

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 1

"Important truths begin as outrageous, or at least uncomfortable, attacks upon the accepted wisdom of the time."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 1

This is a proven fact that truth is the initial stage of progress. However, it is also believed that truth always starts away from the traditions and conventions. Therefore, people consider truths as attacks upon their beliefs, which people are following from ages. Truth also means some new facts that are unknown to us. People do not want to deviate from the facts, which they have learnt from their ancestors, and it is true to say that shedding ones dogmas is often difficult. They feel that it is an attack on their wisdom.

If we look at the history of the world, we will find many examples where truth has generated commotions in the society. Different people have different views about the existence of God, life after death and origin of earth etc. For example, people took a long time to accept that the earth is round. Religious leaders and clergymen opposed this idea as it was against what they were teaching. Similarly, when Polish astronomer, Copernicus discovered that the earth goes round the sun and not vice versa, he was opposed by churches for many years. In fact he and his supporters were convicted for their ideas. Hence, it is very difficult to change the traditions that are followed by majority of people.

Similarly, when Darwin gave the theory of evolution, and challenged the old ideology, he was resisted by public. Nobody was ready to believe that apes were the ancestors of humankind. However, it is important to accept truths, otherwise it would hinder the growth of mankind. It is important for us to accept new ideas so as to bring out reforms in society and thus adopt new ideologies. It would open doors for various kinds of development. One should not blindly accept and follow old ideas or new truths. There should be enough scientific approach and explanations for everything.

However, there might be different reasons for this kind of uncomfortable reactions against truth. The first and the most responsible reason is the human nature. Most people will not prefer to change their ways of life and thinking, as it is accepted and prevalent from time unknown. They believe in what they are doing and experiencing for their whole life. The second factor is that truths often challenge the other persons authority. In order to save their status and honor, authoritarians oppose new ideas and truths. In getting their own way, they provoke the public. Sometimes these reactions go violent also.

However, these days, people are becoming more open minded. They are ready to accept new ideas. Our societies all over the world are getting more flexible and open to new truths. Hence, new ideas and truths are accepted peacefully and there are no violent commotions.

The conclusion is that important truths, which challenge the proven wisdom, always, face oppression. However, if these truths hold any ground, then these are accepted over a period of time after facing trials.

GRE AWA Practice - GRE ISSUE ESSAY 2

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 2

Originality does not mean thinking something that was never thought before; it means putting old ideas together in new ways.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 2

Originality has a different meaning for everyone. It is something new, useful, and interesting. It is a basis for many inventions. You cannot define originality in one word or one sentence. It can be inventing new things, innovations or just putting old ideas together to invent something new. Originality has very vast scope; you cannot bind it with few statements. It is related to creativity.

Originality is key to success in the new developing world. It is a key factor in almost every sector. However, you cannot restrict originality with something, which no one has thought before. It can be using good old ideas or part of old things to create a new thing or representing old ideas in new frames. It can be good sometimes because this way you can restore old things. Music industry is a good example of this. These days many artists are presenting old songs with new music instruments and new videos. In a way, they are making new generation aware of the old cultural and musical heritage.

The quantum theory is a good example of originality depending on the old and proven facts. The basic of quantum mechanics is Newton's old mechanics and it is full of new ideas. The new quantum mechanics has restored the old and valuable ideas of Newton's mechanics.

Sometimes, it is one's outlook, which gives birth to new ideas. Every individual has a different way of looking at the things. For example, everybody knows the power of steam. However, James Watt thought about using steam in a way that nobody had thought before and invented steam engine. His thinking differently gave birth to a new invention. Sometimes, new ideas and inventions have no strong base. They come out without any prior evidence or old ideas. Similarly, the idea of internet did not spring out all of a sudden. It was inspired from ARPNET that was initially used by the army.

However, there are arguments about the level of originality. What type of inspiration is considered original? This is an important question as there is a very thin line between getting inspired from somebody's work and using it to create a new thing and copying somebody else's work. In fashion industry, old fashions and styles are coming back. New designers are inventing new fusion dresses by combining old styles with new modern look.

Therefore, one has to look for old ideas to think creatively. One has to research the old data to understand the demand, requirement, and the trend. Then only can one make a basis for his new process of thoughts. The value of old ideas cannot be simply ignored.

Therefore, you cannot say that originality has to be something that was never thought before. It can be a new angle to an existing thought. Originality can be stretched human knowledge, which gives way to new inventions. One should have the freedom to take inspiration from existing ideas or from Nature. Thus, one can take inspiration from old work but after giving respect to the person behind the old ideas.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 3

Laws should not be rigid or fixed. Instead, they should be flexible enough to take account of various circumstances, times, and places.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 3

Laws are the basic principles of our day-to-day life; hence, behavior of people should not go beyond the lines confined by laws. Laws are strong weapons to maintain peace and harmony in a society. However, everyday and every situation can be different. You cannot generalize the circumstances beyond a certain limit. Same is the case with laws. You cannot apply the same law in each situation. It has to be flexible. Change and flexibility are required for growth.

In general, there are many laws. Violation of laws can have different forms. There are different laws for different situations. However, within a particular type of crime also, the situation might be different. Hence, while taking a decision, one has to take decisions keeping in mind circumstances of a particular case. For example, it has to be considered whether a person has made an offence deliberately, unintentionally, just for fun or for money.

There are many examples in history, which make you think in favor of flexibility of laws. The latest law is one child rule in China. This law was made to control population in China. According to this law in China, each couple can have only one child. Now after the earthquake, the Chinese government is thinking about revising this law. Hence, as a society is growing and developing, proper changes in laws are required. Laws have to keep pace with the changing times.

Another example of a law changing with time is the law related to the legal heir. In ancient times, only the oldest son or only the sons of the family had the right to the family property. As time has progressed and women have started asking for their rights, law has changed and now all the offspring have equal right to the family wealth. Now a days, another aspect in this context also plays a role. That is the will of the dying person. Family wealth is distributed according to the will of the dying person.

Similarly, you cannot give the same punishment to two persons who have killed some other persons for different reasons. While one person might have killed for some personal gain and the other person could have killed to save his own life. Both the situations are entirely different. There is no doubt that fixed laws help the judges in determining whether a person is guilty or not. However, it also forces people to follow laws, as they are afraid of punishments. It instills the fear in their minds that if they do some wrong, they will be punished.

Finally, it can be said that there should be a balance between the two aspects. There should be a fixed law for every crime to guide the judges and the government to install rules and regulations.

It gives the feeling of security and stability. However, at the same time, there should be flexibility when it comes to applying the laws in different circumstances. There should be a scope of modifying the existing and fading laws to give way to the development of the society and justice to people.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 4

It is always an individual who is the impetus for innovation; the details may be worked out by a team, but true innovation results from the enterprise and unique perception of an individual.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 4

There is no second thought that an individual who owns an enterprise has his own interest in the growth of his enterprise. It is true that he has to possess a unique perception for his growth. However, an individual cannot attain success alone without the support provided by his team. An individual needs foundation work like research work, new methods to make an innovation etc. A person and the members of his team usually work hand in hand to make a task successful. An individual works as a force behind his team.

I agree with the author that there has to be a thought process behind a new innovation. A talented individual plays an important role in innovations. In history, we have many examples that explain the role of an individual and his persistence in the inventions of the things that have changed our lives. New innovated ideas need courage and perception to be executed. One has to be brave enough to take risks and undergo distress.

For example, Wright brothers invented planes. However, nobody is able to know the risk they had taken and the way they handled the failures, they faced while working. Similarly, Bill Gates was the thoughtful mind behind the success of software. He judged the potential of software when the other companies like IBM were concentrating on hardware. He got the benefit and established Microsoft. Although Microsoft was altogether his idea, he was able to make it successful with the help of his team. Further, Microsoft has created many new software.

There is also an example of steel tycoon Laxmi Mittal, who did not leave his courage after he failed to start his business in India. However, his persistence and enterprise made him successful and now he is one of the most successful men in the world.

There is no doubt that an individual with foresight and talent can play a vital role in an enterprise. However, we cannot deny the importance of teamwork. These days, there are so many complex problems that cannot be solved by a single person. The recent Nobel Prize winners are a group or team of three or four persons as they worked together to make new inventions. Many companies when innovate new products, divide the whole task into small tasks and then integrate the whole thing to achieve the final product. That way every person in the team gets a chance to express his own unique idea. That way everybody can contribute to the enterprise. Especially, in the field of medicine, teamwork is required. New medicines invented by a single person cannot be used without the verifications and research done by the other scientists.

In the end, we can agree with the statement that an individual with talent and the unique quality of enterprise can help in making new inventions and discoveries. However, when it comes to complex problems and new researches then the need of teamwork and cooperation of team members cannot be ignored.

GRE AWA Practice - GRE ISSUE ESSAY 5

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 5

The function of science is to reassure; the purpose of art is to upset. Therein lies the value of each.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 5

Science and art, both play an important role in the development of humanity and society. Both of them have unique purposes. However, you cannot say that science can only reassure and art can only upset. Both of them can reverse their roles also.

There is no doubt of science performing the function of reassuring as each invention in science makes our life easy. It gives us security and the feeling of comfort. For example, inventions like telephone, automobiles, and aeroplanes have made our lives easy and comfortable. Our ancestors had dreamt of flying like a bird, but science has made this dream come true. Similarly, the invention of electricity, has removed many unknown and unexplained fears from our minds.

The development of medical science has played a vital role in reassuring humans. Earlier, human beings used to wait for some miracle to be treated. However, now the most dreaded diseases can also be treated with the help of medicines.

However, science can also upset our lives. The invention of nuclear weapons and the harmful by products of scientific experiments have started threatening human life and the environment. Hence, the reassuring purpose of science is failed. Moreover, man has lost his peace of mind as with the development of science, human nature of exploring the unknown world has also grown. With the development of technology, people have more chances and resources to explore the huge cosmos and the solar system, which makes us upset and gives us large encouragement at the same time. Meanwhile, all these high tech researches, atomic science, medical research are trying to solve the old problems but initiating new puzzling thoughts.

On the other hand, art has an altogether different purpose. It is considered an activity that relaxes our mind. However, we cannot generalize the things as it depends on the artist's state of mind when he creates certain art piece. For example, listening to music makes you calm and comfortable. These days yoga gurus use music therapy to treat the patients suffering with stress related diseases. If you watch at the famous smiling painting of Mona Lisa, it brings a smile to your face. Similarly, the famous childhood story of "The Ugly Duckling" gives a child reassurance. The movements in classical dance give you unlimited imagination. There are also some art pieces, which upset you. If a painting shows hunger and poverty, then surely it will upset you. However, that is the artists' way of enlightening the society. Sometimes, the artist can

also depict his sad state of mind on the canvas or in a music piece. For example the famous painting "Pigeon and Guernica" by Picasso shows us the feeling of his being upset.

Both art and science are important to us. There is no point defining their functions. It is difficult as well as meaningless. Science is required for the benefit and growth of man, however, its abuse can destroy the world. Hence, we can conclude that both science and art play both the functions of reassuring and upsetting us in different circumstances.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 6

The study of an academic discipline alters the way we perceive the world. After studying the discipline, we see the same world as before, but with different eyes.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 6

I strongly agree with the author's statement that education or studying a discipline can alter your way of seeing the world. Education can change the way you perceive the world. Anyways, every person has a different view point, hence a different way of seeing things. We can compare it with our thought process when we are young and how it changes when we grow up. Similarly, education changes our thought process.

For example, earlier, when man was not aware of the solar system, humankind used to consider earth as a flat structure. However, once we studied the outer space and discovered about the solar system, we came to know about earth being round. It was also clear after studying the solar system that the earth is roaming around the sun and it is not the other way round. It proves that the study of an academic discipline changes the way we recognize the world.

Similarly, in the past, our ancestors used to consider lunar and solar eclipses as the anger of gods. However, after the development and study of natural science, people understood that these are natural phenomena and not the curse of gods. Education unveiled many mysteries that used to make man worried in the past. It gives us clear and true picture of things. For example, the concept of mirage, earlier people used to be confused about mirage. However, now it is clear that mirage is nothing but reflection of light. Still there are people who believe in ghosts and miracles, but their number has decreased. Most of the educated people look for an explanation for anything new. That is the foundation for new research and innovations everyday.

There is another way of understanding the point of view of the author. Different people from different socio-economic environments perceive a situation in different manners. Education makes us realize that the world cannot be divided in good or bad. Sometimes, the situations are very complex and we have to change our viewpoint keeping in mind all the aspects of the situation. For example, if something wrong happens, then two people can perceive the situation oppositely. One person might think negatively and remorse however, another person who has positive attitude, will try to study the situation and will try to correct it. The problems and crisis can also sometimes work as awakening calls and as the reasons for development. Like, to know the mysteries of day and night, stars, sun, other planets, man has studied cosmic science and this has changed the way we used to think before.

There is also another example of Asian financial crisis. It had a very negative effect on the Asian economy. However, this also forced people to sit back and study the financial situation. The

Asian governments took the situation in their hand to correct the financial situation. After that, Asia has developed very fast.

Hence, it can be concluded that as time flows, our way to perceive the world changes. This is not because the world is changing, but because our knowledge is changing. Studies let us think more intelligently and objectively.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 7

It is possible to pass laws that control or place limits on people's behavior, but legislation cannot reform human nature. Laws cannot change what is in people's hearts and minds.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 7

Law means a body of rules and regulations in the form of judicial opinions, or in the form of constitutions etc. Law is used by the governing bodies to control the behavior of a society. The functions of law vary for different societies or countries. However, legal laws are different from the moral behavior or the traditions of societies. The laws are formed by some authorized body like court while customs and traditions are made by the members of society. It is very important to understand here that both the things are made to run the society smoothly.

However, I agree with the statement that although laws can place limits on people's behavior but they cannot alter or convert people's heart. There is no second thought that very strict laws can sometimes have negative effects on the society. Usually laws help to give a peaceful life to people. It plays an essential role in maintaining stability and development of society. It infuses a fear in the public that if they do some illegal activity, they will be punished. If this fear will not be there, then the instances of terrorism and crimes will increase that will make the life of the members of society unstable and disturbed. Laws make our lives comfortable. Hence, it is required to have laws that have positive impact on people's behavior.

However, in history, we have many examples where laws had negative influence on the society. The laws made by some of the kings were so cruel and inhuman that they had bad effect on the human nature. However, it is also true that although laws are used to make people's lives easy and secure, laws cannot change what is in people's heart. Despite many strict and cruel laws, feelings of hate and disobedience keep growing in the hearts of public, if the laws are not changed according to time. Many revolutions in the history of humankind are the evidence of this statement. Russian revolution and the freedom fight of India are the best examples of the outcry of public against the laws and legislations of the government.

Laws should be changed according to the human nature. Hence, it is true that laws and rules reflect the human nature but these cannot change the way people think. Although laws should not be altered at every outcry, they should be modified according to human nature that reflects people's minds and hearts. It is essential to make people respect laws. Otherwise, there will be more and more instances of people not following laws. You cannot ignore the fact that some degree of freedom is required for a balanced society. Without people obeying any law, it will be like an empty law. Hence, the social attitude towards laws should be considered while making a formal law. If the authorities want to use the laws to control or alter human nature, then they have to make the laws more flexible.

Hence, it can be concluded that the laws that control or place limits on people's behavior cannot reform human nature.

GRE AWA Practice - GRE ISSUE ESSAY 8

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 8

What most human beings really want to attain is not knowledge, but certainty. Gaining real knowledge requires taking risks and keeping the mind open-but most people prefer to be reassured rather than to learn the complex and often unsettling truth about anything.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 8

Everybody wants reassurance and certainty in life but it is wrong to say that most human beings do not want knowledge. It is true that gaining knowledge requires taking risks and keeping the mind open but at the same time, it leads to development and progress. If every person will think on the lines of the author, then there will be no new developments and inventions. The people who do not want to acquire knowledge also face risks in their lives. In fact, risks and uncertainty will be there, even if a human being does not learn new things. Risks cannot be avoided in one's life. However, it is also true that knowledge is about learning something complex. It often opens up more questions than the solutions.

Medical professionals, lawyers, and business people have to deal with risks and uncertainties. If a doctor will think about the risk factor, he will not be able to treat his patients. Knowledge also brings reassurance. By acquiring knowledge about our universe, environment, and weather, we can have forecasts of rain, thunder, and earthquakes etc. It prepares people for unwanted weather disturbances. If a natural disaster is known to occur then the government can plan to handle it in advance. It has some adverse effects also. Knowledge of the universe has helped us to understand our place in the universe but also added another mystery to what existed before time and the universe.

It is true that some systems are very complex to understand and add mystery but still they are interesting and do attract people to research on them. Sometimes the outcomes of these researches are very productive. For example, knowledge of SONAR, bats navigate by sonar. The study that bats can determine how far away prey or other objects are, by using SONAR, is very interesting. This knowledge of sonar illustrates the complexity of minds. Human beings have used the knowledge of SONAR. Knowledge, risk, and uncertainty are the foundations for new inventions and progress.

If a person is assured and satisfied with his life, then there is very little scope for his growth. Our ancestors used to think about matter in very simple terms- ancient philosophers had simple theories about the composition of matter such as matter being composed of fire, water, air, and earth, but advanced technology has given us a more precise view of matter. Now, we have accurate understanding of matter. We can explain chemical reactions. New atomic theory has

given birth to quantum and wave theories. However, each new discovery is also adding complexity to the structure of matter.

Hence, the conclusion is that though human beings want reassurance and certainty in their lives, they do require knowledge also. They want to learn about new and complex things whether it involves taking risks. It gives them thrill also and helps them to grow. Moreover, real knowledge also helps in making our lives more comfortable. Therefore, though knowledge is complex and sometimes unsettling, still it is essential for the mankind.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 9

Many problems of modern society cannot be solved by laws and the legal system because moral behavior cannot be legislated.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 9

It is true that many problems of modern society cannot be solved by laws, as moral behavior is something for which a person has to be responsible himself. Although there are some problems that can be solved by laws, other problems like moral behavior have to be solved by the persons themselves.

It is a person's responsibility to judge his behavior and follow the rules formed for the welfare of the society. Law cannot punish every person for his or her behavior. For example, to save water or not to waste water is the moral responsibility of every member of a society. Any law cannot punish an individual for such behavior. In the first look, it does not seem to be a big harm to the society but in the end, he is wasting a precious thing. Similarly, the behaviors like throwing plastic in public or spitting in public places is certainly not good behavior. Laws can do little to stop these behaviors. However, there are countries where there are laws to punish a person who does not behave properly in public places.

Similarly, with the invention of internet, there are more and more of cyber crimes where it is difficult to find a witness. A person can easily hide his identity, his name, sex, address on the internet. Hence, it becomes very difficult for law to punish the criminal. Although now a days, lawmakers have also found the ways to identify these persons. However, here again, moral behavior can play a role in reducing these kind of crimes.

However, we cannot underestimate the importance of laws in our life. We need laws to protect ourselves and punish those who harm the society. Law helps in balancing the society to be more harmonious and peaceful. Although moral behavior cannot be legislated, thorough enforcement of a few laws can help to solve social problems to some extent. Laws teach people many things about moral behavior and force them to follow those rules. If everyone conforms to laws, it would be very easy for everyone to get rid of social problems.

Still, there are people who find it difficult to follow the laws. Then for these types of people, there should be strict punishments. Otherwise, it will be very difficult to live in the society. Only enactment of stringent laws can protect everyone in the society from the problems caused by the non-moral behavior of a few persons.

To make our society, we have to instill good values in the society at the school and college levels. It will help to teach the students a subject related to moral behavior in their schools and colleges. This will help in reducing problems related to moral behavior.

Hence, although moral behavior cannot be legislated, laws have to be there to curb the problems arising out of immoral behavior. The society and laws have to work hand-in-hand to solve the problems of the modern society and to make our society peaceful.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 10

The way students and scholars interpret the materials they work with in their academic fields is more a matter of personality than of training. Different interpretations come about when people with different personalities look at exactly the same objects, facts, data, or events and see different things.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 10

It is true that the way two people interpret two situations is entirely different. The reasons behind this might be many. It might be their upbringing, the environment where they grew up or their personality. However, the role of training also cannot be under rated. Training might also affect their reaction to a situation to a little extent.

There are two aspects of this statement. People interpret the materials according to their temperament, their mood, and their outlook. For example, an optimistic person will keep on pushing the things unless he is close to his desired results. He will not be deterred by his failures. While a pessimist will be easily disturbed by failure. Similarly, music can be soothing for a music lover and can help him in relieving him from the stresses of life. However, some other person might not like music and might consider it just a noise. Different people give different meanings and emphasis to things that arise in their daily rituals according to their particular interests.

However, education and training change the way people interpret things. The background and training of a person can strongly influence how one interprets historical events involving human affairs, statistical data, and art. I do not agree with the authors' conclusion that different interpretations come about when people with different personalities look at exactly the same objects, facts, data, or events and see different things. In fact, education and trainings also have their effect on the personalities of people. People start thinking differently once they gain knowledge on certain subjects.

For example, a student of political science may see British imperialism as one nation's quest for power while a student of economics may see British imperialism as a strategy to gain control over distribution of goods and resources. A sociology or anthropology student may consider it as a way of imposing one nation's culture onto another. Hence, education and training influence the way students and scholars interpret data. Similarly, training and educational background has a profound role in the interpretation of art. The perception of art varies from person to person. Art has a different meaning for a business student. He will measure an art piece for its economic value while for a theology student, an art piece is an expression of grace in life. An artist will look at an art piece for its brushing strokes and other fundamental things.

Personality and education or training go hand-in-hand. They affect each other. Usually a student tries to get training in a subject, which is of his interest and matches his personality. At the same time, training in a specific subject or knowledge on a certain topic changes the way a person thinks and perceives the world. The point here is that people from different disciplines and cultures might react differently in the same situations. However, we cannot segregate personality traits and academic and practical training completely. We can conclude this statement by saying that personality and training work together to make a person interpret data in a specific manner.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 11

"It is dangerous to trust only intelligence."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 11

Intelligence is what helps us to survive in this competitive world. Where there are limited opportunities and unlimited number of candidates, the only way to fight it out is through intelligence. Where a dull person does not find a place and is not recognized in the world, an intelligence person creates a niche for himself. Therefore, it always goes to one's benefit to polish one's intellectual skills. However, one must not mistake this with cunningness and deceit. While intelligence is important it should not take the shape of foxiness.

An empty mind is a devil's workshop. This means that the activity of the brain is very important to keep a healthy mind and body. It ensures that the brain is working and occupied, which keeps all the negative vibes away. However, it is very important to keep a check on the activities of the brain. It should be under the control of a person and not like a tame-less animal. Along with having intellect, it is equally important for a person to be compassionate, trustworthy and loving. While a place in the world is got with intelligence, a place in the hearts of people is got with compassion and trust. It is only with a proper combination of both that one can truly rule the world.

Human intelligence is unfathomable. This is the only reason why humans are superior to other beings on earth. Humans are capable of expressing themselves, reasoning out and finding solutions in difficult situations. The brainpower of a person can take him a long way. For example, it is with the support of intellect that a person can get admission into the top colleges and prestigious courses. Getting admission into such colleges is a ticket to a bright future and successful life. This helps in establishing the person's career. Along with intelligence it is equally important to keep the faith of others in you. We live in a society where people interact with each other and no one can survive in isolation. It is only if this interaction is healthy that the hard work and intellect pays off. If a doctor earns his degree by intelligence, he earns his patients with trust and good work. That is why is not only important to work hard but also to be sincere.

If a person is a slave of his intelligence, it does not make him think about the goodwill of others. His intelligence becomes a tool for gaining power. There is no place for compassion, trust, love and sincerity for such a person. In turn, he is not accepted in the society. However, the days of power may not last forever since we are a subject to destiny. With his attitude and nature he will be left alone and will not have anyone to stand by his side in his difficult times. This is how he will be responsible of his own fall and he will realize the importance of having a soft heart along with brilliance.

Intelligence is therefore very important to survive in the world, but should not be the only guiding principle of one's life. As little knowledge is dangerous, so is trusting only intelligence, which can bring the fall of a person.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 12

"As we acquire more knowledge, things do not become more comprehensible, but more complex and more mysterious."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 12

Knowledge is the state of being enlightened. It is acquiring information and skills which help you to understand things around you in a better way. It also helps in bringing perfection in a person's work and life. Knowledge is gained consciously as well as unconsciously. While one makes an effort to acquire knowledge through getting educated and becoming learned it is also through experience that one becomes knowledgeable. It is however questionable as to why gaining knowledge is important. As discussed earlier, it makes you understand your surroundings better and bring perfection in your life. Things become more comprehensible and you gain confidence. However, as a person gains more and more knowledge, it can lead to details, complexities and mysteries, but it is only with more efforts that new study comes to light.

When a child comes into this world, he is completely ignorant and therefore is dependent on his parents. As he grows up, he observes things around him. Slowly he gets the knowledge about what is good and what is bad for him. It is only when he gains the knowledge of his surroundings that he is capable of being on his own. He comes to know that by putting his hand in a fire, he might get burnt, and by playing with sharp objects he can hurt himself. In case this does not happen, he would remain dependent upon others all his life. Therefore, knowledge makes you independent and practical in life.

It is with exercising one's brain and gaining knowledge that we are living in this age. Without the knowledge of agriculture, we would not be able to produce food for ourselves, without the knowledge of iron we would not be able to set up industries. Similarly, the knowledge of human body and medicines helps us to keep fit and live a healthy life. Such things are basic to our life and life is incomprehensible without them.

Apart from the basic knowledge of things, one needs to acquire specific knowledge as well. That makes him survive in the world by making a place for himself. For example, if a person gains the knowledge of carpentry, he can extend his knowledge to others who do not have this specific skill and earn his living.

A person goes on acquiring information unless he is satisfied. However, there are unlimited things unknown to man. There are a number of things that are unexplainable and accepted as they are. It is only with the efforts of someone that we can have an explanation of these things. We did not know anything about the universe unless it was explored. The biggest of inventions and discoveries have been possible only by indulging in them. If we retreat our steps for the fear of getting jumbled up in complexities, new inventions and discoveries would never be possible.

However, in the pursuit of acquiring knowledge, one must not lose ground and get lost in the complexities. While it is important to gain knowledge, it is also important to keep your balance and not get lost in finding solutions to mysterious and complex situations.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 13

"It is a grave mistake to theorize before one has data."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 13

Data are facts or pieces of information that help in finding out things or making decisions. We analyze the data, study its nature in different situations and circumstances and form hypothesis and theories based on the observation. This hypothesis becomes the basis of many inventions and discoveries. However, if the theory is not derived from the observations of a given data, it might be misleading and result in wrong postulates.

For any work, there is a lot of initial preparation and planning that goes in. This preparation sets the foundation of the success of the work to be carried out. If the foundation is strong, it will help in executing the work in a successful way. On the other hand, if we execute the task without proper planning and preparation, we are bound to get stuck somewhere. If you are lucky you might get another chance, but life is not all that considerate. An opportunity knocks the door but once. Hence, it is up to us to make the best of it when it comes.

When you have no data and you trust only your imagination and foresight, you are bound to meet with surprises. Data gives you authentic and trustable information. On the other hand, you cannot trust your ability to foresee things since their relevance can be seen only in future. Data is like the wheels of a vehicle which are important for it to run. Without wheels, it is a useless piece of junk.

Let us take an example. While planning for a week long trip, you will plan beforehand and collect all the required materials. You need to pack up things like clothes, medicines, and sometimes even food for it. You need to think about the most suitable and convenient way of traveling. Apart from this you need to study the place where you are traveling for its special requirements. That means that if the place is too cold, you will need to prepare yourself for it. Without planning, you can find yourself in a difficult position and ruin the trip. Moreover, planning is required to be complete and not just restricted to one area. We can see how planning goes into a small thing like a week long trip. Hence, it can be understood that preparation and planning is vital to all the important tasks that need to be executed. This is the same as having information and data before you begin a task.

Similarly, to take important decisions, you need to have authentic and genuine information. Let us see the wider aspect of decision making. When a government has to make policies and laws for its citizen, it needs to have a proper understanding of the conditions they are living in, how many people are living in the country and how many will get affected with the change in laws. If the statistics of a county's people shows a majority of people living under the poverty line it will be beneficial to make policies suitable for them. Opening small scale industries, imparting free

education, giving job opportunities etc. are beneficial for such a country. However, such policies and laws are not successful for a developed country where the people are rich and well off. Hence, forming small-scale industries will be of no use there. It is only known with proper data at the time of planning as to what the needs of the society are.

It can therefore be said that data, information, planning and preparation are prerequisite of any new work at hand. Without these there is a lot left to chance which can prove to be a blunder.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 14

"Scandals-whether in politics, academia, or other area-can be useful. They focus our attention on problems in ways that no speaker or reformer ever could."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 14

Scandals have been a part of almost every field. They involve shocking, immoral or illegal behavior of people which is not approved of in the society. Because of their immoral nature they raise different extreme feelings and reactions amongst people. A scandal is therefore a problem generated in the society which becomes a concern and issue for a larger section of the society.

