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VAJIRAM & RAVI

ESSAY PROGRAMME

Test - 1

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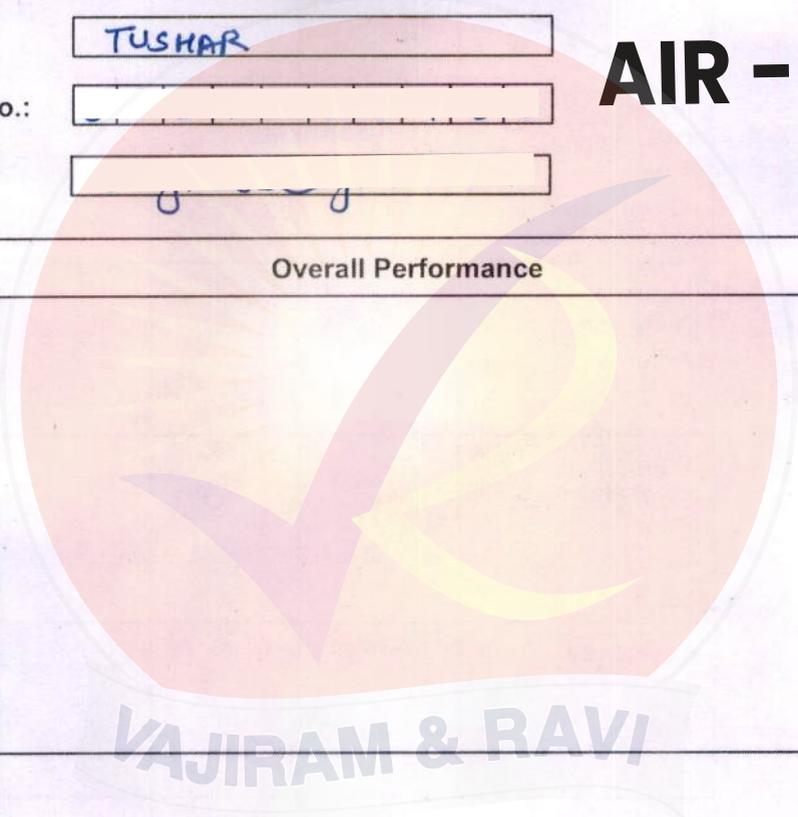
UPSE CSE 2025

AIR - 395

Overall Performance

Essay 1

Essay 2



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Evaluator Code and Signature:
IAS STUDY CENTRE LLP
06 JUL 2025
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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				

RECEIVED

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











1. Not all birds are birds. One is not.



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Section - A (Essay I)

- Not all Who Wander Are Lost.
- Experience without theory is blind, but theory without experience is mere intellectual play.

A: Not all who wander are lost

A young Prince named Siddhartha was living a luxurious life in his palace yet he was not content. The Prince decided to explore his inner self and wandered around seven to eight years to become what we today know as Gautam Buddha.

Similarly, a dyslexic boy who was thrown out of his school because of this dyslexia continued his wandering of science at home and experimented thousands of times. He is today known as father of electric bulb none other than Thomas Alva Edison.

Both of the above instances shows that not all who wander are

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lost, some conquered their desired destinations and proved to be the exemplary inspiration for generations to come.

Going forward, we shall be decoding what do we mean by wander and wandering along with the meaning of being lost. Also, various instances of the same across space and time & why some people deviates from their path and being lost and others don't. Is there any limit to wandering, so on & so forth.

DECODING : WANDER AND LOST

Wander means to explore things one wants, to pursue one's dreams, to chase one's curiosity. It is about pursuit of happiness for some or achieving a breakthrough in the field of science.

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Moreover, being lost is about deviating from the path of one's goals, pursuit and so on. It is about losing faith in one's goals and commitment as was explained by Mahavira in Jainism that people often lost their path when they lose their faith in tirthankaras.

Similar instances we've seen in Epic Mahabharata when in pursuit of getting power, how Duryodhana lose faith in social harmony & family values which resulted in him being lost in power, greed, anger and despair.

