

Competitive Examinations Centre Savitribai Phule Pune University



Progress Report

**Activities Conducted from 01 October to
31st October 2019**

Sessions Conducted (01 October to 31st October 2019):

Mr. Prasad Muthe (Assistant Professor, CEC): conducted session on History where he discussed following topics:

- ✓ 1857 revolt, Historiography of 1857 revolt, various schools of history and their views on the revolt.
- ✓ Indian Nationalism

Mr. Prasad also conducted answer writing practice and discussion on the above mentioned topics.

Dr. S. Fazal D. Firdausi (Assistant Professor, CEC): conducted Geography GS sessions on the following topics:

- ✓ Geological Time-Scale
- ✓ Interior structure of earth
- ✓ Continental drift, Sea floor spreading and Plate Tectonics
- ✓ Volcanism and Earthquakes

Mr. Firdausi also conducted answer writing practice and started mapping sessions on World Geography.

Mr. Rahul Nikale (Assistant Professor, CEC): conducted session on Indian Polity and discussed preamble of the constitution of India, evolution of states and union territories. Mr. Rahul also conducted answer writing practice on the above mentioned topics.

Mr. Amit Deshmukh (Guest Faculty, CEC) discussed the concept of National income and how it is measured. Mr. Deshmukh also conducted answer writing practice on the above mentioned topics.

English Language Sessions: Conducted by Ms. Pallavi Desai

Sr. No.	Topic	Date
1.	Listening Activities, Articles, related activities	October 04, 2019
2.	Essay Assessment and Correction-Structure of paragraphs, etc.	October 05, 2019
3.	Listening activity Speaking skills - two minute speaking sessions	October 11, 2019
4.	Essay assessment - using proverbs, idioms, etc.	October 12, 2019
5.	Guessing meanings of words from context, forming sentences using words/ phrases.	October 18, 2019
6.	Essay Assessment- Paragraph writing	October 19, 2019

Essay Writing Sessions Conducted

Date	Topic	Batch
03th October, 2019	The more you sweat in peace the less you bleed in war	UPSC
05 th October, 2019	आपत्ती व्यवस्थापन : एक आव्हान	MPSC
09 th October, 2019	Our greatest glory is not in never falling but in rising every time we fall	UPSC
14th October, 2019	Poverty anywhere is a threat to prosperity everywhere	UPSC
16 th October, 2019	लोकशाहीत निवडणुकांचे महत्व	MPSC
23 rd October, 2019	विकास एक भ्रम कि वास्तव्य	MPSC

Mock Test & Discussion Session Conducted (MPSC MAINS)

1.	5 th , 7 th , 12 th October 2019	History, Geography, HR- HRD, Economics
2.	14 th , 19 th October 2019	Polity, Science Tech
3.	18 th October, 2019	Geography

Mock Test Conducted (UPSC MAINS)

1.	07 th October, 2019	GS 1 Comprehensive Test
2.	17 th October, 2019	GS 2 Comprehensive Test

Group Discussion Session

Competitive Examinations Centre started group discussion sessions for the students with following objectives:

1. To promote reading habit among the students from relevant sources
2. To enable students to synthesise the topic and present it
3. To improve communication skills of the students
4. To strengthen their analytical skills
5. These sessions are moderated by regular faculty of the competitive

Date	Group Discussion Topic
15 th October, 2019	Smart City Mission
22 nd October, 2019	One Nation, One Language



Group Discussion Sessions conducted by Mr. Prasad Muthe

Article Review Sessions

Competitive Examinations Centre started article review sessions for the students with following objectives:

1. To inculcate habit of reading
2. To encourage the students to refer to quality materials/sources
3. To introduce the students to articles published in referred academic journals
4. To enable them to produce gist of the article in their own words

These sessions are moderated by regular faculty of the competitive examinations centre.

