

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 101

"Students should memorize facts only after they have studied the ideas, trends, and concepts that help explain those facts. Students who have learned only facts have learned very little."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 101

Why is understanding a particular concept always given preference over mugging it up? This is because once you have understood a concept, it is unlikely that you will forget it that easily. On the other hand, something that has been memorized by cramming it up will last in your memory for a couple of days only. The education system stresses a lot on the explanation of concepts and teaching the ideas and trends that are behind the facts which have to be learnt. If understanding the basic concepts was not all that important, then there would be no requirement of teaching in schools. Students could be given a long list of facts and they could be told to just memorize them. However, this is not the case. This is because students will not be able to learn anything by merely memorizing the facts. They should study the concepts that explain the facts before they attempt to memorize those facts.

Acquiring knowledge and the application of that knowledge are two different aspects of learning. It is easy to acquire knowledge by reading and memorizing facts. This way you cannot become learned as you would be unaware about the concepts that have led to the establishment of these facts and you will not be able to apply the knowledge that you have acquired by memorizing. Moreover, you will not be able to analyze other related aspects on your own as you would have learnt very little by memorizing facts. For example, simply memorizing the speeds of light and sound are not as important as understanding the difference between these two speeds and how they are related to each other. Unless you are clear about this concept, you will not be able to either understand or explain the reason behind the lightening phenomenon wherein one sees the lightening first and hears the thunder later; whereas both these events have occurred simultaneously. Being able to explain this phenomenon would mean that you have actually learnt something rather than just being able to rattle out the figures related to the speeds of light and sound.

Children studying in kindergarten are taught the shapes and sounds of the alphabets before they are taught the spellings of common words. There is no school in the world which would advocate memorizing the spellings of words before understanding the phonetics related to the alphabets. Even if a child does memorize the spellings of words without understanding the phonetics involved, how long will he be able to retain those spellings? Even if he does remember those spellings for an unusually long time, will he be able to work out the spellings of more difficult words on his own? The answer to this question would be a definite 'no'. This means that the child would have learnt almost nothing by memorizing the spellings without understanding the concepts of alphabets and phonetics. On the other hand, if he has understood the sounds and shapes of the alphabets, then he will have no difficulty either in memorizing the spellings of

common words or in reading and writing difficult words later on in life. Hence, it is obvious that memorizing facts after studying the explanations to those facts will help the students to learn in a better way.

Understanding the system that sustains life and allows us to grow and develop in this technically savvy world is not very easy. However, you have to make all efforts to understand these concepts if you want to be well educated in life. It cannot be said that you have learnt something if you have merely memorized the facts as you are likely to forget these facts when you are no longer in touch with your studies. Therefore, the better option would be to gain an in-depth understanding of whatever is being taught and you are bound to retain the knowledge gained for the rest of your life.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 102

"Public figures such as actors, politicians, and athletes should expect people to be interested in their private lives. When they seek a public role, they should expect that they will lose at least some of their privacy."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 102

Everyone dreams of earning fame and fortune. People who are popular by virtue of their professions, be it acting, sports or politics, try their level best to earn the admiration and respect of the public. This is because a huge fan following can always be used to your advantage irrespective of whether you are an actor or a politician. However, this fame and fan following comes at a price: the loss of your privacy. Numerous public figures cry foul over the intrusion into their private lives by the media, but there are a handful of them who love every minute of being hounded by the public as it gives them an overwhelming feeling of being successful. It is this handful of public figures that have set the trend wherein the public has got used to being informed about the private lives of popular figures. Hence, whenever a person gets famous due to either his profession or his royal lineage, he should be prepared to lose his privacy.

The intrusion into the private lives of famous figures has become a thriving business today. There are hoards of magazines in the market that discuss the private lives of celebrities. You will come across numerous TV channels that are popular just because they host chat shows in which celebrities are interviewed about their private lives. All national dailies cover information about the private lives of celebrities in order to make their newspapers more interesting. An act of bravery by a citizen may not find its place in the front pages of the national daily, but the photographs of the marriage of a popular movie actor are bound to be splashed across the front pages of all the newspapers in the country. This mass hype regarding information pertaining to celebrities has risen to such a level that the media can go to any extent possible to peep into the lives of public figures. Take for instance, the unfortunate accident in which Princess Diana had passed away. The paparazzi following Princess Diana was blamed for the accident. Was the information related to the private life of a celebrity so important that it ultimately cost the celebrity her life?

There is no clear demarcation of the boundary that should not be crossed by the media in its attempt to unveil the real lives of public figures. The actual truth is that the careers of the media persons depend on the kind of information they are able to provide to their news channels, TV channels, newspapers and magazines. One of the main reasons why the common man likes to gather such information is that he likes to emulate his role models. Information about the food habits and exercising regime of a famous fashion model will be lapped up by women who are keen on acquiring bodies like hers. People who have voted a political leader to power would be keen to gather information about his private life so that they are able to know whether he is as honest and sincere in his private life as he demonstrates in his public appearances. As the public

is always curious to know what the popular figures are like in their real lives, the sale of such information is bound to rake in profits. Hence, the media tries every possible method to peep into the private lives of celebrities, so that they can gain monetary benefits.

Despite the media coverage on the private lives of public figures, it is not uncommon to hear of lawsuits being filed against the media for leaking information about the private life of a public figure. Most celebrities like to keep their private lives to themselves and the media should understand that whatever information is made available to the public should be at the discretion of the public figure who is involved. At the same time, all celebrities must accept the fact that they are bound to lose their privacy the moment they assume a public role.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 103

"The primary goal of technological advancement should be to increase people's efficiency so that everyone has more leisure time."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 103

Starting from the Stone Age, man has been exploring different ways and means to make his life comfortable. There have been numerous technological discoveries and developments which have aided in making the world what it is today. The modern man has access to various technological gadgets which have made his life much more comfortable as compared to the life led by his forefathers. Moreover, man has become more efficient as he now has the assistance of technology to carry out his routine work. There is no doubt that the primary goal of technological advancement should be to increase people's efficiency, but creating more leisure time cannot be related to either the technological developments or the increased efficiency of man.

The advent of technology has definitely made life better by improving various aspects like communicating and traveling across the globe. People can now access information on any subject from the internet at the click of a button rather than having to search through books and libraries. Has the time that has been saved, utilized by the internet surfer for leisure? On the contrary, he would be busy searching for other information on the internet which perhaps is not all that important for him. Moreover, he may start looking for some opportunity on the net to work part-time and earn some money in the additional time that he now has. This indicates that the technological development in the form of internet services has made people more efficient, but this increased efficiency of people has not led to the creation of leisure time for them.

People can fly to any part of the modern world in a matter of hours. Compare this with the people in the past who took several weeks or months to sail from one country to the other. Have these technological advancements created more leisure time for people in the present world? On the contrary, people are much busier than their ancestors were in the past. People can fly to their destinations easily and this has led to an increase in the number of conferences and corporate meetings that are held in some other part of the country and employees are expected to do extensive traveling to meet the company's requirements. People spend hours traveling to their offices due to the traffic congestion on roads because of the numerous vehicles which are a result of technological advancements. Therefore, it can be seen that technological development has made man efficient, but its goal could never be to provide leisure time as that would lead to the dilution of the standards of the technology being developed.

If technology had been developed with the aim of giving leisure time to people, then we could not have reached where we are today. People would have leisure time if they could not travel to distant places easily and so the companies would be restricted to carrying out their conferences locally, thus giving their employees leisure time which they would have otherwise spent in

traveling. If there were no internet, people would not have been hooked on to the internet till late in the night. They would have utilized the time thus spent for relaxing or going out with their family. In other words, people would have got leisure time only if these technological advancements were either non-existent or they were of a lesser magnitude. If we wish to see man more efficient in the future as compared to what he is today, then the technological developments will have to be planned keeping in mind the efficiency of man with total disregard to his leisure time.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 104

"Money spent on research is almost always a good investment, even when the results of that research are controversial."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 104

The modern world has reached its present position due to the sustained efforts of researchers and scientists who have discovered and developed the technology that provided the impetus for progress in the right direction. It has been proved time and again that the results of any type of research work have always been beneficial for the world. The results of research work have helped us understand ourselves and our past in a better manner. It is likely that there may be a research whose results could be controversial because of the fear of the formulae or theory being utilized for destructive or criminal purposes. Nevertheless, the money invested in all types of research is always a good investment keeping in mind the benefits that can be utilized from the results of the research work.

Research work related to developing 'intelligent' machines or robots with a thinking ability has been questioned time and again. This is because if such a technology gets into the wrong hands, there could be robots designed to carry out criminal activities. It would be difficult to trace out and identify such robots after the crime has been committed as there would be no fingerprints or DNA samples at the scene of the crime. What will happen if a nation builds up an army of invincible robots who are armed with the latest weaponry? Can they be defeated by humans? There could be a case where these 'thinking' robots revolt against their creators. There are numerous Hollywood movies based on this concept. Is the money being spent in such research work a good investment? The answer is a definite 'Yes'. This is because one has to consider the advantages of employing a robot or utilizing a machine that can 'think'.

There are so many gadgets in the market today that are termed as 'intelligent' because they can do a small amount of judgment on their own. People who have used an air conditioner that is designed to recognize the temperature of the room and adjust its cooling capacity accordingly, will agree that such an air conditioner is extremely useful as the person using it no longer has to keep adjusting its temperature. Washing machines that switch off when the clothes are washed, electric cookers that switch off automatically once the food is cooked and doors that open the moment you step in front of them are all examples of 'intelligent' machines and devices that have proved to be an asset to the society. How can then the money being spent on their research be termed as a bad investment? The controversial results of such a research can be conveniently ignored in view of the facilities that can be provided as a result of such a research.

The results of any form of research become controversial as people begin to analyze the destructive purposes for which the results could be used. Whether it is the research related to tapping nuclear energy or cloning animals, there has always been a section of the society that has

brought out the destructive purposes for which the results could be used. There is no denying the fact that any form of information can be used for a negative outcome, but that does not mean that the money being spent on that research is not a good investment. The money has been profitably invested, as there are bound to be some positive gains from the results of the research.

The government can take the decision whether to implement the technology or not, if at all there is a high possibility of it being misused. However, one cannot deny providing the finance for the research as we have the right to know what the end result of the research would be. Mankind should be aware of the truth that can be revealed only through extensive research work. Therefore, the bottom-line is that irrespective of how controversial the results of research may be, the money invested in any kind of research is always a good investment.