It is correct that we learn by making mistakes. It is only with experience of dealing with difficult situations that a person becomes wiser and practical. The problem forces you to try all the possible solutions and you come up with a permanent and lasting solution. Therefore, there is increased number of chances of not repeating it again. This type of learning that comes by actually committing mistakes lasts longer and you will never forget it. However, if you prepare for a problem that you might face in future, you are not going to pay as much attention to it as you pay to the existing problem.

When the problem takes shape of a scandal, there are more people involved and affected by it. The feelings and sentiments of people are affected and finding a solution becomes all the more difficult. It disrupts the peace, law and order of a place. It becomes very important to take control and find a solution of such a situation. Hence it becomes the thing of utmost importance for any leader to bring back the situation of peace and normalcy.

This task is also done by reformers and speakers. However, the difference lies in the fact that reformers preach and spread morally and legally correct practices while in a scandal the leader practically struggles to find a solution. It is human nature to give more importance to the existing problems rather than prepare for a problem that you might face in future. Then comes the question, "Is the solution found for an existing problem better than that for a problem that one might face in future?" It may not be easy to answer this because the practicality of a solution is seen only by practicing it. However, the work done by reformers cannot be ignored. It is but for them that a society holds its morals and values.

We can then understand that scandals and existing problems are useful for us in a way since they help in focusing our attention more towards the problem and its solution. However, who takes up the responsibility of the situation? Considering that it involves a large number of people, a solution cannot be found out unless all or the majority of people are willing to find a solution and comply by the rules. A leader alone cannot find a permanent solution. Therefore, it depends upon the attitude of the society as a whole to look at the scandal as a common problem and not remain divided over it. This is where a reformer steps in. He unites people by preaching morally correct

and good values. It is only by his teachings that a change can be brought in the thinking of people and a lasting solution be found by the authorities.

Conclusively, it can be said that the scandals definitely focus our attention towards the problems but a solution to the problem is found only when the attitude of people concerned is reformed.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 15

"Practicality is now our great idol, which all powers and talents must serve. Anything that is not obviously practical has little value in today's world."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 15

In today's world one has to struggle and find a place for himself. This becomes more and more difficult due to the ever increasing competition. You have to constantly prove yourself in order to achieve success. On the other hand, if you keep assuring yourself that you are the best without proving your worth, there would be no one to believe your stand. In more clear terms, one has to be practical to get noticed and achieve one's goal.

In the primitive times, there was lack of knowledge. People would easily believe what was told to them. No one knew where the sun came from in the morning and where it went at night. They said that the sun is moving, and earth is a flat plane. There were many myths regarding such things and no one looked into the scientific aspect due to lack of knowledge. People made their own beliefs from the bits and pieces of information that they had. However, with the changing of times and spread of knowledge, the shallowness in these beliefs was exposed. Today there are no takers of the myths and beliefs that people held in the olden times. Reality has taken over the imaginative mind. We believe in a theory only if it proves to be true and practical.

Practicality in today's world is extended to all spheres. We accept something only if we find the need of it and understand the logic behind it. An example in the change in thinking due to this can be seen in the fundamental rights that Indians are granted. Earlier, a person was granted the right to vote after he reached the age of 21. With the change in time, it was observed that teenagers are maturing at an early stage and an 18 year old was responsible and sensible enough to vote. It was being practical to amend the laws and make the minimum voting age as 18. Such decisions are guided by their practical use. At the same time it would be impractical to allow a 15 year old to make decisions regarding electing his representatives since it is not practical to rely upon his decisions.

The difference between being practical and impractical lies in actually fulfilling your dreams and building castles in the air. A person may just dream about making it big some day and wish for an overnight change to happen. While few have been lucky to experience such a miracle, it is not the case in general. One has to plan and work towards reaching his goal. Practicality is in relying upon your hard work rather than waiting for a miracle to happen.

However, there is a link between dreaming to make it big and working towards fulfilling these dreams. While a person can fulfill his dreams only by working in reality, one sets these high aims and goals only by dreaming. If a person does not dream and imagine the unthinkable and remains satisfied with what he has, he can never achieve anything outstanding in his life. To be

an achiever, one has to plan for it which can only come by being a dreamer initially. Looking at it this way, we can say that there is direct relation between success and dreaming for the success, and one cannot negate the importance of the impractical side of it completely.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 16

"It is easy to welcome innovation and accept new ideas. What most people find difficult, however, is accepting the way these new ideas are put into practice."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 16

Any new development requires initiative and efforts from people. Innovation and new ideas can be put to practice only when people accept it. Although everyone favors innovation and development, the same cannot be said about it when it comes to practicing it. To accept the innovation, people have to accept its implications as well. While all developments are made for the betterment of society, some of these are done at the cost of compromising somewhere else which may not be accepted by all.

When we accept an innovation, we don't just accept the new idea behind the innovation and the comfort that it will bring, we also have to accept the related changes that might occur due to it. These may be certain responsibilities that we have to carry or certain ways in which our lives maybe changed. For example, it is known to all that water is essential to all beings and we must save every drop of it. It is highlighted everywhere in newspapers, radios etc that we should try and save water. People are told how to save water and recycle it. We show our full support for such a cause only till we don't have to compromise on comfort from our side. In the wake of saving water and preventing misuse of water, the government puts restrictions on the supply of water to households. Moreover, people are made to follow laws where they are not allowed to wash cars and water lawns. Such policies are not accepted by people in general. We become selfish when it comes to our personal comfort and we do not want to compromise on anything. This is how a novel idea of saving water and preventing its misuse is not approved of by people at large and it shows the general attitude that new ideas and changes are not accepted easily when they are implemented.

There is another reason due to which new innovation and ideas are not easily accepted. There maybe willingness to incorporate it but due to lack of means and supplies it might get impossible and thus cause dissatisfaction and difficulty in acceptance. For example, with the advancement of technology, new innovations are introduced in the world. This may be extremely beneficial for development and upliftment of society. There might be the best of technologies that are used for building roads, bridges and industries in the world. There are nuclear power plants and modern warfare which every country wants to possess. However, a poor country cannot implement these technologies despite their benefits because of the difficulties that surround it. The government not only needs to buy these technologies from other nations but also needs funds to start the development work. It gets difficult to arrange funds on a large scale and hence implementation of these novel ideas gets difficult. Here also, technology is appreciated and accepted, but its implementation gets difficult because it requires finances and technical know-how.

As seen in the above cases, new ideas and inventions may be attractive and promising, but looking at the practical aspect of incorporating these ideas, it can get difficult and not easily accepted. Although all innovative ideas may not be that demanding so as to be difficult to accept, most of them are met with the same response. In order to gain from something, we have to forego another which causes discomfort. It is human nature to feel this way, but at the same time, no one can deny the importance of development and progress brought by these very innovations and ideas.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 17

"Success, whether academic or professional, involves an ability to survive in a new environment and, eventually, to change it."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 17

In the world of competition, one needs to succeed in order to survive and get noticed. Success depends a lot on the personal satisfaction level of the person. While some people are satisfied with their success in being able to complete their task well, for others it is important to rise above the others and prove their worth. However, success largely comes from a person's ability of adjusting in a new environment, and to a certain extent change it as well.

In the academic field, a student's success is in the way he adjusts to the demands of the institution that he is studying in. It is only with this adjustment that he is able to study and learn new skills. As a child grows up there is a constant change in the pattern of academics that he has to follow. Moreover, his roles and responsibilities also keep changing and he can succeed only if he realizes them and acts accordingly. If he keeps believing that he will be spoon-fed all the study material as was done in his lower grades, he will not be able to succeed. Hence, he has to adjust himself according to his environment. One may not be able to change the environment just yet, but that does not mean that he is not successful.

Similarly, in the professional field as well one can find success only by adjusting and changing according to the environment. For example, for a typist who has learnt typing on the typewriter, there is a lot of change due to the introduction of computers. There will be very few takers for his skills on a typewriter. However, if he adjusts to the new technology and learns the computer well, he can extend his services to a wider range of people. Hence, he will be more successful if he is able to handle the latest technology in his field. In this way, any professional must keep himself aware and up-to-date with the latest changes and introductions in his field. This way their skill will be valued, which can be termed as their success in the field. That is how in the professional field, success involves the ability to change according to the environment.

Then comes the question, does success also involve changing the environment around you? If yes, then how? As discussed earlier, success is largely the ability to adapt to the new changes. However, at a certain level, one needs to rise above the rest. This is done only if he changes the norms and follows a new path. This changing of path involves changing of the environment, which can be counted as his success. In the academic field, where a person reaches the stage of research and development, he can be successful by introducing new concepts and changing what is normally accepted. Similarly, a scientist is successful if he invents a new phenomenon and forms new theories. The laws of gravitation, the science of sun and universe etc are such discoveries that have changed the way people think and believe. All big inventions and innovations have been possible due to changing of the norms. This is how they have proven

successful and changed the way people live and think, or in other words, have changed the environment.

It can thus be said that although mostly success is the ability of adapting to the environment, at a certain level, it is the ability to change the environment as well.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 18

"If people disregard the great works of the past, it is because these works no longer answer the needs of the present."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 18

If we study the past we will realize that there have been great discoveries and works in the past which in today's times seem to be minuscule. While it must have been a breakthrough in the past and the basis of many technologies being developed today, there are other important things that overshadow its importance. However, this does not mean that the great works of the past can be disregarded as ones having no place in today's world. These works may not be as practical today as they have been earlier, but they still are basic to many other technologies. We would not have been able to see the world as it is today but for these works of the past. The relevance of the works done in past is great even today since it teaches us and helps us in further development.

Great inventions take place only by the efforts of some great minds. It is not in the capacity of all to think and invent new things. Once a new invention comes to light, it seems to solve a lot of problems. Along with solving problems, it helps in further study and higher inventions. It, therefore, becomes a stepping stone for further development.

When the wheel was introduced in the world, it became the most important and useful invention. People began using the wheel to carry loads. It also helped in making things like pots, toys etc. It soon began to be used for commutation as well. Today there have been a lot of modifications and developments that would have been impossible without the wheel. Had it not been invented in the past, we would not have been as advanced as we are today and would have waited for some great work to invent such a miraculous thing. While today we hardly wonder about this great invention, life is unimaginable without it.

There are also some such inventions of the past which have lost their relevance today. It is true that with the passage of time and development of newer and better things these inventions are no longer practical. For example, in the age of e-mails, telephones and satellite connections, there are very few who use the telegraph for communication. Today people have even forgotten about this mode of communication. While a computer can be seen at every workplace as well as household, people have never even seen a telegraph. However, when the telegraph was invented by Samuel Morse, it created a revolution in the world by bringing it closer. There were no other means of communication that could match up to the telegraph. Today, the relevance of telegraph may have reduced but its importance and invention cannot be ignored or disregarded. Although it is not used as often as other means of communication, the invention of a telegraph has provided a breakthrough in the field of communication for other developments. It is only with the development of such a thing that people came to know of communication through electric cables.

It is this thought that was developed further to make telephone cables and eventually satellite connections to bring the world closer.

Hence, instead of disregarding a work of the past as unimportant and impractical, it should be taken as a learning experience. Today's scientists, engineers, astronauts and doctors must take the past as their guide. History has always been a great teacher and we not only learn from the mistakes done by people in the past but also are guided and helped by their glorious works.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 19

"As long as people in a society are hungry or out of work or lack the basic skills needed to survive, the use of public resources to support the arts is inappropriate-and, perhaps, even cruel-when one considers all the potential uses of such money."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 19

Public resources are the resources that the administration uses for the betterment and development of the society. The betterment of a society is seen when people in it are living a satisfying and happy life, there is no hunger and poverty amongst people and everyone has a decent job and is self-sufficient. The development of the society is also seen in its progress, development of industries and technical know-how, improvement in the art and culture and being internationally active and strong. While it is very important to bring up the poor and underprivileged, it is also important to bring up the society as a whole. Hence, the use of public resources should not be restricted to one area but must support all around development and welfare.

The administration of the society is responsible of utilizing the public resources of the society. However, where do these public resources come from? These are generated by the citizens of the society itself in the form of taxes. People are made to pay taxes in return of which they are given public services. Therefore, one thing is for sure, that these resources are used for the people only. However, there are a number of potential uses that these resources can be put to. They can be put to use for building up schools, hospitals, roads etc., can be used to encourage tourism, modes of entertainment and beautification of the places. The money can also be used to buy latest warfare, technology, machines and improve the scientific know-how. The difficult task, however, is to allocate the required amount for them. How much money and where it should be used is the big decision.

Welfare work like creating jobs, providing food and education for all etc are extremely important to bring up a society. People are the building blocks of a society. It is only when the people are living a happy life that a society can progress. Therefore, for any administration, the key issue should be the betterment of its people. The humanitarian side of a government is seen only in its treatment of the less fortunate by providing the basic needs of life. In a poor country like India where there are a number of people who cannot afford their daily bread, it becomes the government's responsibility to extend support. This should be done to help them come out of their poverty and become self sufficient. For these people art has no meaning. A concert to encourage painters or musicians etc. is of no use to them if they have nothing to eat. If they continue to rot and suffer in the society, there will be no use of spending huge amounts of money on such things and it will be the failure of the government. However, it is also true that everything goes hand in hand. While there should be work done for the welfare of the poor, it is equally important to support art and develop the national talent. While a common man is a

representative of the society's domestic success, art and culture is a representation of its success in preserving its rich heritage and gaining international recognition for the same.

The solution of this problem lies in planning. Wise and judicious planning is required to allocate money for different uses. Public resources should be used such that they are divided for all the required purposes. Sufficient money should be allocated for welfare work along with giving due consideration to other fields like art, and this cannot be termed as 'cruel'. The success of the administration is in bringing harmony in the society where so many classes of people coexist.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 20

"Education should be equally devoted to enriching the personal lives of students and to training students to be productive workers."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 20

Education is the development of all aspects of a person's personality. These could be moral, cultural, social, academic, professional, ethical, intellectual etc. I completely agree with the author's statement that education should be equally devoted to enriching personal lives and training students for becoming productive workers.

The purpose of education is to make a student capable of living a self-sufficient life in a society. While it is very important for a person to support himself and earn his living, it is also important that he brings quality in his life with high morals, positive thinking and good knowledge of his surroundings. If any of these is lacking, the student becomes unadjusted in the society and is not able to live a healthy and satisfactory life. Such a situation can be seen as the failure of education.

If the education system is devoted too much towards enriching the lives of students and ignores to train them well to be productive workers, it is found that students do not acquire any specific skills. Enriching the lives of the students means giving them little knowledge of all subjects. However, it is not productive and the student becomes a jack of all trades and master of none. Learning specific skills is vital to a person's life because it helps him to support himself as-well-as those dependent upon him. As a student passes out of school and completes his education, he is ready to face the world independently. He cannot be independent unless he earns his own living. For this he is required to have some professional qualification or skill that can help him to get jobs and work efficiently. If the education that he has attained lacked any sort of professional training, he will find that there are no takers of his services. For example, to get the job of an engineer, a student must have the required qualification as-well-as training for the job. He must have good knowledge of the related subjects like mathematics, physics and engine science. If he is taught other subjects like moral science, languages, art or other subjects not concerned with the field of an engineer, he will surely not get the job. It is only if he is trained for the job that he can perform his duties well as-well-as win the confidence of his employers.

On the other hand, if the syllabus concentrates more on the growth of productive aspect of a student's personality and ignores imparting value education, it will again lead to the development of an unbalanced personality. It does train him well to perform his duties but he becomes incapable of handling non-professional issues. There are many issues and dealings which are not related to work. A person is required to understand and respect relations and form logical decisions based on his own reasoning and thinking. For this it is very important for him to understand what is right and what is wrong. This knowledge comes only if the student is

educated and taught to differentiate between different situations and decide what is best for him. Thus, it gives us a wider perspective and exposure to the world.

Hence, a balance of extracurricular activities and professional training is required to develop an all around personality. If it is incapable of enriching your lives or making you productive, it is the failure of the system as a whole.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 21

"Success in any realm of life comes more often from taking chances or risks than from careful and cautious planning."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 21

"Look before you leap". We all have heard this every time we have set out to plan something new. What stops people from taking hasty decisions? Undeniably, it is the fear of failure that prevents people from taking decisions without proper planning. This is because one cannot refute the fact that one can achieve success only by careful and cautious planning. Taking chances and risks are more likely to bring in failure and huge losses. Though it does seem that successful people may have taken huge risks, but the percentage of people having succeeded in life as a result of taking risks is far less as that compared to those people who have achieved success in life as a result of well-planned ventures.

The steel barons and the shipping magnates who are among the world's richest men would have started their businesses from a scratch. They might have taken risks while establishing their businesses at a time when they had nothing to lose. There are examples of so many wealthy businessmen who walked into the city of their dreams with a couple of dollars in their pockets and later rose to positions where they became the leading businessmen of the same city. They could have afforded to take risks when they were just starting their careers, as they were not risking any significant amount of capital. As you start rising in life and you start expanding your business, the feasibility of taking a risk reduces considerably as there is a lot at stake. Even if you take a risk, it has to be carefully planned and calculated so as to allow you to fall back to your starting point without any major financial losses. All of us know the story of some businessman or the other who suffered a major setback because of a risk that misfired. Though the cushion for withstanding losses is quite high as you succeed in life, nevertheless taking risks can never be termed as a sure shot way to fame and success as the chances of a risk letting you down at the most crucial moment are quite high.

If your aim is to succeed in your exams, then what would be the best way to achieve this aim? Would it be better to take a risk by getting good study materials and postponing your studies until the last month before the exams or to commence your studies well in time with whatever materials you have in hand? If you opt for the first option, then what will be your result in the exam if you fall sick in the month just before the exam or if the exam is held before the scheduled date due to some reason? Would you like to invest money in buying property before seeing it on ground or would you rather go around it thoroughly before committing your life's savings on immovable property?

Your personal relations, job prospects, business enterprise and small day-to-day functioning contribute to your overall success in life. None of these can improve by taking risks. A well-

planned move which has been arrived at after due deliberation and calculation of the after-effects can assure you success in all realms of life. There are cases where you may see people who have achieved success by taking a risk but you may never have even heard of the thousands of people who have got lost into oblivion due to the risks that they took which led to their failure in life. Therefore, it is always better to play safe, plan your life cautiously and actually "Look before you leap", if you want to succeed in all realms of life.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 22

"It is not the headline-making political events but the seldom-reported social transformations that have the most lasting significance."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 22

It is up to the media to give widespread publicity to a particular type of event and maybe ignore the other events taking place, but the bottom-line is that both political events and social events have the most lasting significance. Politics has long held the imagination and interest of the masses. Whenever there is any news related to political events, it is eagerly lapped up by the masses. However, events related to social transformations are equally important. Therefore, none of these events can undermine the significance of the other.

The political events that gain publicity may be related to the bills being passed or the elections to the national assembly. In either of the cases, these will appear as headlines and they will be regularly followed by the public. These events do affect the lives of people as the bills that are implemented will have a direct effect on their daily life and the ruling party that is elected to power will also directly affect their well being and happiness. Apart from the political events mentioned above, there are other events like scandals involving the politicians or events happening in the lives of people related to well-known politicians. This news also finds its way into the national headlines. Does this news have any significance in our lives? How is the marriage or the love-life of the President's daughter going to affect the lives of the citizens of a country? There are events like these that are publicized to a large extent, but they have no long lasting significance. These events will probably be forgotten the moment the politicians related to these events are out of power.

While these political events take up all the space in the front pages of national dailies, there may be other events taking place that are far more important. For instance, there may be an agitation going on in some part of the country that is fighting for an environmental or educational cause or there may be a single person spearheading a national movement to revamp the existing system related to racial or caste discrimination. These events may not hold the interest of the citizens of the country, as they are not publicized by the media for various reasons. One reason is that such agitations or movements are generally against the policies of the center or state governments. Therefore, these events are seldom reported as major events though they do find space in the inside pages of the newspapers and they are also mentioned by the news channels. Just because these events are not reported does not mean that they are not important. These social events will determine how people lead their lives if the movements succeed in achieving their aim.

However, despite the low awareness about these social transformations, one cannot ignore the fact that these events probably have a more long lasting significance than the political events that gather more publicity. On the other hand, it is not necessary that the political events that appear

as headlines are of no significance. Barring some of the political events related to scandals, most are directly related to the life of the common man and therefore, they also have a long lasting significance. Hence, neither of these events has an edge over the other as far as their significance is concerned.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 23

"The best preparation for life or a career is not learning to be competitive, but learning to be cooperative."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 23

"Life's greatest battles don't always go to the strongest man; sooner or later the man who wins is the man who thinks he can". An important necessity for the preparation for succeeding in life is to have the confidence in yourself that you are bound to succeed. Without this confidence, you cannot have the competitive spirit that will enable you to gain an edge over your competitors. Is it possible for you to succeed in your career if you cooperate with those who are competing with you for the next slot in the company's hierarchy? Can a business enterprise which is launching a new product in the market cooperate with another company that is planning to launch a similar product? It is true that cooperation is an essential requirement for success in your life and career, but the need to be competitive exceeds the need to be cooperative when it comes to preparation for a successful life and career. This is because the strategy for succeeding in life is largely dependent on your ability to get into the shoes of your competitor and think of how to outrun him.

One needs to work hard to succeed in life. The first step is to choose an appropriate career. You will face stiff competition in all stages on your way to succeeding in your chosen career. First of all, you will have to score high in the entrance tests or standardized tests which are essential for securing admissions to colleges that will train you for that specific career. It is true that you will be able to prepare well for the tests by cooperating with your friends who are preparing for the same test. However, more than the cooperative spirit, it is the competitive spirit that will help you to score high in the test. The feeling that you need to be better than the others is essential if you want to score high in such tests.

If there is a company that has to pick one student from your class for a top notch job placement, would you cooperate with your friends to help them get the job? This is highly unacceptable if you wish to succeed in your career and life. You will need to be competitive if you want to be the one who is selected by the company. What happens after you get a job at a company of your choice? You will have to compete with your colleagues for doing well in your job. Cooperating with the other employees of the company is essential for the growth of the company but as far as your personal life and career are concerned, you will have to instill the spirit of competitiveness in yourself for doing better than your colleagues at your place of work. You will definitely have to prove your worth by going all out and demonstrating that you are more suited for any kind of job-related tasks as compared to others.

It has been seen time and again that failure is inevitable if you have not prepared yourself well for any given task. Preparing for a given task is one thing and competing with someone else for

doing well in that particular task is another thing altogether. It is absolutely necessary for you to learn to be competitive if you want to succeed in your life and career by proving your worth to everyone around you.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 24

"The goal of politics should not be the pursuit of an ideal, but rather the search for common ground and reasonable consensus."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 24

What is politics? Is politics restricted to the government and the political leadership that implements policies which affect the lives of millions of citizens? Most people consider politics as something that is represented by corruption, competition and a race to gather votes. However, the truth is that politics is a game of power. Certain individuals are granted the power and authority to provide solutions to the existing conflicts in a society or an organization. Therefore, it is not necessary that politics is limited to the government only. One can come across politics in an organization or institution that has given its employees the empowerment to elect a group of people to govern their functioning and also resolve their conflicts. In either case, the goal of politics has to be the pursuit of an ideal situation or else the people in power may find it very difficult to identify the restrictions and policies that are essential for the smooth functioning of the country or organization.

Searching for common ground and reasonable consensus may lead to issues that remain unresolved especially since none of the conflicting parties would like to make an adjustment to their demands. One can see the example of an organization where the power to make undisputed decisions lies with the boss. Even in the past, all tribes, empires and countries had leaders and rulers who made the decisions to resolve conflicts for maintaining peace and harmony in their reign. There was no need for them to search for common grounds and reasonable consensus. This was because such a decision could have been cited by some party at some other time to demand justice.

In present times, the elected governments that exist in most countries make the task of politics much easier. It is the people who have elected the political leaders to power and they are the ones who can change the leadership at the center if it does not come up to their expectations. The same holds true for organizations wherein the top management has been elected by the employees of the company. Therefore, the leadership has to carefully set an ideal goal for itself in the form of rules, regulations and policies. They should not deviate from their ideal even if it means losing their power. This is a major stumbling block for a majority of leaders. Who would not like to always remain in power? Therefore, the need to arrive at a common ground or reasonable consensus arises because all politicians try their best not to disappoint their vote bank while resolving an issue. However, in the long run this can prove to be detrimental for the well-being of a nation or organization as a whole, because the society would be living in conditions that are far from ideal and this is definitely not what was in mind while electing the leadership at the center.

If there are two parties fighting over an environmental issue or an educational issue, how should the matter be resolved? Should the leadership favor the solution that has been arrived at by studying common ground or should the leadership look for what the ideal solution is in such a scenario and implement that irrespective of the damage it does to the face-value and vote bank of the political party? The first solution will effectively lead to the end of the disagreement between the two parties, but the solution would be far from the ideal situation that would have been the best for the society. The second solution would definitely disappoint one of the parties, but the nation would gain from such a decision as it would lead the society towards an ideal situation, but unfortunately, it might jolt the leadership out of power. Therefore, despite the heavy risks involved, the best option for politics is to maintain a goal that is the pursuit of an ideal no matter how expensive it might prove to be. This is because attaining such a goal will result in the betterment of the entire society as a whole.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 25

"Technology creates more problems than it solves, and may threaten or damage the quality of life."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 25

Technology has long been the sole reason for improving the quality of life being led by humans. However, in recent years it has been seen that technology has succeeded in creating problems and damaging the quality of life rather than solving problems.

Open any newspaper and scan through the daily news. There will be more than one story of a teenager who has been led astray by the internet. The internet is indisputably one of the major leaps that mankind has made in the field of technology. The amount of information available is tremendous and it serves as a major resource for improving your knowledge and your career prospects. However, the internet is more damaging than it is helpful as has been proven by the high frequency of cyber-crimes throughout the world. This has damaged the lives of children and teenagers to quite an extent as they have now been exposed to various aspects of life that they would have been kept away from had they not been able to gain access to the internet. In fact, there are a number of educational institutions and countries that have banned minors from accessing the internet. Your personal details including those of your bank accounts are no longer safe because of the ever-growing community of hackers who can access your personal information from anywhere in the world. The data stored on your computer is always at risk of being attacked by viruses, Trojan-horses, worms and spy ware which find their way into your computer through the internet. Therefore, this is one such example where technology has succeeded in creating more problems than solutions.

Another form of technology that has crippled the well-being and health status of people is the advent of frozen foods. They may seem as an easy option for working couples, but these frozen foods are detrimental to health in the long run. People living in metros have forgotten the benefits of eating fresh meals because they have the easy option of picking up pre-cooked meals off the shelf. Another aspect of technology that has affected the quality of life is in the entertainment arena. Technological developments have led to the development of home entertainment systems that keep people glued to the small screen. The advantages of going out for long walks, meeting people in community parks and holding intelligent discussions with others have all become a thing of the past. People prefer to stay indoors as they have these hi-tech devices to keep them busy. Although, apart from entertainment, television is a great source of information and one of the best ways to keep yourself abreast of the latest happenings around the world, one cannot refute the fact that it has degraded the quality of life as a number of people have ended up as couch potatoes.

Didn't people have a good quality of life in the past century when technology was not as advanced as it is today? It cannot be disputed that technology has indeed improved the living standards of people, but the bitter truth is that it has succeeded in creating more problems for the common man by degrading the quality of life to quite an extent.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 26

"The material progress and well-being of one country are necessarily connected to the material progress and well-being of all other countries."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 26

Where does a country get the expertise and the inspiration to progress and provide the best living standards to its citizens? The answer is quite obvious. We all live in a planet wherein all countries progress by taking assistance from other countries. There is no doubt that the material progress, welfare and well-being of a country are directly related to those of other countries. The economic growth and development of all countries are interrelated. A country cannot be expected to develop if it prefers to isolate itself from what is happening in the other countries.

Today all the countries of the world can easily be divided into categories depending on the level of their material progress and well-being. The under developed countries can look forward to a future where they are close to the developed countries in terms of their material progress by closely interacting with them in all fields. The availability of natural resources is not the same across the surface of the entire planet. An analysis of the growth pattern of developing countries has shown that trade is directly related to faster growth. Developing countries carry out trade with other countries and open up to foreign investments so as to bring in revenues for themselves and also to move ahead on the path of progress.

All countries benefit from trading with each other for the natural resources that are available with a particular country. For instance, the oil rich gulf countries have an economy that sustains itself by oil trading. Could these countries have progressed if they did not interact with those countries which were in need of oil? Moreover, the countries that do not have oil resources would have found themselves restricted to using other sources of energy had they not interacted with the gulf countries. Additionally, it has been seen time and again that if there is an environmental or political problem in the gulf countries, the fuel prices across the world shoot up no matter how far the other countries are situated from the gulf. This proves that the well-being of all countries is related to that of the others.

