


Essay Comment Sheet

Date: 11/08/19

	Name of Candidate	ARANYAK SAIKIA
	Registration No.	41166
	Test Code	1255

Marks Obtained	Essay 1	Essay 2	Total
	(62)	(63)	(125)

Overall Macro comments / Feedback / Suggestions on Answer Booklet :

Dear Aranyak,

your language and presentation skills have been good.

In other aspects like Introduction, conclusion, understanding demand & requirements of topic of essays, their structuring and flow etc. too; your performance by and large have been satisfactory.

However, try to maintain uniformity in paragraph formation.

Also, in your essays, try to add as many dimensions as possible, to make them more comprehensive.

Rest, your effort in both essays have been appreciable.

Keep Writing!

All The Best

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Dear candidate,

Now I will providing you with your strengths and shortcomings, along with some missed dimensions/ aspects and value addition material (for both essays seperately in detail). so that you would be able to continue with your strengths and work upon your shortcomings to improve further.

Section A: changing contours of the climate change dialogue

Language used by you is simple, lucid and grammatically correct. It is appreciable.

Presentation Paragraph formation have been proper.

Imp. keywords and main points etc were underlined to enhance their visibility.

Whole essay was written in a neat and clean manner with good and legible handwriting.

Overall presentation of the essay have been satisfactory.

however, try to maintain uniformity in paraformation.

Introduction In your introductory remark, by quoting Gandhiji, you tried to provide some context to the topic of essay. overall it was

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a satisfactory introduction.

structuring/Flow Flow of the essay was good. It was well maintained throughout.

structuring of body of essay also have been proper. It was well aligned with the demand & requirements of topic of essay.

However, few ^{imp.} more points and dimensions too could be added in your essay to make it more comprehensive.

(see missed dimensions/ aspects section ahead for suggestions).

conclusion you tried to conclude your essay by providing some way forward. overall it was a satisfactory conclusion.

missed dimensions/ aspects and value addition Material

✓ In your essay, to highlight the changing contours of the climate change dialogue, at international level, you talked about Earth summit 1992, Kyoto protocol, CBDR, Paris agreement etc. However, here you could also talk about -

- 2012 Doha Conference (COP 18) - Kyoto Protocol was amended.
- Action for Climate empowerment (ACE) adopted by the UNFCCC in 2015 and focuses on six

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priority areas - education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information and international co-operation on these issues.

- Engagement of civil society groups - Civil society observers under the UNFCCC have organised themselves in large groups, covering about 90% of all admitted organisations.
- Talanoa Dialogue A process designed to help countries implement and enhance their Nationally Determined Contributions by 2020.

It represents an opening up of the UN Climate negotiations because non-state actors are able to actively participate and submit their ideas for how national govts. can improve their emission reduction targets. etc.

Section B: Reservation policy in India: Does it need a rethink?

With regard to language, presentation and flow, whatever said earlier in previous essay, is well applicable in this essay too.

Introduction In your Introductory remark, in light of Preamble of Constitution of India, you tried

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to highlight significance of reservation policy. Overall it was a satisfactory introduction.

Structuring structuring of body of this too have been proper. Various aspects related with topic of essay like historical background, need for reservation, arguments for and against reservation policy, need to revisit and suggested reforms etc. were appropriately covered in your essay. Overall structuring of body of essay have been satisfactory.

Conclusion, your concluding remark of this essay have been by and large satisfactory.

Missed dimensions/aspects and value addition material

✓ In your essay, with regard to reservation policy in India, you talked about Reservation in educational institutions, jobs, PRIs; Reservation in promotion etc. However, here you could also talk about -

- Reservation for Transgender
- Reservation for Physically handicapped etc.

✓ While suggesting reforms required in reservation policy, you suggested introduction of concept of cream layer for SC/ST, limit no. of times a person could avail reservation etc. However, here you could also suggest -

- sub-categorization of OBCs and fixing quota for each sub-category In recent years it

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has been observed that few dominant & influential castes among OBCs, get most of the OBC reservation benefit and some castes which are really backward lag behind. This could be addressed by creating subcategories.

- No. of times a family could avail benefit of reservation could also be put in place.
- As dictated by SC in NALSA V. UOI & Ors. case 2014, question of reservations for transgender and intersex persons should be immediately implemented. etc.

Good luck!

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

CHANGING CONTOURS OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE DIALOGUE

Gandhiji once said, "There is world ~~has~~ enough for every man's needs, but not enough for a single man's greed." As we step into the third decade of the 21st century, man's greed has led us into a situation where the earth is warming up and we are on the cusp of the 6th mass extinction in history.