Date	Article Review Session
01 st October, 2019	Aryan Debate
10 th October, 2019	Abrogation of Article 370
16 th October, 2019	Comprehensive Nutritional Survey – India
23 rd October, 2019	Gender History

Daily News & Views Sessions

Director CEC Prof. Jayant Umranikar proposed an idea to start daily news and views session for the students. As per the plan, everyday one student is given responsibility to read the newspaper thoroughly and asked to prepare brief notes on it. The same student is encouraged to share the notes with other classmates during the class. While sharing the notes, discussion is conducted on important news of that particular day. These are moderated by senior students of the CEC.

Essay Writing Competition

On the occasion of **150th birth anniversary celebration of Mahatma Gandhi on 11th October, 2019** the Competitive Examinations Centre organised an essay writing competition for its students. The main aim of that competition was to sensitize the students about Gandhian philosophy, values and principles and its relevance in the contemporary world. Around 17 students enthusiastically participated in the Essay writing competition. Students were encouraged to express their views in English or Marathi. They were given ninety minutes to complete the essay and the word limit was 1500 words.

Topics of the Essay Competition:





1. Relevance of Gandhian ideology in the 21st Century
2. Cleanliness is Next to Godliness
3. Cost Benefit Analysis of India's Space Programme
4. Youth and the Challenge of Climate Change
1. २१ व्या शतकातील गांधी विचारप्रणालीची प्रासंगिकता
2. स्वच्छता हीच ईश्वर सेवा
3. भारतीय अवकाश कार्यक्रम : आर्थिक विश्लेषण
4. हवामान बदलाचे आव्हान आणि तरुणाई



Essay Competition 11th October, 2019

Successful Candidates of the Centre

Congratulations

LIC Apprentice Development Officer		
Sr. No.	Name	Result Declared on
1		15th Oct., 2019
<i>Ms. Chabukswar Poonam (Batch : UGC - MPSC)</i>		
2		15th Oct., 2019
<i>Mr. Gujar Ashwin Bipin (Batch : TRTI - UPSC)</i>		
Shikshan Sevak ZP		
3		October, 2019
<i>Mr. Pawara Sunil Pathan (Batch : TRTI - MPSC)</i>		
4		October, 2019
<i>Ms. Sawale Minabai Suresh (Batch : TRTI - MPSC)</i>		

End of Part I

Part II

Selected Essay Series by CEC Students

Essay - S. No. 7

Topic: Shades of Happiness beyond Happiness Report

A story from *Panchtantra* of *Vishnugupta* depicts a crow, where in the crow was satisfied with his life and was happy. One fine day crow observes white pigeon and envies his colour, this makes him unhappy. When he asked pigeon whether he was happy or not, the pigeon replied that he was happy till he saw a parrot. The crow went to the parrot and asked whether he was happy or not, parrot replied he was happy till he saw a colorful peacock. The crow went to the peacock only to find that the peacock actually envied the crow for being happy. The peacock observed that almost every other bird can be caged except the crow. The peacock valued independence over outward beauty. The crow realizes this and in the end was contented with his exterior appearance.

This story highlights the inherent subjectivity in the state of being happy. Happiness level cannot be judged on the basis of objective criteria. Individuals, societies may differ on what the happiness meant for them.

In general, happiness means or can be derived through the state of mental, physical, spiritual & material well being; a situation where individual is able to satisfy his or her needs according to ones capacity. Can mere contentment or satisfaction qualify as happiness? Rather, it is overall harmony between internal & external environment which qualifies to be happiness.

Sustainable solution network (SDSN) under the United Nations framework releases global happiness report. It is based on several parameters of per capita income, life expectancy, social support, generosity & level of corruption. It seeks to establish an objective criterion for happiness to be quantified but, we understand happiness as individuals experience and inherently subjective one.

Moreover, definition of happiness can go beyond these parameters. It establishes causal relationship between economic development & prevailing happiness. This may not hold true all the time. But yes, other factors do fit in for happiness. For example, absence of corruption can make lives of citizens convenient and they can enjoy their freedom without fear & favour.