It is not only the poor countries that benefit from the affluent countries. The developed countries also stand to gain a lot by interacting with poor countries. Poor countries boast of abundant labor which is available at very low costs. This labor can be utilized by the developed countries for their manufacturing units and also for outsourcing their work. The poor countries have been able to harness the power of the labor available with them to create a foothold for themselves in the market for manufactured goods and outsourced services. This has led to a rapid increase in their growth rate and this has been possible because there are other countries that needed this labor for improving their own growth rate.

Among the numerous problems plaguing the undeveloped countries, a major issue is the one related to epidemics and other health related services. Assistance from other developed countries in the form of organizations like the WHO has assisted the third world countries in addressing the health related issues. Additionally, a useful drug that has been developed in one country for a particular disease is effectively utilized by all countries across the world. This would not have been possible without the healthy interaction that exists between the countries. Therefore, there is no doubt that the material progress and well-being of one country is directly related to those of the other countries of the world.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 27

"Instead of encouraging conformity, society should show greater appreciation of individual differences."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 27

It is necessary to give more importance to individual differences rather than sticking to conformity for healthy growth and development of a society. Each individual has a different perception about things around him. Moreover, each person has a different aptitude and expertise for handling common day-to-day issues. Therefore, appreciating individual differences and capabilities will lead to the overall development of society as these individual differences may succeed in bringing to light facts, strategies and techniques that may change the face of not only a particular society but also the entire mankind. On the other hand, there are certain norms laid down for survival as a part of the society and one cannot allow people to break away from them or else it would lead to the widespread growth of anarchists in the society resulting in the creation of an environment that is inhospitable for living peacefully. Therefore, the bottom-line is that there is a certain limit beyond which society should appreciate individual differences.

In the past, societies were rigid and supported conformist views to the extent of ostracizing individuals who dared to think differently. However, our history is testimony to the reality that ideas and facts that emerged from individual differences have been proved to be right and they have actually succeeded in changing the mindset of people and their outlook towards how they perceive the world. Take the example of the facts related to the universe and the earth. People believed the earth to be flat. It was also staunchly believed that the sun revolves around the earth and that the earth is at the center of the universe. It took the models created by people like Copernicus to bring out the actual facts. However, their ideologies were fiercely opposed by certain members of the society. As centuries went past, it was discovered by the means of scientifically proven facts that these individuals were correct. These actual facts could have never been brought to the notice of the society if no one was given the liberty of voicing his personal opinion.

The conformist views of a society can be detrimental to the well-being of the society as a whole if individual differences are not accepted and appreciated. It is necessary to give every individual his space and give a patient hearing to his views on a subject. It is quite likely that these individual differences will be met with resistance from people who are used to following certain norms and way of life, but appreciating such differences will lead to a lot of good for the society or even an organization as a whole. Suppressing the wishes and opinions of others in the society would lead to discontent among people which may even lead to the eruption of violent protests. Therefore, it is always better to appreciate the individual differences, understand them and try to accommodate them into the society.

However, this does not mean that society should give a free hand to opinions that are definitely detrimental to the health of society. Since time immemorial, race and caste have been major problems for society. There are people who have very staunch religious beliefs and they go all out to condemn other religions. Society cannot afford to appreciate such individual differences by any means whatsoever. Therefore, there has to be a certain minimum laid down standard beyond which individual differences ought to be appreciated by the society.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 28

"Truly innovative ideas do not arise from groups of people, but from individuals. When groups try to be creative, the members force each other to compromise and, as a result, creative ideas tend to be weakened and made more conventional. Most original ideas arise from individuals working alone."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 28

Man has stayed in groups and tribes since the Stone Age and in the present time people have been segregated into groups based on political, religious, organizational and regional demarcations. Man has learnt to adjust to the requirements of other men while trying to survive with them. However, it is the inherent quality of humans that they tend to stick to their opinions and they contest the views of others. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that a group of people will agree with the opinions of each other. Hence, it is but natural that when it comes to thinking of innovative ideas, it is eventually an individual who arrives at an idea which may be termed as an important milestone of the era in which it has been thought. Even if a team has succeeded in coming out with an innovative idea, it is the work of an individual designated as the team leader who has successfully managed to keep the original idea close to what was originally thought of.

We all have been witness to uproars in the national assemblies over some issue or the other. People who have been elected as leaders by us have failed to arrive at a definite conclusion because of their difference in opinions. Most of the major innovations and inventions in history have been the outcome of the work of individuals. Consider the invention of the light bulb or the formulation of the theories of relativity and gravity; in each case it was the work of an individual: Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein and Isaac Newton. These scientists may have been working with a team of researchers at a later stage in the development of their theories, but the first idea had come to an individual. The famous 'Eureka' idea of Archimedes led to the formulation of the Archimedes principle. Could this have happened if there was a group of people in the same situation?

The research department of every business organization consists of a team of individuals who are committed towards thinking of innovative ideas for improving the sales of the organization. The innovative ideas may be related to the constitution of a new product being marketed by the organization or the publicity campaign for the company's products. Irrespective of the number of members in the team or group assembled for carrying out creative work, it is always the innovative ideas and enterprise of the team leader or any one individual member of the group that makes all the difference. If the team is left on its own, the strong undercurrents of disagreement among the team members are bound to make them arrive at a conclusion that is much more weak as compared to the original idea which must have been the outcome of the thought process of an individual. There is a hierarchy system in all organizations wherein there is a research head, which in turn is answerable to another boss and there is a final authority who is

the owner of the company. Why has this system been established? This has been done because it is an established fact that there is the requirement of an individual who will make the final decision. Even if the group has arrived at an innovative idea as a result of healthy discussions there are bound to be people in the group who are going to oppose some or the other aspect of the idea leading to weakening of the original idea.

It is a debatable issue whether this innovative thinking is the result of group thinking or individual ideas. The latest innovations in technology are by and large arrived at by teamwork spread over a number of years despite the fact that the first idea would have come to an individual only. However, if it is a team which is working on a creative task, their discussions will have to be closely monitored by a higher authority or else the innovative idea is bound to be weakened quite unlike the case when an individual is working on the same task.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 29

"The most elusive knowledge is self-knowledge, and it is usually acquired through solitude, rather than through interaction with others."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 29

It is true that self-knowledge is the most baffling form of knowledge. However, in order to discuss how it can be acquired, the first step is to understand the meaning of self-knowledge. The form of knowledge that is referred to as self-knowledge is the knowledge that someone acquires about himself and these beliefs originate from his own thoughts. Man's thought process is mostly governed by the environment in which he lives including the people with whom he interacts. Therefore, whenever someone acquires self-knowledge in any form, it is always through his interactions with other people. It cannot be acquired through solitude as he would be unable to discuss his viewpoints and nor would he be able to see how the others are reacting to a particular situation. Therefore, interaction amongst humans is extremely important for gaining self-knowledge.

It happens very often that you get views from others on something that is directly related to you and these views will largely determine what you think about yourself. This is a very important aspect of acquiring self-knowledge as it is based on gathering information about yourself from others. For instance, if you regularly interact with people who keep praising you about your work, then it will lead you into believing that you are good in your work. On the other hand, if you are regularly reprimanded for the poor quality of your work, you will develop a low self-esteem as you will start believing that you actually do not have the skills or the expertise to do your job well.

Every individual has the tendency to evaluate his own abilities when he looks at others who are more accomplished. How many times have teenagers tried to emulate fashion models and ended up becoming anorexic? This is because they compare themselves to others, thereby acquiring self-knowledge about their physical appearance and personality. There are a lot of people who assume that the appearance of their slim friends is the ideal body form and they strive to attain that form by starving themselves. Would this have been possible if these people had never interacted with others who were slimmer than they were? If they had been living in solitude, then perhaps they would have never gained the self-knowledge that they needed to change their body appearance to a form that is more fit and healthy.

There are so many times that we have thanked God for our well-being when we see others who are living in a state of penury. This instills a positive feeling that makes people feel happy rather than feeling unhappy during a bad phase of life. For instance, if there has been a robbery in the neighborhood in 2-3 houses at the same time, the one who has lost the least amount of cash and valuable assets feels that he is better off than the ones who have lost assets that are worth much

more. This lessens his grief to quite an extent, but at the same time, this would not have been possible if the robbery had taken place in one house only as the victim would not have been able to compare himself to the misfortunes of others. This analysis of whether your inner-self is happy or unhappy after an event takes place is largely dependent on the state of others who were a part of the same event. Therefore, this form of self-knowledge can only be acquired by living with others, interacting with them and learning from their gains and losses.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 30

"The purpose of education should be to provide students with a value system, a standard, a set of ideas-not to prepare them for a specific job."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 30

Who imparts education? It is not necessary that a child becomes educated by going to school. Students learn from their parents, their friends and the environment in which they live in addition to their teachers who teach them at school. When we say that a person is an educated individual, it does not mean that he has a host of degrees; rather it means that apart from degrees he is also aware of the social norms and standards that are acceptable for co-existence in society. This aspect of education has to be provided either by the school curriculum or the environment in which a student is carrying out the learning process. The purpose of education cannot be restricted to preparing students for a specific job as this would bring down the standards of society as a whole. Everyone would be well-trained for the career that he is pursuing, but no one will be educated enough to conform to the standards laid down by society for peaceful co-existence in total harmony so as to allow the society to progress in the positive direction.

Is education required for preparing students for a specific job? If the answer to this questions is 'Yes', then this means that there should be no requirement of the heirs of business tycoons and monarchy to go to regular schools. They can just be trained for handling their parental business or monarchy and there is no need for them to acquire the form of education that all other children of their age do. Additionally, there should be no need for their parents to imbibe in them the knowledge that leads to their development as well-educated individuals. On the contrary, affluent people hire personal groomers and send their children to finishing schools, so that they learn that extra bit which their management studies or other forms of higher studies will not be able to teach. Moreover, they also attend regular classes like all other students because the purpose of education is to provide the students with a set of ideas that will prepare them for life in general and not just a specific job.

It is true that you need specific training for succeeding in a specific career. For instance, you need to pursue medical studies to become a doctor and you have to study in a management college to become a successful business manager. However, the basic education that is provided before these higher studies should be the same for everyone and it should be job-independent so as to bring the citizens of a country to a common standard. As far as the job specific education like medical studies is concerned, there should be an endeavor to prepare the curriculum matter in such a way that the students gain knowledge that will help them to become good doctors who conform to a given standard with an ideal set of thoughts rather than churning out doctors who are experts in the field of medicine, but are totally ignorant about the environment around them.

Education is required to enlighten a person and change his entire thought process by making him aware of all the aspects of life so that he is well-prepared to tackle any kind of situation. This will be possible only if he is aware of the various aspects that form a part of the educational curriculum including other issues that he can learn through his parents, teachers or friends. Training a student for a specific job only would be an entire waste of time and effort as he would be unsuitable for the other necessities of life.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 31

"Unlike great thinkers and great artists, the most effective political leaders must often yield to public opinion and abandon principle for the sake of compromise."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 31

Leaders at all levels are confronted with the question that when should they hold on to a particular issue and when should they let it go and yield to public opinion? Great artists and thinkers may have decided to stick to their principles as they could have easily afforded to do so. The decisions taken by political leaders affect the entire nation and hence they have to think a lot before choosing between compromises and sticking to their principles. There are many times in the life of a leader when he has to decide between going in for a compromise and standing firm on principles. Successful leaders are those who make more number of correct decisions than the wrong ones, irrespective of whether these decisions were an outcome of a compromise or persuasion of their principles. Therefore, the decision making strategy for political leaders is a blend of yielding to public opinion and sticking to their principles in varying proportions.

There are unwritten rules that suggest when a political leader should ideally stand firm and when he should be willing to compromise on an issue. A political leader can opt for a compromise when the issue being addressed is not very critical or when the results of the compromise could lead to major benefits for the country. At times, being unnecessarily rigid may lead to damage that cannot be undone. The situation that arises out of this rigid attitude of political leaders may lead to further worsening of the situation and the leaders may be forced to compromise in the end but the administration would have already borne the damages incurred because of the rigidity of the leaders. There might be countrywide protests and violent movements as a result of the decisions being taken by the leadership. The dilemma increases manifold for political leaders as a wrong decision may permanently damage their image among the masses. The decision making process is further complicated by the correlation between popular or politically correct decisions and the apparently harsh decisions that can bear rich dividends in the longer run. There is no simple way of making correct decisions. It is a matter of making the correct judgment from amongst the options available.

History provides enough examples where there were cases in which opting for a compromise would have been a better option, while in others, a little more persuasion would have been better so that the principles were adhered to. During World War II, Adolf Hitler refused to let his soldiers abandon positions as he believed that soldiers should never retreat. However, later it was realized that if he had allowed withdrawing at critical times, and then counterattacking, he could have been more successful. We all are aware of the accusations being made against President George W. Bush that he is making an error by pursuing his policies on Iraq. However, Winston Churchill's uncompromising resolve during World War II was eventually justified.

Therefore, certain cases require that the political leaders step back and accept a dilution of their principles so that the issues can be resolved in a way that is the best in the interest of the nation. However, there may be cases where the political leaders have to stick to the principles no matter how strong the opposition is, especially when the principle is such that abandoning it will affect the nation drastically.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 32

"The best way to understand the character of a society is to examine the character of the men and women that the society chooses as its heroes or its heroines."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 32

The character of a society is determined by the character of the people who form that society. A society idolizes certain men and women as its heroes and heroines depending on what these people have done for the society. These people may be politicians or they may have brought about a radical change in the way people live in that society. Irrespective of what they have done for the society, their characters cannot determine the character of the entire society as these people will have their own individual characteristics that cannot reflect the characters of all the people who are a part of that society. This is because each individual has his own perception about the things around him and this perception shapes his character. There may be some cases wherein people try to emulate their idols, but this does not mean that the entire society's character can be understood by studying the character of its heroes and heroines.

The news channels and the newspapers are always following well-known people for a peep into their personal lives. Lady Diana was adored and loved by millions of people across the world. She was the idol of not only her country but also many other countries around the world. There have been numerous occasions where people have maligned her name by associating her with scandals even after her death. If these accusations are true, then do the societies that worship her have the same character? What about the heroes and heroines who are respected and loved for the characters that they portray in movies? It is a well known fact that the lives of models, actors and artists are laced with scandals and controversies. Some of them are known drug-addicts and others lead amorous lives. Does the society that idolizes these people have the same character? It would be wrong to assume that the society has the same character as it is an accepted fact that these people are liked for their values other than their characters. Therefore, it is not necessary that the entire society behaves in a manner similar to the people who are loved by the masses.

Another example is that of the political leaders who have been elected by the people of a country to lead them. If they have been elected because of their honesty and their patriotism, then does this mean that the entire society is honest? On the contrary, what if one of the politicians is corrupt and unscrupulous? Will this reflect the character of the people who have elected him? The people who have elected this particular politician may be conservative, honest and God-fearing, but it is unfortunate that the true character of the politician whom they have elected as their leader is hidden from them. Even if they can see his true form after he has already been elected, a close examination of his character would reveal a character that would be far from that of the society that has chosen him.

In view of the above, it can easily be concluded that the character of a society and that of the people idolized by the society are not related in any way whatsoever. There may be some cases wherein someone has tried to imitate the character of the person he considers a hero. However, on the whole, the character of a society is independent of the character of the people chosen as its heroes and heroines. In other words, the character of the heroes and heroines is not an indication of the character of the society that has chosen them.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 33

"We learn through direct experience; to accept a theory without experiencing it is to learn nothing at all."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 33

"Don't run or else you will fall and hurt yourself." Most of us have heard this being said by our parents or elders whenever we went out to play as kids. Did we pay any heed to these words until we actually fell down once and felt the pain of a wound on our knees? A child will learn the fact that running fast may lead to his getting hurt only if he has gone through it once or else he will probably not even remember this fact as he grows up. On the other hand, there are certain theories that have to be accepted and learnt as they have been told to us as there is no way of experiencing them directly. For instance, is it possible for everyone to travel into space and experience zero gravity to learn about the theory of zero gravity in space? Therefore, the best way to learn something is by experiencing it, but if it is not possible to provide the direct experience for learning something, then the best alternative is to accept the theory and you will definitely be able to learn from it by going through the experiences of others.

Learning is a process that includes practical experience as well as an analysis of facts and figures. These facts would have been arrived at after detailed research work done by researchers and scientists. There are numerous books and papers that describe the theory in detail. There may be a mention of the experiences of others or there may be detailed calculations and other proofs that confirm the conclusion being stated by the theory. It is in the interest of the person learning the theory to go over the proofs given in the theory and accept it. This is because it may not be humanely possible to experience all theories directly. Can we directly experience the 'Big Bang' theory that describes the birth of our solar system? On the other hand, we all can directly experience gravity and this makes us learn the concept of gravity in a much better manner.

Reading forms a very important aspect of learning. We cannot undermine the importance of reading in comparison to direct experience. Although, it is true that direct experience is one of the best ways of learning a theory, the significance of reading cannot be totally ignored. Reading and experience go hand in hand in teaching concepts to students. One can learn without direct experience, but one cannot learn on his own without reading. Children would have experienced that the night is dark and the day is bright, but they won't know the theory of the earth's rotation unless they read about it from books. Therefore, gaining direct experience is secondary to reading from books and hence if direct experience is lacking, then it does not mean that one has not been able to learn anything.

The educational systems in most teaching establishments emphasize a lot on practical training so as to make the process of learning easier. However, there may be certain theories and concepts for which it may not be possible to provide direct hands-on-practice. This does not mean that the

students attending classes in these institutions are not learning anything. They will definitely be learning a lot by reading alone. Providing direct experience may make certain concepts and theories easier to understand, but the unavailability of direct experience does not hinder the process of learning in any way whatsoever.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 34

"As societies all over the world have more and more access to new information, the effects on life-long learning can only be positive."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 34

The advent of technological discoveries has made the process of accessing information very easy. Everyone can access information related to any field by picking up books on that subject or browsing related web sites. Access to all types of information will make people aware of the environment around them. People will be able to gain information on all subjects and they will be able to utilize the information gained for their own benefit. Therefore, the effects of this type of learning will be positive to quite an extent. However, there are some side effects of the information that is readily available for the consumption of all people irrespective of their ages. Hence, it cannot be accepted that the effects of this life-long learning can only be positive with no shades of negativity.

The media serves as a good source for providing information to people. It is quite true that information given by the media percolates down to the masses and does a lot of good to the entire society as people learn a lot from the experiences of others. However, this widespread flow of information may have a negative effect on the young impressionable minds of teenagers. Real stories of crime have an adverse effect on teenagers who feel that they can get easy money by doing the same. Common information on the side-effects of drug-addiction are well-known, but this information about usage of drugs for getting the 'state of high' instigates teenagers to try out drugs for the first time leading to their getting 'hooked' on to drugs. Therefore, can the learning gained from this kind of a source be termed as a positive effect on life-long learning?

The internet is a good source of information on all subjects ranging from history to medical sciences. Apart from the official or government web sites, all web sites do not provide authentic information. People have started resorting to the internet for treatments for common ailments. Numerous web sites give out herbal remedies for a number of diseases. There is no dearth of web sites on the internet that offer products which give miraculous results like height gain, weight loss, hair growth etc. Search engines on the internet are used by one and all for looking up information on any topic pertaining to any aspect of life. Is the information given in all these web sites authentic? The learning attained from this kind of a source can never have a positive effect; rather it might lead to a negative effect on learning with the web sites charging the visitors to their sites for providing information and the visitors will be oblivious to the fact that the information being provided is not authentic.

People tend to learn a lot by experience and by direct contact. Easy access to information is making people go beyond the realms of traditional educational systems to enhance their knowledge. In yesteryears people used to do extensive reading from standardized books to learn

about the world in general. However, in today's world, societies are gaining more and more access to information and people are looking beyond authentic information for updating their knowledge. There are numerous sources of information that are being utilized by societies, but it is not necessary that all of them will have a positive effect on learning. It is true that any source of information does have a positive effect in the long run. However, it cannot be refuted that along with the positive effects, there will be a small percentage of negative effects which may have to be ignored for the overall progress of the society.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 35

"People are too quick to take action; instead they should stop to think of the possible consequences of what they might do."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 35

"Every action has an equal and opposite reaction." This is Newton's 3rd Law of Physics and it applies to our daily life as well as it applies to the theories of Science. Whenever someone is prompted to take an action, there is no doubt that it will be followed by a reaction. Therefore, one has to stop to consider the various consequences before carrying out any kind of action.

There have been many times in our lives when we had to take quick decisions due to shortage of time. Taking a decision is one thing and executing it in the form of an action is another thing altogether, as the action will be followed by consequences that may have either a positive effect or a negative effect. In today's world, there is a race against time to get your work done. Everyone is in a hurry to accomplish the task at hand and this forces people to take huge risks by taking quick actions. Despite the pressure exerted by shortage of time, it is absolutely important to assess the subsequent consequences so that you can plan the remedial action well in advance. This assessment of the possible consequences of a particular action will require you to spend some time and therefore, you cannot execute an action immediately.

Consider the example of marriage which is an event that takes place in the life of every individual. Isn't it better to contemplate on the consequences of marriage before taking the proverbial 'plunge'? You will definitely have to consider various factors like your means of livelihood and a place to stay which are necessary to sustain your marriage. Immediately getting married without having thought about the consequences of marriage would lead to a disturbed married life and you may have to actually spend more than you can afford to make both ends meet. It is for this reason that most people postpone marriage until they are settled in life. Why do people take such a decision? This is because they have spent time in studying the consequences of marriage and they are aware of the problems that might come up. Therefore, people take the necessary steps beforehand so that there are no problems once the actual action, that is marriage, is executed.

If you find that it is high time you got yourself a family car then what would you do? Would you just go out buy the car that your friend or neighbor has or would you rather spend some time in selecting the model and make of the car that would be best suited for you? You may have to base the decision of buying a car on various factors like the cost of the car and the amount of financial loan that you can afford. You may also have to consider the amount required to be spent on the annual maintenance of the car depending on the model of the car that you are keen on buying. There is a chance that you will regret buying a particular type of car in a hurry if you later find that the car demands a lot of maintenance costs or if it has a high mileage.

One cannot deny the fact that there may be many instances in our lives when we have regretted taking a decision in a hurry. This could be because the action did not produce the results that we had been hoping for. Therefore, one should always spend some time in studying the consequences of taking a particular action before actually executing it on ground. This will not only help you in making the correct decision, but you will also be well prepared for any eventuality as you would have already catered for it when you were evaluating the consequences of that particular action.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 36

"Rituals and ceremonies help define a culture. Without them, societies or groups of people have a diminished sense of who they are."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 36

A particular society or a group of people at a particular place who share a common set of knowledge and values is defined as a culture. There are numerous cultures existing in the world. They differ from each other in the languages they use, the food habits they have, the norms followed by them, their religions and their festivals. These constitute the cultural differences that differentiate one culture from the other. Therefore, these cultural differences, consisting of rituals and ceremonies, help in defining a culture. If these cultural differences did not exist, then there would have been no differences among various cultures and the people who formed a part of a particular culture would have been unaware of who they actually were.

Since time immemorial, man has always lived in groups and societies. Each society developed a culture of its own by setting certain traditions, rituals and ceremonies that were followed by the people who were a part of that society. As time passed, the societies of the world drew closer to each other and intermingled with each other. There are people who travel to different continents in pursuit of either education or a career. However, it has been seen that people may be living in any part of the world but they will always celebrate festivals and carry out ceremonies that are specific to their cultures and religions. This firmly establishes the fact that people are able to preserve their cultures by sticking to their rituals and ceremonies.

The multi-cultural world of today makes it essential for each culture to adhere to its rituals and ceremonies so as to bring the people of the culture together and bind them by a common thread. This is because the intermingling of cultures has made people drift away from their cultures. A Japanese child born and brought up in France may perhaps know more about French culture than his own Japanese culture. However, his parents will try their level best to acquaint him with Japanese culture even when they are living in a foreign land. This is because it is through Japanese rituals and ceremonies that the child will come to know who he actually is.

Consider a country like the USA where there are residents who come from different countries from across the world. How are these people differentiated from each other? How is everyone aware of his antecedents? Are these people aware of who they really are and where their roots lie? The answers to all these questions lie in the fact that the cultures of these people make them different from each other and it is their culture that helps them to know who they really are. If all the people had the same culture, then there would have been no means of differentiation between them and the others and with the passage of time, people would have lost track of who they initially were and where they came from.

Everyone needs an identity of his own. Can you live without a name? Similarly, each culture needs an identity that differentiates it from other cultures of its time. The rituals and the ceremonies of a culture help in defining that particular culture. If people do not follow the customs and traditions of a culture, the culture will be lost as the coming generations would be unaware of who they are.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 37

"The way people look, dress, and act reveals their attitudes and interests. You can tell much about a society's ideas and values by observing the appearance and behavior of its people."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 37

The character and disposition of an individual can be determined by the way he dresses and behaves. However, can the same be said about an entire society based on the behavior and appearance of the people of that society? Although it may seem far-fetched, but studying the behavior of the people of a society does give an insight into the ideas and values of that society. However, one has to accept the fact that there will always be a section of the society that will not support the values and ideas reflected by the present generation of people of that society. This section may either support an ideology of their own or they may support values that were instilled in them by their parents who belonged to an earlier generation. Therefore, the mannerisms of the people of a society are not an exact indication of the values and ideas of the entire society as a whole, but they do tell you a lot about the ideas that are supported by a majority of the people who constitute that society.

The society in the centuries gone past was by and large conservative. This is apparent from the way the people of the early 19th century dressed up. Take a look at the behavior and appearance of the Englishmen of the Victorian era. Their attitude towards women reflects the values of the society in those times when women were respected and the women carried themselves accordingly. The behavior and appearance of men and women in the mid-20th century reflects the ideas of the society at a time when the 'Hippie' culture was at its peak. The appearance and behavior of that generation of people reflects the bohemian ideology of the society of those times. However, it needs to be reiterated that it is not necessary that the entire society followed the same principles. There may have been a section of the society that still stuck to the old conservative ideology.

A study of the appearance and behavior of the women of the Islamic countries is a direct reflection of their societies. These societies have a conservative attitude towards their women as is evident by the fact that women veil their faces when they step out of their homes. At the same time, there are countries like India, Pakistan and Bangladesh where there are Muslim women who are models and actresses. Does this mean that the Muslim society is liberal in these countries? The answer is that these Muslim societies are not as liberal as is reflected by a couple of its women who no longer prefer to veil themselves in public. Therefore, it would be wrong to assume the values of the entire society by studying the behavior of some of its women.

A society is characterized by much more than the behavior and appearance of its people. In some cases, the outward appearance and behavior of its people may conceal the actual values of a society. People may be dressing up scantily because of the weather conditions in their country.

Does it mean that the society is liberal when it comes to the lives that its people lead? It is quite possible that the society has conservative values but its people dress up differently. On the other hand, it is also possible that the society actually has the same values as is reflected by the appearance and behavior of its people. Therefore, it can be concluded that although the ideas and values of a society can generally be determined by the appearance and behavior of its people, there may be certain cases where this rule may not hold true.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 38

"Progress is best made through discussion among people who have contrasting points of view."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 38

It is always a good thing to have a healthy discussion wherein people have contrasting points of view. Such a discussion enables everyone participating in the discussion to address the issue from the perspective of the others. However, can you force someone else to agree to your viewpoint? On the contrary, how many times have you agreed with the viewpoint of the other person or have you ever agreed that you are wrong and that the other person is right? We as humans always try to stick to our viewpoint and rarely admit that we are wrong. Therefore, can a discussion among people with contrasting points of view proceed in the right direction? It is true that everyone will learn something new as he sees the issue from a different angle, but it would be wrong to assume that such a discussion can actually lead to progress and that this would be the best way to make progress. On the contrary, it is very rare to make progress in the right direction when the participants of a discussion do not see eye to eye with each other on the issue being discussed.

Consider the example of a committee that has been constituted to work out the modalities for the implementation of a publicity campaign. What do you expect will happen if the members of the committee have contrasting viewpoints on the method to be adopted for the publicity campaign? If the members of the committee do not agree to a common method for the launch of the publicity campaign, how can one expect the details of the campaign to be worked out? The members of the committee who are of the view that spending money on advertising in the print media is a total wastage of money will definitely oppose those who think that the print media is as important as the television media. Each member will try his best to criticize the viewpoint of the other members in a bid to defend his own viewpoint. The discussion can progress further only if all members agree on a common method and then only can the other details be worked out.

There can be no progress if the participants of the discussion stick to their viewpoints which are in stark contrast to those of the others. Such a discussion would lead to total chaos and wastage of time. The only solution lies in either forcing some of the participants to agree to the viewpoints of the others or finding a solution that both parties agree to. Isn't this always the best method to steer a discussion in a direction that will lead to progress? We have always heard of cases wherein discussions were fruitful because the participants either agreed on an issue unanimously or found a common ground where everyone agreed.