On the contrary, how Arjuna in the same epic guided by the wisdom of righteousness, of courage walked on the path of dharma (Duty) and continued wandering to achieve and restore the moral order.

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Having seen the instances of being lost and otherwise, now let us look at the conditions, qualities, virtues of people who succeeded in their wandering.

First and foremost, a sense of purpose driven by a deep reverence of perseverance. A fine instance is of our father of space Vikram Sarabhai who continued the wandering in space science and after multiple failures, achieved the success in 1974 in the form of our first satellite: Aryabhata.

Subsequently, emotional intelligence is the weapon utilised by wanderers who got success. Balancing the emotions with intellect is the weapon which guides people to achieve their highest potential. This was well portrayed by actor Will Smith in

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the movie: 'The Pursuit of Happiness'.

Additionally, emotional intelligence must be coupled with the sense of pragmatism i.e, grounded in reality. This is classically termed as Stockdale paradox of optimism & pragmatism. This we've seen when Commodore Matthew Perry of USA approached Kawasaki Harbour in Japan in 1850s, people of Japan in fear of pragmatism of getting colonised yield their power to monarchs i.e Meiji Restoration and the result was Japan's wandering grounded in reality resulted in what we see today as a industrialised nation.

Having seen the qualities resulting in success of wanderers, now explore as to why some are lost and consequences of the same across the spectrum from individual to society.

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'LOST WANDERERS : A SAD REALITY'

Temperance is a virtue which combines desire and self-regulation. Lack of this virtue of temperance combined with the vices of greed, anger and so on makes a wanderer to deviate from one's path. We've observed this in the wandering of USA to win the world war II but misguided by anger resulted in horrendous, dastardly attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki resulting in the scar on humanity even felt today.

on the similar lines, stereotypes such as overgeneralisation of women as emotional but not rational drives the policies of corporate setup in their wandering of profits and growth. This stereotype in turn leads to concepts like Glass ceiling and Pink collarisation of jobs.

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Therefore, in the pursuit of growth but deviated by stereotypes resulting in bad precedence for society and for women empowerment.

consequently, another major factor is weak attitude of some wanderers & lack of faith. This weak and passive attitude stops people to run longer in life towards one's aim. For instance, Vinod Kamble having great aptitude for cricket but weak attitude resulting in him being lost in his pursuit of become a great sportsperson.

Having explored the virtues and vices of wanderers, now let us dive into how to inculcate this path of guided wandering filled with values and contemporary relevance.

'learning by being' is a process used in Japanese schools

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from primary education level whereas values such as harmony, equality and so on are being taught through various activities. Therefore, values of courage to take risks, justice to have sense of moral responsibility can be taught so that future wanderers should not get deviate.

Similarly, charismatic leaders can lend their voice to take risks and wander with values. As a saying goes by: 'A ship in harbour is safe but that is not what ship is for', thus people of experience must spread this to instill a sense of confidence among future wanderers. Leaders like Elon Musk, institutions like ISRO and so on have shown that wandering to pursuit one's goal has to be done to achieve something desirable and great in life.

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Furthermore, emotional intelligence can be developed by ways of self-awareness, self-regulation by different agencies of socialisation. For instance, family and society may help in educating the heart along with mind of young wanderers so that challenges of juvenile delinquencies, ecological disaster, communism and so on should be avoided.

Therefore, in this complex world of various challenges ranging from climate change, terrorism, wars, protectionism and so on, there is a need for ethically guided wandering so as to realise the spirit of this hymn from Maha-upanishad:

“Ayam Nijah Pasu veti, Ganane jagatsam, Udasharitanam, Tu vasudaiiva kutumbam” means to move from narrow mindedness to wisdom & spirit of Earth

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is nothing but a family, virtuous wandering is needed.

