

ESSAY QUESTION PAPER

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INDEX TABLE			INSTRUCTIONS					
Q.No	Max.Marks	Marks Obtained						
1	125	48	1. Please write your Name, Email, UPSC Roll No. and Mobile number in the answer sheet 2. There are 15 questions printed in English, all questions are compulsory 3. The number of marks carried by a question or part is indicated against it. 4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate (English), which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. 5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be struck off.					
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greatest glory in living.

fall greatest glory

→ why never failing is perceived to be a great thing?

↳ not achieving the desired goal.

↳ does it mean not learning? or not progressing if so then it is a failure.

3:15
4:45

explain that success means different to diff people

→ why rising up everytime should be given more importance

→ shows perseverance & resilience

→

• emphasis on end or emphasis on means?

History - 1911

Swades → Swadeshi, Ramkrishna, vidyotsav.

Geo → nature → new culture across a stretched riverbed.

culture → Yada Yach. Yada Chakraya.

polity → remake → perfect → amendment.

Society → evolving.

IR → no one several layers of peace and war.

economy → resilient

Internal security → one time - everytime.

Technology → covid → wave →

↳ If you can make a heap of all your whinnys and lose it all

and start all over again and

never have a sign about your loss.

you're to the world and everything that is in it.

- Rudyard Kipling

3:15
4:45
3:15
4:45

The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.

Everyone was awestruck when Miss Tina Dabi cleared the coveted Civil Service examination conducted by UPSC in 2015 with first rank only at a tender age of twenty three (23), ^{in her first attempt.} Exactly two years later, Mr. Anudeep Dwishetty topped the same examination in his fifth attempt.

Same examination, same rank — but it tells us two completely different stories — one of getting it 'first time right' and the other ^{out} of ~~sheer~~ sheer dedication and perseverance and the spirit of never giving up.

In the following paragraphs we will discuss both sides of the stories and find out why it is so that many a times in life, never failing is perceived to be a great thing? What does failure actually mean? Or, for that matter, what does success mean? Does it

mean the same to everyone or does it have different connotations for each individual? What is the importance of failure in one's life and why is there so much of glory associated with never falling whereas it should be equally, if not more, glorified to have risen everytime after falling?

Never falling - the act of getting it 'first time right'!

In our society and life, where everything is moving with great speed and situations turn around so quickly, never falling or never failing requires learning the rules of the game of life quickly, applying it to one's utmost potential and coming out victorious each time and every time. This indeed is a matter of great skill, and glory and pride. Hence, there should definitely be accolades



to someone who strives and achieves the same.

Falling - to rise, to bounce back
 Stronger or to stay down?

Having appreciated the glory of never falling, let us now take a look at what can falling or 'failing' mean to different people and scenarios.

As the popular saying goes, 'change is the only constant in life' - Everyone's life is full of ups and downs and that very curve of going up and down holds the very essence of life - a straight line - just like one in ECG (Electrocardiograph) means stagnation - or death. The difference in approach occurs from the fact that what does one do when (s)he falls - does (s)he

stay down or prepare better for the next upside and come back stronger than ever - this approach and what one does in the downtime - is what makes all the difference.

✓ If one is constantly learning from the process and from his/her own failure and is on a path of continuous improvement - then that progress is success in itself.

✓ It is only to be considered as a failure when one decides falls down and decides to stay down - without trying once more - and then once more and once more everytime till success is achieved.

✓ Also, success or never failing is not about getting the top rank in any examination or getting the best placement in a job interview or buying the costliest gadget or the biggest house or driving the latest model of a car. Success is everytime someone decides ~~to~~ not to give up. It is everytime a poor single mother in some remote village gives priority to



her daughter's education than her early marriage. It is every morning that a daily wage earner gets up and goes out to work, it is everytime one honest officer in some government officer decides to act on a file without the pressure of fear or favour - success is just continuing to march forward, taking a cue from one's past learnings.

- Success is progress.

Power of Perseverance: rising up after each fall

When we look around, our history, economy, society and nature are ~~deplete~~ flooded with examples of success after repeated attempts.

