

Prateek - Essay II Mains test 2025

17th July 2025

7:55 pm - 9:25 pm

Peace is not absence of conflict, but
ability to cope with it.

Essay I Understanding: 30

Analysis: 6

Intro & Conclusion: 6+6

Examples: 4

Feel good: 5

→ Intro can be made either
too direct or add anecdote
before existing para.

→ Essay feels too philosophical.
Adding more dimensions
would be apt.

What it takes to divide a nation? If western privilege is ignored, it takes an unprepared stroke of a pen. Radcliffe a man unaware of demography & geography sealed the fate of one of the most ancient civilization. What followed the pen was swords not on paper, but at throats. One part that was is Bharat adopted a secular vision to deal with fanaticism. The other part chose coercion, & got further divided in 1971. After all it is not absence of conflict that ensures peace, rather it is the ability to reconcile, ignore or utilize it.

Conflict is an integral part of any evolving entity. Conflicts & contradictions are at forefront of

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any diverse society. It is not society alone that develops through conflict rather it is also true at the individual level. Peace is not a commodity to be bought in a market, but is an invaluable reward of coping with inner conflicts. Once the contradictions that plague an individual are coped with, peace & bliss are the result..

Aurelius the famous Roman general buried 7 of his children while extinguishing fires of revolt in the empire. Surely the man was everyday in fetters of conflict, of despair. But what did he do at night? Sat with a journal resolving, coping with his inner conflict to establish peace within. His journal a method to cope with conflict not only provided peace to Aurelius & Rome, but

to this day his meditations enlighten various souls on path to peace. But not all are able to cope. It was nothing but troubled childhood of discrimination faced by infamous General Dyer that led to Jallianwala Massacre on eve of Baisakhi. It was internal conflict, & inability of General to deal with it.

Despite continuous rise in consumerism & palpable shift towards materialism, one thing more sought after is peace, latest iPhone still comes second. Tremendous effort goes to resolve the conflict. Rapid digitization has struck the tender stem of intergenerational compatibility. Changing values & static traditions continuously stretch the fabric of home. Rigidity of stem, weakens the ability of

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reconciliation. What is the result?
Rigidity + inability to cope leads
to empty nests, a shift from home
to house. But places nature flexibility
is maintained, & an attempt by
elders to understand the changing
world is made, coupled with
understanding of limited neuroplas-
ticity of elders, by the young,
peace ensues. There are no more
empty nests & young take peace
& solace in traditional values.

Difference of ideas is
a colorful palette & homogeneity of
idea is a black & white picture. But
it is ability of Artist to prevent
either of them becoming, red, not
with colour but with blood.
The famous Rwandan genocide
is the example of palette turning
red with blood due to inability
to cope with conflict. Two
communities of Tutsi & Hutu were

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at each others throat. what ensued was large scale genocide. But, remember art is decided by artists. In a very contrasting situation Belgium was able to reconcile dutch speaking + french speaking community of Singapore through detailed communal trust programme like common apartment housing not only coped with conflict, but also on the bedrock of peace became economic powerhouse.

Ability of coping with conflict requires competency + vision. Love for peace can blind one, if he is unequipped with potency to subdue the conflict. At many times attempts to get peace through convenient methods become display of ludicry. Earth is heating, humans are analogous

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to frogs in a boiling pot. But what happens if without calculating the safe distance from pot, the frog jumps? High probability of it falling into the flame. Sri Lankan bold attempt to completely ban fertilizer to address environmental issue, led it to jump into flame of economic chaos finally India had to bail it out. At the same time India vehicle getting largest organic farmers in terms of number + highest installed renewable energy capacity was able to resolve Environment-Economy peace. It ensured environmental peace by deploying 50.1% renewable energy + Economic stability by having more \$700 billion Forex.

Ensuring peace, presupposes the existence of conflict + complete peace which is complete absence

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of conflict is an ideal. Amount of peace, though not quantifiable has been cotermious with will & ability to cope with it. Red scare & increased insurgency in north east were becoming bigger threat than border threats. But through technology, data, discourse & will naxalism is almost on the verge of collapse. North Eastern insurgency also require the similar the will & ability of diplomacy to sort out solution & ensure peace. Surrender by insurgents & their mainstream inclusion in society upholds not only Gaudhian principle of separation of sin & sinner but it resolves conflict peacefully. Yet the question if peace is the end, any means is justified to cope with conflict? Does the ability to be violent,

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licenses one to be violent? A peace that stands on violence stands on shaky grounds. Though the use of disproportionate violence might end a conflict, but it stains the conscience. Britishers while colonizing America killed millions of bison. Bison were staple of native americans or Red Indians. Therefore to starve red americans & lay rest to conflict, such violence was used. Even in today's selfish world Oswellian dictum of "War is Peace" is much visible in international diplomacy.

Had Ukraine have nuclear weapons, Russia would have thought twice before attacking it. Had India not have nuclear weapons, China through expansionism would have by now

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Occupied Arunachal & Kashmir & Ladakh. Though it seems a sad state of affairs from a moral view point, but it is ability to destroy & engage in war that is ensuring peace at borders.