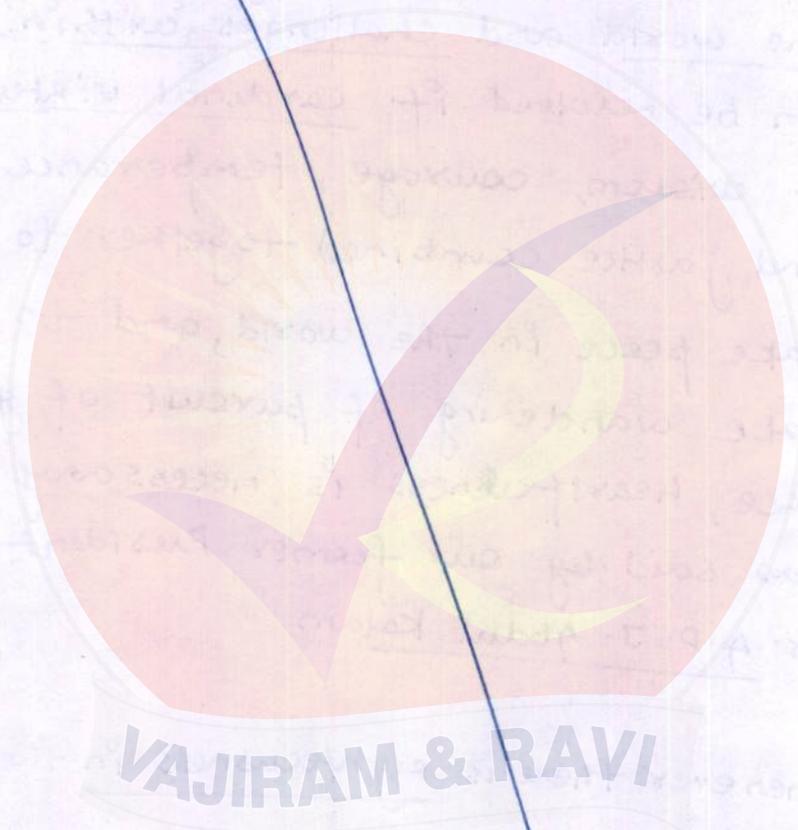
To conclude with, we must ensure that contemporary challenges of the world and challenges 'within' can be resolved if cardinal virtues of wisdom, courage, temperance and justice combined together to make peace in the world, and to make wandering of pursuit of global peace, heartfulness is necessary as was said by our former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

“When ever there is righteousness in the heart,
there is beauty in the character.
When there is beauty in the character,
there is harmony in the home.
When there is harmony in the home,
there is order in the nation.
When there is order in the nation,
there is peace in the world.”

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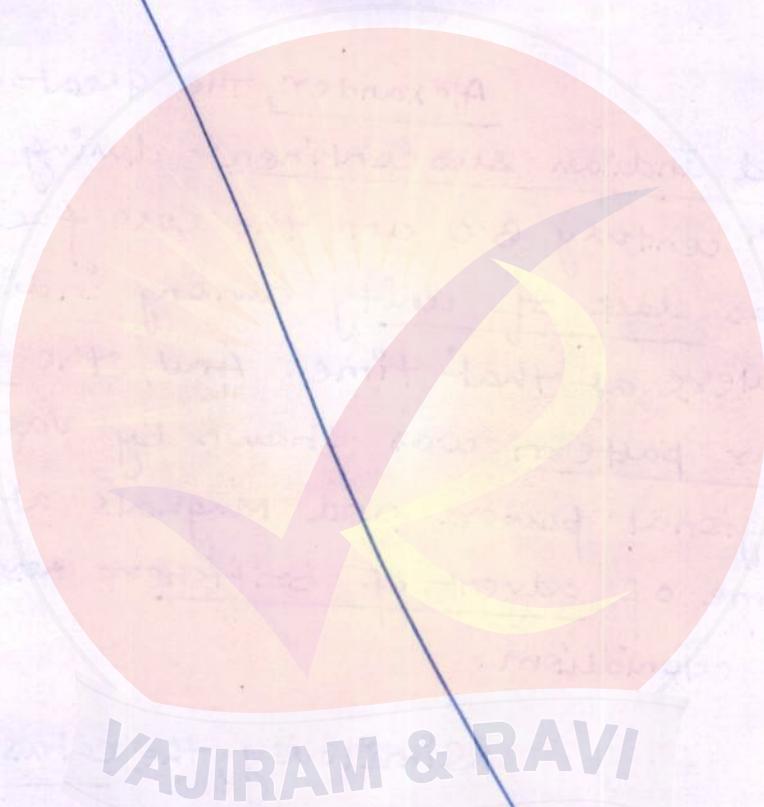
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Section - B (Essay II)

- a. The only thing we learn from history is that we learn nothing from history.
b. Forests Precede Civilizations And Deserts Follow Them.