We are into the seventy sixth year of our country's independence. This independence itself was a result of repeated attempts by several groups of freedom fighters. Moderates leaders took to the path of prayers and petitions - extremists preferred other

ways and revolutionarists embarked on other ways. Gandhiji himself moved from non-cooperation to peaceful disobedience and then 'Suit India' movement - thus, repeated attempts at gaining our right to self-rule has got us our coveted independence.

Similarly, our society has moved from the customs as evil as Sati or child marriage to today's time where we are talking about women rights and rights of people with different sexual orientations ~~and~~ the LGBTQ community or transgenders. This transformation did not happen overnight. It took many years of efforts by many social workers ← from Raja Rammohan Ray and Isvarchandra Vidyasagar of the previous century to the social activists of today - the social change is a collective gain of repeated efforts.

In nature the river while flowing across a valley does not curve a path out in the first go, it repeatedly cuts through the ~~subbed~~ stones and paves its way out in form of a riverbed.

The Harappan civilization - was destroyed as many as seven times before the final time.

Even our ancient scriptures talk about Dash(10) maha-avatars of vishnu in ten different times to protect the innocents from the miscreants —

" Yada Yada hi Dharmasya Gnanirbhabati
Bharata..

Paritranaya Sadhunam —
vinashaya cha dushkritam —

Dharma Sansthanarthay —

Sambhavi Yuge Yuge "

— ShriemadBhagabadGita

explanation
of this
be a
prove
positive
" whenever
there is
end "

On a similar note, we have seen our country's laws and justice system to ponder and ammend its course ~~for~~ from time to time to be best suitable to the need of the citizens ~~of~~ and the time. Our revered constitution-makers did not focus on making one 'perfect constitution' that may continue unaltered for ages - they made it the best possible constitution for that time and left it open for amendments to be best suited for future generations.

French Revolution or for that matter any great achievements in the history of mankind has been an a result of multiples layers of peace and war and not just a one time achievement.

India - today is a nuclear country. But we failed in our first

attempt to ^{become} nuclear power. But what is more important is that we did not give up trying and came out successful in our second attempt at Pokhran.

Similarly, the greatest achievements of Indian space and missile sector like the 'Agni missile' or 'Chandrayaan' have been successful at repeated attempts.

In case of Economy also, we started off as a country that had to depend on other ~~countries~~ countries to feed our own people - but today we are the fifth largest economy, marching our way towards self-dependence in our 'Azadi Ka Amritkal'

In case of internal security there is a saying that the difference between ~~India~~ the terrorists and our security providers is that the terrorists has to win just once and we have to win everytime against them - to save our

fellow countrymen. Thus, national security is also a result of repeated efforts and not a 'one time win' game. We have had pulwama attacks, we have had 26/11, but we have come back stronger each time and will continue to do so.

Thus, though setting it right in the first time is ~~equally~~ often important and praise-worthy, but it is also important to have the courage, spirit and perseverance to rise up and bounce back stronger everytime we fall - just as Rudyard Kipling mentions in his celebrated poem 'if'

IF you can make a heap of all
your winnings
and risk it all..
and fail..
and start all over again and
never heave a sigh about your loss -
yours is the world -
and everything that is in it'

Good
writing
it

True wisdom is knowing that you know nothing
humility

flexibility to change course

open to disagreements

be able to start from zero—stay coachable

— holding your ground—believing in whatever
you have done, learnt — but not be
too rigid about it

The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing - Socrates

"A child comes into your life to teach you new ways of living, do not force on them your own ways"

— (Chinese proverb) → *Can be avoided*

When a child is born, he or she is like a blank slate — we can either force our own ideas and learnings on them — we can show them the way to live or we can try to learn from their beauty of knowing nothing.

A child when born is at the most vulnerable yet most coachable stage of its life. He smiles when he is thrown into the air because he has this trust that he will be caught. He looks for his parents' reaction when he falls, because

he knows not how to judge or the severity of the fall by himself and that is why he is open to all ideas, good or bad - evil or sacrosanct.