GRE AWA Practice - GRE ISSUE ESSAY 105

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 105

"A school or college should pay its teachers at the same rate in all disciplines, regardless of differences in salaries for related fields in the world outside of school. For example, entry-level teachers in mathematics and in the arts should receive the same pay, even if outside of school, math specialists earn a much higher salary on average than do specialists in the arts."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 105

Teaching is one of the noblest professions to pursue since one contributes to the society in a significant way as a teacher. However, there is no denying the fact that the financial aspirations of teachers also need to be fulfilled. Any disparity in the pay structure of people with a similar job profile is bound to cause dissatisfaction amongst the deprived personnel and teachers are no exception to that. Therefore, all the teachers of the same level in a school should receive the same salary irrespective of the subjects they teach.

Today we live in a materialistic world where money plays a dominant role in enabling a person to enjoy the luxuries that are available. Accordingly, a large number of students today are inclined towards undertaking courses that are likely to fulfill their financial aspirations. Educational institutions are also increasingly orienting themselves to offer courses that are inclined towards this growing demand. However, this does not imply that other subjects, such as arts have lost their significance as there are some students who wish to acquire qualifications in these streams as well. Additionally, the educational institutions are duty bound to promote the overall development of society rather than merely restricting themselves to the so called career oriented courses. The idea of different pay scales for different categories is perhaps the outcome of the perception that science is better than arts, which obviously has no justification. Students qualified in science subjects may be better suited for the needs of the industry in this era of technology, but subjects of arts do have their own significance in fulfilling the needs of the society. Hence, the teachers of arts play an equally important role in the educational system as the teachers of any other stream. Therefore, there is a requirement that they receive the same pay as their counterparts in other subjects.

Nothing could be more demoralizing for a student intending to pursue a career in fine arts than to see that his teacher is being meted out a raw deal. Moreover, if this trend of disparity in the pay scales is implemented, then it is likely that a lesser number of people would like to pick up a career related to teaching arts and this would lead to a lopsided proportion of teachers in varied subjects. Educational institutions may have to appoint teachers who are not well qualified for the job due to lack of well trained teachers, thereby diluting the standards of education. Teachers play a vital role in the lives of their students. The students look up to their teachers as examples to follow. The interaction between a teacher and a student leaves a lasting impression on the

minds of the students during this crucial period. Therefore, a disparity in the pay amongst the teachers may have far-reaching consequences.

People with similar job requirements need to be compensated financially in a similar way. There is no justification for extending favors to a particular set of people on the basis of the subjects that they are teaching. A more logical approach would be to base the compensation on qualification, teaching abilities and experience. Disparity in the pay and allowances of the teachers not only indicates the preference for a particular set of subjects, but it also adds to the frustration of those who have been deprived. Hence, it is justified to provide the same salary to all the school teachers who are at the same level.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 106

"Creating an appealing image has become more important in contemporary society than is the reality or truth behind that image."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 106

Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder. This saying holds true in the modern world where you can consider yourself to have an appealing personality only if it appears the same to the people who are looking at you. Everyone likes to be in the company of people who are entertaining, jovial, witty, successful, wealthy etc. Therefore, it is obvious that creating an appealing image has become very important in contemporary society. The reality behind the image is not of any consequence as people can now hide their actual selves from the eyes of the public by effectively utilizing their right to privacy.

The importance of your image in the eyes of others assumes alarming proportions if you are a person whose career depends on his image. Politicians are an example of people who fall in this category. It is imperative that such people create an appealing image for themselves or else they may not get the kind of support that they require from the society. They have to show to the world that they are honest, trustworthy and responsible. The actual truth may be far from what is being projected, but it is necessary to present an appealing image or else the politicians are unlikely to be voted into power. This is the reason why whenever elections are around the corner; there is a huge drive to dig out the past of the leaders of the opposition parties so that their images can be tarnished in some way or the other. All this happens because it is a well known fact that having an annoying or disagreeable image will adversely affect the vote bank of the politicians.

It is true that the actual reality behind the images is more important, but the bitter truth is that the society no longer wishes to see the reality. Who would be interested in dining with a host who is formal and has a disagreeable disposition? What if such a host is the owner of a business establishment? He will not be able to get the best out of his employees if they do not like him at all. They will probably switch companies the moment they get a chance. This is because no matter what the boss is like in reality, all employees would like to work for a boss who appears to be pleasing and this can be done only if the boss presents an image of himself that is appealing in the eyes of the others. Therefore, the owner of the business will have to forcibly present himself as an agreeable person who is open to discussions with his employees and is willing to make adjustments for the comfort of the people who work under him. He may be an entirely different person in reality, but it will be more important for him to create an appealing image for himself if he wants his business to be successful.

The present society is easily swayed by the pleasing attitude of others. Everybody wants to be with those people who are good to get along with and are pleasing as well. Therefore, it is

evident that it is far more important to create an appealing image rather than concentrating on the reality behind that image, especially if you are keen on succeeding in life.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 107

"Instead of requiring students to take courses in a variety of disciplines-that is, courses ranging from the arts and the humanities to the physical and biological sciences-colleges and universities should allow students to enroll only in those courses that will help prepare them for jobs in their chosen fields. Such concentration is necessary in today's increasingly work-oriented society."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 107

Students are exposed to all subjects in their years at school. This is done primarily to provide the students with the basic knowledge about all the subject areas. School students get ample time to assess their aptitude for a particular subject and they are able to identify the career that they would like to pursue depending on their abilities and choice. Therefore, there is no apparent requirement for these students to take courses in a variety of disciplines when they are in college. It would be a much better option if they are allowed to enroll for only those courses that will train them for their choice of careers.

Today there is cut throat competition for gaining a foothold in any career. There are a number of lucrative jobs that are held in high regard by students and these students wish to be well trained in order to succeed in the career of their choice. Since there are a large number of applicants for a promising job, the companies need an evaluation system by which they can separate the well qualified applicants from the ones who are not suitable for the job. This is where it becomes necessary to be specifically qualified for that particular job rather than having some knowledge about the job requirements along with knowledge on other subjects that are not related to the job. Everyone is out to prove that he is the best and the companies are hiring only those who are able to provide some form of certification for proving their worth. This certification may be in the form of a degree from a reputed institute or in the form of a certificate awarded by an institute after passing their certification tests. A student has to be well prepared for all the tests that he may have to appear for before he can succeed in the career of his choice.

For instance, consider a student who is keen on becoming a computer professional. He may have to acquire certifications from Microsoft, CISCO or some other reputed institutions as added qualifications. Such certified professionals are more likely to succeed in getting a good job as compared to those who are not certified. This is because companies give preference to certified professionals when it comes to hiring suitable candidates for a job. It would be a total waste of time and effort for such a student if he has to spend precious time during his college days studying subjects that are not going to help him in any way for his preparation for the certification tests. Contrast this scenario with a case wherein a student is allowed to enroll for a course that not only trains him for a career in computers, but also prepares him for the certification tests. It is obvious that the second student stands a much better chance of succeeding in his life and career as opposed to the first student who spent most of his college days studying subjects that were not even remotely related to computers.

If you are the recruitment officer of a vehicle repair company which is hiring mechanics, would you just pick up any college graduate or would you go in for a candidate who has done a specialized course in vehicle mechanics and is an ASE (National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence) certified vehicle mechanic? The answer is evident. There is no way that you would select a candidate who has probably studied vehicle mechanics as one subject. It is obvious that the second candidate is a better choice. Colleges and universities have the responsibility of grooming the citizens of the country in such a way that they are able to create not only employment for everyone, but also provide well qualified and trained personnel to the industry. Therefore, in the interest of the nation, it is necessary that students be given the option of enrolling only for those courses which will help them in their choice of career.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 108

"No matter what the situation, it is more harmful to compromise one's beliefs than to adhere to them."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 108

There may have been many instances in our lives when we have faced the dilemma to either compromise our beliefs or to adhere to them. How does one make this choice? It all depends on your principles in life. You can choose to select the easier way out, which would be achieved by compromising on your beliefs. Adhering to your beliefs in the face of opposition is a more difficult task. Nevertheless, irrespective of the situation you are in, it always pays out in the end to adhere to your beliefs. At the first glance it does look as though a compromise would result in benefits, but in the longer run this compromise may prove to be harmful not only to your image but also to your subconscious. However, this line of thought holds true if your beliefs conform to the norms laid down by society, otherwise the opposite would be true, that is, adhering to an immoral belief will be harmful for you.

We all have our religious beliefs ingrained in us since childhood. Everyone is taught by his parents and his community to carry out his religious practices and rituals. If you belong to a religion where you are not permitted to have non-vegetarian food, would your sub-conscious allow you to have a chicken burger if you are offered the same by a person who does not belong to your community? Even if you do have it, what will be the repercussions? The effects of such a compromise may not be immediate, but they are bound to follow up as you move ahead in life. You may be ostracized by your community, you will be admonished by your parents and you may even regret it later on in life. Therefore, the better option would be to politely refuse the offer and adhere to your religious beliefs.

Adhering to your beliefs will rarely lead to any harm unless your belief does not conform to the norms of society. If you are of the belief that there is nothing wrong in taking bribes and you choose to adhere to your beliefs, then it is obvious that this will be extremely harmful for you in the long run. However, if you are of the strong opinion that one should never accept bribery and you have chosen to be honest in your profession, then compromising your belief will definitely land you into trouble. Patriots who stuck to their beliefs that their country should be free from the clutches of an imperialistic power succeeded in freeing their country. The freedom struggle of India is one such example. Could this have been possible if the freedom fighters had compromised on their beliefs? This compromise would have weakened their principles and they would not have had the strength to fight against all odds for the freedom of their country.

Your beliefs define who you are. Your identity and image are shaped by the beliefs that you follow in life. It is necessary to be flexible also in life, but wherever a choice has to be made between right and wrong, one should always follow the right path irrespective of what your

beliefs are. If your beliefs are morally correct, then you cannot be harmed by adhering to your beliefs, but if your beliefs are in contrast to those of the society, then adhering to your beliefs may land you in big trouble. Therefore, it is imperative that you choose your beliefs carefully and adhere to them if you want to keep out of harm's way.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 109

"The greatness of individuals can be decided only by those who live after them, not by their contemporaries."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 109

How does one decide the greatness of a person? It would be unjust to claim that that the people who live after that person are the only ones who can pass a judgment on his greatness. The people who have lived with him are equally responsible for elevating the person's status to that of a great personality. Therefore, a person's greatness can be evaluated not only by the people who live after him, but also by the people who belong to the same generation and are his contemporaries.

The effects of a person's actions may be seen years after his death. The history of man is full of the works of such persons who were scorned by their contemporaries for putting forth ideas that were opposed by the societies of those times. For instance, the society could not accept the theory of evolution put forth by Charles Darwin as he related the evolution of man to that of the apes. However, years after his death, people have elevated the status of Charles Darwin from a common scientist to that of a great man. This is because he had been successful in putting forth the theory that has been scientifically proven to be true years after his death. Galileo Galilei, Copernicus and Kepler all stood by the theory that the Earth is not static and it is not at the center of the universe and their theory was not accepted by their contemporaries. Galileo was even charged with blasphemy by the Pope. However, today we all know that the earth revolves around the sun and these scientists have found their way into our history books as great men.