Peace as a concept in itself is undefined it may range from external alienation like Kafka & internal realisation; or external realisation like fame seekers doing immoral act but lacking internal peace. Also what defines the ability to cope with, is a matter of debate. Few end up supposing the ideal forgetting that peace based on violence, legitimises evil. And in such cases peace

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is as ephemeral as a firefly.
This was the reason Gandhi after
every ^{ve} moment spent significant
time in constructive programme,
because both the peace within
& outside require moral
capabilities.

If human history is
more than just some random
accidents of greed, ambition,
power, war & chaos. Then it
teaches one thing that conflict
has been a fact of human existence.

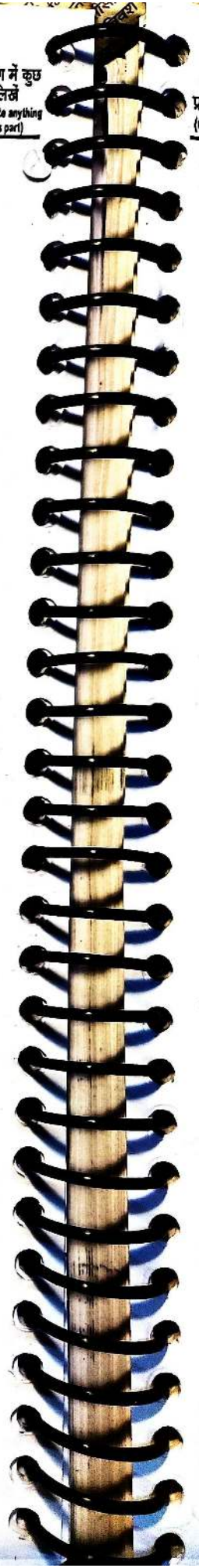
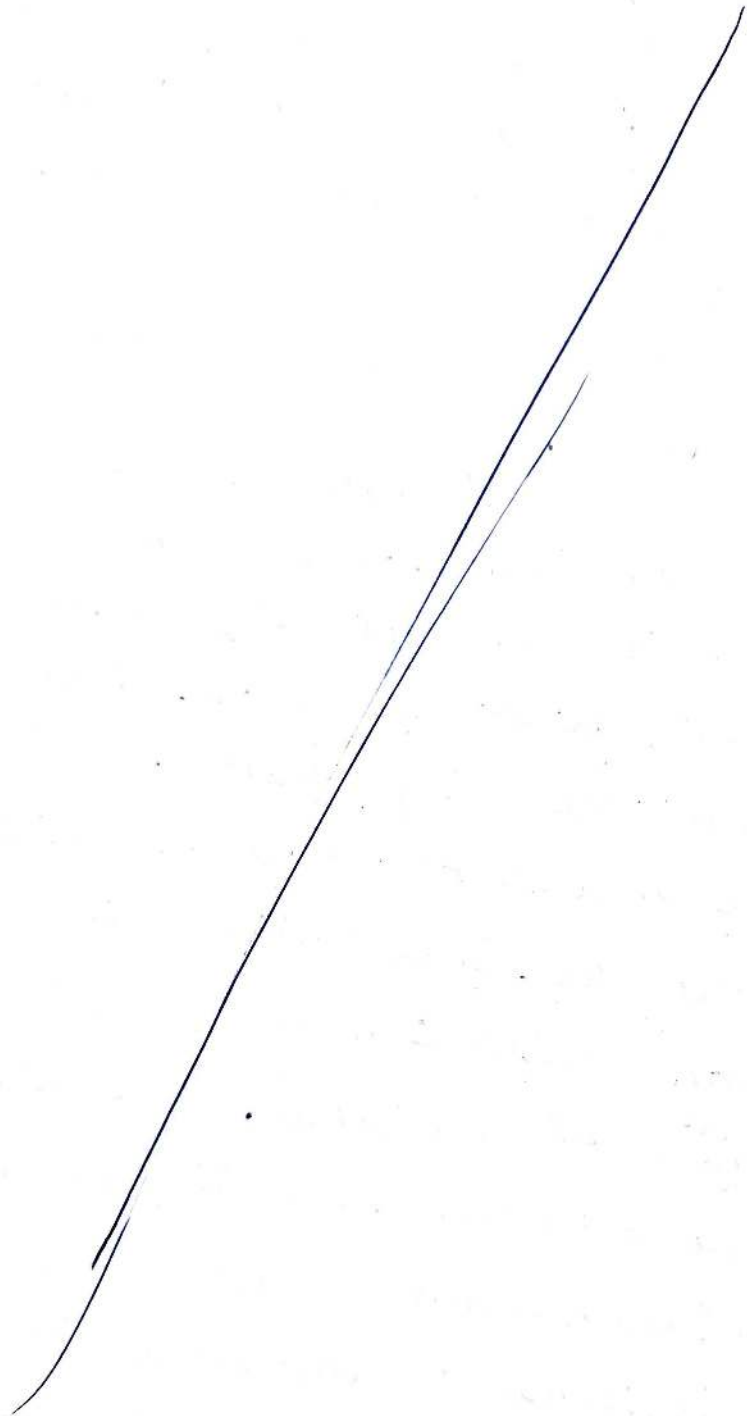
But at the same time history
through altruism of Shibi,
Selfness of Buddha, legitimacy
of Lal Bahadur Shastri, leadership
of Manekshaw & harmony of
Ramakrishna Paramhansa teaches
that no conflict is bigger than
human will to conquer it &
ensure peace.

संख्या
(Question No.)

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