If we can keep ourselves open to new learnings like a child does, we will also have the ability to learn and improve at the speed that of a child.

When Gautam Buddha left his home in search of the ultimate truth, he left behind all his material belongings and relations - he left behind his wife and a son - to start his journey of wisdom from zero - from nothingness. Because only when one has the courage and understanding to leave everything one has collected over time

on even generations behind and start from zero, emptyhandedly — only when one has that humility and flexibility then only he/she can open their ~~to~~ mind and soul and senses to new ideas and new learnings — just like Buddha attained the ultimate wisdom and gained the 'Nirvana'

Now, let us take a closer look at what is meant by accepting that one knows nothing or accepting new learnings with open mind — does it mean to continuously question one's ~~own~~ own learning and understanding and having no faith in oneself? certainly not. But just like William Shakespeare writes in his magnum opus, the 'Othello' —

"There are more things in heaven and Earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy"

- it is knowing and accepting that what we know or understand is only a very small part of what is there in the world for us to know or learn.

It is about holding ~~our~~ own ground - having trust in our own learning and progress but also to know that we are only collecting pebbles of knowledge standing in front of a wide ocean of life to teach us newer things and enrich us with newer experiences. It is about believing ~~in~~ one's understanding but not become too rigid about it.



This humility and flexibility to learn is of utmost importance in life and the process of learning.

In our ancient scriptures we see Arijuna as the great warrior in Mahabharata, but we also find Guru Dronacharya teaching him methods of warfare, Ekalabya being better than him by the virtue of his own learning and Lord Krishna teaching him the philosophy of life in form of BhagvatGeeeta - proving that the best of the best is also coachable - and subject to improvement.

In our history we find the great ~~war~~ king Chandragupta Mauurya having to rely on 'Chanakya' for his advice on governance and

economy.

Our society has placed great importance on the culture of 'Guru' in its four stage 'chaturashram' of life, from the ancient ages.

Indian heritage and culture have always been a rich one - but what is the best part about it? It is its diversity - its openness and power of assimilation - Today when our country earns accolades and foreign exchange from tourists visiting Taj Mahal from all over the world - we should remember ~~is~~ that Taj Mahal is basically an architecture, made on the Persian architectural lines, with assimilation of ~~kinda~~ Indian detailings in it - because it was created by a Mughal emperor with help of



Indian people - It is this openness of both Indian art and Persian style of architecture that we see this wonder called Taj Mahal today.

Similarly, our constituent assembly had some of the most learned law-makers of its time - but they did not try to draft a constitution of their own - they studied constitutions from world over - debated on the best parts and most suited parts of it and then put it into our constitution - this humility of giving due credit to knowledge other than what one already knows is part of true wisdom.

Similarly, in case of international relations India has stucked to its ideas of non-alignment to any of the global

Superpowers from the time of cold war - maintaining that we are always on the part of peacemakers and not any particular power. Till today, India does not blindly comply with either USA or china - nor Russia - while it abstains from calling out Russia ~~in~~ in international forums - it also repeatedly talks for peace. This again reaffirms holding one's own ground yet be open to all new ideas and opportunities.

In case of economy also while we are focusing on our own products and trying to become self-reliant, we are also promoting exports - to keep ourselves open to opportunities outside our own area.

Thus, in all sectors of our individual, social, community level and national existence, it is always the sign of the greatest wisdom to remain flexible and open to new ideas and opportunities and to accept that there is so much more to learn and improve — because that is the only sign of true wisdom and maturity.

Just like ~~Rama~~ the great saint and philosopher Sri Ramakrishna Parama-hansa-dev teaches us to be like a 'hansa' (swan) who can take out only the milk from a mixture of milk and water — we should also be open to all new ideas but be vigilant enough to

take only the best out of it.

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Investigator 1

Essay 1

→ The 1st 2-3 pages of the essay have not been substantiated by examples.

* Idea

→ Example

* Idea

→ Example

* Idea

→ Example

→ Hitting the topic with each example every time.

Essay 2