On the contrary, if one considers the works of artists and writers, it is seen that most of these people were given due credit for their work by their contemporaries. Writers like Shakespeare, Mark Twain, Robert Frost etc, were held in high regard by their contemporaries and these good reviews helped in making these writers great in their field of work. Painters and musicians like Leonardo DaVinci, Mozart and Beethoven were all admired by their contemporaries for their immeasurable talent. Even today, these writers and artists are accepted as great people because of the appreciation that they had earned centuries ago.

The efforts of freedom fighters can be appreciated by their contemporaries to a great extent because they have lived to see the effects of being under foreign rule and they have also seen the effort and dedication put in by the freedom fighters to free their nation. Hence, they will be in a better position to decide the greatness of freedom fighters as compared to the future generations who do not know the ill effects of being under a foreign rule. Therefore, the people who live after the freedom fighters have long gone will probably not be able to appreciate their greatness as they will not be able to identify themselves with the situation that existed long before they were born.

A careful study of the examples quoted above clearly establishes the fact that it is not necessary that the greatness of men can be decided by the people who live after them. There are numerous instances when the greatness of men has been established during their lifetimes by their contemporaries. Therefore, great men have been given their due by both their contemporaries and by the people who lived after them.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 110

"In most societies, competition generally has more of a negative than a positive effect."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 110

Competitive spirit is an absolute necessity if you wish to succeed in life. This is because today there is stiff competition to establish yourself in any field during all stages of your life. You need to be better than your classmates in order to stand out in the class. You have to do better than the other students in the standardized tests if you wish to gain admission to a reputed school or college. You have to do well in professional courses in order to be handpicked by the leading companies in your choice of career. Even after you are established in your job, you have to perform better than the other employees if you wish to go higher up in the company's hierarchy. This competition becomes even fiercer in the business community where you have to adopt all tips and tricks for faring better than the other companies in wooing the customers. The need to surpass your competitors has become so crucial in today's world that people are willing to go to all possible limits in order to achieve success. This has led to competition having more of a negative effect than a positive effect in today's society.

Competitiveness has now succeeded in creating negative vibes in society in such a way that it is now difficult to extract oneself from the prevailing negativity. Consider a case where the top management of a company has to choose a suitable employee for heading one of its departments. Will the employees being considered for the post help each other by discussing how to prepare themselves for the impending interview? On the other hand, each one of them might try out unscrupulous means to ensure that the other candidates are not able to perform well at the interview. It is just not possible that one of them will help the other in preparing himself for being selected. The main culprit for this negative attitude is the competitive spirit of the employees.

The effect of such a competition would have been positive if all the employees had discussed the requirements and prepared themselves by learning from each other's knowledge and experience. Each one of them would have learnt something new. If all the employees had the attitude that they would be happy even if their colleague got selected in exchange for learning something new from him, then it would have been a healthy competition. However, one seldom sees this form of competition in modern society as competition rarely emanates positive vibes.

All forms of sports like soccer, rugby, cricket, car racing etc. are marred by events wherein the participants of the opposing teams have intentionally hurt each other or they have resorted to unfair means for winning the game. It is rare to see a game between two teams where all the participants have played with a healthy sportsman spirit. Therefore, competition in the form of a game has become a matter of ego and pride wherein the losing party always accepts its defeat grudgingly. There have been cases where the players have even questioned the referee's decision

and misbehaved on the field. Can such games claim that the spirit of competition is positive and healthy? On the contrary, this has happened because competition spreads a negative effect through the society.

Who does not like to succeed in life? It is a known fact that success comes to the people who are able to outrun their competitors. Therefore, the people who are not willing to accept failure in life are willing to go to extreme ends to make their lives a success. This 'killer' attitude has led to the association of negativity with competition. People regard their competitors as their rivals and they treat them like they would treat an enemy. Therefore, it is unlikely that the effect of competition will be positive as more often than not the effect of competition has always been proved to be negative.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 111

"In the age of television, reading books is not as important as it once was. People can learn as much by watching television as they can by reading books."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 111

Television is a medium that reaches a wider audience. It occupies a larger space in our lives than books. It offers a bit of everything and is a means of entertainment as well as knowledge. However, I do not agree completely with the given statement. Books are a great source of information and knowledge. They have been a storehouse of information and source of learning since time immemorial and continue to remain so even today. People do learn a lot from television but it cannot replace the effect books have. Both have their own importance and none can be substituted with the other.

Television is the new age medium of spreading information to everyone. It is increasingly being used in schools as well as distance learning programs. Students are benefiting from programs being relayed from far reaching places. With the television as a medium they have an access to the best teachers as well as the most authentic information. Today television is being used to give information about nearly every field to its audience. However, when we compare it with books, it can be seen that television has some shortcomings. First of all, television makes you a passive learner. A student is only left as a mere spectator. There is no participation of the student in learning from the television. On the other hand, books allow you to use your brain. When you read a piece of information, it gets registered in your mind. This forces you to think about it, thereby making learning more effective.

Secondly, we can read and re-read a book. That means that if some concept is not understood well or is forgotten, we can go through the concerned books again at any time of the day. This is not possible with television. A student is left to grasp as much as he watches on his own. Similarly, television also has another disadvantage of being time bound. The programs relayed are done so at a particular time. If there are cassettes to be played, they also do not offer any time for the students to absorb the information given to them. There are no intervals in learning and this restricts the students.

Further, it can be said that books come in different formats. Some are specially designed for slow learners while some include brainteasers for genius students. There are also books specific for certain topics. However, a television study program is often a general program for everyone. It does not allow variation in its material according to the nature and capacity of students.

Last but not the least; consider the effect continuous viewing of television has on our eyes. If watching television is included in our routine to such an extent, it will only harm us physically. Therefore, we should consider all the effects of television viewing before rejecting books

completely. Television is surely one of the most interesting ways of teaching. It provides change to students, which is very necessary in any type of teaching. Today, television is increasingly being used in classrooms as well as other learning institutes. However, it cannot replace classroom teaching and books completely.

Television has been introduced to the world since a long time. However, books have survived a longer period of time. If people were learning much more from viewing television and had benefited from it more than books, it would have replaced books long back. However, this has not been the case. There are lots of new books being published and read even today. Libraries have been very popular amongst book lovers. Classroom teaching is supplemented with books more than anything else is. Hence, I believe that books are very important and help in learning in a way that no other means can substitute.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 112

"The intellectual benefits of attending a university or college are vastly overrated: most people could learn more by studying and reading on their own for four years than by pursuing a university or college degree."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 112

The author of the above statement advocates that studying on ones own is more beneficial than studying in an educational institution for a degree level course. Though time and effort are required for studying in an institution, I do not agree with the author that attending college can be done away with.

Colleges and universities offer a vast variety of courses. While some subjects require little attention, there are those that demand hard work and dedication. Take for instance, a degree course in physics. It is not possible for an average student to understand all the concepts that are new to him on his own. He needs a guide and a mentor who can direct his studies, channel his energy, explain concepts to him, share his own experiences and consequently make the course easier for him. When any person undertakes a task or undergoes an experience for the first time, there are bound to be obstacles in his way. If he is made to undergo the same the next time around, he shall certainly find some amount of relative ease. Moreover, over repeated exercise he shall be able to guide a novice as well. A student who starts college level education, thus, gains from the experience and expertise of his teachers.

Besides, attending college brings about subtle changes in the personality of a student. He learns certain social skills that he cannot hope to learn in any other setting. Most importantly, he learns how to cooperate and compete with his fellow mates. The experiences he has in college better prepare him for working as an employee.

As opposed to attending college, the idea of staying at home and pursuing a degree course has its own benefits. When a person is left on his own, he is likely to apply his own brain to gain knowledge. He struggles to acquire knowledge and clarify concepts. This brings in him independence and deeper understanding of concepts, in most cases. He saves on spending time in commuting to college and attending classes. For an above average student whose understanding and retention are better than those of an average student are, this saving can be exceptionally valuable. Such a student can channel his energies and learn more by putting his time to good use. Moreover, the amount of money that he spends on commuting to college and for attending a regular course can be beneficial for buying some more study materials that he might require. He can have his own routine of studying and can make a choice of the pattern he wants to follow for completing the syllabus.

If a comparison were drawn between the two methods of studying, I would give preference to attending a college or university. The presence of a mentor cannot be undervalued. He steers your energy in the correct direction and keeps a check on you. While studying independently, any child can go astray and end up spending time and energy in ineffectual pursuits. He could even misunderstand concepts for want of timely checks. Building up concepts on misunderstood basics could result in huge losses. Moreover, in the absence of expert guidance, a student could be in the lurch quite often. This would lead to his getting disillusioned, spoiling his course of study, wandering from one source to another and getting confused, only credit to the absence of a guide. Moreover, he would end up wasting money and time.

Instead of completely doing away with attending a university or college, a middle path could be adopted, wherein average and above average students could be given some independence of choosing their method of study. They could attend or miss college as per choice. Besides, they could follow the syllabus completion schedule decided upon by the college, clarify their doubts, and be in accord with the college routine. Such an alternative could help students pursue additional courses or part time jobs, which would help them earn and learn at the same time.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 113

"Scholars and researchers should not be concerned with whether their work makes a contribution to the larger society. It is more important that they pursue their individual interests, however unusual or idiosyncratic those interests may seem."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 113

Each society needs leaders to guide, inspire and lead it. They come in the forms of social reformers, researchers, scholars, artists, politicians etc. These people certainly influence the society, either directly or indirectly, even if they continue with their pursuits in isolation. They influence the society and steer changes in the way it thinks and functions. Though I agree with the author when he says that scholars and researchers should pursue their individual interests without weighing its influence over society, I disagree with his idea of pursuing extremely unusual and idiosyncratic interests.

The relation between a society and its elements is mutual. Each individual of a society contributes towards the beliefs, customs, strengths, weaknesses, ideas, rituals etc of the society. With the advent of technology and the world's becoming closer than ever before, people have more opportunity to influence others, even if their thoughts are radical and idiosyncratic. Even if a person isolates himself from the world, his individuality cannot be disregarded.

Scholars and researchers are people who think differently. They are unique in their own right owing to their capabilities to think differently from others and deeply enough to give us new discoveries, inventions, literature, studies, theories, philosophies, scholarly works etc. Through their works, they contribute towards the development of society. Even if there is no direct consequence of their works, they inspire people to think differently by triggering the thought process in the minds of people. They cannot be isolated from the society. In fact, a person is branded a scholar or a researcher only if he makes any significant contribution and earns a name for himself in society.