Nordic countries feature best in every year's happiness report while sub Saharan, south Asian countries feature poor in happiness report (for e.g. India ranked 140th among 156 countries in 2019.)

Can we justify the findings of report? Is India an unhappy country? The answer is multifaceted. India hosts largest number of multidimensional poor population in world (WB & UNDP), its 40% women are anaemic, Oxfam report states

that 73% of nations wealth is owned by 1% rich individuals and many other factors justify the findings of the report.

Yet, all is not black & white since India is improving significantly in almost every sector, be it health, education or economy. In the last decade India pulled out largest number of people out of poverty. Shouldn't that be accounted for?

Moreover, we Indians value spiritual & mental contentment as being a state of happiness. This is not even considered in the report.

These conclusions may lead us to the observation that happiness goes beyond the happiness report. As the report seeks to draw a subjective judgment based on an objective.

Buddhist philosophy talks about four noble truths (Aryasatya) dukkha (sorrow/unhappiness) is intrinsic to human life, uncontrolled desire (*Trishna*) is basic reason for 'dukkha', & 'dukkha' can be addressed if you follow eight fold path (*Dukkha Nirodh Gamini Pratipawa*). These eight fold paths talks about individual's conduct, behaviour, thought, action, faith, belief etc. Happiness report implicitly incorporates these in social support & generosity factors. But, all are not reflected. Thus, what Indians can find happy may not resonate with western people. (Occidental v/s oriental values & culture).

American declaration of independence talks about 'pursuit of happiness' (Thomas Jefferson). It is placed with other political rights of justice, liberty & equality. So, happiness can be linked to prevalent democratic rights. Thus, it is no surprise that the countries that feature good in rule of law index also feature well in the happiness report. While countries facing political turmoil such as south Sudan, Syria are placed lower in the happiness report.

At an individual level happiness may vary. This is defined by his/her circumstances, upbringing, value system etc. A poor may find extreme happiness in properly cooked meal while rich individual may be disconnected with expensive delicacies. Individual's health, material well being, profession, relationships, social support, family support, relevance etc can factors in for happiness.

Service to others can be greatest source of joy as observed by Rabindranath Tagore's poem,

I slept & dreamt that life was joy,

I awoke & found that life is service,

I behold & acted and found service is joy.

This is evident when we observe the great personalities such as Mahatma Gandhi, Kailash Satyarthi, Prakash Amte, Dr. Kalam and many others. Most of them had limited material wealth but garnered a huge social capital. They epitomize that service could give a sense of satisfaction & ultimate happiness.

One may find happiness in gaining knowledge (*Dnyan Marga*), performing duties (*Karma Marga*) & through unconditional love & devotion (*Bhakti Marga*). Indian philosophy advocates for these paths to realize ultimate happiness/ 'summum bonum' i.e. *Moksha*.

At collective level, clean environment, good governance, global peace & harmony, mutual benefit, absence of violence, etc can be source of collective well being and thus, happiness. Jermy Benthemus utilization approach of greatest good of greatest number could vouch for these collectives.

When these collectives help individuals to realize their potential through democratic principles of liberty, equality, fraternity, justice, spirit of brotherhood/sisterhood etc can there be true state of being happy for individuals.

Gandhiji says, "*Happiness is when what you think, what you say & what you act is in perfect harmony.*" So, he emphasizes individual's integrity & uprightness to be the eternal source of happiness. This Gandhian saying makes us realize that happiness can go beyond the mere quantified world happiness report.

Vedic hymn,

"Sarve bhavantu sukhinah

Sarve santu niramayah

Sarve bhadray pashyantu

Ma kaschit dukha bhag bhowet"

That means "*May all sentiment beings be at peace, may no one suffer from illness, may all see what is auspicious, may no one suffer*" is best description of what happiness actually meant to be.

By: Suhas Gade
(UGC – UPSC Batch)

Disclaimer:

This is an unedited essay. We encourage students to write, but also expect them to express themselves keeping in mind the context and meaning behind the quotation/statement.

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