Whenever a discussion goes out of hand, the person chairing the discussion opts for carrying out voting to arrive at the solution which is agreed to by a majority of the participants. This is done

because it is certain that a discussion cannot progress in the right direction if the participants have contrasting points of view.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 39

"Most people choose a career on the basis of such pragmatic considerations as the needs of the economy, the relative ease of finding a job, and the salary they can expect to make. Hardly anyone is free to choose a career based on his or her natural talents or interest in a particular kind of work."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 39

We spend a major portion of our lives working. How many people are actually happy with their jobs? There are a lot of people who picked up careers that were far from their natural talents and interests. Why does this happen to a majority of people? The answer is obvious. Money makes the world go round! The perks and privileges of a job along with the respect and popularity associated with it are the major factors that govern your choice of career. Who does not like money flowing into his bank account and who does not want to live a comfortable life with little or no financial constraints? Therefore, most people are bound by these restrictions that force them to choose careers that do not hold their interests and the people may not have the necessary talent for the careers that they choose to pursue.

The decision to choose a career based on considerations other than an interest in that kind of job is based on several factors. A major factor is the necessity of raking in enough money to make life comfortable for yourself and your family. Another important factor is the lack of proper guidance. School students learn a lot from the environment around them. They easily get impressed by popular career options like those associated with the world of glamour because not only do these careers boast of a high income but they also provide you with fame and publicity. Before choosing a career in films, how many people actually bother to test themselves to see if they have a natural flair for acting or whether they actually have an interest in acting? This kind of a career requires late working hours, lots of traveling, a fitness regime, an endless struggle to get your first break etc. Nevertheless, people are drawn to this career just because of the glamour and money associated with it irrespective of their interests and talents. Moreover, there are many jobs that earn a lot of respect and therefore, they are chosen as careers by most people irrespective of their interest for that kind of a job. Take the example of a career in medicine which is respected by one and all. There are numerous students who prepare for the entrance examinations to medical colleges without assessing where their interests lie.

The careers chosen by people are largely influenced by the thoughts and aspirations of their parents. The school going children today are under a lot of pressure from their parents to do well in life and for that they are grilled into preparing for a particular career very early in life. A family of doctors, lawyers or businessmen would obviously want their children to become doctors, lawyers and businessmen respectively in order to carry their businesses further. If one such family has an only child who has a natural talent for playing basketball, would the family allow him to choose a career in sports and let the family business go without an heir? There have

been so many instances in history when sons and daughters of politicians have joined politics, but no one really knows if they actually had an interest in politics or whether they were forced to join politics by their influential parents who wanted them to carry the family name ahead.

Finally, there are numerous students who are interested in fine arts or who are talented painters and sportsmen, but their countries may not be having the necessary infrastructure to provide them with a rewarding career in these fields. Therefore, the students are left with no other choice but to choose a career that fulfills other criteria like a good salary and good job seeking options.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 40

"Any decision-whether made by government, by a corporation, or by an individual person-must take into account future conditions more than present conditions."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 40

We all have been faced with a dilemma when we have to take a split-second decision and there is no time to think about what will happen in the future. For instance, you are driving on the highway and you see that there are less number of vehicles on the road. Would you move over to the wrong lane in order to overtake another speeding vehicle, or would you take into account future conditions where the number of vehicles plying on that lane may increase when you are on the wrong side? This makes it obvious that future conditions have to be taken into account more than the present conditions for the decisions taken to be effective and profitable in the long run.

The future holds a lot of uncertainties. Consider that there is a major project underway at a business enterprise and a decision has to be taken regarding the best time for the launch of a new product. How should the best time for the launch be arrived at? Should it be based on the present market conditions or on the likely market conditions in the future? What will happen if the product is launched after studying the present market conditions only? It is likely that a competitor was planning to launch a similar product in the future and seeing the price of the product launched by this company, the competitor reduces the price of its product thereby breaking the market for the product that was launched without studying the future. Additionally, it is likely that the government was going to impose restrictions on the import and export of certain items thereby affecting the sale or the manufacture of the new product. If this had been studied beforehand, then the decision to launch the product could have been postponed or the affected items could have been procured in bulk before the restrictions were imposed. Therefore, it can be seen that decisions taken by corporations and business organizations are largely dependent on what the future conditions will be like.

The decisions taken by the government determine the future of an entire nation and hence they have to be taken after due deliberation. Most of the governments across the world have always taken major decisions after considering the future conditions more than the present conditions. For instance, Iraq may not have been a major threat to any other nation at the time when the decision to wage a war against Iraq was taken by the American government. However, it is a well known fact that the American government had taken this decision by taking into account future conditions when the weapons assumed to be possessed by Iraq could have spelled doom for the other nations of the world.

As far as an individual is concerned, it is absolutely necessary for him to take all major decisions depending on the future conditions. Why do people buy retirement policies wherein they have to pay a huge chunk of money annually as installments? This is because they have planned for their

future when they will have money in their hands after they have retired from their jobs. If a person thinks only about his present condition where he has a job and he gets a salary every month, then he may not take the decision of investing money in a retirement plan. However, once he takes the future conditions into account, he realizes that he needs to take a decision regarding his savings if he wants to spend his retired life without any financial constraints.

In view of the above, it can be seen that the future conditions are far more important than the present conditions when it comes to taking a decision and this holds true for corporations, governments and individuals as well.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 41

If a goal is worthy, then any means taken to attain it is justifiable.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 41

There is no doubt that goals are necessary for the growth of an individual and the development of the society. Every individual dreams to achieve his goal. However, to say that any means taken to attain it is justifiable is not correct. There are both positive and negative aspects of this statement. It depends on the individual whether he/she takes the positive side or the negative side. Sometimes, based upon the distinct function of the worthy goals, it appears that any means taken to achieve the purpose is justifiable. However, a balance is required considering the morality factor.

It is a common accepted fact that goals provide directions to people's actions and make their actions more purposeful. It helps in improving the conditions of human beings and the world. Sometimes it is essential to take extreme steps in some sense; it becomes justifiable to use some extreme tackles to gain the meaningful goal. For example, independence war of India against British Empire. Usually wars are considered a serious loss to nations, however, this war was to eliminate the slavery in India and for setting true democracy in India. It is also true that the benefits of attaining the goal of this war cannot reverse the effects it had on the nation's heart and mind. However, it cannot be ignored that it gave birth to the largest democracy of the world.

However, it cannot be said that one can use any means to achieve his goal. A very general example is that if a person has a goal to become a millionaire then it does not mean that he can attain his goal by any means. He cannot be allowed to rob a bank and say that his goal is now achieved and it is justifiable. On the other hand, if the goal for an individual is to study in the best university and if he/she works very hard to get through it and studies day and night without any concern about what people say, then this can be called justifiable. Hence, it is difficult to predict whether any goal, which a person is seeking, is worth. At times, maybe some measures would lead to a side effect and even worsen the situation.

People have to take some basic moral standards into account before taking extreme measures to fulfill their goals. In the absence of logical steps, a valuable goal loses its meaning. A worthy goal is a purpose that would benefit the entire humanity and the society. A personal goal should not be above the national or global cause. For example if you take the instance of cloning, it can achieve a peerless level in the biology science. However, all the nations are very cautious to develop this technology as cloning may lead to a chaos in ethic. Moreover, it can be misused by terrorists. Thus, you cannot justify all means of attaining a worthy goal.

Hence, an individual should consider the means, which help to achieve a worthy goal. The result should be materialistically as well as morally correct.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 42

Too much emphasis has been placed on the need for students to challenge the assertions of others. In fact, the ability to compromise and work with others-that is, the ability to achieve social harmony-should be a major goal in every school.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 42

I agree with the statement of the author that there should not be over emphasis on the students to challenge others' works. They should work in harmony with others, but I do not agree with the other part of the statement that the ability to compromise should be taught in every school. To maintain peace and compromising for the same should not be their motto in life. Otherwise, they will lose their spirit of competition. They should not be misguided by this statement of the author. Moreover, schools have many other things to teach, they cannot make teaching compromise their major goal. It can be a part of their teaching.

The author has mixed up two different things. Having challenges in life is very different from achieving social harmony. This is right that students should not be forced to compete with others, but to get motivation from the achievers is not wrong. Sometimes, students are encouraged by watching others work. The students do need guidance to only progress in their fields. They also need guidance to recognize their hidden talents. If they get it at the right time, they can go very far and can do wonders. Hence, it cannot be said that there is no need for students to challenge other's claims.

However, the teachers and parents should be careful that their push should be in its limits and should not stress the student. There should be a good spirit of healthy competition and not the feeling of jealousy and unethical behaviour. Otherwise, it will do the reverse and the environment of school or institution will be polluted. It would hinder the healthy growth of students and their minds would be maligned against each other. It may affect the social harmony of the nation in the end. For example, if the players of a team will start competing with each other instead of competing with the rival team then it will definitely affect their performance. Even when playing against the rival team, they should play with good sportsmanship. They should respect their competitors and supporters alike. Hence, their basic training should be right and balanced.

However, at the same time, students need to learn how to compete and excel. They have to set standards for themselves and then try to achieve them. This can be done only if they will compete with other achievers. They cannot compromise on everything. They have to work for their goals even if they are challenging others, but their means of achieving their goals should not be wrong. A researcher's job is to invent new things. If he will not try to better other's work, then there will not be any new inventions. To challenge the assertions of others is the base of scientific researches and businesses. A business executive would be successful only if he will try

to outdo others in the same field. Moreover, the most successful businessmen also impart benefit to society.

Hence, it can be said that although social harmony is very important, it should be taught to students but not at the expense of their goals. Rather, they should be taught how to maintain a balance and keep the spirit of sportsmanship.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 43

Society should identify those children who have special talents and abilities and begin training them at an early age so that they can eventually excel in their areas of ability. Otherwise, these talents are likely to remain undeveloped.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 43

This statement rightly states that if children with special talents get training at an early stage, then they can do wonders in their respective fields. It is necessary to identify these children to give them the right direction. Otherwise, if these children do not get the chance and the facilities, they might be lost and it will be a loss to the society.

Sometimes, gifted children do not have means to develop their talents. Hence, it is the society or government's duty to nurture their talents. It can be access to musical instruments or providing education. If a child has a special talent in scientific facts and researches, then he needs access to science labs. In the realms of science, especially in physics, it is important for society to pay more attention on genius kids so that they can eventually excel in research in the future. If one gets the facilities to grow then he might prove a prodigy for the society.

Similarly, students with outstanding talents for sports should be selected and trained separately. It will for make sure that they show their special talents to the maximum extent. Special training can polish a child and can produce an extraordinary athlete. The children need to be trained at an early stage and they need special coaching to win medals. They need special coaches. If they get the right guidance, they can smash all the previous records.

There should be special schools where students at the same level should be admitted and special training should be provided to them. In a free academic atmosphere, students will feel motivated, a sense of competition will be there, and it will constantly stimulate him or her to advance in the specific areas of his interest. This facility cannot be provided by common schools.

However, giving attention to the children with special abilities should not mean neglecting other kids. Providing facilities to specially gifted kids should not be at the expense of other children. Giving attention to some children might divide the children into fractions, which can cause ill effects on the delicate minds of the children. It would be undemocratic to give preference to some kids over others. The unchosen children might feel neglected and inferior. That would lead to childhood trouble.

The children who will get more attention and facilities might have the feeling of superiority and they might misuse their talent and facilities to harm the society. Sometimes, parents also push their children with special talents and affect their childhood and other times, parents simply refuse to acknowledge their kids' special talents.

Hence, considering all these factors, it is important for the society to identify children with special talents and to nurture them. However, they have to take care not to neglect other children. It should not lead to social and economic disparity. A well-planned training or a talent program will systematically train the talented child on his way to reach the full potential at an early age.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 44

The bombardment of visual images in contemporary society has the effect of making people less able to focus clearly and extensively on a single issue over a long period of time.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 44

I completely agree with this statement that in these times, with so many things going around, people are not able to focus clearly on a single issue over a long period of time. There are many reasons for this.

Instant communication systems bombard people with many issues at the same time. The transmission time of news is very less in the contemporary society. Before a person focuses on one piece of news, he gets another piece of news. Televisions and computers play an important role in delivering news to people. The public gets credible, current information with commentary from news analysts along with the images. Images with the strong commentary attract people and they keep on listening all kinds of news and fail to make up their mind. Instantaneous news makes people react faster and then forget faster. The increased availability of open source real-time news information makes them forget the earlier news.

With advanced technology, there are so many channels that it is difficult for a person to stick to one channel or only one source of information. In the past, there was no TV, Internet or phones. Hence, people used to depend on the print media or radio systems to get the news of other cities and countries. That too was not instant and with no visual presentations. People had to imagine things on their own. They used to have discussions on the more important issues. Hence, the issues were there in people's minds for longer periods.

There are many social, political, and environmental issues that need people's attention. However, in these modern times, common people are very busy with their own lives. They do not have time to ponder over a single issue. People are usually interested in issues that affect their lives, their daily day-to-day needs. The competition in their lives is so tough that they have to work hard for their livelihood, so there is no question of focusing on any one issue for very long. There are so many issues to deal with that one cannot concentrate on one. Moreover, there is a bombardment of visual images in print and electronic media whenever something happens. It adds to the confusion. While seeing all these images, it becomes difficult to differentiate between the important and the common issues. Every small issue is covered with so many details that sometimes it seems more important. There are so many gory pictures that people get insensitive towards them.

However, we cannot ignore the importance of visual images in our life. These images in media make us more aware of our surroundings, our country, world, and even space. Media has made our world smaller and we come to know everything about the happenings in the other countries

within minutes. Hence, although the visual images do not allow us to concentrate on one issue, they play an important role in our lives.

In sum, we can say that it is true that due to the bombardment of visual images, people are less able to concentrate on any single issue for longer period. However, if the electronic and print media filter their information and give more importance to useful news, then it will be easier for common people to focus their attention on main issues.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 45

Most important discoveries or creations are accidental: it is usually while seeking the answer to one question that we come across the answer to another.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 45

Although there are many incidents in history where discoveries occurred by accident or it happened while searching answers to some other problems, however, there are many other discoveries, which were sought out purposely. Hence, we cannot generalize that most discoveries are accidental.

The author has given this statement based on some examples from the history, but this statement is overstated. In this statement, the author has given more importance to serendipity, which is not correct.

However, you cannot ignore many accidental discoveries in the world. There are many examples in history to support the author. For instance, Columbus discovered a new continent, America, while he was on his route to find West Indies for trade. Similarly, the discovery of very important drug, Penicillin that is one of the earliest antibiotic, by Fleming was also accidental. There are many other anthropological examples in the history where geologists stumbled upon important artifacts in quest to understand earth's structure. These discoveries tell them about the previous civilizations in those places.

However, these were the cases when technology was not very advanced. Hence, there were not many inventions, creations, and discoveries on purpose in those times. Nevertheless, that is not the case now. These days astronomers use more powerful telescopes to discover new planets and to know more about space. Because of these discoveries and new technology, we know so much about our atmosphere and planet. It also helps us to know about the earth's weather in advance.

There are many planned researches by biologists to discover new medicines and new therapies for various diseases. Most of the times, scientific discoveries are planned. Scientists research lot for the existing facts and data before applying the information to create a new thing. Most of these discoveries are made through a scientific approach. Drug companies have the pressure of their customers and shareholders to avoid random pursuits. At the time of its discovery, even importance and use of penicillin was not known. It was in 1939 that a group of scientists did intensive research and were able to demonstrate penicillin's ability to kill infectious bacteria. Hence, this discovery was also used after planned research.

Similarly, creations are also not baseless and instant. They are more engineered and based on the existing knowledge. Semiconductors, internal combustion engines cannot be treated as accidental discoveries. These are based upon the existing scientific principles. However, there might be

some discoveries whose later effects are not foreseen. For example, ARPANET was started on a small scale as a data communication system, which was used to share data among engineers at different universities. However, later on it got famous as Internet.

In these modern days, many companies are working in the business of creating or discovering new things to make our lives comfortable. They hire many engineers and scholars to work on these projects. Hence, not all the discoveries can be known as accidental. We must not give more credit to accidental discoveries than the actual work done by scholars and researchers.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 46

In order to produce successful original work, scholars and scientists must first study the successful work of others to learn what contributions remain to be made.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 46

As per this statement, scholars and scientists must first study the successful work of others for their further research. It seems from this statement that this is necessary for scholars before producing their own original work. However, this is not completely true. It is correct that a scholar who wants to make some breakthrough in his academic career must know very well about his field like the history of the academic realm, some landmark achievements, branches, and new development trend about the subject. He or she should be aware of the expert comments on the topic. If a person knows his field better, then he can build a system of his own perspectives on what he devotes to and thus probably provide some sparkling ideas and establish his own theory.

However, he should not depend on somebody else's work. Even though, we need some basic guidance from our seniors, sometimes our minds abound with too many theories of a lot of people from ancient to contemporary, domestic to abroad and we cannot think beyond that. If we will stick to those theories and never doubt a little, we will not be able to grow. We will definitely be conscribed in a circle built by the "greater" formers and have no new things to explore. This way the academic profession would soon lose its vigor. Hence, one should apply his own thoughts on the widely accepted theories whether they are scholars or the students in the school. This kind of open mindedness is required in the field of scientific research. This will generate new sparkling ideas and work that is more original.

For example, new emerging musicians have to learn the basic ragas to know more about music. Then only can they make their new pieces. Similarly, previous scholars have developed new technologies and methods and new people can learn from them and take help of these methods to find new things. Sometimes, existing knowledge works as the base for further research. For example, Newton's mechanic theory already existed and acted as a base for the quantum theory.

However, there are examples of some genius who had shown a sharp insight in their research which finally led to their success when they first entered the field without systematic knowledge. There is no doubt that scholars have to study the successful and unsuccessful cases to know about their field. This way they learn more and they get new perspective to think differently. They get new ideas to give direction to their work. The existing theories about their subject gives them focus. While knowing about success stories of other people, students get encouraged and hence there are more chances of original work.

Hence, to make achievement in their respective fields, scholars and scientists must study the existing work but they should be firm with their own work. Certainly, they should explore and clear their doubts about the existing facts. This way there will be more chances of original work and hence development.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 47

In order for any work of art-whether film, literature, sculpture, or a song-to have merit, it must be understandable to most people.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 47

The speaker claims that any work of art-whether film, literature, sculpture, or a song has merits only if it is understandable to most people. What the author fails to realize is that popularity and merit are two different things. This statement is controversial in this time. While the value of art is not related to the accessibility to people, the acceptability and understandability is important to enlighten.

However, we should agree with the writer that most of the folk art is understandable to the common people and benefit them in many ways. It is human nature that they learn from what they understand like fairy tales, films, music etc. Few people have interest in abstract or obscure art works. Common people do not understand classical music but when the same is presented in the form of songs or film music, it attracts them and gets famous. The comprehensible art works often arouse readers' or audiences' interest or enthusiasm. Therefore, the essence whether the creators' feeling, ideas, or values are likely imparted to receivers. A series of Harry Potter films are an example. These movies have attracted children and adults all over the world alike due to its recreation and understandability factor. The more understandable the work is, the more popular it is with people and hence more is its value. There is also an example of fairy tales by a Denmark novelist Andersen. He has used understandable and vivid interpretation, which has influenced generations of young children in the world and even shed light on adult world.

However, at the same time, the artwork should not be only for monetary gain and lucrative and entertaining purpose. If it is so then the writer is correct in saying that these merits lie in popularity and understandability of art. Sometimes, the understandable artwork does well also. For example, due to popularity of Harry Potter films, numerous audiences were attracted to cinemas. This popularity has also benefited the author of the novel and now the audience and readers highly value the author as one of the most valuable novelists. However, there are many instances where several artistic works with great value cannot be understood and recognized by contemporary people. Sometimes, even the most sensitive critics are not able to work out and evaluate the true and actual value of the art. Therefore, it is simply not possible for the general public to understand its value, who do not receive particular trainings and specialized knowledge.

There are many examples where the artwork of many artists was not given due respect and recognition when the artist was alive. People just could not recognize their value. However, later on after their death, their work got place in the history of art. Van Gogh was a famous painter whose work was not acknowledged by people during his lifetime. He could sell only one

of his paintings at a low price all over his career. However, decades later, people began to recognize the value of his paintings. Recently, two of his paintings have broken all records as they were sold at a price of 50 million dollars in an exhibition.

In the end, it can be said that people's opinion may or may not influence the price and popularity of a certain artwork but it cannot change its merit.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 48

Now that computer technology has made possible the rapid accessing of large amounts of factual information, people are less likely than ever to think deeply or originally. They feel unable to compete with-much less contribute to-the quantity of information that is now available electronically.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 48

This statement relies on the fact that computer technology can provide large amount of information very rapidly. According to the author, it is affecting people as they have stopped to think originally and deeply as they used to do earlier as all the information is already available on the computer. However, this is not completely true.

There is no doubt that people today have access to computers and they can gain all the information through information technology. With the emergence of new communication technology, every field has been enriched by additional forms of knowledge and interaction. Computer networks and the Internet give rise to especially profound and far-reaching modifications by affecting conventional terminologies. They give rise to foundations on which all the information has been erected. This is because interconnected computers are prone to support almost any type of technically mediated human communication.

However, people are not forced to use computers. They could apply their own knowledge and can gather their information. They can take the help of the available information on the internet to think creatively. However, people learn from the person they know and whose views they share rather than from an unknown and unseen person. Moreover, too much information available on the internet can cause information overload and can prove unproductive.

However, we cannot discard the facility of information technology that we have in modern times. All this information, which is otherwise not available to people, can be accessible in minutes. It can give birth to new ideas and thoughts. Therefore, to say that because of this information, people are less likely than ever to think deeply or originally is wrong. People can share their ideas and opinions with the people on the other side of the Earth through online message boards. They can develop new thoughts through dialogue in ways that is not possible without an electronic information system. Hence, there is no point getting worried with so much information.

At the same time, we cannot ignore the author's view that people feel unable to cope with so much of information available on the internet. They do not feel like contributing to already existing information. However, they should not think like this. Knowledge has no bounds. The amount of knowledge that one can share is infinite and one can always contribute to it. With sharing, knowledge always increases and internet is a good and easy way of sharing knowledge.

Increase in knowledge makes a person confident and encourages him to learn more and impart his knowledge to others also. Computer technology serves an ultimate purpose, hence, one should use it to learn new things and should be directed towards enabling a person to self-learn. It can teach a person about the world.

Hence, it is wrong not to appreciate the benefits of the new computer technology and discard it altogether; rather, one should learn to make good use of the information provided by it.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 49

The increase in knowledge is forcing people to specialize. As a result, the distance between fields of specialization has become so vast that specialists in different areas are rarely able to influence each other.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 49

The issue is based on a topic that raises several related questions like what does it mean to be a generalist or a specialist and how they are related? And whether we need more specialists or generalists.

In earlier times, there were very few specialists. Graduation degree was considered all in all. Architects, doctors, engineers, all were considered masters in their fields merely on the basis of graduation degrees. We have examples of many successful persons who did not have any suitable degree in their fields; still they managed to be successful. For example, Shakespeare was a great writer, whose works we read at schools and colleges but he did not have any formal degree in literature. Similar is the case of Dhirubhai Ambani who is the name behind the success of India's largest private sector company, Reliance India Limited. He was not even a graduate.

However, scenarios have changed today. Post graduation is common today in every field. More and more people prefer to go for their post graduation and even further. They want to keep pace with the growing radius of knowledge. With the astounding pace of science's development, the radius of our knowledge has greatly enlarged. With that, the areas, which are still unexplored, have also distended. It is not possible for a person with general education to explore unidentified and deep areas. It requires specialists to engage themselves into different directions of research and this eventually causes their specializations too faraway from each other. In earlier days, people were not able to distinguish between the doctors for different illnesses. They just needed a doctor to solve their problem and to treat them. However, today the scenario is very different. There are specialist doctors for each part of the body. In fact, for one part also there exist specialists for different ailments. A heart specialist will not touch a patient with kidney disease. Even, they will not be ready to treat a patient suffering with simple fever.

However, different specialists in the same field have to work together. Hence, somewhere they are influenced by each other's work. Everything is intertwined with each other to some extent, and it is the same case with specialized researches. For example, specialist doctors have to consult other doctors also before treating a patient to rule out complications. Similarly, in the breathtaking program to depict the blueprint of human being's genetic makeup, specialization in computer and biology have to cooperate with each other. However distinct and faraway they are from each other, when they put their work into application, their purpose is absolutely the same: to contribute to the welfare of society and us human beings. Success cannot be achieved in

isolation. One needs other people's help also. Hence, many people from different fields of physics, engineering, chemistry etc work together at NASA to make a project successful.

Hence, although the increase in knowledge is forcing people to specialize, it is for the betterment and development of the society. There is no doubt that the distance between fields of specialization has become very vast, still they influence each other, and thus influence their orientation when they are still at the minds of scientists and thinkers.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 50

The chief benefit of the study of history is to break down the illusion that people in one period of time are significantly different from people who lived at any other time in history.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 50

This statement is difficult to discuss. The significance of the study of history cannot be discussed in few words. It would be naive to say that the chief benefit of the study of history is to break down the illusion that people in one period of time are significantly different from people who lived at any other time in history. However, during the process of studying history, people do realize that they actually share much in common with their ancestors, in spite of various superficial differences.

During the study of history, people find that the life styles of people are variable from one period to the other. However, some basic human nature always remains the same. In the earlier times, people mainly depended on pigeons and then letters to correspond with others, while in modern times with the advanced technology, Internet, telephone, television, automobile are the main methods for us to communicate with others. They used to travel from one place to other on horses and camels. It is but natural that as the technology changes, there come changes in the lifestyles of people.

However, no matter in which period one lives, some values and merits always remain the same and get appreciated by people of that period. No matter how many changes our society has experienced, some characteristics such as bravery, self-discipline, righteousness, fidelity to friends, family and nations, spirit of never giving up, altruism are still praised by people. Also, people's pursuit for truth and beauty remains the same. The spirit behind gaining the knowledge and searching for new things also remains the same. The main purpose to do research and the methods used might be different but they are all aimed to come closer to truth. For example, the doctrines of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle are different and incompatible to each other but the spirit of pursuing the truth has passed down from one to another.

Similarly, people use different art forms to express their feelings. The form of art might be different in different periods. However, the essence behind all the art forms is the same, which is longing for beauty. More or less, modern theories, technologies, or conceptions cannot avoid being influenced by their predecessors, and, consequently, they inherit merits and demerits of the past and establish themselves finally.

The study of history benefits human beings in many ways like it can help us avoid the same mistakes as our predecessors did. Some mistakes of our ancestors were disastrous for humanity and societies. In order to ensure the smooth movement of our society it is must to avoid those

mistakes. For instance, the Second World War was the worst thing that happened to our society and it is necessary to ensure that this kind of mistake never happens again.

Hence, from the perspective of life styles of different people are different from each other. However, there are many other aspects in which people in any period of time are quite the same. Therefore, the chief benefit of studying history is not to break any illusion but to learn from the past and to avoid the mistakes done by people in the past.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 51

"Learning for learning's sake is an outdated concept. Today, education must serve an ulterior purpose and be directed toward clear goals."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 51

Education has a purpose. It helps in the development of the all around personality of a person. Along with helping a person to achieve his goals in life it prepares him to adjust in the world. For this purpose, the curriculum includes a number of subjects that may not find any direct place in the path of fulfilling the goals of a person's life. However, it is important to widen one's knowledge. I hold the view that learning for learning's sake may be an outdated concept due to its non-practicality, but it is the only way a person remains an all-rounder. Education should not be directed towards just a particular goal but it should impart knowledge to develop a person's mind and personality as a whole.

The concept of learning for learning's sake does not hold a lot of meaning in today's world because of the attitude of people. Learning is not looked upon as a means of increasing one's knowledge and awareness. It is instead sought as a means of advancing one's career and future prospects. However, according to me, the primary function of education is to make a person capable of understanding what he sees around him and identifying what is right and what is wrong, while preparing him for a career and specific goal can be seen as its secondary function.

For anyone it is very important to be self sufficient and satisfied in life. This comes from being independent and having a sound source of income. For this, a person must acquire some skills or competence, which is valued in the world. That is why education imparts the knowledge of a specific subject in order to train a person to use this knowledge for his future. However, at the same time, a person will be able to lead a balanced and active social life only if he is aware of the world around him. That is why it should be the endeavor of everyone to gain as much knowledge as possible along with acquiring professional proficiency.

Many students can be seen cribbing when they have to study a wide range of subjects. It is felt that a lot of subjects are useless and are not going to help in any way in the future. However, every subject you learn bears an imprint on your intellect. It may be true that this learning is of no direct use in achieving your goals, but what one does not realize is that indirectly a person is increasing his skills. It is learning for learning's sake that indirectly helps in building up confidence, problem-solving skills, experience, awareness and knowledge, besides making a person learned. It may not help in achieving your goals directly but it is the learning that is put to use in the course of work and in dealing and handling a number of related issues. It provides you an extra edge over others to have the experience and awareness that this leaning provides. This is the age of competition and one has to exhibit his learning along with his skills to prove himself. While skills can be acquired by the required training, learning is a continuous process. Apart

from the education system that must impart this learning, it should be the attitude of a person to learn about anything new that a person comes across. This attitude and habit of learning comes only when the education system takes up the responsibility of imparting a wide range of knowledge amongst students.