It takes extensive research to develop anything new. Research is merely the first step towards any development. A research in itself is always fruitful, it depends on the society how it benefits from the research. For instance, the thought of exploiting nuclear energy for solving the energy crises in contrast to using it for warfare is completely the choice of people. The thought process behind it is not to be blamed for the decision that the society takes.

Take the instances in which scholarly works come under extreme criticism by society. Such situations also contribute in some way or the other towards the development of society. They help to trigger the thought process of people. If the research on cloning was criticized by people, it also gave people a preview of the times to come, where cloning could be practiced by some with unscrupulous intentions. This way we are guarding against such practices and the research

is ultimately helping us. Moreover, cloning could be a good option for protecting endangered species.

A creative mind cannot think to its fullest capacity until it is free from restrictions. If people start thinking of consequences even before they achieve some results of research, they cannot hope to create any such thing that shall not be criticized. Every research is criticized to some extent or the other. Some go against environment, while others go against health. If the fear of criticism cripples the minds of scholars and researchers, they cannot hope to make any remarkable breakthrough. A creative and intelligent mind has to think independently in order to think to its complete potential. Nonetheless, extreme indifference towards the society is not agreeable. One has to keep in mind the long-term social consequences of his thoughts and research. There are restrictions put by different governments for safeguarding against this, but scholars and researchers should also keep a check on themselves.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 114

"Such nonmainstream areas of inquiry as astrology, fortune-telling, and psychic and paranormal pursuits play a vital role in society by satisfying human needs that are not addressed by mainstream science."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 114

Mainstream science is based on facts and theories that are established after years of research and endless discussions. Astrology, fortune-telling, psychic and paranormal pursuits are not given any importance in mainstream science. I support the idea of separating these two means of quest for knowledge about our pasts, presents and futures. At the same time, I disagree with the author when he thinks that these quests for knowledge are vital to society. I believe they are mere distractions and people only seek satisfaction of their curiosity through these means.

Segregating sources of wisdom as mainstream and nonmainstream and the complete exclusion of nonmainstream sources from science is completely justified. Anything recognized as science has to be based on scientific principles and proven through experiments. Science is a study of natural phenomenon based on observation and experimentation. There are no assumptions in science, only facts interrelated to give us knowledge about our present and future. Take for instance the Jantar Mantar in India, a collection of architectural astronomical instruments, used for prediction of weather. Each instrument is an architectural marvel focused to precision. There is no mystery surrounding the place and it is pure science at play.

Nonmainstream sources of wisdom, on the other hand, are based on prediction, assumption, impulse, intuition, sixth sense; all of which hold no bearing in the scientific world. Astrology, fortune telling, and psychic and paranormal quests are undertaken by those who do not believe in themselves. These are signs of a weak mind that does not have the strength to face the future unprepared. To top it all, there are ample predictions in nonmainstream pursuits but very few solutions to help the situations. Those people who pursue such modes of knowledge are the very ones who rely on fate and believe that we cannot control our destinies. They believe more in soothsayers than they do in themselves. No wonder then, that there are innumerable cases of touts who extract huge amounts of money from people who engage their services.

In my view, these nonmainstream pursuits do not play any significant role in society as far as satisfying human 'needs' is concerned. They can be a means for satisfying human curiosity and that is all. There is no human need that such sources can satisfy. We all are aware that the future can only be predicted to a certain extent. When the predictions of science, which is based on laws and principles, can also go wrong, then how can predictions by astrologers and fortune-tellers hold any ground? Moreover, the percentage of people in any society that approaches such means for prediction of future is much below those who rely on science. These means only put

one's mind at ease for some time. They rarely find useful solutions to the problems that are to come.

Human needs differ from person to person. Where one might be more concerned about the present, another person might be bothered about his future. Mainstream science has practical solutions to problems of present and future both, nonmainstream quests, on the other hand, offer indefinite solutions only. Moreover, people belonging to different sections of a society think differently. The educated lot rely more on scientific principles, while uneducated people depend on such pursuits to appease their disturbed minds and gain confidence. There is very little that such pursuits contribute to human needs.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 115

"Because learning is not a solitary activity but one that requires collaboration among people, students of all ages will benefit academically if they work frequently in groups."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 115

Learning is a process of acquiring knowledge such that our brain and our senses retain it. A child starts learning from the time of his birth. He starts assimilating information and reacting accordingly. The first school of a child is said to be his family. The next stage in learning is when he interacts with society. Further, formal education plays a crucial role in education by giving him the knowledge and experience that his environment cannot provide. Learning, thus, cannot be achieved in isolation. I agree with the author when he says that working frequently in groups shall benefit students of all ages.

If two people undergo the same experiences, the probability of their learning the same lessons from the experiences is very low. Their individual differences are sure to come into play and influence their reactions to situations. In an academic environment as well, the situation is the same. What two students interpret of a lesson depends on their previous knowledge, experiences, intelligence, attitudes, alertness, backgrounds etc. At the same time, the speed with which they grasp information also differs. Hence, academic learning is also directly related to individual personalities.

When a student attends school, he does not gain mere academic knowledge. Education is meant to make people adjust in a society, to enable them to earn a living, to support others, to make wise decisions, to handle the problems of day-to-day life, to live in harmony in a society etc. When students from different backgrounds and having different intelligence levels interact with each other, they learn qualities like sharing, sacrifice, competition, cooperation etc. At the same time, they learn how to deal with the society and world at large.

When students participate in group activities, their chances of learning faster increase. We all must have observed how students learn better from their own classmates than they do from their teachers. When a student is not able to cope up, teachers often tell his intelligent classmates to help him. The main reason for this is that learning improves when a student learns from others of his age group.

By encouraging learning in groups, we encourage children to share their experiences. Take the case of a college student attending internship in an organization. He is placed in a real-world work environment and made to learn how to do his job and exploit the knowledge he has gained academically and put it to practical use. In such an environment, he learns how to deal with colleagues, subordinates, seniors, administrators, clients etc. He learns more this way than through simulation

When people from different age groups interact with each other, the younger ones are likely to learn more from the experiences and knowledge of the older ones. The older ones can, in turn, learn social skills. They learn how to cooperate with different people, how to task others according to their skills, how to teach new things to younger ones etc. Such interactions, thus, benefit everyone involved.

There are some situations in which such an interaction can lead to a waste of time and energy if there is a lot of disproportion among the group members in terms of knowledge, age and background. Nonetheless, the pros weigh over the cons. There are more benefits of such interactions, than there are losses. People should be taught in groups but judiciously so. Such interactions should continue only until they are beneficial and limited to some situations only. Definite aims should be kept in mind for fulfillment through group interactions and measures should be taken to see that the same are achieved.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 116

"To be an effective leader, a public official must maintain the highest ethical and moral standards."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 116

It is not by mere appointment that a person becomes a leader but by the virtue of his deeds that he casts an influence over people. Besides fulfilling his duties towards people, a leader should be able to inspire them and set the utmost standards of dedication, sincerity, honesty, ethics and morals. I agree with the statement of the author. A public official must maintain the highest possible ethical and moral standards.

The role of a public official is to serve the people who have given him the right to make decisions on their behalf. He is a representative of a large number of people belonging to different sections of the society. They come from varying socio-economic categories and unanimously decide who is to lead them. A public official is thus responsible for safeguarding the interests of all people alike.

Moreover, he is under public scrutiny at every moment. Since people choose him as their representative, he is expected to behave in accordance with their intensions. He cannot easily get away with wrong decisions or unacceptable behavior. There are bound to be discussions and allegations if a public official behaves in an unacceptable manner.

An unscrupulous public official might manage to retain his position but he shall lose the respect people have for him. He is bound to be overthrown once people awaken to his misconduct. Once the image of a leader is tarnished, not only is it difficult for him to come out clean the next time around, it is nearly impossible for him to get rid of the stigma. People might never forgive him. Take for instance Bill Clinton; one immoral act of his is not likely to be forgiven for long.

Moral and ethical conduct of a public official is given utmost value when people judge him. In today's world, where corruption is rampant, people look for a true leader who is sincere towards their interests. If a person is known to be dishonest, people shall never trust him with decisions about their welfare. They would rather choose a person with lesser experience and exposure.

It has been seen that people forgive great leaders their errors of decision but there is no respite for those who err morally. When a leader misbehaves morally, it destroys the trust people have in him. Such damage to a person's demeanor is irreparable. Even if he is forgiven, there shall continue to be doubts in people's minds about the sincerity of such a person.

Where a public official has to mind his conduct, it is equally vital for the public to be understanding towards him. The moral standards of each person are different. Where telling a lie

for the betterment of another is forgivable for some, it could classify as a scandalous act for another person. There are many things that leaders have to balance. Thus, there could be measures that some public officials have to take to avoid a grave problem in the future. This could lead to some misunderstandings among people. In such times, people have to be wise enough to support their leader. They have to realize that the same yardstick cannot judge every situation. Thus, where a public official has to maintain the highest moral and ethical standards, people should be discrete while judging their leaders.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 117

"Government should not fund any scientific research whose consequences, either medical or ethical, are unclear."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 117

The government of a country shoulders a great responsibility of keeping its populace happy. For the betterment of its people, there are times when the government has to make decisions that are met with severe criticism. There are chances that some decisions go against the nation in the long run and the government is later apologetic about it. In some cases, the impact of a decision of one country is felt by other nations as well. It is, thus, very essential that a government keeps in mind the goodwill of its people, and the world as a whole, before any decisions are taken. This is exceptionally true for a government in matters related with scientific research. Where I do not completely agree with the views of the author, I cannot disagree with him either. In my view, deep contemplation should precede any decision making regarding research and regular checks during the research should ensure that medical and ethical consequences are foreseen.

It is only through research that we can make progress. Scientific research is like a chain reaction and one invention or discovery leads to another. In most cases, discoveries are accidental but inventions are a result of directed efforts. A discovery in itself is not sufficient, it is only after research is carried out that the true potential of a thing is realized and exploited. One cannot limit oneself while researching unless there are set objectives that one is trying to achieve. Scientific research is not only for the purpose of inventing something new; it is, in fact, a means of increasing one's knowledge about the various advancements taking place all around the world. How else would any country be able to make use of any development taking place anywhere in the world?

Since the progress of any nation depends on its government, it becomes obligatory for the government to fund research work. Where funding projects is important, it is equally vital for the government to keep a track about whatever research is happening. There are some medical and ethical questions that are always associated with research work, but mostly we have to overlook such issues. For instance, one cannot do away with experimenting on rats for research purpose until an equally good substitute is found. Besides, a government has to decide pragmatically what gains priority.