A: The only thing we learn from history is that we learn nothing from history.

Alexander, the Great invaded Indian subcontinent during 3rd-4th century B.C and the core factor was lack of unity among Indians at that time. And, the similar pattern was shown by various regional powers and Mughals at the time of advent of Britishers resulting in colonialism.

Similarly, the catastrophic effects of brutal world-war I were still fresh wherein millions of people had lost their lives but having learnt nothing from that, world powers had started another world war ending in the dastardly act of nuclear bombing in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

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Both of the above instances shows that why we learn nothing from history and follows the same pattern i.e, the only thing we learn from history is that we learn nothing from history.

In this write-up, we shall explore why we often not learn anything from history and end up repeating same pattern. Is it the case everytime and how far it is essential to learn from our past and need to inculcate this learning habit. and so on.

But let us first explore the essence of not learning anything from history i.e, we often tend to repeat same mistakes and patterns which may be harmful for us. For instance, Procrastination or delaying things i.e, delaying the focus on

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physical fitness despite repetitive wearings from our own body.

In the same queue, this habit of procrastination is getting manifested at large level. For instance, delay in realising equal role of women in our society and development, not considering the hidden engine of development i.e., care work as an economic activity, thus learning nothing to achieve greater growth.

Similar instance we've seen in the west wherein Socrates was given Hamlock poison to raise questions and arouse curiosity in youths of Athens. And, the same was repeated years later with Copernicus where he was burnt alive for challenging Ptolemy's Geocentric theory by giving the heliocentric theory of our solar system.

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DECODING FACTORS OF NOT LEARNING

The first and foremost factor is lack of wisdom i.e. a sense of moral reasoning to not repeat the same patterns. For instance in this patriarchal setup of more than two thousand years, we have not learnt to respect women as was visible in R.G. Kar Medical college brutal rape in Kolkata.

Similarly, another factor of 'zero sum theory of power' which states that power is limited and one's rise is status definitely leads to one's fall. This has manifested in cases of regionalism, communalism, linguistic chauvinism and so on obstructing the peace & harmony in the nation. For instance, recent language superiority wave in Karnataka, Maharashtra.

Moreover, lack of support from society and lack of consensus resulting in same patterns of behaviours from various fringe elements. Recent horrific terrorist attack in Patalgam is an instance where lack of comprehensive convention on International terrorism & lack of trust between major powers resulting in repetitive terrorist attacks.

Consequently, vices of hedonism and excess consumerism due to lack of temperance resulting in over-exploitation of resources and climate change. This has manifested in various ecological disasters such as mass coral bleaching, rise in temperatures as stated by UNEP and IPCC: we've already crossed 1.2°C increase since pre-industrial times, thus learning nothing from history.

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SILVER LININGS IN DARK CLOUDS

Not all hope is lost i.e. there are instances where people, society, institutions have learned from history.

The most recent example is the doctrinal shift of India in operation Sindoor from 'passive deterrence to active punishment and giving befitting response by way of escalation dominance in air-power. This was rooted in the past mistakes of forgiving the terrorist attacks.

Similarly, learning from the past wave of MERS disease in 2008 by not sharing vaccine related data to sharing all the epidemic data during covid-19 crisis helped in pro-active & fast vaccine development saving millions of lives.

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This was rooted in the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (Earth is but a family)

Similar instance of learning was shown by John F. Kennedy & USSR counterpart to avoid Cuban missile crisis. This was also rooted in history where wars had taken a toll on millions of families.

All of these learnings have common element of wisdom & what Stoics says a state of inner balance of contemplation.