Hence, it can be concluded that learning for learning's sake is what contributes in making a person cosmopolitan and adjusting in different situations. The more learned a person is, the more he is sought by others. Education should, therefore, not only be directed to clear goals but must impart general knowledge as well.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 52

"Education is primarily a personal matter; it has little to do with school or college."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 52

It is said that home is the first school of a child. It is at his home that he learns his first lessons of life. As he grows up, he comes in contact with the society which teaches him how to interact with others. After a certain stage, formal education of the child begins in schools. Schools and colleges are responsible for his educational and professional growth. While education is a continuous process and is a personal matter, I believe that schools or colleges have an equally important role. We cannot defy this role and say that education has little to do with a school or college. Without these institutions, our society would have a different shape all together.

Education is a non-stop and continuous process. This means that it does not begin only after one joins school or come to an end with the end of school or college. It continues even when one leaves the school since a person is always learning something or the other. This learning can be direct or indirect. When a person makes efforts to acquire knowledge and learn new things it adds to his education. On the other hand, indirect learning comes from his various experiences in day-to-day life. In this case, education is a personal matter. It is independent of any school or college. For example, if a child gets burnt by touching fire he will learn that fire is hot. Similarly, a person will learn the tricks of the trade only by practice and experience. A potter cannot make good pots without learning and practicing the art. It is through this education, that comes with experience, that we learn about our environment and the world. While a lot of this education comes without any extra effort done by us, there is a lot that depends upon the attitude of a person. Only if a person is inquisitive and ready to learn new things will he be able to increase his knowledge. Therefore, even when formal education stops, it does not put an end to a person's education. It is completely in the hands of a person to educate himself as much as he wants and that is why it is said that education is primarily a personal matter.

On the other hand, schools and colleges are the bodies responsible to make a society educated. Schools and colleges have a definite goal to achieve. All their activities are centered on developing the child into a well-balanced personality by imparting knowledge of different fields. This is a direct form of education where students are taught by experienced and learned teachers. The future of a country depends upon the education of its people. Only if the new generation is given the right education at the right time will it be able to take up the responsibility in the future. Apart from the society, the school and college a person attends have a great impact on his life and future. The career and profession followed by a person is greatly decided by his education. Needless to say, this education can be sought only in some educational institution. It is in these institutions that students can study, perform experiments and practicals, learn from their teachers and friends and get their degrees. This is not possible at a personal level.

Without schools and colleges, our society would not have been as civilized and educated as it is today. It is only these educational institutions that take up the responsibility of giving basic as well as professional education to people and bring awareness in the society.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 53

"Censorship is rarely, if ever, justified."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 53

Censorship is the act of criticizing something publicly because of its nature. On one hand, we are given the freedom of speech and expression and on the other hand, the censor boards that are set up to curb the information or put restrictions over the details meant for public take this freedom away. However, I disagree with the given statement that censorship is hardly ever justified. I believe that though it is undemocratic, censorship is justified as long as it is in general public interest.

We live in a society where people come from different backgrounds, religions, ethnic groups, casts and classes. What is acceptable in one class may not be acceptable to another class. Therefore, if an issue arises which is against the ideals of a particular class, it can arouse public ire. Sometimes this anger can take the shape of hooliganism and riots. Hence, it is best to put restrictions on the issue so that it is not made public. It is only with some checks and controls that all these classes can co-exist in harmony.

For example, when the media handles an issue, it has the freedom of speech and expression. The media persons and reporters have the right to put their point of view across to everyone. However, in the process of reporting any issue, the media also should not hurt the sentiments or feelings of any particular class or of people in general. It is possible that some such pictures are depicted on the television or some comments are published that arouse the anger of people. It is true that these pictures and comments show the reality but they are not in the favour of general peace and harmony. Such truth that can create a mob out of a group of people should be curtailed from being given out in the public by the means of censorship.

Let's take another example. A child can be molded to direction in his tender age. He gets affected by many things that he sees and hears. Therefore, if he is exposed to violent and action packed movies it can have a perverse affect on his mind and eventually on his attitude. In this case, it becomes very important to censor the movies as well as cartoons that depict aggressive behavior for children. While parents have a duty to put restrictions at a personal level, the censor board should keep a general check to restrict the screening of such movies for kids under a certain age group.

The media, writers, leaders as well as youth icons have a great influence on the public. Everything they say or do creates ripples amongst people. They, therefore, have an added responsibility of maintaining peace and harmony in the society. If they do something that is not accepted by people, it can create disturbance and chaos. That is why censorship is required over literary works, movies, and other things involved with these people to keep a check and control

their behavior that can affect the public. It is correct that what they do in their life is their personal matter but they are not given the right to hurt the sentiments and feelings of others. It can be argued that censorship is against the right of people to be informed but it is necessary, to a great extent, for the development of a healthy society. It should not be used arbitrarily, but must be practiced at places that can cause harm to the society.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 54

"People often look for similarities, even between very different things, and even when it is unhelpful or harmful to do so. Instead, a thing should be considered on its own terms; we should avoid the tendency to compare it to something else."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 54

It is human nature to draw comparisons. What is applicable to one thing is tested for its applicability on other things as well. We look for similarities between different things for our own sake. By doing this, we think that things can be easily understood. However, I think that everything should be judged independently so that its real nature comes out. Generalizing and comparisons are helpful only to a certain extent. If it is pulled too far, the beauty of individuality is lost.

Some of this nature of comparison comes from ignorance and some of it depends upon the nature and attitude of a person. If a person is not educated enough, he will not know the difference between two things. He will act according to what he thinks best. The consequences may be harmful but he is unaware of the facts. On the other hand, it is a person's attitude to close his eyes to the reality and generalize different things for the sake of convenience.

Generalizing surely makes things easier and quicker. In science, the same formula is true for different data. However, this cannot be extended to every field. As is seen in history, each political situation needs to be handled differently. In case of an attack from a foreign power, it is not advisable to take the plunge without thinking. We can find proof in history where a similar decision taken at two different points of time has proved fatal for dynasties. While two situations of war may look similar, the decision regarding fighting the enemy depends upon many things like the existing army, warfare, resources etc. Rulers, who have simply neglected these issues to fight the enemy, just because they have been guided by similar situations, have been defeated or killed. On the other hand, there have been rulers who extend a message of peace and truce, agree for an alliance, adopt a new technique of warfare, admit submission or take such a decision according to the delicacy of the situation. Such a decision that weighs the situation is lasting and effective. There are more chances of survival and success for such a ruler.

We form comparisons to make things simpler for us. It is seen that people not only compare two similar things but also something that is completely different from one another. We turn a blind eye to the differences and treat everything in the same way. Let us take another example. As we know, each child is different. There is difference in aptitude, nature, talent, grasping power and behaviour. However, if all children are taught in the same manner ignoring their individuality, it will not do them any good. A slow learner cannot grasp as well as a fast learner can. He needs special attention and more guidance than others do. If this is ignored and he is expected to perform as well as others, the child will soon lose interest in the things he studies. Similarly,

children have different interests. It is important to bring up these interests by identifying and encouraging them. It is only if the individuality of a person is respected that he develops a well-balanced and all-around personality.

Conclusively, it can be said that each situation demands attention. While generalization and comparisons can be made for good in certain cases, they cannot be extended to every field. Doing so will only cause harm and therefore the individuality of a thing should be maintained and it should be taken in its own terms.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 55

"People are mistaken when they assume that the problems they confront are more complex and challenging than the problems faced by their predecessors. This illusion is eventually dispelled with increased knowledge and experience."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 55

Whenever we face any problem, it seems to be the biggest and the most complex situation. As long as the problem is not over, it hovers over our minds. It seems that others are very comfortable and happy and the problem we face is the biggest ever faced by anyone. In the same way, we feel that people in the olden times lived simple lives and thus faced fewer and less complex problems. However, this is not true. I think this is only an illusion since we tend to ignore the seriousness of problems faced by others. This illusion is broken only when we try to put ourselves in that situation and study the real nature of the problem.

Complexities and problems are basic to humanity. If we face major problems in today's age, our predecessors have had their share of difficulties and problems. The only change is the nature of the problem. While the nature of the problem has changed than what it was in the older times, the complexity and intensity of a problem is independent of the time it is faced in.

If we face serious problems like pollution, population explosion, scarce natural resources etc. today, there have been other issues in the olden times that have been causes of worry. A problem faced by our predecessors may seem simple today but it would not have been the same in the olden times. There is no doubting the fact that people lived simpler lives, but all times, olden or modern, have their own complexities and problems. People in the olden times were highly dependent upon nature. Any natural calamity would hit the masses to the extent of destruction. For example, a famine or lack of rains would wipe out many villages together when there were very few means of irrigation. Similarly, the condition of floods was also grave and flooded towns would remain completely cut off from the rest of the world. Today, we have found solutions to these problems. This does not mean that there was never a problem like this before.

Today, our lives have been made easier with modern technology. That is the reason that we underestimate the difficulties faced in the past. It does not seem a great deal to travel long distances today. However, in the olden times, this was a journey that would take days or even months together. In the olden times, the means of transportation were not as developed as they are today. People had to walk long distances and would sometimes be assisted by bullock carts. In such times, if they had to carry heavy loads to a different place it would be a huge task. Further, if they were to face the ravages of nature like rain and cold, it would make their task even more difficult. Today, we have forgotten the days of bullock carts. We never even think about the climatic changes while traveling. Transporting heavy loads is no problem for us.

Nevertheless, when you study such a problem faced in the older times, it seems to be larger than anything.

Similarly, the health of people in the olden times was a subject to destiny. There were very few educated doctors and only few ailments could be treated with the medicines they had. Thus, people were left to their condition in the lack of proper health care. Today, there is a solution to many of the ailments faced by people in the olden times. However, it is also true that with the advent of times we are faced with newer problems. If there was no cure for a disease like tuberculosis earlier, today we are faced with problems like AIDS. There are problems to which solutions have not been found yet. Scientists and researches are working towards finding a solution to these problems. Nonetheless, I would like to support the stand that it is only the nature of the difficulties that has changed with time, not the intensity and complexity.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 56

"To remain vigorous, any academic field needs to be led by truly independent thinkers who are willing to ignore established boundaries and challenge long-standing assumptions."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 56

Revolution is brought about only by breaking the norms and forming independent ideas. In the academic field, one cannot think of changing the norms without being active and vigorous. As a matter of fact, any academic discipline grows and remains active only when there is research and introspection done by independent thinkers. I am of the view that this introspection generally requires initiative to break predefined rules and challenge the assumptions that have been taken to be true.

In the academic field there have been assumptions that we take to be true since they have been accepted in that form since time immemorial. We believe what has been told to us and do not attempt to question the details. However, this leads to the death of that particular academic discipline since it does not lead to new discoveries and changes. I believe that it is only novelty in the ideas and initiative of independent thinkers that leads to new discoveries. This can be contrary to the predefined assumptions and can challenge the long held beliefs of people, but at the same time it is very important to unfold the truth and explore new horizons.

By ignoring the established limits, one ventures into the areas that have not been explored and studied before. This gives them a free environment and mind which is not controlled by boundaries. Thus, the research is not influenced by any assumptions and what comes out is an independent as well as a new concept. For example, we all know that humans are the descendents of apes, the earth is round and it revolves around the sun. These concepts have come to light only after the efforts put in by some independent thinkers. Before any such attempts were made people had different beliefs regarding the existence of Sun and Earth as well as about human evolution. People believed that earth was a flat plain and that the sun revolved around the earth. People thought that we were the descendents of Adam and Eve and no one ever thought of humans having evolved out of apes. An average person never questioned these beliefs and was happy to follow what was told to him. It would have been the end of science had there been no one to challenge these ideas and bring forth the truth. The concepts of solar system and evolution of humans has come to existence only because someone dared to think beyond the usual beliefs, ignoring the boundaries.

Consider the fate of any academic field which does not experience any change or which is not vigorous. If people did not break the norms there would be no studies carried out in that field. Therefore, there would be no new discoveries or findings. The coming generations would study the same things in new times. This would bring stagnation in that field and it would become nothing more than literature.

Let us take the example of history. But for the efforts of historians and archeologists, history would not have unfolded the way it has. It is only when people have ventured out to dig up long forgotten civilizations that we have come to know about Harrapan culture and other such civilizations. I believe that there are still many facts about our history that are unknown and hidden from us. If we remain content within the restricted frame of mind, these facts would remain hidden from us. However, if someone breaks away from the restricted frame of mind and tries to find out more than what is told to us, only then can we hope of discovering these hidden facts.

The line of thought followed by independent thinkers may or may not be correct, but this can be known only after the validity and truth of his findings is established. This requires research into the field, which ensures the academic discipline to remain dynamic and vigorous.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 57

"The best way to teach-whether as an educator, employer, or parent-is to praise positive actions and ignore negative ones."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 57

Encouragement helps a great deal in bringing up any quality. A positive feedback can boost the morale to a great extent. Such learning, that is backed with positive feedback and encouragement, is effective and faster. However, I disagree that negative actions should be ignored. Along with praising positive actions, it is very important to point out the negative ones so that they are not repeated.

Teaching involves inculcating good habits and eliminating bad ones. It is a process of refining the personality and imparting correct knowledge. If it does not fulfill any one of the two things, it is incomplete and ineffective. Education can be imparted in many ways. However, the point is not just to make the students learn their lessons anyhow but to make them incorporate what they learn in their lives. Moreover, education also involves teaching those things that the child is not able to pick up on his own. This can be done only if they are taught in a proper way. Children in school are in their growing age. What they are taught in school goes on for all their lives. Therefore, it is important that along with appreciating their good actions they are told about the places where they are wrong. For example, a child may be brilliant in studies and may score well in all subjects. However, he may not be friendly and polite with other students. He could be a bully or rude to others. Here it is not only important to encourage the child to do well academically but it is very important to teach him how to behave. If this is not done, he will grow up to be an unfriendly person who is not accepted in the society. This will eventually make him a loner since no one will want to interact with him.

Similarly, parents have a very important role in bringing up their children. Home is the first school of a child. A child has no knowledge of what is right or wrong. He picks up whatever he sees around him. This may be good or bad. It is the duty of parents to check where their child is going wrong. They should teach him values and morals. While students are under the observation of educators for fixed hours, a child is under constant observation of his parents. Therefore, there is increased responsibility of a parent to observe the actions that are not accepted and correct them. I would like to add here that correcting such an action does not mean that the child is scolded, rebuked or beaten to put him on the right track. In fact, such behaviour can make the child more stubborn and difficult to handle. Negative criticism need not be done in a harsh manner. It can be done by making the child understand why a certain action is wrong.

The habits as well as knowledge a child picks up in his growing years go a long way. It goes to his benefit if he inculcates good habits and correct education. However, this does not mean that he can never go wrong. For example, for an employer it is very important to check the

performance of his employees. The employees should be appreciated and encouraged to keep up the good work. On the other hand, it is possible that they make wrong decisions at some point of time. Instead of ignoring these mistakes, an employer must help them to come to the right decision. This will help in the professional success of the individual as well as of the employer he is working for.

In the end, I would like to maintain that correct and the best teaching is where a child is given the knowledge of right and wrong. He should not only be appreciated for the right behaviour but also be told about the places where he goes wrong. This is the essence of teaching.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 58

"The best way to learn a new subject or skill is to study small segments or details in great depth rather than to start by trying to develop a sense of the whole."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 58

Little drops of water make an ocean. Gaining knowledge is a gradual process of learning pieces of information that give the understanding of a whole. To learn a new skill it is important to start from the basics and gradually move towards the details and complexities. I agree that to begin with learning a skill a person must try to understand smaller segments or details which form the basis that help you understand the concept as a whole. However, I also maintain that it is important to understand the whole concept as a complete whole. The bits and pieces of information along can be of no use unless they are used to understand the larger picture.

The small segments and details of any subject can be looked upon as the building blocks of the subject. These building blocks act as the foundation stone for the structure built over it. It is only with a proper understanding of these details that we can have the understanding of the subject as a whole. On the other hand, if you begin to try and understand the larger part of the subject without learning the basics, you are bound to get confused. For example, when we learn a language, we begin by learning alphabets and their sounds, words, sentence formation, grammar etc. It is only after learning such things that we are able to speak, read as well as write the language. On the other hand, if you attempt to read the literature of a new language you are bound to find yourself in a pool.

On the other hand, as I have mentioned earlier, it is important that the concept is studied in totality. The details and pieces of information that lead to the concept make it meaningful. However, if you leave it on just studying these small pieces of information it will be of no use. The small pieces of information hold their importance only if they are used to construct and understand the concept. For example, if a cobbler learns the ways of cutting leather, stitching different pieces, polishing the leather etc., he must also learn to use his skills to make shoes. If he does not learn to make shoes, then learning how to cut leather is of no use to him. Therefore, his efforts of learning how to stitch the pieces of leather together is of use only if he is able to turn them into beautiful shoes. It is clear that it is the final result that matters. However, we cannot negate that fact that the final result is reached only after mastering the small details and precisions required.

When we look at a painting, we look at the whole scene depicted in it together in one look. It is the final result that is in front of us which can be comprehended and understood. On the other hand, if you look at an incomplete painting, you will not be able to make any head or tail of it. However, if you have to learn the art of painting, you must first start by understanding the strokes of a brush and colour schemes. Therefore, according to me, it is the end result that is

important and useful. However, in the pursuit of mastering the skills required to reach the result it is the small details that should be learnt and practiced.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 59

"College students-and people in general-prefer to follow directions rather than make their own decisions. Therefore, colleges should eliminate as many choices as possible in order to offer students clear direction."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 59

College students are at a stage when they are prepared to take the world in their own stride. In such a case, when they are offered a number of choices they can get confused as to what is best for them. They might look for guidance from others but eventually it is their big decision that matters. However, restricting their options and making them follow a predefined path is not the solution. I believe that they should be encouraged to take the decision for themselves out of a variety of choices in front of them.

A child holds the finger of his father to learn anything new. He depends upon the decisions of his father and blindly follows them. However, if he continues to do so he will never be able to make decisions on his own. He should be given the knowledge of what is good or bad for him. Only then will he become independent of his father and learn to live on his own. It is gradually that he learns to take decisions for himself. While some decisions might be correct, some of them might prove to be a disaster. However, we learn from our experiences. If we do not experience failure due to a wrong decision, we will never get a chance to correct ourselves. The colleges give us an opportunity to trust our decisions. At the age when the student is ready to join college, he is grown up enough to take up the responsibility of deciding for himself. Thus, colleges should encourage the student and should not eliminate its options by giving a clear direction to be followed.

At the college level, students choose the stream that they want to follow. This becomes their career path. Each student is different and so are his or her interests. Therefore, given a choice they will choose the stream in which they have a natural interest. However, if they are debarred of such a choice, they will be forced to follow predefined directions. This may be contrary to their interests. However, this is a lifelong decision and it will be unfair to force them to follow a career that they are not interested in. For example, if a student has interest in journalism and mass communication, it would be incorrect to make him follow the course of engineering.

The statement says that college students as well as people in general prefer to follow directions. I do not agree that this is a general trend. If a person is dominating, he will not follow directions given to him. He would choose to follow a path directed by his instinct and principles. Directions are followed only by submissive people. It is only if a person feels that following directions can make their work easier and less complicating that they follow directions. However, we cannot say that all people have a submissive nature in general. I believe that there are all kinds of

people, submissive as well as dominating, those who prefer to follow directions and those who prefer to direct themselves.

Conclusively I would like to maintain that the purpose of college-level studies is not just to give academic and professional qualification or complete the education of a student. A college prepares the student to take his own decisions in life. It is the responsibility of colleges to develop the personality of a student into a confident and independent person. Therefore, instead of restricting all this by eliminating the choices a student has, the colleges should encourage them to take their own decisions.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 60

"Moderation in all things' is ill-considered advice. Rather, one should say, 'Moderation in most things,' since many areas of human concern require or at least profit from intense focus."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 60

We are faced with a number of issues of varying nature and importance in our daily lives. All these issues need to be dealt with in different ways. Depending upon the nature of the issue, we should choose to either be focused or remain calm about it. I agree with the given statement that moderation is not required in all things. There are things that deserve more importance and attention. Instead of paying only moderate attention to all the issues, we should direct our efforts according to the delicacy and importance of the issue concerned.

The focus should be more over issues that require immediate concern and attention. There are many things which need to be attended to in the present. Issues like poverty, population explosion, exhausting natural resources etc. are grave and need immediate attention. If we adopt a moderate attitude towards these issues and do not focus our attention to find out a solution of these problems today, these issues will pose a threat to us in our future.

The idea of being moderate in all things is dangerous and therefore should be avoided. If we do not consider how grave a situation is and deal with it with restraint, not only are we avoiding doing justice to the issue but are also fooling ourselves. For example, it is the need of the present to control population explosion. There need to be measures like educating people, spreading the benefits of family planning etc. that need to be undertaken on a wide scale to control this menace immediately. If this is not done we will face the ill-effects of an uncontrollable rise in population. There would not be enough for everyone to eat, people would not find a place to live, it would be difficult to support large families, people would remain jobless and the general health of people would suffer. Being moderate towards such an issue will not solve the problem. It would only aggravate the issue to the extent that it would result in other related problems. On the other hand, we can hope of coming out of this vicious circle only if quick and effective action is taken.

I would like to add that in finding an immediate solution by being focused one should not ignore judicious and fair treatment of the issue. It is possible that in a rush of solving the problem by taking extreme steps, a wrong step is taken which results in irreversible damage. There are many benefits of being moderate towards a thing. It makes you relax and think about the possible solutions and their outcomes. Hence, the decision taken by being moderate is effective and lasting. Therefore, moderation should be practiced for most of the things which do not pose an immediate threat to us. On the other hand, the areas where you cannot afford to remain moderate should be carefully identified and acted upon for an immediate effect. As it is rightly said, 'a stitch in time saves nine', it is wise to be alert and act upon an immediate problem. Not only does it check the growth of the problem but it also saves you from other related problems.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 61

"The purpose of education should be to create an academic environment that is separate from the outside world. This kind of environment is ideal because it allows students to focus on important ideas without being held back by practical concerns."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 61

William Allin quotes, "Education is not the answer to the question. Education is the means to the answer to all questions." The above quote by William Allin sums up the importance and role of education so beautifully. The purpose of education should be to make a child ready for the outside world and that can be done by making the world outside a part of the school curriculum and not by making education aloof from the world outside. The education is certainly not the answer but a means to answer all questions. It becomes very important that if education is a means of answering all questions then it must include in itself all the problems related to the outside world. I believe that education is integral to the outside world and certainly the outside world should be a part of education. I believe education and world are dependent on and not isolated from each other and they should be viewed in presence of each other.

The purpose of education is not only imparting bookish knowledge to children. Education is a much wider term than that. A true teacher makes you think on what you have learned and not just makes you learn that by heart. A teacher can only open the doors of true knowledge for a student. It is up to the students to reach to those opened doors. If education would not include outside world than it can only make people to read and write but it will not make them think what is good to read and write. Education is not only what one has learned in school but what one will remember throughout ones life even when everything taught in school is forgotten from the memory. It certainly does not mean that people get educated only to earn a living but to understand the true meaning of living. This can only be achieved if children in school are aware what relation their acquired knowledge has with the world outside. If children are not aware of the scenario outside the school premises then no matter how good they are in studies they will fail drastically in the world outside.

We have examples of many literary figures and great men who made education a medium but not the end of their success. The various hardships faced by them in the journey of life played an important role in helping them to become geniuses. Mark Twain was such a literary figure who saw many hardships in his life and came up shining bright. "I have never let my schooling interfere with my education." These are very famous words by Mark Twain and it is so evident in one line that education does not only mean what is learned in school but there is so much to learn from experiences of life.

Although it is very important that the world outside be a part of our education system but it should not overshadow our education system. The only aim of education should not be to impart

knowledge about the world outside. The endeavor should be such that by the time children are ready to go out of school they should be ready to face the world.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 62

"Although innovations such as video, computers, and the Internet seem to offer schools improved methods for instructing students, these technologies all too often distract from real learning."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 62

Innovations are the greatest strength of mankind as they make us think more and thus create. Innovations of any kind have always been helpful to mankind. The huge amount of credit for our development goes to innovations that the humans have made in all stages. Innovations of all kinds are proofs that humans have been progressing. The metamorphosis of a human from a prehistoric cave man to today's modern man is all because of innovations. Innovations in all fields are helpful and useful for us and education is one such field where innovations like video, computers and the internet have proved to be of remarkable importance. I believe that these all means of education in schools have revolutionized the whole education system. I also recommend that all the schools which are not able to make use of these innovations in their education techniques must use them for their numerous benefits.

Children are the future of any country and education plays an indispensable role in making them responsible citizens of a country. The teachers in all education institutes try their level best to educate children. The students in school can be taught a great deal with the use of videos. If the service of an experienced teacher is unavailable in a school then recorded lectures can be helpful to the students. In the same way with the use of this innovation children can be shown the facts which were earlier told to them verbally. This way the students will retain more knowledge.

Similarly with the use of slide shows through computers the students can be told numerous facts in a lecture which otherwise would require a couple of lectures of the teachers. This way the teacher would be able to impart more knowledge to the students. Computers are also helpful to students as they can learn and write more promptly and accurately in lesser time.

The use of internet has large benefits for the education system. The large number of schools across the world can share their education through the use of internet. vast knowledge on all the subjects is available on the net which can be beneficial for the students. Distant education has become accessible through internet. Learning to use internet helps a student in long run when the student goes to a workplace.

There are numerous benefits which innovations provide us with. The help in school education is one of the benefits derived from it. I believe that an innovation empowers people to do what they desire to do. It helps people in becoming more efficient, creative and productive. It also helps students to learn things which they could not learn before.

Although these innovations have been very beneficial for our education system but the medium of video, computer and internet lack the personal touch which only a teacher can personally give to a student. The relation of a teacher and student is divine which is lost in innovative methods of learning.

Thus innovation in the field of education should be used to help the teachers in giving education to the students but it can certainly not take the place of a teacher.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 63

"Most people prefer restrictions and regulations to absolute freedom of choice, although they would probably deny such a preference."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 63

Man is a social animal and he can not stay alone. We all look for company as without it survival would be very difficult. In order to stay together humans developed a social system and that social system runs on rules and regulations. The need to make rules and regulations was because we all humans appear to be the same but we all have different view points and convictions. In order to make this society run in a uniform and unbiased way rules and regulations were introduced. These rules and regulations aid us to live in a society and we all are aware of how we are supposed to conduct ourselves in this social structure. I agree that it was we humans who made these rules and regulations for the society but we always want to have freedom in whatever we do. Therefore, I agree that although we all want freedom but we get confused with so many options around and thus we all prefer rules and regulations to absolute freedom.

We humans have many options in all fields of life. At times it is easier for us to make decisions but sometimes it becomes very difficult. In such situations one thinks that a certain code of conduct should be there which should be followed. Imagine a worker working according to his own style and rules in an organization can never produce results desired by that organization. It is because we all think differently and if there are no rules and code of conduct which we want that employee to follow then he would never be able to deliver what we want him to. Similarly, in all fields of life such rules and regulations are necessary as without them it would be very difficult to run this society. From childhood we learn to follow rules and regulations. We are free to choose our school, further field of study, our career but we have to follow rules and regulations of all these places. The way we want to be protected from others in the same way others also want to get protected from us so that not a single individual can harm the interest of another. Another field which does not let people exercise their choice of freedom is law. Law is the same for all and does not change to suit the requirement of any individual.

We all, at some point of time, do complain about rules and regulations. We all want to exercise our birth right of freedom but there are so many options available today that an individual becomes confused. At that point of time we all want that there should be something standard that is there for all. In such situations it is mandatory to have rules and regulations.

Although there are few people in the society who have their own convictions and beliefs but unknowingly they are following the rules of that community which thinks it is different from the rest. Therefore, we all want rules and regulation even if we are given true freedom.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 64

"Most people are taught that loyalty is a virtue. But loyalty-whether to one's friends, to one's school or place of employment, or to any institution-is all too often a destructive rather than a positive force."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 64

In the present day world the foundation of all relationships is loyalty and without this virtue this world would not be as good a place to live as it is now. It is very difficult to imagine a world where loyalty does not exist. Virtues are first few things that get imbibed in us in our childhood and these lay the basis of becoming a good human being. The virtues in a human make him a good human being. If we are not loyal to people around us how can we ever be loyal to our own self? I feel that the virtue of loyalty is of utmost importance in proving our worth as good human beings. I also feel that without this virtue of loyalty in us we can not do justice to whatever we do, be it friendship or service to any institution.