In most cases, the results of research work are unclear. It is only when experimentation is carried out and observations are made, that the true value of a research is brought out. It is nearly impossible to work upon a subject if the minds of researchers are restricted and their funds are limited. In my view, research should be funded, but the medical and ethical consequences should be weighed from time to time. It is not wise to freeze funds before any headway is made and consequences are apparent. Take for instance cloning. We all know that cloning of humans

would lead to unimaginable tribulations. There is no point in a country's investing in such research. Nonetheless, cloning endangered species shall help conserve them. For this purpose, it becomes necessary for a country to research in this direction.

In today's world, it is essential that every nation be independent in terms of scientific research and technological advancement. Countries that have progressed in science and technology are the ones that are the most developed and powerful. Some developing and underdeveloped nations lack the infrastructure and funds to support research while others like U.S.A. are leaders in scientific development. At the same time, the governing body of a country should be abreast with what the scientific fraternity of the country is doing and should impose restrictions wherever necessary.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 118

"Government officials should rely on their own judgment rather than unquestioningly carrying out the will of the people whom they serve."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 118

The government of a nation is meant to serve its people and take care of its present and future well-being. In any country, it is not possible for any government to survive if it does not satisfy its compatriots. When people are not happy with their leaders, there is bound to be revolt, agitation and defiance of the government's decisions. Nonetheless, it is not wise for any government and its officials to 'unquestioningly' accept the demands of its people. There has to be contemplation over every decision that a government makes and over every requirement of the public. I agree with the given statement, mainly owing to the word 'unquestioningly.'

It is the duty of any government to look after its people. No matter which form of government a country follows, the government is to put the interests of its people before any other agenda. Well being of its people is the sole criteria that a government should consider while making any decisions. When the government, its decisions and policies do not satisfy people, they are sure to revolt. The uprising of Indians against British and the recent revolt of Tibetans against China are such examples. Such revolts are even seen at lower levels of organization of public. If a state is not happy with the way its leaders function, there are revolts and agitation against them. Though the society has to be satisfied, it is not wise for any government to listen to its people without questioning their opinions.

Every society is composed of people from different classes. There are those who are poor, middle class and rich. Similarly, a society can also be classified according to the occupations of people. There are businessmen, salaried employees, entrepreneurs, private and public sector employees in every society. The requirements of each category of people are different and so are their expectations from the government. Because of the differences that exist in its people, it is very rare that unanimous opinions exist. It is then the government's duty to reach a decision that is acceptable by one and all. For everyone to be satisfied, it is required that each opinion be given due consideration and be questioned by the government. If certain claims and demands are made by its people, the government has to question the basis of the same. This questioning has to be done for ensuring that what people want is actually what they require. Never should a consensus be arrived at without discussions and debates.

At times, there are policies of a government that are made by keeping the future in mind, rather than a short-lived present discomfort. At other times, there are decisions that are for the betterment of downtrodden sections of society rather than for the creamy layer. Such decisions could upset one lot of people and satisfy others. It is then up to the government to consider different judgments and take a tough stand. The government is meant to serve its people, but it is

a composition of leaders. The leaders should keep the interest of people in the forefront and take tough decisions about things that they foresee as beneficial, irrespective of the opposition they face.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 119

"While some leaders in government, sports, industry, and other areas attribute their success to a well-developed sense of competition, a society can better prepare its young people for leadership by instilling in them a sense of cooperation."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 119

When a young child is brought up, there are numerous things he has to be taught, many of which are conflicting. While one has to learn how to be polite, he has to even be taught how to be adamant when it is so required. Where compassion for all human beings is to be taught, it is also required that the child be taught how to stay away from cons. Bringing up a child and preparing him to be a good leader is, thus, very challenging. There are numerous debates and discussions on whether a spirit of competition is more beneficial or a sense of cooperation is better. In my view, both these aspects are important for a well-balanced personality to develop. Where competition is required, it is equally important to learn how things can be done through cooperation.

In today's competitive world, it is not possible for all of us to make our mark. It is only those few who are motivated and capable enough that make a place for themselves in society. Such people finally become leaders in their own right and inspire millions. For such people, the motivation can come from any source. It could be an aspect of one's personality such as his sense of competition, compassion, altruism, self-confidence, charity, leadership, intelligence, passion, greed, jealousy, pride or anything else that could be the reason for his success. A true leader is the one who inspires people to become like him. For instance, if we were to choose a leader from the past, we would prefer Mahatma Gandhi to Hitler. Gandhi was compassionate where Hitler was one of the cruelest people ever. His pride and determination led to his success, though he could never win the hearts of people. Gandhi, on the other hand, was compassionate towards people. He spearheaded the Indian independence struggle while cooperating with people of different sections of society and became a true leader of masses and classes alike. He continues to inspire millions.

Cooperation among different nations is a major reason why humankind is surviving. Without exchanging our raw materials, human resources, food, medicines, technology, armies etc, it would not be possible for any country to sustain itself. Similarly, political parties can achieve a lot if they cooperate with each other for the betterment of the nation as a whole, though this is very difficult to achieve.

At the same time, it is equally important for a spirit of competition to remain alive. Great sportsmen insist on a compelling sense of competition for success. In fact, many sportsmen provoke themselves by some means or the other to develop a feeling of vengeance towards their competitors. Children perform much better if there is healthy competition in class. A bright

student among mediocre classmates might never strive enough because of lack of competition and challenges. A student among those who are at par with him will strive to beat them and excel. This does not mean that such competitive students should not cooperate with each other. The challenge here is to teach children where the line is to be drawn. In the name of cooperation, one should not be cheated and for the sake of competition, one should not fill one's heart with contempt and vengeance.

It is not the sense of competition or cooperation that leaders require, but the judicious use of these aspects. Though it is difficult for these two qualities to co-exist, it is vital nonetheless. Healthy competition, wherever it exists leads to success and improvement. Unhealthy competition will always result in degradation, either of quality or of morals. We should thus teach our young people how to respect others, cooperate with them and compete for improvement of their own selves.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 120

"Society does not place enough emphasis on the intellect-that is, on reasoning and other cognitive skills."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 120

A society is a judge and its verdict is final. Whether it is related with politics, environment, sports, entertainment, economics or any other sphere, society decides what is to stay and what is to go, what is to be given importance and what is to be ignored. A society has great control over its people, its government and its nation. No government can progress if its society is not satisfied. No person can hope to gain fame if it does not win the hearts of people. In fact, the success of any person or thing is determined by how well society receives it.

We need to appreciate that a society is generally divided into separate classes. The strength of these classes determines how the society reacts to situations, people, ideas, things, decisions, laws etc. If a society is dominated by economically weak people, the society on the whole shall make decisions favoring the interests of its poor people. Similarly, a society that is economically sound shall have corresponding preferences. Thus, the likes and dislikes of a society depend on its dominating populace. However, this influence is more rampant in matters related to socio-economic and political decisions. This influence is not extended to other aspects, especially when it comes to appreciating intellect and progressive thinking.

Human beings in general prefer progress. Every individual yearns for progress and advancement. We all want that our tomorrow should be better than our today and our next generation builds up on what we have. It is for this basic intention of improving our lives that we have an innate appreciation for intellect. It is our appreciation of intellect that makes us appreciate the works of Einstein, Galileo, Newton, Aryabhata etc, decades after they are gone.

Apart from the scientific world, even in our day-to day lives, we emphasize on intelligence. Take for instance any child. He is likely to be recognized for his quick grasp of things rather than for other skill. In schools, children who are intelligent always have an edge over those who are remarkable in other activities. Besides, we prefer to be in the company of intelligent people, rather than talented people, for intelligence of others gives our own thought process a stimulation and we learn more in their company.

It is not a wonder then that most great leaders of our societies are men who are intelligent. They are men who can find solutions to problems that are suitable to all. Were they not intelligent, they wouldn't be able to hold the trust of people for long. It is for this reason that we give more importance to intelligent and educated people. There is more value attached to a person who is educated and exhibits his intelligence in diverse situations than there is for a person who is uneducated and mediocre.

As far as laying emphasis on cognitive skills is concerned, there is a lot that is being done by society. Intelligence is a measure for a person's worth; we encourage children to develop reasoning skills, schools and colleges grant scholarships and hold competitions to appreciate intelligent students, governments give financial aids to intelligent and innovative thinkers, debates and discussions among socially eminent personalities are a common sight in media. Thus, emphasis on cognitive skills is abundant but one cannot say whether it is enough or not. There is no means of measuring such a quantity and the word 'enough' is relative from person to person. What might be enough for a particular society or person might not be sufficient for another. Thus, this issue is more personal than general.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 121

"The study of history places too much emphasis on individuals. The most significant movements were made possible not by famous few, but by groups of people whose identities have been long been forgotten"

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 121

History literally means the study of past. It give us details of past events, earlier civilizations, their trends, belief, activities as well as their achievements and failures which help us in understanding their culture, thereby relating it to the present. Along with this, history places importance on lives and accomplishments of eminent personalities, who made a difference in one way or the other.

The issue whether people at large or individuals in particular deserve more emphasis in history is not debatable, as history is a blend of both. If on one hand Indus Valley civilization reveals the architectural knowledge and life style of people of Harappa culture, then on the other hand study of Gupta period not only tells us about the society in general, but also about the specific achievements of the rulers of Gupta empire.

An individual is a part of society and his/her success in any of the fields, be it in politics, science, literature, sports, would not be possible without the role and influence of the society. None of the important events in history is merely caused by an individual. For instance in the history of India's struggle for independence from the British even the likes of Gandhi and Nehru could not have done much without the support of common men. It was the desire and participation of the whole of the nation that brought the revolution and gave India her freedom. Still names of Gandhi Nehru, Subhash, Azad, Sarojini Naidu, Lala Lajpat Rai are few that are mentioned above all which is quite justified keeping in mind their grit and determination. Though the role of common men can not be overlooked it was the extraordinary zeal and effort of these few men who motivated the rest towards independence.

Likewise king Ashoka, a devout follower of Buddhism, is known to have established a golden era owing to peace and prosperity in his empire. One may question if it is right to credit Ashoka as an individual, instead of Buddhism-a religion followed by many. Ashoka's achievements are lamented in history because he utilized his power, resources and wisdom to the fullest. Under the influence of the religion, he not only gave a boost to the spread of Buddhism but also practiced religious tolerance.

Similarly, there may be many such instances where more emphasis is laid upon a few individuals rather the larger group responsible for the cause. It is to be understood that these chosen few are highlighted because of their catalytic role played in the past. The few who took initiative, led and helped in accelerating the mass movements were the personalities whose lives, principles and

achievements can be a source of inspiration for others. It would not be a biased practice to highlight such individuals who were the faces in crowd and led lives worth emulating. Moreover, it is not feasible to keep a record and discuss each individual of a group.