The relentless emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs), especially carbon dioxide (CO_2) and the consequent climate change due to global warming has become a

topic of heated discussion among the common citizens and policy-makers alike. Yet we find that the dialogue on climate change — ranging from the scientific consensus to the steps taken for mitigation — has and is undergoing considerable changes. This piece essay tries to piece together these changing contours to provide a comprehensive ^{picture} dialogue on climate change dialogue.

First, the scientific consensus. The scientific debate on climate change appeared in the 1970s. By the beginning of the 21st century, barring a few exceptions, there is near complete consensus on the reality of climate change.

The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC Report has shown that CO₂ concentration has reached 400 ppm in the atmosphere — this was just 250 ppm in the beginning of the Industrial Revolution.

↓
Avoid writing in Margins

The Report further warns that in the current business-as-usual approach, global temperatures will rise by 4°C above pre-industrial levels by 2100 creating havoc on earth.

The second contour is the international policy response.

Starting from the Earth Summit in 1992, the success of international agreements on climate change has been mixed. While the Kyoto Protocol with market-based carbon

credits failed due to the non-participation of the largest emitter - the USA, the recently concluded Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) provides a ray of hope.

Even here, significant points of disagreement persist. First, developed countries ~~that~~ have contributed more to GHG emissions historically and therefore, should take greater cuts in emissions. This principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) has not been followed by them.

Second, developed countries are still reluctant to provide \$100 billion yearly funding to enable developing countries adopt mitigation

measures. This could be seen clearly in the COP 24 held in Katowice last year.

The US pull-out has further disappointed the global community.

At the national level, policymakers, while acknowledging that climate change is real, still go for heavy industrialization that is detrimental to the environment. There appears to be a competitive hyper-nationalism where each country tries to industrialize faster than the others. People concerned by the climate change are ~~concerned~~ considered dreamers.

This can be seen very clearly in the rise of right-wing politics in Brazil under Bolsonaro and

US under Trump. In both these cases, the governments are relaxing restrictions on coal-based industries and protections to Amazon rainforest.

However, there are many other countries where climate change has become an election issue. The rise of the Green Party in EU and Greta Thunberg in Sweden point to increasing importance people are paying to climate change. Even in the US, the Green New Deal - a set of political and legal reforms to tackle climate change - is gaining popularity.

Thus, while more and more people are beginning ~~are beginning~~ to accept the reality of climate

change, a significant chunk still think that it is a myth, partly due to their inability to distinguish weather from climate, and partly due to the fake propaganda of climate deniers on the internet and social media.

Till recently, businesses complained of any restrictions placed on their activities due to environmental protection. However, with the changed attitude of people, businesses are finding opportunities on climate friendly ^{being}. The Tesla is pioneering the development of electric cars, while financial firms are innovating with green bonds. Recently, in India, SEBI, brought out guidelines on green bonds due to its growing popularity.

Earlier, it was believed that global warming would lead to melting of glaciers and rise in sea levels, leading to destruction of coastal communities. However, over time, greater clarity has emerged on the differential impact that such ~~sea~~ melting glaciers would have across nations.

Rising sea levels and frequent adverse weather like cyclones will have a much greater negative shock on developing countries and small island states.

Even ~~if~~ within these countries, the poor who depend primarily on agriculture will face the greatest brunt due to fall in

crop productivity associated with droughts and ~~the~~ flood.

Further, associated with agriculture is the emergence of the new consensus that not only is agriculture facing biggest ^{one of} brunt of climate change, it is also the chief contributors to GHG emissions through methane emissions, soil organic carbon and land degradation. A recent IPCC report has clearly highlighted the above linkage. Thus, while ~~p~~ in the near future, we are faced with the rising dilemma of the need to expand agriculture to meet the food security of a growing population while finding

ways to reduce its impact on climate change.

Finally, there has been considerable change to the policy approach to tackle climate change. ~~Over~~ In the process, two major schools have emerged. The first school advocates the use of free markets to achieve its objectives.

According to them, free markets allocate resources efficiently based on ~~so~~ social-cost-benefit. Thus, as climate change takes a toll on our resources and ecosystem services, ~~now~~ the market will respond by raising prices and developing new technologies. This was the reasoning behind the 'cap-and-trade' mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol. The free-market advocates cite

the growth of 'electric cars' and green bonds to justify their claim.

The second school, while agreeing somewhat with free-market advocates, argues that the GDP and the economics of growth are based on the assumption that nature in-situ is of no value and become valuable only when it is produced through the market.