We make friends in day to day life so that life is easy to live. The loyalty from both the friends is very important to keep the friendship going. If one friend is disloyal then that friend is making the institution of friendship stained. If trust or loyalty is broken then the friendship also does not stay. Loyalty works as a bond between two friends. If the element of loyalty is missing from friendship then it would not be possible in friends to share their doubts, worries, happiness and sorrows. I truly believe loyalty can never be destructive; rather it makes a person progressive.

A place of work is a place of worship for an employee as that employee is earning his bread and butter from it. The only thing that an employer expects from his employee is good work and loyalty. A loyal employee is one of the biggest assets of any institution. If an employee is disloyal to his workplace he is doing justice neither to himself nor to his workplace. A disloyal employee is a hindrance for any organization's development. Therefore, loyalty is one virtue which is very important in all the relationships and even in the place of work.

Although loyalty is of utmost importance in a relationship like in friendship or at workplace but if it is blindly followed it can be destructive also. It can also hinder the personal development of a person. If a person working in an organization is offered a better job option from another organization but out of loyalty for his present employer he does not accept then it would be detrimental for his career development. Similarly, in friendship if one friend is doing something wrong and the other friend does not go against his friend out of loyalty then such sort of loyalty is dangerous.

The virtue of loyalty should be practiced so that the person following it should not follow it blindly. Being loyal to ones place of work or to a friend is quite credible but it certainly should not forgo other things which are also important for a person.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 65

"Encouraging young people to believe that they can accomplish great things if they try hard enough is both misleading and potentially harmful."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 65

Every person aims to achieve high goals in his life and few words of encouragement may act as driving force that motivate a person to do better. We all crave for encouragement and if there were no encouragement then everyday work would be very monotonous. Every person has a source of encouragement in his or her life. All great men who have done remarkably well in their respective fields had timely words of encouragements from their well-wishers and their critics. Encouraging a person to do well in life certainly does not mean that he or she should be praised excessively but getting people to know about their flaws is also a great encouraging factor. In our present scenario, the younger generation should perform in all the fields for the development of any country. I believe that kind words of encouragement from seniors or friends/family can prove to be a catalyst in their good performance. Therefore, in my opinion the younger generation should be encouraged to do better in its respective fields so that they prove to be an asset to their organization as well as to the country.

Encouragement can lead to miracles. A soldier in army is a great example, as he is ready to give his life for his country. No ordinary man would ever dare to do so but an army man, as he is encouraged to perform for his country in the battlefield. The few words from his senior transforms a normal man to a soldier who is ready to forego the most precious thing and that is his own life. I believe that the power of encouragement is tremendous and it can make an ordinary person do extra ordinary things. A novice painter who gets remarkable words of encouragement from his mentor after his amateur work can certainly turn in to a great painter.

There is no denying that encouragement is needed in all fields of life but too much encouragement or dependence on encouragement can be misleading and destructive to the younger generation. As a saying goes "there is a limit to everything" the same applies in this case. We just cannot encourage people for the sake of it, as it would not only be detrimental for the individual but it may also make the individual overconfident and overambitious trying to achieve things that may be beyond his capabilities. Any failure after this can be harmful for the individual as well as the organization.

Encouragement should aim to make the younger generation achieve its goals with more zeal and enthusiasm. The younger generation of a country assures a better future if it is led in the right direction. It is the prime responsibility of seniors, parents and employers to encourage people with kind words to achieve maximum efficiency and development in all fields of life. At the same time, the encouragement should be realistic and aimed at getting better results and not giving false hopes.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 66

"Computers and video technology can make facsimiles of original works such as paintings and historical documents available to everyone. The great advantage of this new technology is that it will enable anyone-not just scholars-to conduct in-depth research without having access to the original works."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 66

Technology has always been helpful to humankind. There have been innovations which have provided timely help to us. Technology has made an impact on our lives and now it has become very difficult to work without technological innovations. The technological innovation of computers and video has brought revolution in all fields. Such innovations make work easier for humans. Computers are put to use in all fields of life. It is not only used by the public but also by scholars. Computers and video technology is used to create facsimiles of original work to aid research of scholars as well as for public's purposes. I believe that here technology fails to deliver the desired results and instead it is misused. Historical documents and paintings are a part of national treasure and they should not be made accessible to everyone. Therefore technological innovations like computers and video technology should not be used for making facsimiles of original work as this would be misuse of our innovations.

The biggest attraction of anything, a painting or any document is its originality. If we are viewing or studying a subject that is not original then the impact of that thing is lost. If scholars have to make study on the historical documents or paintings they should refer to the original work as then only will they yield the correct results. The famous painting Mona Lisa by the great painter artist Leonardo de Vinci is an example of a unique masterpiece. If any other artist wants to study that famous painting he should study the original painting to know the intricacies as the same effect would never come if he studies the facsimile of the original painting. Although there are numerous facsimiles of original paintings which are available to general public but what can be learned from an original painting can never be learned from a duplicated work. A similar case applies to the historical documents of a nation. Such documents are the prized possessions of a nation and if they are made easily available to the public then they can be misused. If a person is allowed to study an original document then that person becomes liable for any misuse but stopping any other person from misusing the facsimile of the original work would not be an easy task.

Although facsimiles of original work are used for study but it should not be misused. Facsimiles of original work can be authorized where it is essential as the original work cannot be made available to everybody for study or research. The person should maintain the sanctity of a document and certainly should not misuse it. It is certainly a great advantage for all those people who always wanted to study the original document but were unable to do so. Such innovations can work only as an alternative for numerous people to avail an opportunity of a lifetime. The

only caution exercised while making such facsimiles is that strict disciplinary action should be taken against people misusing such documents.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 67

"Conformity almost always leads to a deadening of individual creativity and energy."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 67

Every individual in this world is different from another and all individuals have distinctive qualities of their own. An individual can never be similar to another in every aspect as everyone has a different perspective and approach towards life. We all live differently and we also work differently. If an individual is expected to work in an environment where he is to follow certain set of principles of work then it may lead to the end of his creative abilities. I believe that if an individual is working in a rigid work place where he can not execute his creative working skills then that puts an end to all his creative energy and skills. I think if God has not made us all with the same creative thinking then we should also not try to go against nature, rather we should unleash the inner creativity and energy.

Many of those individuals who did not wish to work under rigid work environment are very successful in life as their creativity brought them the desired output. We have a great example of Bill Gates who is the owner of world famous computer Microsoft Company. He believed in his creative thinking and energy and with that he created revolution in the computer industry. His achievements have set milestones in the field of computer industry and he has also become one of the richest people in the world. The power of working with a free mind yields remarkable results. The famous scientist Newton discovered the law of gravity sitting under an apple tree. Unconformity makes people give different and distinctive outcome and working in conformity give almost similar outcomes. Unconformity helps people to bring out the originality in them. There are many examples in history which show that people adopting unconformity were successful in their respective fields.

Although conformity proves to be detrimental in the interest of an individual who would have done remarkably well by putting in practice his creative thinking but in certain cases conformity is a must. In all the armed forces around the world the soldiers are expected to follow a certain code of conduct. In such institutions unconformity does not help but conformity makes the organization run. Conformity makes people rigid and that is what is needed in such professions. Even law which is considered the back bone of any nation works on the principle of conformity. People can not make laws on the basis of unconformity as then it would not be possible for any society to exist. Law is one such rigid institute where creativity and individuality is of no use and if people exercise their duties and responsibilities according to their wish then there would be too much chaos. Nobody would abide by the rules and regulation and everyone would think differently. Such a situation would not only be detrimental for public but also it would stake the existence of such a nation itself.

Therefore unconformity in creative fields would result in remarkable results but it would certainly prove to be drastic where conformity is essential for the organization to exist to achieve its goal. We all want to be free as it unleashes our creativity and originality but at times rigidity is also very important.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 68

"Much of the information that people assume is 'factual' actually turns out to be inaccurate. Thus, any piece of information referred to as a 'fact' should be mistrusted since it may well be proven false in the future."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 68

In all fields of study the outcome is termed as facts. We all rely on facts which are presented before us with relevant explanations. If a piece of information is presented before us and there are enough proofs to make it viable then we are bound to accept it as a fact. I believe that if a study is a proved fact then there is certainly no doubt about its authenticity. It is quite likely that a fact which is proved correct today might yield some different results after a few years but that does not make the present facts inaccurate.

The term fact is generally associated with scientific studies and discoveries. Science is a very vast world and there is so much to explore and scientists keep making new assumptions every now and then. The assumptions are then studied and confirmed into facts. The outcome of one scientific study becomes the base of another scientific study. It was a known fact that cow's milk was better than buffalo's milk for infant consumption. A more recent study proved that infants who were on cow's milk only, acquired iron deficiency. The deficiency was due to the fact that cow's milk disabled iron absorption by the body. Although the older study could not bring this point into light but that study was also correct. The new fact certainly does not make the old study false but it aids the old study and thus it came into notice that it is important to feed an infant other fluids along with cow's milk. Therefore, whatever studies are done the facts which are proved have certain amount of authenticity in them and they are not absolutely false.

Although most of the factual information is accurate but the facts are results of studies made by humans so they are bound to be incorrect sometimes. This generally happens in the field of medicines. Firstly, scientists would recommend a medicine for an ailment and in the next study it would be proved that the medicine has ill effects on human body.

Therefore, it is important for people to make their research with utmost care as if researches go wrong it can result in drastic consequences. We all are dependent on our scientists for new studies and discoveries and if they adopt a negligent approach then eventually we would suffer. Human life is precious and any study concerning it should be deliberate so that chances of getting facts wrong results are minimized. Although we are sufferers of such failed studies but at the same time it can not be forgotten that these scientists are humans after all and they are only doing their work. New and better technology aids their studies and thus they come with new and better results. It is not necessary that facts are always inaccurate but their viability can certainly be questioned.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 69

"Although it is easy to respond positively to the work of another person or group, it is far more worthwhile to give negative feedback."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 69

In today's world of competition every individual wants to prove that he is better than the other. The feeling of competition is making people do better work and it has increased their productivity. Any individual would like to work more and would work better if he gets a good feedback for his hard work. Therefore, I believe a positive feedback would not only boost the self-confidence of an individual but it would also help in increasing his quality and productivity in the work front. While on the other hand I believe that a negative feedback can result in loss of confidence and also it can lead to disinterest in work.

A few words of appreciation can do wonders for an employee as then in order to prove himself he will work even better. A very famous ritual is performed in one of the tribes in South Africa, where if villagers want some tree to be removed from their land for cultivation of some crop they would not cut it. The group of tribal people would go to the tree everyday and keep cursing and criticizing it. The tree would eventually fall after few weeks. Such bad impact negative things have even on nature. Similarly if a worker or an employee is always receiving negative remarks from his senior or his fellow colleagues then it would not only make him depressed but then he would not even like to work further. Negative feedback can transform into poor results and in order to make an employee realize his mistake the employer should adopt a positive approach. Instead of being rude and harsh if the mistake or fault is conveyed in a polite manner it would boost the morale of the employee. The employee would then work with more zeal and enthusiasm.

Also, if a person who is doing good for his organization gets a positive feedback from his seniors it would not only make him feel worthwhile but it would also encourage him to do much better work in future. By giving positive feedbacks and encouraging people to do better, any organization would not only be doing well to itself but it would also be favorable for the employees. The happier and contented work force would not only perform better but also increase the productivity of the organization. Therefore, positive feedbacks of any kinds yield good results and it is beneficial for both the employer and the employee.

It is true that bringing out somebody's negative aspects is very difficult and responding positively towards the work of another person is easy. But I believe that without being too negative if a person or a group is told about their drawbacks then it would only enhance their working capabilities. It is not always necessary to have a negative approach whenever some suggestion is to be made to some individual. The process of suggesting or correcting can always be positively dealt.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 70

"An individual's greatness cannot be judged objectively by his or her contemporaries; the most objective evaluators of a person's greatness are people who belong to a later time."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 70

All individuals are capable of doing well in their respective fields. A person can prove his worth if he presents himself to be better than his contemporaries. If a person is able to stand apart from the rest of his class then he is considered great. An individual's worth is assessed in the time when he has achieved something and not with those who belong to a later period. I believe if a person's worth is compared to his contemporaries then he certainly is a genius and he should not be compared to the people of later generation. Time is the prime factor which is sufficient enough to make the present separate from the past.

We have great examples from the past which tell us about the achievements of great people. There is no denying that such people did remarkably well in their fields but it certainly would not be fair to compare the two. We all are grateful to Edison for the discovery of the light bulb but his achievements can certainly not be matched with the scientists of the present generation. It would not be fair on part of both. Similarly great architecture of the old ages can not be compared with today's architecture. We have great monuments which were made using great architecture but that certainly can not be compared with today's architecture. There are numerous examples which would prove that past achievements can not be compared to the present ones because we can not compare the present situations with the past ones for various reasons. An actor who is doing remarkably well in his career can not be denied of fame if he is not able to prove his acting capabilities compared to the yesteryear actors. The demand for work has changed over the years and therefore people are not expected to do what they were doing few years back. If the demand for work has changed then a person is not expected to work like the people of later period and hence his outcome in the work front would be different from that of earlier times. Therefore, it is impractical to compare the two.

Although it is not fair to compare a person's worth with the people of later period rather than his contemporaries but still people of later period act as our mentors. It would certainly not be correct to be compared to them but they are always looked up to for inspiration. If a person in present time has proved himself to be worthy then there is no doubt about this fact. His achievements should not be compared with the achievements of people of a later period.

Therefore achievements of an individual should only be compared with his contemporaries. If he has made his stand strong amongst his contemporaries then his worth should not be compared to the people of later period.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 71

"Societies should try to save every plant and animal species, regardless of the expense to humans in effort, time, and financial well-being."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 71

The dependence of humans on plants and animals is timeless. Humans cannot survive without plants and animals and the reverse need not be true. Many animal and plant species are becoming extinct and consequently there are many organizations, PETA for one, that are working towards conservation of the same. Many societies also make their contributions towards the cause.

In my view, Nature adjusts itself according to changing times and needs. That is what we call adaptation. Each species adapts according to the changes in the environment and struggles for survival. The species that cannot cope up with changes succumbs and becomes extinct. Pollution is one major factor responsible for the falling populations of many species. Deforestation, natural calamities and imbalance in food chain are other such factors.

The statement mentions that saving plants and animal species is more important than human comfort. There is no doubt that humans are exploiting Nature to the hilt. Humans are rapidly devouring jungles to build more offices and residential areas. Forests and other natural habitats of animals are being destroyed. Moreover, climatic changes are jeopardizing the future of many species. The situation is grim because animals and plants are not able to keep pace with environmental changes and they are succumbing to the situations. We have to even recognize that with time many species of plants and animals become extinct not only because of human interference but also because of natural causes. For example, huge animals like dinosaurs were wiped off the face of earth due to natural calamities, in most probability. For such extinctions there is little that humans can do.

There is also no denying that humans are aware of these changes and are making efforts to curtail ecological imbalances. Nonetheless, saying that saving these species should be focused upon at the cost of human effort, time and financial well-being is not reasonable. This statement is partial towards animals and plants. It implies that the author holds solely humans responsible for the extinction of plant and animal species. Humans and animals should live in harmony. Efforts to save plants and animals should not go to an extreme. Extreme behavior does not last for long. Things done in moderation are more effective. It is more important to make constant and moderate efforts, rather than imposing severe restrictions that are short lived. If a person denounces his comforts for the sake of animals and plants, he might not be able to keep the revolution going on for long.

Moreover, the given statement is incomplete. Had the author mentioned his idea about how conservation of plants and animal species is to be done, there would be more conviction in his

statement. His attacking human well-being and not giving any substantial points about how the species are to be saved does not solve the purpose. There is no doubt that our lives are far more comfortable than we require. We can take some pains to avoid pollution. We can make efforts to conserve wildlife by modifying our localities and concentrating on conservation of plants and animals. Governments can make checks on deforestation. There is no dearth of the measures that we can take to conserve wildlife. Nonetheless, moderation is required at all steps. Moreover, the very factors that harm animals and plants also harm humans.

Societies should make efforts to save plants and animals, but care should be taken that humans of the society do not feel over strained with the efforts. A middle path should be adopted. Each member of the society should do his bit, he should make his contribution and his own well-being should also be taken care of.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 72

"The true value of a civilization is reflected in its artistic creations rather than in its scientific accomplishments."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 72

A civilization is an advanced state of human society. It is a society that is developed in terms of culture, science, industry, and government. Development of all these aspects is equally important; any one underdeveloped aspect can qualify a society as uncivilized.

The importance of development is immense. It signifies growth and achievement. Every society tries to accomplish improvement in every sphere, be it art, literature, science, industry, governance or anything else. Accomplishment in itself can be quantitatively measured. For instance, the crime rate in a society is an indication of the state of law and order there, the level of scientific advancement is another parameter. On the other hand, the value that is attached with a society is not easy to measure. The estimation of a society's worth is complex. The different parameters used for measuring accomplishment are not as useful when it comes to measuring the value of a civilization.

The author is trying to draw a comparison between the scientific accomplishment and artistic creations of a civilization as parameters for measuring its true value.

Scientific accomplishments are very important for any society and nation to develop. It is science that governs our lives and the more we exploit it, the more we benefit and advance. Countries like America that are centers of scientific research are the most progressive ones. Not only do scientific accomplishments make our lives more comfortable, they make our nations stronger, more sought after and secure. There is no denying the fact that if a civilization has to progress, it has to pay heed to its scientific advancement.

On the other hand, scientific development cannot gain a nation any respect if its people are not advanced. For a civilization to be respected, its people have to have great thoughts. Our thoughts govern our actions and hence our actions are a reflection of our states of mind. Artistically bent people in a society are its true leaders. They express their minds through artistic creations like literature, paintings, music, poetry, dramatics etc and cast an influence over millions. An artistic creation is not bound by a civilization. It transcends the barriers of location, time, language and culture and extends its influence across nations. Influence of a civilization across other civilizations is the true recognition of its worth. It brings timeless glory to the society like no scientific creation can.

A comparison between India and America should clear the point. Where America is scientifically advanced, India is artistically rich. People are attracted towards India because of its rich and varied culture and heritage.

History also stands witness to the fact. We observe how cultures developed in the past on the basis of their artistic accomplishments. Science, in fact, aids comfort only. It cannot have any influence over our minds; it cannot change our attitudes and values. Art is timeless and scientific developments are relative. Any great scientific development can be improved upon but art is complete. The worth of a civilization is known from its artistic background which is typical of the civilization, whereas scientific accomplishment is greatly influenced by other civilizations. Therefore, we can say that art is the true representation of a civilization.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 73

"Most societies do not take their greatest thinkers seriously, even when they claim to admire them."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 73

It has increasingly been seen that we don't practice what we preach. There is a lot of difference between words and actions. I agree with the statement that our societies are composed of such people who may admire great people and their ideas but when it comes to their own conduct, they have no guiding principles.

There have been great thinkers, reformers as well as leaders in every society. Due to their noble and reformatory work they have earned a position of repute and respect amongst the members of the society. These people set ideals for mankind with their simple living and high thinking which we should ideally follow. However, these ideals are not forced upon us and it is the will of people to choose their own way of living. When our lives are comfortable and there is no unrest in our society, we choose to follow the path that suits us rather than what is best suited for the benefit of our societies. People are not interested in incorporating good philosophies of great men in their day-to-day lives. Great thinkers are admired but we only expect others to follow their guidelines, leaving ourselves conveniently out of it.

There are many evils in a society. Leaders and reformers like, Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Gandhi had devoted their lives to uproot these evils so that we get a healthy and progressive environment. That is why Gandhi had earned the position of the father of the nation. People all over the world respect him and his ideals. We agree with his teachings that non-violence is the best policy and that we should retain our values. However, we conveniently ignore such ideals in our own lives. Contrary to the principles of non-violence, not only is there an increase in the number of crimes in our society, we also do not practice patience in our daily lives. Such examples of indifference towards the preaching of great men are evident in every society.

Another example of a great social worker is that of Mother Teresa. She is known for her concern towards the poor, sick and underprivileged. She has given a definition to humanity, charity and compassion. Even though there are millions who claim to appreciate her, there aren't many Mother Teresas around. So much so that we even ignore our basic social responsibility of charity. 'Charity begins at home,' is a dictum for everyone but ourselves; we do not even bother about the financial well-being of our domestic helps. We are so self-centered and engrossed in our own lives that we seldom practice what we know should be correct. We celebrate the birth and death anniversaries of great men, celebrate the official holidays on such significant days, attend chat shows, hold discussions...we do it all but only for the moment. This shows that the influence of great men on our minds and actions is merely superficial. We 'claim' to admire them but do not prove the same in our actions.

What is interesting is that such great men also have their share of criticisms by cynics. There are people who question the financial transactions following the demise of Mother Teresa. Other great men like Gandhi, Nehru, Abraham Lincoln, Winston Churchill etc, who have selflessly served their people are also under attack by some cynics. Such conceited attitude is a reflection of our inability to accept the greatness of such people and in turn to look for opportunities to prove that they are ordinary people who we follow merely because we are under illusion. To add to the irony, many organizations have been formed in their name. Such organizations have all the ideals of such great men in their doctrines, but no trace of the same philosophies in their conduct.

Nonetheless, a section of people adopts the philosophies of great men and lives by their principles. Owing to the work done by such people and organizations, the contributions of great men are not completely forgotten.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 74

"We can usually learn much more from people whose views we share than from people whose views contradict our own; disagreement can cause stress and inhibit learning."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 74

Any kind of learning needs a favorable environment. Where there is conflict amongst people it only results in commotion. I believe that although there is a lot that we can learn from every situation and people around us, it is a general attitude of people to dismiss the ideas of someone who has a contrary view. According to the given statement, we can learn a lot more from people with whom we share our views rather than from those who hold contradicting views. I, however, feel that there is a great scope of learning from people who hold different views as well. Nonetheless, we are not ready for this type of learning because our ego comes in the way. Disagreement causes stress, tension and commotion, but we should try to rise above this and benefit from the experiences of others who we disagree with.

Birds of a feather flock together. We join the company of people who share the same views as ours. Thus, there are increased chances that we listen to what others have to say instead of getting involved in an argument. This makes a perfect environment for positive learning and we get influenced by the ideas of others. There is no inhibition among such people and a mutual rapport is established. However, the scope of this type of learning is limited. It ends where the views are exchanged. When one person is at the receiving end and agrees to all the views of the learned person, he does not question his knowledge. On the other hand, there is a greater scope of learning from someone who has different ideas than you.

When people holding different views come together, they argue over a certain issue. We cannot take it for granted that we are always right. What seems to be correct to us may be wrong for someone else. Therefore, in an argument we come across different views and interpretations of the same issue. There could be sides of looking at the issue which do not strike to one person, but these can come out only in an argument where people present views that are different from those of yours.

Another example of a great social worker is that of Mother Teresa. She is known for her concern towards the poor, sick and underprivileged. She has given a definition to humanity, charity and compassion. Even though there are millions who claim to appreciate her, there aren't many Mother Teresas around. So much so that we even ignore our basic social responsibility of charity. 'Charity begins at home,' is a dictum for everyone but ourselves; we do not even bother about the financial well-being of our domestic helps. We are so self-centered and engrossed in our own lives that we seldom practice what we know should be correct. We celebrate the birth and death anniversaries of great men, celebrate the official holidays on such significant days, attend chat shows, hold discussions...we do it all but only for the moment. This shows that the

influence of great men on our minds and actions is merely superficial. We 'claim' to admire them but do not prove the same in our actions.

Let us take an example of a simple classroom. If the students learn everything that the teacher teaches them without asking their doubts or questions, they become passive learners. On the other hand, if the students try to figure out the problem on their own, they will come up with doubts and questions. They might not agree with their teacher on a certain topic for which they can initiate a discussion. It is only in such a discussion that a real clarification of the topic comes out. This type of learning is detailed, effective and lasting.

A new discovery or invention comes to light only when someone disagrees with the norms and tries to prove his point. It is only when someone refused to believe that earth is stationary and that Sun revolves around the earth that efforts were made to discover the truth.

Disagreement surely causes stress if the criticism is taken in a negative way. Instead we should welcome criticism positively and try to learn from the ideas of others. It is a matter of attitude that can change the way people think. If you are ready to welcome contradicting views and accept different ideas, it will increase your knowledge manifold.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 75

"Competition is ultimately more beneficial than detrimental to society."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 75

Competition is the soul of every endeavor. It brings life and activity in any action. Without it, any attempt is not explored to its fullest. It is competition that makes you work to the best of your capacities. That is why the outcome is also the best. I certainly agree that competition has many benefits to the society; however, I also maintain that competition should be healthy and instilling positive attitude. If competition is not healthy, it will harm not only the individual, but also the society in the long run.

In today's world, you have to prove your abilities to the world. With limited opportunities, competition becomes inherent to any endeavor. It is a motivating force that makes us do good work and emerge successful. Where there is healthy competition, people work hard to bring out their best. They sweat and toil so that they can shine above the rest. Therefore, due to this competition, the end result is of topmost quality. It is the society that is ultimately profited with this type of competition. While the individual worth is explored to its fullest, the services of the individual towards the society are promoted with competition. Competition is a positive driving force that helps us to achieve our goals. It encourages hard work as well as ensures good quality work.

The best example of positive competition is that amongst students. In an effort to do better than others and compete with equals, a student works very hard. He tries to study more than others in order to increase his knowledge. Hence, he is able to get good scores depending upon his efforts. If he excels in studies, he can pursue the career of his choice and interest. Doctors, engineers, scientists and educationists have emerged because of their knowledge and learning. In today's society there is a great importance of doctors of repute for better health. Similarly, scientists help in making our lives comfortable with their inventions as well as help in the progress and development of a country.

A competition amongst two brands of the same product is another example where the society benefits in the end. In order to increase the sales of their product, a company will employ all tools like lowering prices and satisfying customer requirements of their products. Therefore, the company will also try to improve the quality of its product. The result is that people not only get a choice of different brands but also get the price and quality that suits them.

All said and done, it is nonetheless important to remember that if not taken positively, competition can have a different side to it as well. Sometimes, in the pursuit to emerge above others and succeed, people adopt wrong measures to reach their goals. For example, instead of studying hard to get a good score, some students might resort to evil practices like cheating, and

bribing. This side of competition is harmful not only for individuals since it spoils their morals, but also to the society. If a doctor gets his degree by bribing the authorities instead of on the basis of his merit, we will have incompetent and incapable doctors in our society. This will ultimately have its effect on the health of the society since our patients will not be in safe and qualified hands.

Conclusively, I would like to say that competition has two sides to it. While the positive side is that of healthy competition which does good to the society, negative and unhealthy competition is harmful and dangerous for everyone. Therefore, in individual interest as well as in the interest of the society, negative competition should be avoided.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 76

"It is more important to allocate money for immediate, existing social problems than to spend it on long-term research that might help future generations."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 76

The present is always a consequence of the past and the base for the future. It is true that a state of perfection is reached only when we get rid of all our social problems. However, we can never rid ourselves of social problems. Nonetheless, even a little effort made today ensures future benefits. I believe that where allocating money is important for improving our present, it is equally important to invest in our future.

No nation is free from social problems. The type and intensity of the problems varies from nation to nation. For instance, social problems in America include drug abuse, racial discrimination, deterioration of family values etc. whereas in developing countries, these problems are in the form of unemployment, illiteracy, poverty, hunger, etc. It is important that every nation spends sufficient amount of money to eradicate such social problems. It is only the government of a country that can create jobs for the unemployed, provide food for the hungry, facilitate education, rehabilitate drug addicts etc. Besides it is a government's responsibility to look into such matters to ensure the wellbeing of its people. A society is the smallest significant unit of a nation. For the progress and development of a nation it is very important for its societies to develop harmoniously. In case a society is embedded with social evils that are ignored by the government, the problems will amplify and pose a greater threat in future. For example, if illiteracy is not dealt with at the right time, then no matter how much a nation progresses, its development will not be complete.

On the other hand, we have to live our present keeping in mind our future. Our present is the outcome of our past. We are able to live comfortable lives because of the foresight of our ancestors. Had there been no research regarding modes of transport and communication in the past, we would not have lived the same lives. There would not have been any satellite communication, GPS navigation, space ventures etc today. We cannot imagine our lives without telephones, cars, internet etc. since we are so used to them. Such developments have been possible only because enough financial support was given to research in these fields. Hence, it is very important to continue with research and keep funds for the same. It is very important for a nation to keep pace with international advancement. If no efforts are made keeping in mind our future needs and we live only in the present, our future will be in darkness. There will be no progress and a state of stagnation will arise. This will eventually increase the dependence of a nation on other developed nations.

We cannot say that it is more important to concentrate on the present social problems and ignore the future. Equal importance should be given to present social needs and research for the future.