Analogously, each day as it passes becomes a part of history. However, not everyday and not every incident deserves a mention. Events that brought important changes and the men who were the driving force behind such activities are the ones who truly created history. Eventually the turning points produced either by sections of people or by individuals form history, without any bias.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 122

"Imaginative works such as novels, plays, films, fairy tales, and legends present a more accurate and meaningful picture of human experience than do factual accounts. Because the creators of fiction shape and focus reality rather than report on it literally, their creations have a more lasting significance."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 122

Creative work calls for imagination, which knows no bounds. The inherent quality of imagination is to explore all aspects of a situation, both possible and not possible. Imaginative work is more appealing because it covers the details of an event like the why(s), if(s), but(s) and consequences relevant to various human experiences, unlike the factual accounts that objectively report the facts and happenings as they occur.

In works of imagination, like novels, plays, and films, an ideal situation can be well exemplified without actually waiting for it to occur. For instance, a character in a novel can possess all the desirable qualities to be imbibed in children. Similarly, tales of fairies and demons can help in clearly distinguishing between good and evil. Further, literature definitely has a more powerful impact on the minds of readers. No doubt, factual accounts of past familiarize us with history, but adventurous expeditions, horrors of wars and natural calamities expressed through poetry, plays and stories, makes a potent influence. In the same way, novels dwell upon the characters involved and reveal much more about human psychology and its scope. They include details of the circumstances and their effects, as how one is pushed towards a certain crime or what goes into the mind of the culprit during and after the crime.

Though, we all strive to be a part of society in general, but it is a well known fact that every individual is unique and is bound to react differently to the same set of given situations. These are the very aspects discovered through films, novels and plays. Thus a work of fiction which is partly imaginative and partly unreal, gives real insight into human experiences. In other words, fiction is an art of expressing facts with a human touch. It is not just an innovative and imaginary piece of art, but it is reality presented without any binding of political, social, religious or economical class.

If fictional description were not inspired by reality, people would not have related to it and literature, films, novels, etc. would not have been so popular. To quote examples from films, most of the depictions are already known to us through real life experiences, but their presentation is such that they can make us happy, sad, and empathetic. Such an approach surely enlightens us more meaningfully.

Equivalently, if one goes merely by the factual accounts, all virtues and values in today's world seems to be doomed by greed violence and corruption. Although the legends in epics like

Ramayana and Mahabharata appear as fictional creations, there is something so real and ideal about them that till date people look up to them for guidance of the inner self. The heroic deeds, the sacrifices, the wisdom exhibited, and hardships undertaken to follow their principles via the path of righteousness, sets high standards for all.

To summarize, it is established that compared to facts, creative and imaginative work focuses more on details of reality and shapes up the human experiences more influentially, thereby creating an impact that lasts longer.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 123

"In order to improve the quality of instruction at the college and university level, all faculty should be required to spend time working outside the academic world in professions relevant to the courses they teach."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 123

Education prepares us for life by enlightening us with knowledge. Though knowledge is present all around us, it is an educator who imparts knowledge to us. Educational institutes serve as platforms for the interaction between the learner and learned and their faculty enables one to independently face the world. In other words, the quality of education at university and college levels plays a vital role in giving economic independence to an individual.

The faculty of an educational institute primarily consists of lecturers, professors, lab attendants and activity in-charges. In spite of plenty of books and internet information available, an educator plays a significant role in giving instructions such that a complex topic is comprehended easily by his students.

To train an individual such that he does well in a chosen profession, it is not necessary that the faculties should practice that particular profession. The strength of an educator lies in his communication skills and ability to transform topics from complex to easy. For instance, a language teacher should be able to develop an understanding of his subject. He should be capable of explaining difficult comprehensions and poems with ease and develop the skill of critical analysis in the students along with a liking for his subject. For all this he need not be an author or poet himself. Likewise, a mathematics professor need not be a mathematician who develops different techniques to approach a problem, invents new formulae and theories, unless compelled by his own choice. He is to explain different topics in an easy way, and develop problem solving skills and prepare a sound base for the future mathematicians. Even in science subjects, the faculty need not transform into scientists. Good explanation of scientific terms and theories along with the relevant practical work in the laboratories would suffice for the ones preparing to go into research work.

In addition to this, the trainers and passed out trainees pursuing the same profession may create awkwardness, as working on the same platform may create ego hassles and diminish the much deserved respect for the faculty amidst their ex-students. Further, frequent shifting from educational institutions to the outside workplace may disturb the curriculum and concentration of the students as well as the teachers.

However, there are a few areas where the quality of education can improve drastically if the faculty members have some experience of working in outside world in professions relevant to the courses they teach. For example, the research guides at the university level can give more useful

input to their students aspiring for research work in scientific laboratories. Similarly, all faculties of professional institutions like business management, teachers training, training for doctors, etc can enhance the quality of teaching by supplementing it with their first hand experience in the respective professions. Apart from theoretical knowledge, it creates awareness about the actual environment and challenges to be faced in future.

Thus, the role of faculties in colleges and universities is to prepare, guide and motivate the students in recognizing their aptitude so that they choose an appropriate profession. Barring few courses, the faculties can conveniently do justice to their teaching without working outside in professions related to their subjects.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 124

"Education will be truly effective only when it is specifically designed to meet the individual needs and interests of each student."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 124

Education imparts knowledge and plays an important role in the overall development of a child. It can be given individually or in groups, in different ways like verbally, through activities, books, computers, sports etc. In whichever way education is given, it aims at the betterment and growth of an individual.

Every individual is unique. Whether it is the social or cultural environment, likings or dislikes, strengths or weaknesses, skills or aptitudes, character or behavior, every child is different from the other. To handle these differences among young kids, there is a need to design an education system that intends to meet the requirements of students as individuals. This calls for a more flexible and versatile education system. Although, it would not be easy to design such a system where individual needs can be met, it would be a worthwhile effort.

In the present day, all the students are made to go through a regular curriculum and are assessed on fixed criteria, already set. There are some who cope up easily but a large number of students are not comfortable with the way different subjects are dealt with. Not only does every subject need a special methodology for teaching, but different students need different techniques to be taught. If some are good at listening, some may be better at retaining it, while some others may produce it better in writing or verbally. Whatever may be the mode of learning preferred, the idea of education is to gain knowledge and be able to apply it practically. A majority of students cannot do well in all aspects but are good at something or the other. To evaluate all by one set pattern, and grade their intellect accordingly is not fair.

A specifically designed education system can help students recognize their aptitude. There are fairer chances of students excelling in fields of their interest instead of wasting their time and potential in trying to excel in every field, which is practically too much to ask for. This will help students realize their potential at an early age and shall motivate them. Education designed with an individualistic approach will benefit the students more by training them in skills they have the aptitude for. Not only will it lessen their burden of performing well in every discipline, but also help them focus better. Since every child will be equipped with a deeper understanding of his discipline or skill, it will help him become a more confident, independent and innovative professional as well as a more content citizen.

All in all, the true purpose of education will be served if it is designed to meet individual needs and interests. However, designing of such a system can prove to be a very taxing and brainstorming exercise. Apart from highly qualified, trained and dedicated faculty, it will require

a very flexible curriculum. All possible ways of exploiting a student's talents will have to be kept in mind. It will also need a drastic change in the evaluation techniques prevailing in today's education system. An innovative, transparent, impartial and flexible approach must be adopted to make individualistic education a success.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 125

Education encourages students to question and criticize, and therefore does little to promote social harmony.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 125

Education brings a child from ignorance to enlightenment. It gives knowledge to a child by making him aware of himself and his surroundings. Information of past and present truly awakens the child. It would be a very cynical approach to say that education does little to promote social harmony as it encourages a child to question and criticize.

Education creates awareness and enables a child to distinguish right from wrong, good from bad, ego from pride and humility from slavery. It develops a deeper understanding of various religions, belief, culture and trends.

In other words, it inculcates religious tolerance, appreciation and acceptance for people of different cultures. Imparting knowledge through education is the formative step in helping a child look beyond language, cast and creed. For instance, in the present day scenario countless terrorist attacks have become a grave threat to the lives and properties of nations, all over the world. The most dangerous are suicide bombers and it does not need much insight to realize how these men are brainwashed and misguided in the wake of their ignorance or limited knowledge. True education can develop in them an understanding of cause and effect. It can emancipate them from the unfounded hatred towards people of different faiths and classes. Thus, education facilitates people to live in peace and harmony.

Educated children grow up to be more responsive and well read citizens. They are definitely empowered to select a better government which looks after their rights and well being. No mean political party or religious bigots can influence them with petty issues and temptations. Educated youth and men can not be misled and exploited in the name of caste, religion, state and language.

As far as criticism on behalf of educated men is concerned, it is something one can not do away with. There are all types of people from different backgrounds and tastes. All can not think alike. Something that is appealing to a few can be despising for others. This does not mean that criticism is a threat to harmony. It rather implies freedom of expression which is again pivotal in strengthening harmony.

Abilities to criticize and appreciate, are skills honed through education. Education also imparts the skill of dealing with both criticism and appreciation. In comparison to an uneducated person, an educated one can take criticism better in his stride. He is also better equipped to handle it and can remain grounded on receiving applause as well.

Education plays another significant role of invoking curiosity and giving satisfaction over a logical explanation. This develops an inquisitive and rational mind in children. From questions asked in a classroom, a child gets encouragement to put forward questions as a citizen to various governing bodies related with say education, communication, tourism or any such public welfare department. It is the right of every individual of an independent nation to ask for a better and a transparent system. It does not hamper the peace and harmony of any nation for that matter.

Thus, true education liberates a child from social or religious restrictions and biases. It enables him to put a question and demand explanation when required, taking a step towards progress and mutual harmony.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 126

College and university education should be free for all students, fully financed by the government.

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 126

Education plays an important role in the overall development of a child. For the harmonious transformation of a student into a responsible citizen, education must be made mandatory at least at the elementary level. To impart education to all, it should be made free at school level.

However, making college and university education free may yield adverse results. Students, as they pass high school and reach college are quite grown up and aware of their aptitudes. There may be many who would rather go in for a professional or vocational course. Others may be more interested in business. The ones left out would be genuinely interested in academics. By making university level education free, more and more students would be tempted to get enrolled. This can result in unemployment in future as lesser vacancies would be available for the large number of qualified students. To tackle unemployment, government would have to adopt various methods like entrance exams etc. which are not very reliable in selecting the meritorious and deserving students.

Moreover, due to shortage of appropriate posts, the more qualified ones may have to settle down for jobs that do not honor their capabilities and hard work put in for the acquired degrees. This will not only demoralize the overqualified ones, but also distort the image of university education in the eyes of new aspirants.