This leads to the exploitation of resources, and as Meadows put it ~~is~~, ~~is~~ there are 'limits to such growth'. Thus, this school advocates state action on restrictions on economic activity, moving towards green accounting and generating awareness among people.

Closer home, in India, we can see the changing contours of ^{the} climate dialogue playing out. While India has taken a lead in international climate dialogue through the International Solar Alliance, and INDCs in the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it has gone for un-sustainable industrialization by relaxing environmental regulations such as Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) guidelines.

Climate change is not given ~~by~~ much space in school textbooks in India, while farmers are beginning to witness the adverse effects on their output. In response,

the government has created the National Adaptation Fund on Climate Change to mitigate some of the adverse effects.

• The governments efforts under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), especially under the Solar Mission, have borne fruit. This needs to be continued further.

Thus, to conclude, the debate and dialogue around climate change has been breaking new contours. Yet, the ~~ex~~ threats we face are common to all. This requires all nations to work in a concerted manner to tackle the challenges.

While the free market can be tapped to spur innovations in solar technology, electric cars

or green bonds, the government and civil society need to get together to spread awareness among people.

This requires modifying our textbooks to have more on climate change, and rewarding attempts at afforestation and other mitigation steps.

It also requires us to suitably insure the poorest from the adverse effects, while going for climate-smart agriculture (CSA) like below-under-water rice farming of Kuttanad.

Research and development on newer technologies like geo-engineering to block or absorb

solar radiation, etc need to be encouraged. Cross-country collaborations can help reap economies of scale.

Finally, we need to move towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). After all,

we must develop in a way so that our ^{present} needs do not compromise in any way the needs of our future generations — our children!

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RESERVATION POLICY IN INDIA : DOES IT NEED A REVISIT ?

The Preamble to the Constitution of India envisages a polity where social, economic and political justice is guaranteed to its citizens. It is to give effect to these principles that Independent India embarked on the policy of reservations to the backward castes — collectively called the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Castes (OBCs) — as a mode of affirmative action.

These backward castes, particularly the SCs and STs, had suffered centuries of deprivation, exclusion and untouchability. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar — the Chairman of the

Drafting Committee — rightly said that India could not sustain its political democracy based on Fundamental Rights and universal franchise, if it could not ensure social and economic democracy based on greater representation and inclusion of SCs and STs in all walks of life. This was to be done through the system of reservation.

While reservations have existed even before 1947 — most notably through the efforts of the Justice Party and Government of India Act, 1935 — the system got institutionalized through the enabling provisions of Articles 16(4), 16(4A), 330, 338 and 340 of the Indian Constitution. As a result, reservation in colleges, government jobs and legislatures

have become a part of our polity since independence.

Over time, however, this policy of reservation has generated intense debate and controversy.

Advocates of reservation argue that the policy has yielded positive results. They point to the increasing representation of the SCs/STs and OBCs in education, government and legislatures. A number of people from these communities have done exceptionally well. One such example is Tina Dabi, who being a SC, secured the 1st rank in the UPSC Civil Service Examination.

Increased representation has also made others accept these 'lower castes'. They are no longer excluded or discriminated against, especially

in urban areas. This ^{has} helped in their assimilation.

Advocates of further point to the significant & improvements in health, and education and income indicators among the SC/ST/OBCs & as evidence of a successful reservation policy.

This has also enabled these groups to express themselves freely. The growth of Dalit literature and the demand for creation of Jharkhand were the result of the reservation policy creating an upwardly mobile middle class among the SC and STs who could then bring about change within their communities.

It is just not SC/ST/OBC reservations where positive results have emerged. The reservation of

Percent

33% of seats in the Panchayats and Municipalities for women has not only enhanced their representation to 40% but also made them important stakeholders in local governance.

While arguing for the success of reservation policy, its supporters still vouch for confirmation of this policy on the grounds that discrimination and exclusion are still prevalent. They point to the caste-class correlation still persisting across India. Most of the upper castes are rich, have better social indicators and are engaged in white collar jobs. The lower-castes are poor and mostly do menial jobs, like manual scavenging.

The discontent and opposition to reservation is equally vocal. Their opposition is based on a number of grounds. ~~First~~

First is the question of merit and efficiency. They argue that reservation dis-incentivises hard work and merit. Thus, candidates of lower quality get in, affecting overall efficiency in administration and educational quality.

Further, it generates resentment among the general category candidates against the reserved category, thereby further perpetuating the casteism in the society. It has also generated demands among dominant castes for reservations. The recent agitations of the Jats, Patidars

and Marathas are a case in point. These landed communities have been hit hard by agrarian distress.