As we progress, different social problems arise. Each social problem should be dealt with at the right time. Nonetheless, in order to secure our future we have to concentrate on research side by side. Over concentration of one aspect and ignoring the other would lead to an imbalance. Therefore, an administration should be judicious while allocating money for the present needs as well as for betterment of our future.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 77

"It is more important to allocate money for immediate, existing social problems than to spend it on long-term research that might help future generations."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 77

The progress in any field depends upon the extent of study and research done in that field. It might be the efforts of a single person or of a group of people that contribute towards the advancement. These people gain knowledge out of their experiences in their fields, but at the same time, they are open to outside ideas. I maintain that the progress and advancement in any field is mostly the result of extensive research done in that field. This research might or might not be supported by the experience of outsiders since it is largely the efforts of people concerned which bring a turn over in the field.

A jack of all trades is a master of none. However, a master of a particular trade knows the tricks and details of his trade better than anyone else. It is only the learned who can comment on this field of learning no better than anyone else. Therefore, I would say that it is only the person having enough knowledge of a particular field who knows his area of study the best. It is such a person who can further advance this field by venturing into its study.

Let us take the example of Albert Einstein who was a physicist. He has done remarkable work in his field and due to his efforts the theory of relativity has been known. The field of science is greatly indebted to his research and studies in this field. He had pronounced this theory in his field of study by spending years to study the phenomenon. Hence, it was his knowledge in physics that made him develop this theory. Apart from this theory, there are many noteworthy contributions done by him to science due to which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics. I don't think we can expect any outsider to give such a universal theory of a field like this.

A learner of a particular subject should not underestimate his worth. It is only with the personal efforts of individuals that remarkable discoveries and inventions have occurred. Alexander Graham Bell has been a pioneer in the field of telecommunications and is the one to introduce the telephone to the world. He invented the telephone only after an extensive study was done by him in telecommunications. This is yet another example of a person doing eminent work in the field he is related to.

Although it is the personal efforts of these learned people that help in advancing any field, the contribution of outsiders cannot be ignored completely. It has been seen many times that novelty of ideas exists in the thoughts of outsiders. An outsider has the benefit of unrestricted thought and principles. While a person working in his field is restricted to his field, an outsider has a wider experience and can introduce a remarkable piece of information or truth. Let us take the example of Joseph Conrad. Conrad was a Polish novelist who did not know English and could

not speak the language fluently until he was in his twenties. Nonetheless, he learnt the language and has many noteworthy works in prose written in English. We can say that he was not originally from the field of this language. Being an outsider to English, he has been able to contribute to a great extent to English literature and his efforts cannot be overlooked.

In the end, I would like to conclude that the greatest exponents of a field are responsible of the major work done in the advancement of that particular field. However, there can be cases where noteworthy contributions are made by outsiders in another field. However, it would be incorrect to say that all the major advancements are a result of the ideas brought in by outsiders only.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 78

"A nation should require all its students to study the same national curriculum until they enter college rather than allow schools in different parts of the nation to determine which academic courses to offer."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 78

The children of a nation are its future. Along with becoming independent and successful, they are the ones to carry the responsibility of running the nation as well as developing it in the future. Therefore, it is very important to form a strong base in their formative years so that they are not only successful in the personal front but also turn out to be good citizens. Education plays an important role in forming the basis of a child's future. The curriculum should therefore be carefully chosen to fulfill these requirements. I believe that the curriculum being followed in a nation should be similar but schools should have some freedom to introduce or change it to a certain extent. While the larger part of the curriculum should be decided to remain similar on a national level, it should not be binding schools completely to follow it strictly.

Having a uniform curriculum is beneficial in many ways. It determines a standard level which is required by every student to clear before he is able to take another academic step. Each level prepares the student for the next level and this forms a stepwise format of learning. A common curriculum ensures a stable and universal learning pattern. It allows making the curriculum familiar throughout the nation and it becomes easier to refer to it. There are many students who attend more than one school during their education. A common national curriculum is very important for such students who leave one school and join another at a different place. For example, consider the people in a transferable job like the defense. The children of a defense person have to go to different places along with their families. It is evident that they need to change their schools as often as their guardians get transferred to a new place. If there are no guidelines for curriculum given to schools, these children will have to face new and unfamiliar curriculums everywhere they go. This will make it difficult for them to cope up with the requirements of a new curriculum and they will be at a great disadvantage. According to me, a uniform curriculum at all places makes it easier for such people to change schools and adjust in a new environment without hampering their growth.

Today is the age of competition. In order to find a place anywhere the students need to compete with each other. Therefore, uniformity is required at some level so that there is fair competition. Generally, students have to face an entrance test at the college level to secure a seat. This entrance test is based on the knowledge acquired by students in their high schools. If there is variation in the curriculum that they have studied, the entrance test will not be made on similar lines for everyone. Hence, it would benefit some students who have studied that curriculum and the other students would be at a loss. There would be no way to judge their capabilities with the

same parameters. Hence, it is very important that uniformity be maintained in the curriculum at the school level, and students be able to face fair competition when they leave school.

However, I maintain that along with following the national guidelines for curriculum, schools should have certain liberty in choosing the format of courses it offers. Each student is different and so are his abilities. While there are some students who are fast learners, some are average and some are extremely slow. Moreover, the interests of students vary. Keeping in mind the interests of students, the curriculum should be molded so that they retain their interest in studies altogether. Hence, schools should be allowed a certain amount of discretion in making certain changes according to the needs only for the betterment of all the students.

In the end I would I like to conclude that a uniform pattern on the whole is very important at a national level. However, at the same time, schools should not be bound to follow it blindly and should be able to make certain changes that help the students in their studies.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 79

"The most effective way to understand contemporary culture is to analyze the trends of its youth."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 79

Our culture is our customs, beliefs and attitudes. It is the way of life that the people of a particular country, class or society follow at a particular time. The culture of a society or country keeps changing and new trends and beliefs keep replacing the older ones. It is the young who exhibit their culture most typically. However, it is also true that the older generation also has its ways of following its culture and beliefs and the old should not be ignored. I believe, while the old are moderate in following their culture, which might be different from that of the youth, they are equally a part of the society. Hence, a proper understanding of the contemporary culture of any place can be done only by a comprehensive study of the trends of the youth as well as the way of life of the old.

Since culture keeps on changing, what was seen as a prominent trend in the olden times may not be so today. This means that culture does not remain fixed. However, it is possible that in a society at a particular time more than one culture co-exist. When it comes to understanding the contemporary culture of a society, it is the young who are the most expressive. By nature itself, the young are flamboyant. Therefore, the trends and beliefs they follow are noticed the most. They are the ones to accept the latest changes first of all and make it their trend. What they wear, think, do, and eat reflects the attitude and trends followed in the contemporary society. A superficial study would indicate that the popular culture followed by the youth is the culture of that society.

On the other hand, a proper understanding of the real contemporary culture is done only when it is studied in totality. That means the whole population should be considered and the trends followed by all the members of the society are studied. It may be true that the youth are most expressive and the contemporary culture is generally seen in their behaviours and beliefs, it is also true that the old form a large part of the society. They have their own culture, customs and beliefs. Most of these people prefer to follow their culture without expressing it. They are not flashy about their ways of lives. This is the reason that the culture they follow is not observed as the culture of the society. However, ignoring this section of the society and considering the culture of the youth as the contemporary culture would be shutting our eyes to half of the truth. A proper understanding of the society is done only when the cultures, customs, beliefs and attitudes of all the sections of a society are taken together.

As mentioned earlier, at one point of time there are more than one culture that co-exist. It is easy to read and observe the culture followed by the young as compared to that followed by the old. Although it is the beliefs and trends of the youth that come out when a society is observed for its

culture, it only reflects a part of its composite culture. A society is made up of different types of people and thus different cultures are intermingled in it. Therefore, a study of the culture of a society will be complete and justified only when all the people and their trends are studied.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 80

"The video camera provides such an accurate and convincing record of contemporary life that it has become a more important form of documentation than written records."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 80

With technology governing the way we work and the way we lead our lives, it is impossible to stick to old procedures and practices. Though official and legal bindings compel us to stick to norms, we prefer to make full use of technology at our personal levels. Take the case in question about record keeping through video cameras rather than writings. We would not think twice before recording an event in the family through a video camera. None of us would think of keeping a written track of events. In fact, in today's contemporary world, it is difficult to imagine people filling pages and pages to keep records of important events. Even the concept of daily dairy is now replaced with video diaries. I agree with the above statement, though not completely. In my view, judicious use of technology for the benefit of all should be encouraged, but completely replacing written records for video records is not as rampant, and it is so for obvious reasons.

Video recording over writing is a faster, easier and more reliable method of record keeping. For instance, when the proceedings of a court case have to be recorded, a typist is engaged throughout the proceedings to type in the statements. Video recording of the event would provide an equally efficient archive. Similarly, video recording the events of a meeting can also be efficient. Many a court cases have been solved due to evidence presented in the form of video recordings. People maintain video scrapbooks rather than paper scrapbooks now-a-days, simply because of the ease and flexibility video recording offers. Not only is it easy to create a video record, but also storing, editing and reproducing it is. In fact, video tapes used before for recording are now pass. Compact disks, memory cards, mobiles etc are more common forms of memory. These records are more portable and easy to duplicate, as compared with video cassettes and written records.

Nonetheless, advances in technology have their own cons. Where it is easier to keep records of events through video recordings, it is equally easy to edit records and make a lie look as good as truth. There have been numerous cases in which images of people have been morphed by using easily available software. Moreover, unclear recordings of events can lead us to interpret false as true. There is no way we can record signatures of people where they certify that the recordings are true and that their consent is sought. For instance, there could be cases of forced marriages, impersonations, duplications of items etc. There could be unclear or no sound at all in the recordings. The records would highly depend upon the situations in which the film has been captured.

Though there are many pros of recording videos for record keeping, there is no denying that there is a long way to go before we can completely be done away with written records. Where video recordings are ideal for personal events and those that are not bound by legal matters, written records are more reliable for legal issues. With signatures being a main means of ascertaining the validity of any document, video recordings are not used for recordings the details of deals like written statements are. Where people are increasingly using electronic gadgets for keeping their personal records, their use should be encouraged in government related matters as well. There is a distinction between the records that can be kept as video recordings and those that require written mediums. Judicious use of technological advancements is increasingly being done to lighten the burden of written records' keeping. Nonetheless, written records are here to stay till a fool-proof method is sought.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 81

It is often necessary, even desirable, for political leaders to withhold information from the public.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 81

This is a very controversial issue. There are two viewpoints, which explain this statement more clearly. Broadly speaking, in a democratic system, a political leader should not withhold any information from the public. It is public's right to know everything about the leaders and the government. However, sometimes it becomes necessary to hide some information from the public for public's interest itself. Nevertheless, we must not allow our political leaders undue freedom to withhold information.

In politics, complete forthrightness is a sign of vulnerability and naivety. In politics, a would-be leader has to withhold information to first gain and maintain political power. They have to keep their personal matters secret, otherwise they will not be able to win the public's trust and respect. For example, if all politicians will fully disclose every personal foible, character flaw, and detail concerning personal life, there will be very few honest politicians that would be elected. In history, we have many cases where personal scandals have damaged the political career of many powerful politicians; thus, I think this view is realistic. For example, President of America, Nixon, when his role in the Watergate scandal opened up, had to resign. In his case, it was wrong on his part to hide such an important information from the public. It was not in the interest of the public.

However, sometimes there might be many circumstances wherein it is politic to restrain information and prevent it from dispersing to other parts of the country to maintain peace and harmony. For example, in a multi-cultural country like India, many cases of communal violence have arisen. In such situations, political leaders have to make an effort to avoid the incident from spreading to other parts of the country, otherwise, the communal riots may diffuse to the entire country, and then it would be difficult to control the situation.

In addition, there might be situations during a war when it is often necessary for the government to conceal the defense strategies and secrets from the public. Such information should not be accessed by the public. There might be some elements in the society who might be spying for the enemy and can leak the information to the enemy. Similarly, politicians cannot disclose strategies and specific plans of the government to seize an international terrorist or a drug trafficker, otherwise those strategies would surely fail, and the public's health and safety would be in danger. Sometimes, withholding information is also necessary to avoid public panic.

However, political leaders should not take undue advantage of the public's trust and hide information that is the right of people to know. People must be aware of major policy decisions taken by the government related to the development of the country like education, health and

other fields. The media and police should make sure that the leaders who are involved in scandalous activities be exposed to the public. The leaders like Hitler who lack forthrightness and maintain power by brute force must be abhorred. Such demagoguery must not be allowed in a democratic society.

Hence, while sometimes it becomes necessary to hide certain information in the public's interest, such behavior should not be common characteristic of a politician. A political leader should be committed to his principles, which will truly contribute towards a better nation.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 82

Academic disciplines have become so specialized in recent years that scholars' ideas reach only a narrow audience. Until scholars can reach a wider audience, their ideas will have little use.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 82

With the development of science and technology, it is very natural that academic disciplines become more and more specialized than before. Even the most learned scientists cannot know well the contemporary theories of the fields beyond their research. Each field has the specialists who mainly adopt and dominate it, and other people do not get the information related to that particular field. Thus, the influence of that particular knowledge is not wide. Many people do not get it and even if they get it, they do not understand it.

However, according to some people, the academic disciplines are over-specialized. They think that scholars should influence a bigger range of audience. However, this idea does not seem very practical. It is different to know the basic structures and basic principles of academic fields, and to know the details of a particular field is altogether a different game. Specialists study the details of a particular topic in a field and make them fit for the society. As a result, the fields are getting more and more specialized.

For example, science and technology are developing at a very rapid pace. Take the biology field as an example, the focus of studies has been shifted to genetic studies. Specialists adopt the latest technology to do researches in the field, and it is not possible for ordinary people to easily understand them. Most of the people do not want to understand all this, they just want to use the latest technologies developed. In addition, many of these latest researches are related to national security; hence, it is not feasible to disclose all the information. Terms related to high tech fields are not easy and as simple as entertainment news.

Moreover, it is wrong to say that the use of the academic ideas depends on the amount of audience who can reach these ideas. The audience is not the only factor, which we consider while considering the use of academic ideas. In history, we have examples when some useful ideas were not accepted by most people at first but later on had important effect in the history of development of science. For example, in the twentieth century, Einstein gave the theory of relativity that was not understood by most people. Even many great scientists in the same research fields did not understand it. This theory, however, is the base of many other theories in this field.

On the other hand, sometimes it becomes necessary for scholars to popularize their ideas of science and technology among public. Many ideas of science are useful for dealing with problems concerning nature as well as changing our societies. Hence, ordinary public need to know about them. It is the responsibility of scholars to ensure that their ideas reach to more and

more people. With the popularization of these ideas, more and more people will be benefited by them.

Hence, it can be said that although academic ideas have become more specialized in recent years and reach only a narrow audience, they act as powerful tools for the development of our society.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 83

Governments must ensure that their major cities receive the financial support they need in order to thrive, because it is primarily in cities that a nation's cultural traditions are preserved and generated.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 83

This is a very sensitive issue and it is difficult for us to decide the role of governments. There are many issues in this statement that need to be addressed. The first question is whether the actual culture and traditions is in big cities or small towns and villages. The second thing is that whether it is really a government's duty to subsidize cultural traditions. The author claims that governments should ensure that their major cities receive the financial support they need to preserve the nation's cultural traditions. However, preserving cultures should not be the single reason to develop major cities. This is not only for preservation of nation's culture but also for the reason of developing the whole society.

There is no doubt that major cities are the principal force when constructing a healthy country and their development directly reflects the development of the country. Major cities primarily generate a nation's cultural traditions and makes it famous in the world. However, it is actually towns and villages where cultural traditions originate and are preserved and any government that pays attention to its cultural traditions should neither neglect nor ignore those places. Hence, these small places should receive equal if not more financial support than major cities. The culture and tradition maintained in these places might be much more integrated and purer than in counterpart cities. Therefore, in order to protect their cultural traditions, governments should support tradition-based towns and villages rather than invest a lot to the cities, which have little traditional foundation.

If we take the example of Hong Kong, it used to be a small fishing village 150 years ago. After it became the colony of the Great Britain, Hong Kong has developed gradually and has established as a financial center in Asia. Therefore, from its present, nobody can assert that Chinese cultural traditions are generated in Hong Kong. Hong Kong developed completely according to the style of the capitalism country, during the reign of Britain, although the majority of residents were Chinese, who are known for preserving their culture and traditions. The Chinese culture is not preserved in Hong Kong, hence there is no point in providing financial support to Hong Kong just for the culture's sake. However, as it is a major financial and shopping hub, it attracts people from all over the world and it is a great source of revenue for the government. Hence, the government of China has to patronize it to maintain its importance.

However, while major cities are the resource of one country's culture, the major part of population in many countries lives in villages. In cities, most people are doing salary-based jobs and in villages, most of the people are farmers. The government of a country has to take care of

both the sides to keep balance in society. To construct major cities, the rural places should not be ignored.

The cultural traditions are the backbone of a nation and they should be preserved. However, major cities and rural areas should get equal attention from the governments.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 84

All nations should help support the development of a global university designed to engage students in the process of solving the world's most persistent social problems.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 84

It is true that these days there are more and more social problems and the problems related to law and order, which cannot be solved by one nation. To solve these problems all nations have to work together and there has to be complete communication between them. Therefore, the idea of having a global university that will engage students in solving the most persistent problems of the world is a good idea.

Many problems actually bother every country over the world, and require international communication and cooperation to solve them. Society and technology has developed so much that every country depends on other countries for its economy, culture, and environment. Problems like global warming, environmental pollution, energy crisis, terrorism threat are troubling people all over the world. Any one country cannot solve these problems on its own. Each country has to take respective responsibility. International cooperation is an effective way to handle international problems. The conflicts between different religions have caused many bloody events. If a global university is built then it will have students from all over the world and from all the religions. This will be good for the understanding between different cultures, societies, and religions.

It will be good to unite the strengths and forces of many nations to attack the world's persistent problems. For example, many criminal problems like drug trafficking, pirates and smuggling often involves criminals of different countries. Hence, it needs cooperation between countries in attacking the global crimes. Students who will graduate from this global university will have more knowledge of other countries. It will help them to solve many persistent problems. The students from different countries would be able to discuss some commonly concerned problem, and exchange their viewpoints and thoughts.

However, building and running such a university would not be that easy. There are also some problems that cannot be ignored and need international endeavor to overcome them. Each country has different national and cultural interests and there will definitely be conflicts in handling them. However, students have to learn to cooperate and communicate in the best way to solve the conflicts. They have to keep their focus on the ultimate goal of solving global problems.

There are many examples when people from different countries have worked together to solve different problems. For example, the Kyoto Protocol to carbon dioxide emission problem, or the Green Peace Organization for environment and then we have WHO for health problems in the

world. All these examples explain that international communication and cooperation is the only way to solve global problems. Hence a global university will prepare the youth to handle the problems of future. It will help them to understand the persistence and complexity of today's social problems, and could impel them to find solutions that are more appropriate.

Hence, to build a global university to solve world's problems is a suggestion of great value. The students of this university will get the power and opportunities they need to help solve the world's problems. Hence, it should be supported by all nations.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 85

People's attitudes are determined more by their immediate situation or surroundings than by any internal characteristic.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 85

It is true that immediate situations do affect people's attitudes; however, you cannot ignore the effect of internal characteristics. A person can have different attitudes in different situations. People live in societies and their actions are influenced by the happenings in their immediate societies. Sometimes people do not make decisions only by their immediate surroundings. Their intrinsic characteristic also is a very important determinant. For example, if a person has a strong sense of sympathy for homeless people, he may propose to set up a home for these destitute people. Many people make charitable hospitals without any selfish thinking. Hence, people's attitudes are also decided by people's internal characteristic like the way they think about the world, dispositions, and their tempers. We cannot give more importance to any one. Both the things play a role in determining people's attitudes.

Immediate surroundings are also very important in determining people's attitudes. When thinking of an issue, whether a social problem or a phenomena or a personal issue, a person's attitude is greatly affected by his positions in the society. People usually do not take decisions without thinking about their positions and status in the society. For example, when we choose our occupation, we probably will do a research on the different aspects like salary level and working environment among the companies. These are the outer factors that affect our decision. What we consider most is whether we are able to do the job asked by the respective company and we are very likely to choose the job of the company accordingly to our ability to do that job that is the inner ability.

Internal characteristic and surroundings together affect our attitudes. When a child comes in this world, he inherits some genetic characteristics from his parents. These are nothing but inner characteristic of that person. Through the child's activities, we can predict that he is like his father or mother since his parents also possess habits similar to the child. However, the environment where the child grows up also affects his attitude towards life. If a child grows up in surroundings of criminals then he might also develop attitude of a criminal since after doing a crime he will get appreciation from his parents rather than reprimand. Such environment will promote him to become a criminal or a gangster. The behavior of a person is definitely determined by good or bad surroundings.

For example, Mother Teresa is considered an angel. Mother Teresa's family was a devoted catholic family. It was her family's generosity, care for the poor and the less fortunate that made a great impact on young Mother Teresa's life. She made up her mind to help poor and needy

people when she was just a child of 12 years. She dedicated every day of her adult life caring for the dying, the cripple, the mentally ill, and the unwanted people.

As we grow, our good and bad experiences in life also affect our behavior and attitudes towards others. However, our internal characteristics remain the same. A good person cannot behave badly with anybody after a certain level. The internal characteristics contribute to develop the attitude of a person. Additionally, in the long run, as the situations he faces and the surroundings he interacts with change, his attitude becomes an outcome of that environment. In sum, people's attitudes are determined by internal characteristics and external environment almost equally well.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 86

Many of the world's lesser-known languages are being lost as fewer and fewer people speak them. The governments of countries in which these languages are spoken should act to prevent such languages from becoming extinct.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 86

The issue raised by the author is right that some languages spoken by fewer people in the world are on the verge of becoming extinct. As per the author, the governments of countries in which these languages are spoken should act to prevent such languages from becoming extinct. It is easy to say that this is the responsibility of government but there should be suggestions about how the governments can help it.

Language is a wonderful medium of communication, which resembles an important aspect of the cultural heritage of a country. There are two things, existence, and enhancement that keep a language alive. Existence of a language depends entirely on the number of people using it as a medium of communication. The life of any language depends on many factors, like strong literature, people's attitude, and the number of users. If people have great respect and love towards their mother tongue, then obviously they stick to it and will not look up to other languages. If peoples' attitude towards a language is distorted then automatically the user-base tends to decline.

However, with the advent of globalization in modern world, countries and areas have to communicate increasingly. Hence, people would like to use a much widely used language such as English to communicate with others all around the world. This results in many lesser-known languages being lost because they prevent individuals and communities speaking such languages from communicating with outside world, and ultimately become obstacles of further development of these communities. According to a recent survey conducted on languages, there are about 8000 languages spoken round the globe and the existence of 90% of these languages is in danger.

In this scenario, it becomes government's responsibility to patronize these languages. The governments should make people aware of the significance of speaking in their mother tongue. Study of mother tongue should be made mandatory in primary education. If proper actions are taken to counter this problem by the government and people of that particular country, then that particular language will not become extinct.

For example, Japan is a small country with a small population, but even today, there is no decline in the number of people using their language. This shows how the government and people of Japan are cautious in preserving their culture, even when they have to deal with the other countries for their business and developmental projects. However, there are many other small

countries in south Asia, where few western languages have overtaken their national languages. Even in Europe alone, 30% of the languages have become extinct in the past few years.

However, governments alone cannot solve this problem by just making rules or passing laws. It requires peoples' participation also. If people are aware of the impact of this problem and ready to participate in tackling this problem, then half the battle is won. The medium of instruction at schools and colleges should be compulsorily the national language. A subject on national language should be included in the curriculum till primary education. The medium of communication and official transaction in all government offices should be the national language.

Language is an emblem of a nation's culture. Hence, it is not only the responsibility of the government but also the responsibility of the people to nurture their language.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 87

It is necessary for everyone to read poetry, novels, mythology and other types of imaginative literature.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 87

As per the claim of the author of this statement, it is necessary for everyone to read poetry, novels, mythology, and other types of imaginative literature. There is no doubt that reading all this reading material is beneficial for people, yet it is unfair to say that everyone should do so.

It is a proven fact that writings like poetry, novels, mythology and other types of imaginative literature serve a significant role in people's daily lives. Writings like novels, poetry, mythology, can be used as a means to relax. Moreover, some widely accepted values are rooted in these kinds of writings. It is easier to inculcate reading habits in children through animated mythological books as the characters in these books fascinate children. For example, consider the remarkable novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin" by the famous writer Harriet Beecher Stowe. In her novel, she informed people how and why we should treat African Americans as the same as the whites. Her novels are widely regarded as a reading material for parents to read to their kid in United States. Undoubtedly, such a way of teaching can instill in young children the right perspective towards racial equity.

However, although this type of literature is good for children to read and learn from, it is not necessary for adults. The reading of such imaginative literature should never be ignored and should be included in the curriculum of children and adolescents who are still in their studying stage. However, after a certain stage, it is necessary for us to be rational and analytical to build a well-structured and well-functioned world with the help of scientific writings.

It is good to read all this literature in leisure time. Each person has his own way to entertain himself or to relax himself, but overemphasis on reading poetry, novels, mythology and other types of imaginative literature can sometimes lead to harmful consequences. Each person has his own taste, some prefer scientific journals, some like philosophical works, and of course some others indulge themselves in reading poetry, novels and mythology. It is difficult to change one's reading inclination. If a person has to do many other important things then he does not have to read poetry, novels, mythology and other types of imaginative literature. If his job does not require them to read all this reading matter then it is not necessary for him to read.

Though reading imaginative literature is never necessary for adults, it is better to keep in mind that imaginative literature is not completely useless. Such kind of works are to be appreciated for their beauty, originality, inspiration and of course most importantly, their imagination. Sometimes these works inspire scientists and researchers and it leads to new inventions. For example, in the Ramayana, there was a mention of "Pushpak Viman" that was used by Lord

Rama to travel from Lanka to Ayodhya. In modern times, we have aeroplanes to travel. Similarly, A Journey to the Center of the Earth, and Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea have cast much light on the discovery of our world in real life.

Hence, in our lives, if we need science to make our lives more comfortable, we also need imaginative literature to relax our minds. However, it is never compulsory for adults to read poetry, novels, and mythology.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 88

The stability of a society depends on how it responds to the extremes of human behavior.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 88

We are living in a world where there are extremes of human behavior. On one hand we have violence, murders, terrorism, all of which not only menace the safety of people of the world, but also greatly influence the stability of societies. On the other hand we have people like Mother Teresa who serve people without any motive. It is somewhat true that the stability of a society depends on how it responds to the extremes of human behavior.

The author is right when he says that the human extremes are the foremost threat to social stability. The society consists of diverse kinds of people of different races, religions, vocations or interests. Hence, there are endless conflicts to varying degrees in the society that inevitably give rise to social disturbances. For example, in Middle East, because of religious conflicts, the Jews and Arabs have long been at war with each other. Thus, the society there seems to be faint and unstable as almost everyone is worried about the death descending upon them. The harmful extremes of human behavior do great harm to society and should be tackled effectively.

If the government cannot control the extremes of human behavior, it will ultimately result in great panic in the whole society. The government should use effective measures like catching and punishing the criminals. These methods help in reducing the extreme behaviors to some extent.

However, punishing the criminals is not the only way to increase stability in the society. Just punishing the criminals can temporarily reduce the happening of the extreme behaviors; however, it cannot eliminate these extremes from its root. The society should pay more attention to the main causes of incidents of extreme behaviors like poverty problems, inequity, and discrimination. People should analyze the motives and social problems, all of which may bring about the extreme behaviors. The more impoverished and inequitable the society is, the more likely the extreme behaviors will happen. Hence, it is important to curb the extreme behavior at the earliest. If we stop these behaviors from the very beginning, there will not be much suffering of human beings. One good example of the extreme behavior is Nazi Hitler, a typical human extreme who was obsessed with war and racism. He started the Second World War just because of his obsession with war and to satisfy his wish to rule the world. It caused a lot of human loss.

In order to build a stable and harmonious society, society should give its people equal right to vote, to receive education, to express his/her ideas freely and so on, without differentiating between men and women, white and black, rich and poor. Unless these deeply rooted social problems are eradicated, there is no way that the society will be able to eradicate the extremes of

human behavior, since they are stirred by those social problems. Hence, the society should handle these problems with great responsibility.

The stability of a society depends not only on the society's response to the extremes of human behavior but also on the way, the society resolves the social problems underlying the extremes of human behavior.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 89

Although many people think that the luxuries and conveniences of contemporary life are entirely harmless, in fact, they actually prevent people from developing into truly strong and independent individuals.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 89

As per the author, people's independence is deteriorated by use of modern facilities. In some aspects, this is true, as people have become more dependent. However, we cannot neglect the importance of many things in our lives. Moreover, despite the use of the facilities, humans are still very strong and independent beings. It is just that whenever people see some crimes happening around, they blame the luxurious and convenient life for the fecklessness, irresponsible behavior, and independence of contemporary individuals. However, it is not the luxuries and conveniences of contemporary life that hampers the healthy development of individuals; rather it is the attitudes one has of life and his personality that guides him through moral development.