College and university education, if made free, will heavily burden the government financially. It will be not only difficult to provide the best of facilities like good libraries, laboratories, scientific and sports equipments etc. but also challenging to pay the hired staff and faculty. In the wake of lesser salaries, less and less people would be interested in joining the faculty. If the deserving candidates would not be paid justifiably, then there will be deterioration in the quality of education imparted. Making education free at university level may also reduce the standards of education as students may develop a laid back attitude and may not feel the necessity to clear the courses at the earliest. This will further deteriorate the standard of education and create a huge backlog of students for the government to entertain.

Apart from the financial difficulty in paying the staff and providing appropriate facilities to the students, there will be yet another challenge for the government to look after the other employment channels.

Although education is a must, there are other skills required too in different fields. If all these skills are explored and promoted well, only then can a nation be more independent financially.

The works of handicrafts, interior and fashion designing, sports, farming, etc. are just a few to mention that need the government's assistance to flourish to the fullest. To be unbiased towards all streams of talent and employment, the government will be under pressure to make all these trainings free as well. This will be a difficult task to accomplish. Thus, making the university level education free will put a lot of economic strain on the government.

Making university and college level education free will be beneficial neither for the government nor for the citizens in the long run. Thus, instead of making the university education free, the government should adopt other ways of channelizing the talents of the youth and also keep a check on private institutions overburdening the students by high fee structure.

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GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 128

"Competition for high grades seriously limits the quality of learning at all levels of education."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 128

Today's world is full of competition in every field. There is so much of talent around, that this competition is inevitable. Whichever field one chooses, whether its academics, sports, business, politics, entertainment or media, there is a race that everyone participates in to win.

Although, this is healthy and is a sign of progress, the quality of work suffers at time. The same is the case with competitions for high grades. Students, at every level of education are so much pressurized to excel that they start compromising on the quality of learning.

Students are pressurized by the parents and the education system, to excel in each and every subject in terms of their scores. Instead of giving a choice to pursue for more knowledge and develop understanding in the subjects of their choice, they are taught in a time-bound and syllabus-bound system since their early school days. The evaluation pattern is such that those seeking deeper understanding of a certain topic/subject are de-motivated. They are judged merely on the basis of their score which generally calls for rote learning. The quality of learning is bound to deteriorate when preference is given to those who can cram and reproduce, at least till the secondary level of school.

In high school and colleges, in some of the disciplines more emphasis is laid upon application based education. Although, this is a healthy practice, the learning is still exam oriented rather than concept forming. Availability of more and more tutorials that boast of preparing the students for competitive exams emphasize on short cuts and tricks to attempt the paper in lesser time. The giving away of such techniques is increasing the number of aspirants who are grilled to get through without possessing sound knowledge of the subject matter. This further increases the competition thereby neglecting the actual comprehension and application of the concepts on a student's behalf. Mostly these competitive exams end up judging the speedy applications of practiced techniques and not real learning.

Besides, in a classroom both pupil and teacher are constrained so much by time and syllabus that the topics covered cannot be explored beyond a point. The education and evaluation systems are such that pupils, teachers, parents and even school administrations have to target the exams to excel in the competition. Less emphasis is laid upon concept building and more on attempting the exams. The very system of education, evaluation and selection are so flawed that even at the highest levels of education, more weight age is given to scores when compared to quality learning.

Though, scholars excelling with quality education can not be ignored, a majority of students end up being rote learners good at merely reproducing the learned facts. The deterioration in the quality of education is due to the growing competition for higher grades. This can be checked by reforming the education system starting from the primary level itself. Moreover, methodologies should be adopted to evaluate the understanding and deeper knowledge of students along with their abilities to apply the acquired knowledge.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 129

"Governments should focus more on solving the immediate problems of today rather than trying to solve the anticipated problems of the future."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 129

Government is a body that governs the rules and regulations of a state in the interest of the people. It sets some targets for the common well being of all the citizens and tries to bring the less privileged at par with others. A government's main motive is to look after the needs of the people, best utilization of resources and implementation of ways for the development of the nation.

There are a few issues that every government has to deal with immediately, and some that need long term planning with foresight. It is therefore important for any government to segregate these issues to avoid chaos and to work efficiently.

If on one hand, the problem of unemployment needs immediate action, then on the other hand, the economic reforms should be made by anticipating the upcoming demands and problems. The government must try to foresee the future prospects of any project undertaken. It must be in a position to frame a tentative outline to meet the future demands, keeping in view the resources in hand. The borrowing or sharing of the latest technologies is done with an aim to have a smooth future. Since, enormous money is involved in adopting a technology and starting a project at the national level, like constructing a power plant, building a highway, importing or manufacturing aircrafts and ships, building a dam or railway line, the government cannot simply base them on the present demand and supply ratio. In fact, it should have a vision to see the future need and applications to avoid wastage of time and labor in the near future. Above all, it would be blocking the money too, if the plans and projects demand changes every now and then. For example, investing thoughtlessly in highways and good roads may need drastic changes owing to the increasing traffic. Thus, it would be wiser to anticipate the future of traffic on roads and accordingly invest in the different diversions on busy junctions, by-lanes and flyovers wherever necessary.

Challenges like illiteracy need to be taken care of immediately along with long term planning. If it is necessary to make the adults of today aware of the importance of education, then the government needs to anticipate the future and provide requisite facilities such that no one is disappointed by sending their children to educational institutions. Similarly, the law and order problems need to be tackled at times by an immediate amendment in the law. The provision of amendments in laws should be made with a futuristic approach such that the offshoots of similar situations may be handled as well.

The issues of poverty, natural calamities, terrorism, need immediate attention. If only plans for future are drafted to reduce poverty without taking care of immediate poor and malnourished, then the futuristic goals make no sense. In a similar fashion, if means are adopted to avert the situations of flood and famine without looking after the present victims of such natural disasters, then such a government is a disaster itself. The vice-versa being equally true, it is a sheer wastage of time, money and effort to wait for a disaster to occur, in order to provide relief to the victims. Thus, the government has a huge responsibility of focusing on both immediate problems of today and plan such that the anticipated problems of future are also efficiently dealt with.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 130

"The depth of knowledge to be gained from books is much richer and broader than what can be learned from direct experience."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 130

Books are a vast source of knowledge. They give detailed information about the history, geography, science, literature, religion and social trends of different places all over the world. They give descriptions of other planets which is difficult for a common man to acquire through direct experience. Although, the significance of books can not be undermined, learning through direct experience has its own importance.

While books can guide us in dealing with people of different psychologies, it is first hand experience that makes us truly successful at it. For instance, there are many well qualified parents who are not half as good as the teachers of their tiny tots, when it comes to teaching. The teachers not only apply their training for the job but also keep learning through their direct dealings with so many kids, year after year. Without experience, even the over qualified can not do justice to a job.

The importance of learning-by-doing is reflected in almost all the subjects being studied at school. Though there are text books for knowledge and guidance, one must practice mathematics to actually solve the problems. Similarly, all the reading of text can not make a child well conversant in languages unless practice through conversation is done. If books are sources of facts and theories in science subjects, then an equal emphasis is laid upon experiments. This is for the simple reason that direct experience has a more lasting effect. Besides, it becomes easy to accept and relate to different established laws, when one verifies them practically.

The science and social science exhibitions held annually, further strengthen the fact that learning by direct experience plays a vital role in consolidating the acquired knowledge. Thus, these exhibitions include various projects in the form of static models, working models, displays, activities and even experiments. In addition to this, students are taken to public service centers like banks, hospitals, railway stations, etc. to give first hand experience

Above and beyond this, tours and expeditions are organized in the form of educational trips to familiarize students with different states/countries in order to develop in them a better understanding of those places, their weather, people and their culture.

Identically, although there are plenty of well written books on various computer languages and software available, it is practically impossible to retain and apply that knowledge without the direct experience of working on a computer. In the same fashion, one may gather various text books on rules and regulations and techniques to play different sports like cricket, hockey, chess,

and badminton, but the actual learning can take place only after the direct experience of playing the sport itself. A doctor or lawyer may study a lot through text books to gain knowledge, but it is through real life experience of treating the patient or prosecuting a criminal, that they gain expertise.

Thus, it can be concluded that though books are a rich source of knowledge and guidance on a wide range of subjects, learning through direct experience is vital for our day to day life.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 131

"The increasingly rapid pace of life today causes more problems than it solves."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 131

The pace of life is increasing manifold since the past two decades. As our lives become more comfortable, they become more complicated as well. I agree with the author's statement that our pace of life today is the reason for many problems, even though this pace has made us more comfortable.

Contrast the lives we are leading to those of our ancestors. The complete way of living has undergone a transformation. Not only are our lives more dependent on gadgets, but also our daily routines, eating habits, priorities, aspirations, expectations, values, everything is changing at a very swift pace. If we take a minute to ponder over it, we ourselves would be amazed at how our lives have secretly changed. When we were younger, there were snail-paced means of communication, limited sources of knowledge, traveling was more time consuming, lesser financial security, fewer gadgets, lesser planning etc. Alternatively, our childhood was more carefree, our parents had more time for us, our education system was less complicated, the competition was less in every sphere etc.

The increase in pace is due to many factors that are interrelated. Development in technology is the core factor responsible for this. It has led to improvement in communication and hence globalization; the world is smaller and closer than it ever was. Nonetheless, can globalization be the only reason why our lives are so different? Certainly not. The other key factors responsible for the present situation are increased sense of insecurity and competition among people. We are insecure in terms of finance, health, property, employment, relationships etc. Couple with this insecurity, our sense of competition. We are constantly trying to outdo others and gain an edge over them. Be it our friends, colleagues, family members, neighbors, anyone. We are constantly racing against time to rise higher, earn more, have a better standard of living, and have more of everything. In fact, the more we gain, the more we bother about securing it. This is the vicious circle of our present day fast-paced lives.

The aspect of our lives that is the most affected because of this is our own health. The changes in our lifestyles leave no room for exercise, recreation and indulgence. There is seldom any time to relax and even if there is any, thanks to mobile phones and laptops, we are rarely out of reach and out of occupation. How many times have you socialized with friends without receiving any unexpected call to interrupt conversations? Sadly, our bodies cannot keep pace with these changes. Besides an alarming increase in chronic diseases, there is a lot of stress that people face in their lives. Though the average life expectancy has increased, it is basically medicines on which our populations are surviving.

Along with physical ailments, our minds are getting increasingly corrupted. Humility, cooperation, patience, tolerance, truthfulness, selflessness; such qualities are hardly innate now. People have to consciously make efforts to inculcate such traits, where they were an integral part of our values in the past. When it comes to children, parents are happier to see their child competing to be the best rather than becoming a good human being. Since it is money that matters now, people are directing their energies in one direction only. It is work, competition and success all around us with our lives more comfortable yet more intricate.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 132

"Too much emphasis is placed on role models. Instead of copying others, people should learn to think and act independently and thus make the choices that are best for them."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 132

Role models are those people who inspire us with their success stories. They need not be renowned people; instead, they can be simple people who we come across in our private lives, say a parent, a teacher or a friend. The author seems to be peeved about the concept of role models; he feels they gather too much attention and people tend to copy them blindly. I differ in my views from the author. I do not think role models are overemphasized upon, nor do I think that they cripple our independent thinking.

