Battle of Tarrain (1192).

Even in the movie, Padmaravat, the ~~tragic~~ treacherous behaviour of Alauddin, first when he assassinated his father-in-law, ~~for~~ Jalaluddin Khilji to capture the throne, second when he deceived and captured Ratan Singh, taking him as a prisoner to Delhi. ^{Not learning from the historical events,} Ratan Singh again gave him a chance to fight with principles in the final climax, and it was not surprising that he foulplayed and defeated Ratan Singh.

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Coming to the British rule, East India Company, despite demands for decentralisation, never wanted to empower the Indians. Later in the ~~British~~ Queen's rule, the slow integration of Indians in the administration clearly highlighted their intentions. Still, moderates believed in prayers, petitions and protests to put their demands. Even highly qualified lawyers and scholars like Naoroji, Pheroz Shah etc couldn't recognise the repetition of the historical protest.

Historians have repeatedly highlighted how divide and rule politics was misused by the colonisers in their colonies across the world, however still people ^{remain disillusioned and} fail to recognise similar events when communal politics is played ^{by} with modern day parties. As a result they become victims of riots, communal hatred and mob violence.

Time and again, this philosophy of not learning from our historical wrongdoings has been highlighted. Let's ponder on why do we repeat such behaviour.

Humans have written records of events from around 2500 BC. However the life span of man is just 70-80 years. Just argument for understanding the cause of this phenomenon is the sheer ~~dis~~ contrast in human's ability to read and understand the history in the ~~that~~ ^{needed} depth. ~~and~~ ^{and} recognising the repetitive phenomenon is ~~another such burden that~~ ^{challenges human capacity.}

~~thirdly~~, ^{secondly} history as a subject has not been given its due importance in most of the societies. The researches are underfunded, and often alternate opinions are discouraged. It was only historical linguistics that helped us decipher various ancient scripts and extract the ancient wisdom, which refuted the ^{idea of} 'white man's burden' & by propounding the ~~anyon~~ brotherhood theory.

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Similarly the archaeological findings of human fossils dating as back as 1 lakh years refuted the ^{idea of} biblical origin of earth.

Third reason is the ignorance of human mind in applying the historical perspectives in present times. China has a history of debt trap diplomacy, still Bangladesh and Maldives recently approached it for Yuan denominated loans. ~~India~~ ~~or~~

Thus, it is imperative to fix these loopholes limiting human success. India understanding its historical wrongdoings of forgiving China's ~~invasion~~ invasions in our territory, has taken an assertive stance against its policies. Similarly the "no tolerance policy" with Pakistan is a result of our historical reflection.

History teaches us the importance of rational decision making. "History is a series of victories of scientific man over romantic man". Applying the logical frameworks, ISRO learnt from NASA's and ROSCOSMOS' failures before gaining success in Mars Orbital Mission.

History also teaches us the relevance of upholding democratic values. Had Sheikh Hasina reflected on these insights, she would not have to flee her own country.

History has time and again highlighted how factionalism & ^{military} groupings have precipitated widespread chaos in the form of the two world wars. Despite that NATO's expansion and support to Ukraine & Israel has brought the world on the brink of another ~~no~~ world war (which may turn nuclear.)

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History also gives us insights as into the future. by formulating. helping us formulate scientific laws. The evidence of past glaciations and interglaciations only helped us conclude that we are heading towards a warmer phase of earth's cycle. atmospheric cycle. accelerated by anthropogenic events.

Thus we may conclude that ignorance of man about history is a widely prevalent phenomenon which forces us to repeat our mistakes again and again.

It has been rightly said by Warren Buffet that -

"It is good to learn from your mistakes but its better to learn from others mistakes"

History plays a crucial role in this learning process.

Even great ~~leaders~~^{people} like Wright Brothers, Thomas Elva Edison and Graham Bell had repeated the same mistakes that their predecessors had done to finally conclude a revolutionary invention.

~~As we move forward in the world~~

Failures of great leaders, their miscalculations and successes of those who used history in their favour underscore a ~~base~~ fundamental principle that those who ignore their past often tend to fail in achieving enduring success.

As we move forward in a world where new challenges and opportunities arise daily, it is the blend of rationality along with historical insights and action that will guide us to the solutions that are not effective but also sustainable.

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The legacy of history reminds us that those who master this process leave a lasting impact, shaping the future in profound ways.