Before discussing this topic, one should be clear about what luxury is. Luxury is something inessential and expensive but conducive to pleasure and comfort. In the modern times, people, especially the urban population, are enjoying the luxurious and convenient lives. Ironically, people in cities encounter much difficulty in developing themselves into truly strong and independent personalities in the modern "harmless" life. Technological advancement has brought humans many convenient facilities, which are useful if a person does not depend on them completely. These facilities help humans to overcome physical difficulties, which were otherwise hard to conquest by mere human power. Through luxuries, people could overcome difficulties caused by geography, weather, or time for example, car, cell phone, computer, airplanes etc. Cars and airplanes take people from one place to another in less time. However, people start depending on them too much. They get into the habit of using a car for just short trips to a store at a corner. They avoid walking down even short distances. People prefer to go to gyms instead of walking or riding a cycle.

Many people spend much of their time with facilities like television and habitually use mobile phones. These people get so much addicted to these things that absence of these facilities makes them feel insecure. However, this partial dependency does not prove that people are less strong or are weakened mentally or emotionally. A person with a strong personality and positive attitude toward life is always well prepared for any challenge and competition. While those with characteristic deficiencies or negative attitudes towards life are always blaming the luxuries or poverty for the failure without examining the actual causes that may be lying in themselves.

However, we cannot neglect the effect of the improved life on the developing of individual traits. Without proper guidance, today's youth may well take it for granted that there is no necessity for

hard work and responsibility since the convenient life is already at hand. Hence, they should be explained that improvement of life is the contribution of every individual's hard work, and that no one deserves it unless he also does his contribution. In order to achieve the strength and soundness of personality, one should set up healthy attitudes to life and chasten himself through competitions and failures.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 90

There are two types of laws: just and unjust. Every individual in a society has a responsibility to obey just laws and, even more importantly, to disobey and resist unjust laws.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 90

The author of the statement has divided laws into two broad categories: just and unjust. This division is not correct. Any one individual cannot decide whether laws are just or unjust. It is subjective to personal interests. Hence, it is wrong to say that one should obey just laws and disobey unjust laws.

It is difficult to identify just and unjust laws. Many people have tried to define them. For example, Martin Luther King said that a law is unjust if it is inflicted on a minority. While as per Thoreau, policies of the State should never be put above the individual's needs. It is true that one is accountable to obey just laws; similarly, one has the moral responsibility to speak against unjust laws. However, it would be an extreme statement that one should disobey unjust laws. Anyways, laws are based on majority vote and cannot always suit everyone in different situations. Unjust laws do exist, but there is a proper way to reform them.

This issue is not a straightforward issue. The fairness of any law depends on one's personal value system. This is especially true when it comes to personal freedoms. Consider, for example, the controversial issue of abortion. Individuals with particular religious beliefs tend to view laws allowing mothers an abortion choice as unjust, while individuals with other value systems might view such laws as just. Similarly, some people might find some laws unjust because of their personal interests. For example, law that limits the emission of harmful substances from the factories protects people from the harmful hazards of these things. However, a factory might find this law unjust, as he has to install expensive filters to dispose of the harmful gases and chemicals from its waste. In this case, laws protecting the residents' health are more important than the profit of the local factory.

Laws are made to keep societies in order. We should obey the laws if they are just, in order to ensure the stability of the society. However, if the law conflicts with people's moral values or beliefs, people should take direct action against it and make it amended through legislature. Every country has a certain system to amend laws. Hence, people should approach the proper channel to reform the laws, which they think are unjust. However, there are certain events in history, which involve civil disobedience against certain laws that were not acceptable to the general public. For example, Martin Luther King fought for American African rights against color discrimination. He was jailed for his civil disobedience movement, but today American people are thankful for his efforts. Similarly, in India, Mahatma Gandhi used civil disobedience against the British Empire for the rights of Indians and got successful in getting freedom for India. However, these are the examples where people fought for the nation's interest.

Finally, we can say that laws are to maintain peace and harmony in the society. Justice can be achieved more effectively by helping people to reach a mutual understanding of justice instead of revolts. Radical actions such as resistance or disobedience are rarely justified merely by one's subjective viewpoint or personal interests.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 91

"Only by being forced to defend an idea against the doubts and contrasting views of others does one really discover the value of that idea."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 91

The learning process in the life of an individual is largely determined by the number of conversations held with others. A conversation is an excellent medium for gaining immense knowledge through the views and opinions of others. The issue being discussed in a conversation is addressed by each member participating in the discussion from his point of view. Hence, it is natural for doubts, which question the viability of a particular idea, to come up during the course of a discussion. It is undoubtedly true that the learning process is seriously hampered by discord and disagreement. However, there are cases when such heated arguments over an issue actually succeed in evaluating the worthiness of an idea. Therefore, one can discover the value of an idea in a major way with the help of people who support the same idea. On the other hand, one cannot completely negate the effectiveness of the process of defending one's idea, against the doubts of others, in throwing light on the value of that idea.

There might be cases wherein the participants of a discussion are skilled in different areas associated with the implementation of an idea. The doubts of these skilled people will help in analyzing the worthiness of the idea and whether it can be successfully implemented. For example, if a company has to launch a new product, then the company will have to put the idea in front of its management team which will question every aspect of the launch of the product. There will be questions related to the investment required, the publicity campaign, the competition in the market, the mindset of the consumers etc. The opposition to the launch of the product will definitely be supported by facts and figures which will prove the ineffectiveness of the idea in achieving whatever is being envisaged. All these doubts and contrasting viewpoints will end up in revealing the shortcomings of the idea. The next step could be to refine the idea based on feedback which has come in the form of resistance to the idea from the other team members. Therefore, in the long run, the process of defending an idea against the questionable attitude of others would actually succeed in analyzing the worthiness of that idea.

On the other hand, there can be no fruitful discussion if the members of a discussion have contrasting points of view and everyone is trying to prove that the other person is wrong. There have been instances when the conclusion of discussion on a particular topic could not be arrived at because no one was willing to compromise. What can be expected if the owners of a company refuse to modify an original idea despite vehement opposition by the management team of the company? There will be no learning process and the value of the idea will remain as it was when it was initially conceived as no one would be willing to accept the other's viewpoint. On the contrary, if the idea is accepted by the management team, there may be fruitful discussions wherein everyone supports the viewpoint of the person who has conceived the original idea,

leading to further modifications to the idea, thereby making it more suitable for its successful implementation.

In view of the above, it can be concluded that the value of an idea can be discovered by getting positive support from people who share similar views and this value can also be discovered during the process of defending one's idea from the doubts and contrasting viewpoints of others.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 92

"If a society is to thrive, it must put its own overall success before the well-being of its individual citizens."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 92

Why have there been numerous wars in our history? More often than not, the reason is the unequal status of two societies. The society which was developing faster was the one that attacked the society that was underdeveloped in a bid to annex its territory. Needless to say, the strong societies grew stronger and ultimately they were the ones which survived and the weaker societies gradually became extinct. Man's history is testimony to the fact that societies have flourished and survived only when its people flourished. How do people flourish? They need to be happy and satisfied with their lives if they want to flourish. Whenever there has been a widespread revolt in a society, it has always been due to dissatisfaction prevalent among a particular section of the society. It is not possible for a society to move ahead on the path to progress in the modern world if it is plagued by internal problems. The solution to all problems plaguing a society lies in the well being of its citizens in addition to attaching an equal amount of importance to the overall success of the society.

Is it possible for any society to thrive if it imposes restrictions on its citizens forcing them to be dissatisfied with their environment? This dissatisfaction can lead to mass boycott of the rules and regulations of the society, thereby making it difficult for the society to thrive. There have been numerous examples of big countries which were split into smaller countries or states because there were sections within the society which were dissatisfied as they felt that they were a minority and they could not associate themselves with the society as a whole. Thus, a large society was divided into several small societies and this signaled the end of the erstwhile large society. The reason for this can be attributed to the fact that the interests of the citizens were probably not looked into and the society kept its overall interest in mind rather than catering for the well being of all its citizens.

On the contrary, there may be certain cases wherein the individual interests of the citizens have to be kept aside in the larger interest of the society. However, this cannot be taken as a thumb rule as this plan of action generally backfires and the leaders of the society have to go all out in order to pacify the individuals or groups who are dissatisfied. For example, it is a well known fact that smoking is injurious to health, but still there are a number of individuals in every society who are chain smokers. A society may have to take the decision to ban the sale of cigarettes in order to restrict the exposure of teenagers to smoking. There will be widespread opposition to this action of the society from the group of smokers; nevertheless this action will be beneficial in helping the society to thrive.

Therefore, the decision to ignore the interests of individual citizens in the interest of the society may be a harsh one, but it may ultimately lead to the progress of the society into the future. One cannot refute the fact that the success of a society is largely determined by the well being of its citizens. Hence, in order to succeed, a society should be willing to give due consideration to the interests of its citizens as well as be firm when it comes to choosing the overall success of the society over the interests of its citizens.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 93

"National governments should devote more of their social programs and services to children than to adults."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 93

Children and adults are both important constituents of a society. A society can progress only if both its children and adults are given due importance. However, as the children are the future of a nation, it will be beneficial to devote more social programs and services for the betterment of children. There is a requirement of striking a balance between the attention being given to adults and to the children. It will be in the interest of the nation if more policies and programs are designed for children as compared to those for adults.

Children represent the future of a country. A nation progresses ahead only if its coming generations are capable of handling the responsibilities in a way that is far better than what was being done in the past. A nation can make its coming generations skilled enough to handle the responsibilities efficiently only if it pays adequate attention to the children when they are in the process of growing up. Good habits and healthy lifestyles can be inculcated in children very early in life. All parents are keen on giving the best to their children. The government's attempt to provide assistance to the parents in bringing up their children, in the best possible manner, will be widely accepted across the nation.

For instance, the government plans to educate its citizens about the hazards of environmental pollution. It would be a much better option to run such an educational program in schools and colleges rather than conducting it for adults. The reason being that adults would already be busy their jobs and careers and they would not be interested in wasting their time in attending such programs. Even if they do attend such a program, it is unlikely that they will adopt the kind of lifestyle required to keep the environment pollution free. The reason for this is that they are already settled in life and they have a set of routines to be followed daily. They may not like to change all that despite the efforts of the government. On the other hand, if the aim of the social program is to educate and train the children, then there is a high probability that the government will succeed in achieving its aim. The young minds of children readily absorb whatever information is being provided. Hence, the citizens of a country can be better aware of their social responsibilities, provided they are educated about these responsibilities early in life.

If one digs out the past of well-known criminals and other people who have been dangerous to the society, it would be seen that they have had a tumultuous childhood with little or no attention being given to groom them in the right direction. Therefore, it is necessary to spend time and effort in training the children of today to grow into responsible adults of tomorrow. However, this does not mean that the government should completely ignore adults when it comes to providing services and social programs for its citizens. It is necessary to provide such services

and programs for adults, for the well-being of the entire nation as the nation is being run by the adults only. Adults are the mainstay of a nation and they also need to be looked after by the government when it comes to providing educational, medical and job-oriented facilities. Therefore, out of all the social programs and services being worked out by the government, there can be a small share that goes in the interest of adults and the rest should be aimed at providing services to the children of today.

We have all heard the saying, 'A stitch in time saves nine.' This holds true in the case of children who are responsible for shaping the future of a nation. Hence, the statement that national governments should devote more of their social programs and services to children than to adults is rightly justified.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 94

"Reform is seldom brought about by people who are concerned with their own reputation and social standing. Those who are really in earnest about reforming a government, an educational system, or any other institution must be willing to be viewed with disdain by the rest of the world."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 94

Every revolution starts with one man, but it takes a long time before this man's vision acquires acceptance from all social and political entities. The process of carrying out reforms is difficult to undergo and not many people have the strength to stand the test. History stands testimony to the fact that invariably every reformist had to fight his way through the prevalent policies, laws and norms. Such people have often been targeted as terrorists or atheists depending on whether they intended to reform political inadequacies or religious rituals. These people were not bothered about their reputation or social standing or else they would not have been able to fight against all odds and succeed in carrying out reforms. Hence, people who are keen on carrying out reforms are the ones who are willing to be viewed with disdain by the rest of the world.

The intentions of the people who are fighting for reforming either the government or any other system have always been doubted and often there are organized campaigns to malign them. For a leader who is initiating any reform, the entire process is a test of his conviction, character, communication capabilities and courage coupled with his ability to fight the resistance from the rest of the society. Therefore, it is a prerequisite for such a leader to not only remain committed to the intended reform process but also convince more and more people, who are resisting his recommendations, about the likely benefits of his reforms.

The initial phases of a reform process present the toughest ordeal for a reformist and he realizes that he is being targeted socially, politically and financially and there are not many people standing with him. It is during these testing times that great leaders have been born who, with their leadership abilities, were able to sustain such pressures and eventually emerge as winners by being willing to be viewed with contempt by the rest of the world. Take the example of leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela who had the support of only that section of society whom they were fighting for. The rest of the world disregarded their intentions and efforts to reform the norms of a society which was divided on the basis of the color of human skin. These leaders were not bothered about their image in the eyes of the rest of the world and they were prepared for the treatment meted out to them in the process of their fighting for reforms.

Whenever a new idea is put forth by someone, it is generally met with stiff resistance from some section of the society. The reasons are varied for the upsurge of this form of resistance. It may be the opposition to the ruling party that is objecting in case the idea has been put forth by the

government or it may be a section of the public who stand to lose by the implementation of the new idea. What can one expect if the new idea that has been put forth works around reforming the laid down norms? There is bound to be resistance from the employees of the institution being reformed or from the opposing political parties if the laws of a country are to be reformed. What happens as an end result? The people who had put forth the new idea lose their reputation and in the case of political parties, they lose their vote bank. In such a scenario, it is difficult for people who are conscious about their reputation and social standing to bring about reforms. Therefore, it can be concluded that effective reforms can be brought about by only those people who choose to ignore the fact that they will lose their reputation and a majority of people will view them with disdain.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 95

"Many people believe that a few individuals or small groups (family, friends, teachers, celebrities, for example) have caused them to think and behave in the way they do. Yet it is always society as a whole that defines us and our attitudes, not a few individuals."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 95

Man starts his life in an environment that is created by his immediate family. Members of his extended family, his friends and teachers also contribute in shaping his line of thought, attitude and behavior as he grows up. A child's world is limited to the people around him and he has no idea about the society to which he belongs. He comes to know of the morals and values upheld by his society from whatever has been taught to him by his family. His ideology and values depend on his family and close acquaintances who may or may not have taught him the values held sacred by his society. Hence, it is obvious that small groups of people are effective in shaping our behaviors and the society has hardly any effect in defining us and our attitudes.

A society is defined by the customs and rituals followed by its people. It is evident that these rituals have percolated down to the present generation by word of mouth from generation to generation. Each generation learns from its preceding generation. If some members of a particular society move and settle down in some other country and become a part of another society, then will the society in which they are now living, completely define their attitude and behavior. Probably this may not happen because the parents of the children will teach them the values of their earlier society and the children will grow up following those morals and values only. In case, the parents decide not to teach their children about their roots, the children will learn about the society in which they are living from their friends and neighbors. In this case also, they will learn what their friends tell them and not what the society as a whole follows. Therefore, in either case it will be a small group of individuals that will determine their behavior and not the society as a whole. As far as the adults are concerned, they would have led their entire life following a set of principles imbibed from their parents and relatives and it is unlikely that they will change their behavior even after moving to a foreign land.

Take the example of a conservative society that imposes restrictions on the way its people dress. How does one justify the existence of people from this society who dare to defy such regulations? They could not have got this attitude from the society at all because the values of the society are not what these people are following. It is evident that they have formed this opinion by emulating celebrities from the same society who do not follow these regulations or from their family and friends who behave in a similar manner. Irrespective of the moral values of a society, it is ultimately the influence of a small group of people who have the power to change your thought process. Your thought process may agree with that of the society in which you live or it may be in complete disagreement with the norms followed by other members of that society.

To sum up, man has always learnt through meaningful interactions. These interactions may be with his family, friends or teachers. In today's world the internet, print media and the television media play a very important role in helping you interact with people across the world who live in different societies. You learn a lot by just reading about them. This had broadened our horizons and man's vision is no longer limited to the society that he lives in. Hence, it is true that our behaviors and attitudes are shaped up by small groups of people rather than an entire society.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 96

"Contemporary technology makes available many small pieces of factual information. As a result, people have become so preoccupied with bits of fragmented information that they pay too little attention to the larger issues and overall perspectives."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 96

The present era has been rightly termed as the information age since 'information' is increasingly becoming pivotal in influencing decisions in all spheres of our daily lives. Consequently, the tools for dissemination of information have also progressed riding on the back of the technological advances. Our increasing reliance on the internet, television, 24x7 radio channels, convergence of technologies on our mobile handsets and the omnipresent advertisements provide information about almost everything that one can imagine. The bottom-line is that people no longer have the time to pay attention to the larger issues and overall perspectives. However, this surplus availability of information also raises questions as to whether most of us really need all this information. Moreover, is the information provided complete in every respect and have there been no deliberate attempts to present the information in a particular way or to propagate a particular viewpoint?

Today, the abundance of information is in essence creating a haze in the minds of people leaving them more confused as they gather different versions of the same information. Buying a television or a camera has become a tough ordeal as every manufacturer tries to create an impression of superiority. However, if one tries to enquire about the finer details of the technology used, it would either be denied on proprietary issues or large amount of technical jargon will be thrown at him which he would be unable to decipher. Thus, modern technologies can be termed as magical black boxes which we do not want to open and even if we tried, they would continue to remain a mystery, thereby restricting people to understand the larger perspectives.

Therefore, when someone decides to buy a mobile handset, the deciding factor is not whether it should be GSM or CDMA based, as he would be confused enough about the other features available in the handset. This information fatigue forces us to install software and games on our computers without even reading terms and conditions that are associated with it, thus exposing us to unknown dangers. Similarly, most of us enjoy the convenience of internet banking without making an effort to understand the risks. Fancy advertisements persuade us to buy products that we may not actually need. The biggest beneficiary of the information age and technological advances has been the media, especially the electronic media, which has acquired a gigantic reach to influence the opinion of people and consequently emerge as a potent force. However, the need to provide information often forces them to exaggerate and sensationalize an issue out of proportions. Hence, a viewer is made to believe what is being presented to him and he remains oblivious to the actual reality which may be a larger issue.

In conclusion, we can say that today there is an abundance of information and it is being thrown at you irrespective of whether you may want it or not. The information is being provided in a manner that suits the originator of the information and the important pieces may be hidden behind the patents and proprietary issues. Therefore, a common man does not have the time to get into the details of everything that is being presented to him. Therefore, he grasps what is being made available to him and how it is being projected. In today's world, when information is power, he continues to follow the saying: "The eye never has enough of seeing, nor the ear its fill of hearing," without bothering much about the larger issues and overall perspectives.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 97

"People in positions of power are most effective when they exercise caution and restraint in the use of that power."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 97

Since time immemorial, the quest to acquire power has been high in the priority list of most ambitious men. Who does not like to acquire a position of power that can be used to assert his importance and influence over others? In the modern world, why is everyone trying his level best to do well in his career? This is because all career-oriented people want to go up in the hierarchy, so that they acquire positions of power which can be used to their advantage. However, there is no denying the fact that even after acquiring a position of power; you may find yourself to be ineffective if you do not exercise caution and restraint while using that power.

People are given positions of power so that they utilize their authority for the betterment of the cause for which they have been chosen to be in that position. For instance, the person designated as the recruitment officer of a company has the power to select people for employment in the said company. What will happen if the recruitment officer resorts to unfair means for the selection of suitable candidates? It is likely that he may misuse his power to select candidates by receiving bribes instead of gauging their competence in carrying out the required job. The end result would be that unsuitable candidates would be appointed against the vacancies in the company and the position of the recruitment officer would be rendered ineffective for the task meant to be carried out by the person holding this appointment. It is true that easy money and additional privileges are very lucrative, but exercising caution and restraint while carrying out the tasks related to a position of power will make the person holding that position very effective in his job.

The most powerful positions in a nation are those of the political leaders. How many times have we seen a political leader throw caution to the winds and do what he likes while exercising the power given to him by virtue of his being elected to a powerful position and still be respected by all? The answer would be that whenever some politician has been caught misusing his power, he has been brought down from his position of power by the people who elected him. This is because people do not want to be led by dishonest and unscrupulous leaders. It is a common sight to see politicians play safe while exercising their power. Not only does such a stance earn them respect in the eyes of the population, but it also ensures that the people instill their faith in them. Actions speak louder than words. An effective leader is the one who earns the respect of his people by setting an example for them to follow.

Misuse of power is not related to corruption alone. People in power may resort to being authoritarian while imposing new regulations. They may even go to the extent of doing what they feel is right without taking advice from their subordinates. This is also a misuse of power as

the people in power feel that they have the authority to make unquestionable decisions on their own. Such a behavior will probably make the position of power ineffective as the people working under such a person would be disgruntled by his indifferent attitude towards their opinions and they may perhaps not even support him when he needs it the most.

It is essential for a person who holds a position of power to have the support of his people. Then only can he utilize his position more effectively for the progress of the nation or the institution that has elected him to that post. All this can be made possible only if the person holding a position of power exercises caution and restraint while utilizing his power.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 98

"Anyone can make things bigger and more complex. What requires real effort and courage is to move in the opposite direction-in other words, to make things as simple as possible."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 98

In the modern world, one can effortlessly complicate things further due the easy access to technology. Science and technology have developed to the extent that man is now handicapped without access to the gadgets that have been designed to make life easier for mankind. However, the truth is that it is very difficult to make things simple as it would not only require effort, but also a great amount of courage to deviate from the common living standards of society.

Today, people do not step out of their homes without their mobile handsets. They feel the need to answer phone calls even when they are on the move or going out on a holiday. It is very easy to get a phone that provides you with internet access and the facilities of an in-built camera, to keep you better connected when you are moving out for a holiday. Your country's laws may not permit you to drive while talking on your cell phone, so you may have to pull over when you receive a call. There may be a requirement from your office to download something important from the internet, so you may again have to pull over to access the internet from your phone. It is very easy to buy a laptop and carry it wherever you go in order to increase the amount of workload you can handle when you are away from your office.

What is the end result? You have ended up complicating the process of moving out for a holiday. Not only has driving become complicated, but you have also ruined your holiday. The simplest thing would be to leave your laptop and cell phone behind when you are proceeding on leave, but how many career-oriented people will be able to do this? The answer would probably amount to a negligible percentage of people who are willing to go for such a holiday, despite the fact that it would be a much simpler option to call up the office from a local phone booth to find out about the latest developments. This is because one would require a great deal of effort and courage to do a thing like this which ultimately amounts to making things as simple as possible. The reason being that no one wants to lose in the competition to prove that he is aware of the latest technological developments no matter how much complicated his life has become.

Nowadays, houses are fitted with numerous technological gadgets like air conditioners, electrical chimneys, burglar alarm systems, lighting systems, cooking ranges, wall-mounted television sets etc. These gadgets may be centrally controlled with the help of remote devices. A small flaw in the circuitry will make the residents of the house run around for repair technicians as the fittings are so complicated that the residents may not be able to identify the problem on their own. A simple way to end this problem would be to do away with the superfluous gadgets and keep only those that are the bare minimum requirements for comfortable survival. Will it be possible for anyone to live in such a condition especially when he can easily afford to buy the rest of the hi-

tech gadgets? The only thing holding him back would be the effort required to do away with the things that are making his life complicated and stick to the things that will help him lead a comfortable and simple life.

In conclusion, it can be said that one will have to gather enough courage and put in an adequate amount of effort if he wants to make things as simple as possible as this would mean opposing the common trend.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 99

"Most people would agree that buildings represent a valuable record of any society's past, but controversy arises when old buildings stand on ground that modern planners feel could be better used for modern purposes. In such situations, modern development should be given precedence over the preservation of historic buildings so that contemporary needs can be served."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 99

How have we educated ourselves about the history of mankind? It is through the historical buildings we see around us that we get an idea of how our forefathers lived. Heritage buildings and other forms of old constructions not only give us an insight into the living conditions of the past, but they are also eye-openers as far as the architecture in the past is concerned. However, what happens when these old buildings occupy land that can be effectively utilized for some modern construction? Instead of hastily deciding to demolish the old buildings or obstinately sticking to not letting a scratch come to the old buildings, the best solution would be to strike a balance between the preservation of the old architecture and the construction of buildings designed to serve modern needs.

We have always been curious to unearth the secrets behind the constructions carried out in the past which still continue to baffle all of us. Stonehenge in Britain is one the world's most astounding piece of architecture. The construction of the Stonehenge is shrouded in mystery and man has only been able to speculate as to how it may have been constructed in the age when there were hardly any construction tools available. Take the example of the Sphinx and the Pyramids of Egypt, which are yet another architectural marvel. These pieces of architecture have served the purpose of throwing light on the lifestyles of ancient civilizations. Other old buildings or constructions may not be as famous or as baffling as the examples quoted above, but each old building provides us with immense information related to our forefathers. Not only do we get priceless information about the construction techniques in the past, but we also get access to various resources that help us understand our past.

It is obvious that demolishing old buildings can never be adjudged as the correct decision no matter how crucial the new construction is for the present society because demolishing an old building would be something like erasing a part of our history. There are numerous examples of old palaces, forts and heritage buildings that have been converted into luxury hotels that house shopping malls as well. The architecture, look and feel of the original buildings have been retained along with the new modern constructions. This is the best solution wherein an old building has not been completely damaged and it has been successfully modified into a building that serves the needs of the present society.

It is not necessary that it will be easy to strike such a balance in the case of every such controversy where a modern construction and an old building are concerned. For instance,

consider a case wherein oil has been struck in the land which is a part of a heritage building. Should the old building be demolished to make way for an oil rig which is in the interest of the nation or should the government preserve the heritage building and ignore the oil well that lies below it? It would be a tough decision, but the government will have to find a solution wherein the oil can be pumped out without any damage to the old building.

The past, present and future are all very important in the development of a society. No society can afford to ignore its past in order to move into the future. The society should carefully strike a balance wherein it is able to preserve its past while being able to attend to the common man's needs in the face of urbanization. Therefore, the best solution would be to find a solution by somehow preserving the old buildings and at the same time, allowing the new constructions also to come up.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 100

"No one can possibly achieve success in the world by conforming to conventional practices and conventional ways of thinking."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 100

Being successful has varied connotations. A person may consider himself to be successful if he is able to provide a comfortable life for himself and his family. On the other hand, people may call someone successful if he has succeeded in inventing some path breaking technology which will perhaps change the face of the world. In both these cases, men and women have been successful only because they conformed to conventional practices and conventional ways of thinking. However, there is a rare possibility that breaking away from the conventional norms may ultimately lead to success.

How have these conventions been established? These conventions are essentially methods and practices that have been tried and tested by generations before us. Therefore, following these practices will lead to success in life as the flaws in these conventions have been removed over a period of time by the people themselves. Most of the conventions have been constituted into laws and one does not have the freedom to deviate from the law. The conventional practice for success in owning a comfortable house is to work hard for earning the money required to buy the house. On the other hand, the unconventional method for succeeding in acquiring a house would be to earn money by unscrupulous means like theft and burglary. Can this form of unconventional method to buy a house be termed as achieving success? There are certain conventions which have not been constituted into laws, but still one has to follow them if they wish to succeed in life.

If you follow the conventional practices related to studying and choosing your career, you are most likely to succeed in life. If you decide to break away from the conventional norms and start a business with total disregard to finishing your basic educational qualifications, then you would be taking a huge risk. There is a small chance that you may succeed in your business, but there is a higher possibility of your not succeeding in your career as you have missed out on the education that is crucial for success in every sphere of life. Thus, straying away from the laid down conventions for success in life may not be able to prepare you adequately for what is to follow. The better option would be to complete your basic education, get trained for business management, learn the tricks for starting a business and then embark on your journey to start a new business. This is the conventional method for starting a new business, which more often than not, leads to success in the long run.

Conventional ways of thinking in the sciences are related to the proven facts of science. If you are keen on carrying out research on a particular topic, you will have to start your research work based on the conventions laid down in science. The time-tested theories of science will have to

be used by you as a base for your research work. All the latest technological developments have been carried out by improving upon the already existing technology. There are isolated cases wherein path breaking technology has come into existence because people dared to dream of something that was new and unheard of. Bill Gates is one the richest men in the world today because somewhere along the line, he decided to stray away from the conventions that he had been following and came up with something that ultimately became one of greatest technological leaps mankind has made in modern history.

In view of the above, it can be concluded that you have to stick to conventional ways of thinking if you wish to succeed in life or else you would be taking a chance every time you decide to go against the conventional standards. Hence, the bottom-line is that you should integrate the laid down conventions with your own ideas and innovations so that the risk involved in going against some of the conventions is covered by the set of conventions that you have decided to follow.