The same is also enunciated in our upanishads i.e, Shravan (Listen), Manana (contemplation) and Nidhidhyasana (taking actions). Thus, it is in our roots to learn from our past but sometimes, we get deviated from this path.

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VISION FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE

The need to inculcate, the habit of cooperative and argu-
mentative dialogue or dialectics of Socrates, is of utmost importance to lead a life of sustainable development & to learn from our past. Lidpriya from Manipur, 13 years old environmentalist learnt from past ecological disasters & learning to practice mission life.

Moreover, role models can lend their voice to the society to contemplate on the past and take steps forward. For instance 'Kalpana Sarej' learnt the value of education for a woman and emerged as a bright example of best entrepreneurship and social
mobility via education and learning from past & use it as a voice of conscience. 20

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Subsequently, this wisdom of learning from the past can be inculcated by education system which is first formal agency of socialisation and can result in inquisitive mindset. As stated by Abraham Lincoln: 'The philosophy of school of one generation will be the philosophy of state of the next generation'

Therefore, to navigate through the contours of ongoing conflicts such as Russia-Ukraine, Iran-Israel, Israel-Palestine and trade-wars and so on, we must contemplate to take future sustainable steps for a peaceful and prosperous global society. This can be done from the basic unit of global society i.e, an individual. Individuals must initiate the change

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for collective forms of peace and character building of society i.e., to contemplate on the past. Here, we must end with words of Martin Luther King :

' our thoughts becomes our words,
our words becomes our actions,
our actions becomes our habits,
and our habit becomes our character'

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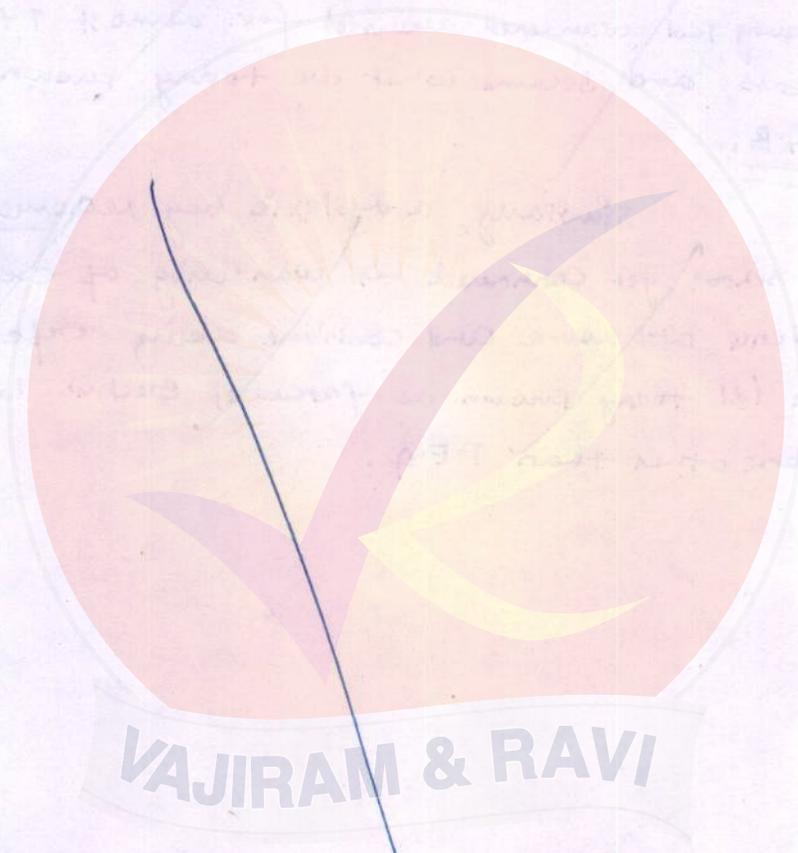
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Space for Rough Work

A young Prince named Siddhartha living a luxury life in his palace but was not content. Afterward, young lad wandered around for almost 7 to 8 years and became what we today known as G.B.

Similarly, a dyslexic boy recovered from his school yet continued his wandering of exploring science at home and continue doing experiment. He is today known as father of electric bulb none other than T.E.A.

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