



SHUBHRA RANJAN

Always Ahead

32 B, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi 110005. ☎ 9910812719

Essay for Mains 2023

Essay Test - 02

Time Allowed: 1.5 Hour

Max Marks: 150

Name: MOHAMMAD HARIS MIR

Test Date: 29-07-2023

Email Address: _____

Mobile: _____

Important instructions:

Write an essay on any one of the following topics:

- Stick to the word limit: **1100-1200 words.**
- Ideal time: **1.5 hours.**



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[illegible]



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1.

Why distort a past that can no longer stand up for itself.

or

2.

Facts are facts and will not disappear on account of your likes. does not step twice in the same river.

Q2. Facts are facts and will not disappear
on account of your likes.

[Hume bhi maloom hai jannat ki
hageegat

- Dil ko behlane ke liye ye khagel
Achha hai

~ Mirza Ghalib

This quote by Mirza Ghalib eloquently
conveys the truth of Human Nature,
that we would choose any answer



if that rescues us from the painful
dilemma of 'not knowing' or 'being
incorrect'

[Truth is sometimes Painful]

Jeremy Bentham's utilitarian perspective

can give us certain basis for

our tendency to pick our truths

selectively. Several times when our

established ideas / notions are challenged,

it makes us anxious, our body releases

Cortisol which is the same hormone

responsible for our stress and the



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'Fight or Flight' Response. Consequently our response to uncomfortable facts is the same as in 'apprehended danger' which is either to 'Fight' - to reason with those facts or 'Flight' - to evade the situation ; to Quarantine the truth from our Reality.

When we choose to Fight, we have multiple options at our disposal. We can adopt the 'Socratic' method to testing our hypothesis in relation to the fact. This can be an uncomfortable situation akin to an immune

response by an body to a pathogen.

At several times in our history, our civilization has responded to new facts and dealt with it proactively, when the Shramana Traditions challenged the Brahmanic Propponents with certain uncomfortable facts, the Bhramana Traditions evolved into a better and resistant Bhakti.

When we choose 'Flight', this can happen in two ways, either we outrightly reject the Fact which will amount to going against our



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own logic, OR we use logic to re-concile
the fact with our pre-existing perception

- Confirmation Bias. This is a rather easy

way out of the Ethical conundrum

of uncomfortable facts but this is problemati

matic in the long run as it can

curtail our philosophical evolution. This

can be understood by comparing it

with our immune response as mentioned

previously. When our body is faced

with a harmful/new pathogen, does

it ignore its existence? does it quara-

ntine it in some part of our body?

It dosst NOT. Because the pathogen if



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left untreated, will have long term consequences.

Whose Truth it is! Anyways

While we deal with the facts,
an important question arises; Are Facts
are Facts? Especially when it comes
to history or Economy, how do we
know or verify the facts. It is
well known that History is written by
the victors. so how much should
we idolize our heroes. Should we
call Ashok and Akbar Great because
all we know is what they wanted



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us to know. The Jain Philosophy of Anekantvada tells us that: "Our Reality may not be the Reality for every other person". Western Economic Models led us believe that the 'Truth' of a Good Life was in Consumerism. And now the 'Fact' of 'Reckless Growth' is not a 'Fact' anymore as we head towards a Climate Catastrophe.

Even Science is Becoming Political

Almost for the entire Duration of the 20th Century, Cigarette Smoking was never known to be as harmful



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as it is. This was because, Cigarette manufactures lobbied against Research into Tobacco. Even if any Research papers did come out; they were countered with huge numbers of Tobacco supporting Research. Science, the noble pursuit of objective knowledge, requires money. And money rarely comes without a bargain.

[A World of Post Truth is Already
Here]

21st century has been engulfed in wars, not physical ones, but wars



of Information, Narratives and Suppression of Knowledge. For the First time in History, Too much information is becoming a Problem as it leads to crumbling Consensus. Everyone is opinionated and Everyone has some 'Facts' to Back that Opinion. We are fighting over the existence of the Common Problems (such as Fighting climate change); let alone dealing with them. In our times, dealing with 'Facts' is becoming a Secondary Question and Identification of Facts is becoming a Primary one.



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To answer this Primary Question,
we must first realise the Importance
of Expert Knowledge; To trust the science
as it is science and not opinions which
have brought us here. Adopting Aristotle's
way of "knowing that you know Nothing"
will enable us to enter the Discourse
with an open mind. This is why
IPCC conducts the largest gathering
and review of scientific literature in
the world to establish, as best as
possible - facts which are without a



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blemish of doubt. This is why our Text-book writers at NCERT have committees a not a ^{just} single Person to establish Facts for the next generation. We will never be able to solve our collective problems if we can't agree on the definition of Problem.

The Answer to the Second Question, 'to deal with uncomfortable Facts?' We must take the more challenging route of 'Satyagraha' or as Robert Frost puts it - "The Road Not Taken". It is when Raja Ram Mohan Roy took the

uncomfortable approach, he achieved liberation not just for himself but for the Women in his Society.

When Buddha witnessed the suffering in the world around him, he didn't close his mind to it, he chose to deal with it, even if it meant spending decades in Meditation.

These examples teach us that when it comes to knowledge, facts or truth, Hedonism is ^{not} the right approach. As a species in the Cosmos, we know very little and there is



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much more to discover, our existing
facts will be challenged and our
theories and perceptions will be disproved
and dispelled. But until then we can
choose to navigate the facts with
a spirit of inquiry keeping knowledge
above ourselves.

Truth is not meant for comfort;

It is meant for liberation.

It is not a medicine; it is a bullet

~ Sadhguru