However, seeing the upward mobility of the Dalits and ~~&~~ Adivasis, they ~~is~~ mistakenly blame this on the reservation policy and themselves seek a share of the reservation pie.

Given their ~~&~~ political dominance, many governments give in and include them in the OBC category.

Recently, the Marathas were given 12% reservation in Maharashtra.

The irony is that ~~the~~ a single community gets 12% of the seats while all other OBC communities share 19% of the seats. This effectively creates a community-specific quota, completely nullifying the original intention of reservation.

Reservation for Maratha community is over and above OBC i.e. They are given reservation at a separate category.

Thus, reservations have led to politicization of caste. The genesis of this lies in the Mandal agitations of 1990 as more and more socially and educationally backward communities ~~go~~ got the benefit of the OBC quota. Even

In fact, the Supreme Court had to step in to prevent this proliferation of reservation. In its famous Indira Sawhney judgement, the Percent- court put an upper ceiling of 50% on the total reservation that the government can provide. States like Tamil Nadu found a way to evade this ceiling by ~~to~~ getting its reservation law placed in the 9th Schedule of the Constitution.

The Court had to again

(एन सी सी
कृपया न हिलें)

intervene through the Nagraj
case (2006) to ensure that
reservations in promotion did not
affect efficiency in administration.

Thus, the reservation policy has
generated an endless plethora of
litigation.

The politicization of caste has
also generated friction across groups
that were hitherto similar. Take
the case of the Meenas and Gijjars.
While the Meenas got into ST
category, the Gijjars were left out.
The latter ~~is~~ has felt cheated
and continues to agitate till this
day.

~~Finally~~ Finally, in response to the
demand from the politically powerful
upper caste, the Constitution 103rd

Perce
Amendment Act introduced 10% reservation for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) among the upper castes. Reservation is now being used as a poverty alleviation tool, moving away from its initial role as a tool for social justice ~~or~~ for the SC/ST/OBCs and women. This is likely to make the entire reservation policy ineffective.

The other arguments against reservations look at the impact of the policy on actual outcomes. As pointed out earlier, the caste-class divide still persists. Those entering educator colleges through reservation allegedly are not able to withstand the intense competition and drop out. This only worsens their positions.

The opponents of reservation also point out that those who come through reservations suffer from low self-esteem and are unable to develop adequate skills. Further, they allege that the benefits of reservation are cornered by such SC/ST candidates who anyway do not face any discrimination.

In the case of the 25%^{Percent} reservation of poor students in private schools under Right to Education Act (RTE) it has been argued that these kids are not able to assimilate well with the others, leading to even poorer learning outcomes.

Finally, it has been argued that the reservation policy was introduced ~~introduced~~ as a temporary measure, and therefore, needs to go as it

has outlived its utility.

Thus, given the above arguments against the reservation policy in India, there is a need to for a rethink on how best to provide justice to the marginalized groups in India.

First of all, completely dismantling the reservation system is outrageous. A society steeped in inequality and exclusion needs some form of affirmative action. Equality without equity amounts to miscarriage of justice.

Further, as evidence has shown, the policy has significantly added its increased the representation of marginalized groups, especially in

the government. In white collar private jobs where reservation is absent, there is virtually a complete dominance of the upper castes.

The resentment among upper castes needs to be understood ~~from the~~ as the failure of the state to create adequate economic and educational opportunities. Thus, the state needs to create more colleges and jobs.

This requires increasing ~~the~~ ^{percentage} spending on education to 6% of GDP, focusing on schemes like Make-in-India, Start-up India and Skill India.

Instead of the EWS quota, ~~easy~~ scholarships and ~~easy~~ cheap loans can be provided to the poorer candidates from the general

category.

While reservations are one policy option, the state also needs to look at other policies to alleviate deprivation of the SC/ST/OBCs. Investments in human capital through targeted focus on health, education and nutrition

are of the order. The Ekalaya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) are a ~~low~~ replicable model in other SC and ST areas.

Land reforms are another area of focus. The Redistribution and strong tenancy laws can ~~the~~ reduce landlessness among the marginalized, augment their incomes and increase their upward mobility.

Strong enforcement of laws like the Protection of Civil Rights Act are the need of the hour.

Finally, a few tweaks in the reservation policy can be looked into. First, ~~a~~ there can be a creamy layer for SC and STs too. This ~~can~~ will ensure that the needy get the benefit of reservation. Second, reservation benefits can be made available only once during a person's lifetime. This might require the use of AADHAAR card.

Reservations in India has its flaws. However, it is too early to completely dismantle it. The need of the hour is to ~~to~~ focus on improving the system.