Primarily, the author seems to think that we all have role models in our lives. It is true that most of us are inspired by others, their tales of success, valor, values, principles, conduct etc. Nonetheless, it is not necessary that we have a particular role model as such. Mostly, societies have numerous leaders of the past and the present. These people leave their impressions in the minds of people and influence them. These impressions could be permanent or temporary. In most cases, they are temporary. How many of us think of our leaders and their ideas on a day-to-day basis? How many of us get inspired by the words of great men and remember them daily? Certainly, very few. Hence, by and large, we do not have such strong impressions of these people on our minds that we think of them in our routines. Take for instance the principle of non-violence followed by Gandhi. Though we appreciate it, we seldom adopt non-violence and tolerance. Leaders, thus, cast a shallow impression on our minds when it comes to acting on their principles.

On the other hand, there are people whose ideas we do remember. For instance, a child could take the example of his parents and react correspondingly in similar situations. There are people around us who influence our conduct. This influence need not be very prominent; it could be subtle and dormant. In fact, we could be influenced by a number of people without our realizing it. Take for instance the teachers of a student. Each one of them has a peculiar method of teaching and behaving. Even if students mock their teachers in their schooldays, they are sure to remember them when they grow up and get inspired by their words of wisdom later on in life.

More often than not, role models are people who we interact more with. They are real people around us and not those who we hear about but never meet. The influence of a person who we see in flesh and blood is more active in our minds and more dominant in controlling our actions.

Now let us consider the author's idea of people getting influenced so much by role models that they tend to imitate them. There is no denying that people imitate others to become like them. Nonetheless, the percentage of such people is very low. Moreover, if you take a decision in your

life that is influenced by others, the decision is yours nonetheless. You are the one who has to bear the consequences. Ultimately, the decision becomes yours, irrespective of who the brain behind the idea is.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 133

"The media-and society in general-mistakenly expect an individual to speak for a particular group, whether or not that individual truly represents the views of the entire group."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 133

When we consider a group of people, be it a small group of people in a locality or a complete nation, we forget the individual differences that exist within the group. We take for granted that the words of the representative of the group are the words of each person comprising the group. Consequently, we expect an individual to give us the collective opinion of a group and disregard his personal views and those of the members of the group. We tend to believe his words to be the unanimous opinion.

There are two types of leaders or spokespersons for any group. Firstly, there are those whom people appoint and who hold a legal authority to voice the views of their set and the second type is of those who are self-appointed. They choose to voice their views, which need not be a true representation of the ideas of their entire group. The problem arises when people misunderstand such people to be the representatives of the entire group.

The role of media in spreading awareness has increased in the recent years. Earlier media was a source of information, now it is a source of investigation as well. The cutthroat competition between media sources is such that everyone is trying to provide the latest information, irrespective of the quality of information provided. Take for instance news channels. The moment anything occurs in a place, media personnel throng the site and try to gain as much footage as they can. Irrespective of the information that is available with the people on the site, they shall endlessly interview them and try to extract as many details as is possible. In this struggle, the public watching the telecast tends to think that the interviewee is a true representative of the group concerned and knows the situation well. As a result, we digest what is being fed to us and do not try to think of other possibilities. The media conveniently targets those it feels like and paints a corresponding picture by highlighting the views that give it more reactions. In fact, many a times the media jumps the gun and draws conclusions on its own. Words that are spoken are misunderstood and unspoken words are assumed.

Imagine the chaos at a site where a stampede has taken place. There will be eyewitnesses as well as those who have little information about the exact sequence of events that took place. Nonetheless, all the people will be treated alike and people shall believe whichever version of the incident they hear.

When a group is large and significant, in most cases, a spokesperson is appointed for communicating with people outside the group. He is responsible for answering the queries of people and represents the true views of the group. There are sure to exist some differences

among the people of any group, nonetheless, their unanimous decisions are communicated by the spokesperson. In such a case, it is not the mistake of people and media to absorb the ideas as true without doubt.

Another aspect that is closely related to the issue is that of the final opinion that people form. It is not necessary that people take the views projected by the media as true. Even if the media and society mistakenly expect an individual to speak for a particular group, we cannot assume that others take the statements of such people as true. Hence, the consequences of such mistakes of society cannot be estimated. Nonetheless, there are very few people who look beyond the media to assimilate the information being provided.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 134

"High-profile awards such as the Nobel Prize are actually damaging to society because they suggest that only a few people deserve such recognition."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 134

An awards is a prize or gift for a special contribution. Presenting an award is a way of honoring and recognizing noteworthy work done by people. High-profile awards like Nobel Prize are a representation of the topmost quality of work. I definitely do not agree with the statement that these awards are damaging to the society. They are not a way of showing discrimination towards people by suggesting that only few people deserve such recognition as is mentioned in the topic. On the other hand, they are an encouragement since it glorifies the good jobs done by people and brings them international acclaim.

Every good work needs to be encouraged. A child learns what is good and what is bad only because his good actions are appreciated and encouraged, whereas his bad actions are discouraged. Awards and prizes are given at every level, big or small. There are big awards like the Nobel Prizes and Olympic medals, prizes and awards are also basic to lower levels like schools and colleges. When a student attains the highest rank by scoring maximum marks, he is given an award by the school authorities to acknowledge his efforts and encourage him to continue the good work. Not only does this encourage him, but it also motivates other students to work hard and attain good score. It gives them an incentive to show that they are no less than anyone else in studies. The same is applicable to high-profile awards as well.

The very fact that awards like Nobel Prize are open to one and all proves that these awards consider all individuals equal. It is not the greatness of the personality of a person, but the greatness of his work that is recognized by such awards. These awards therefore offer equal opportunity to all to exhibit their potential in their fields and prove their excellence. What makes these awards high-profile is the quality and standard of achievement of the awardees than any other thing. Therefore, it gives them the credit of rising from the general public and working hard to achieve their position.

What makes the critics call these awards discriminatory is the fact that there is only one winner out of many people. It is true that all people are measured on the same yardstick for their achievement, but at the same time, the award is given only to the most deserving person out of all who have shown excellence in their work. However, I believe that the award becomes a symbol of extraordinary achievement and makes the winner a role model for others. Since it is bestowed on a few people, it helps in defining the standards of excellence, which can be and must be reached. Moreover, high-profile awards are not only to be celebrated by an individual who receives it, but it is a pride for the entire field, nation and world. When a person wins a prestigious award like Nobel Prize for his humanitarian work, it is not just a tribute to the person,

but to the entire humanity. Similarly, a person winning a Nobel Prize for literature becomes a symbol of excellence and is the pride of the entire literary fraternity for his contributions. Those who have not been able to get the award should get encouraged and motivated by these achievements and bring the same excellence in their works.

To sum up, I would like to maintain that high-profile awards are not damaging to the society. On the other hand, they prove to be a positive force and a source of encouragement to others.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 135

"The widespread idea that people should make self-improvement a primary goal in their lives is problematic because it assumes that people are intrinsically deficient."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 135

No one is born perfect. There is always a scope of improvement in everyone and it can be done with efforts made towards it. I believe that self-improvement is an effort to reach a state which is more advanced than the existing one. However, I disagree with the given statement that the idea of self-improvement is problematic because it assumes that people are intrinsically deficient. The statement seems to be written in a negative perspective. I hold that there is a great difference between being unskilled and being intrinsically deficient. Self-improvement can be made the primary goal of people who are unskilled, however, they need not be intrinsically deficient.

There is no end of learning. It is a continuous process. The growth of a human being is possible only if he keeps adding to his knowledge and improves himself. It only requires a realization of the scope of improvement. A person of any age and status, independent of how perfect he is, can seek self-improvement. However, this does not mean that he is basically deficient. Self-improvement is equally required by a teacher as well as by a student. We can, however, not deduce that a student is intrinsically deficient and needs improvement and a teacher is perfect. A student can better himself by gaining more knowledge from books, teachers and surroundings. Similarly, a teacher can add to his already existing knowledge by reading newspapers, keeping company of the learned and improving his way of teaching.

A person learning the art of pottery may initially be unskilled. However, he could be trained in another art and could be a good human being. This does not make him intrinsically deficient. However, learning the art of pottery makes him more skilled than before as well as satisfies his willingness to learn the art. Similarly, a doctor needs to keep himself upgraded with new technology and changes in his field. For him self-improvement is important to keep himself up-to-date with the latest advancement in the field of medicine. However, it does not mean that he is not good in his profession. He must be doing extremely well at a professional as well as a personal level. Nonetheless, self-improvement will help him in improving his already acquired skills. If he does not concentrate upon improving himself, just because self-improvement is a problematic idea, as is suggested in the statement, it would result in stagnation and he would not be able to progress professionally.

I would also like to add that for a person to improve it is very important to recognize the need for improvement. If we assume that we are perfect and there is no need for improvement, we would be left behind in this competitive world. Progress and advancement are possible only if there is a realization of their need. It does not require a person to feel deficient and useless without knowledge. If there is any requirement of improvement in a person, it must be viewed as a

chance and possibility to advance and progress. Therefore, the need for improvement should be looked upon positively, which gives the opportunity to a person to better himself.

To sum up, I would maintain that I disagree with the statement that since it assumes that the person is basically lacking in certain qualities, the issue of self-improvement is problematic. According to me, self-improvement cannot be termed problematic since it needs a positive driving force inside the person. A positive force is sought only if a person is intrinsically strong and willing to learn new things for his own improvement.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 136

"To truly understand your own culture-no matter how you define it-requires personal knowledge of at least one other culture, one that is distinctly different from your own."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 136

The best way to understand a subject clearly is to bring out its contrast with a similar subject. Similarly, the features of a particular culture stand out when it is compared to the features of another culture different from it. I agree with the given statement that to comprehend a culture completely one must have the knowledge of another culture as well. However, I also believe that all cultures share some basic features and are influenced by each other. The understanding, nevertheless, requires a certain amount of awareness about the differences that exist between the two.

The quality of the colour white comes out best when it is seen against black. Therefore, to bring out the true nature of anything it is best to compare it with another of a different nature. Every culture has distinct features. However, if we see our culture in isolation, we tend to neglect many of its aspects. This is because we get so accustomed to our culture that the salient features are generally overlooked. However, when we learn about another culture, these salient features come out as a striking contrast to the features of the other culture.

The culture of a society evolves from its social beliefs, political stability and educational background. Since these factors differ from place to place, the culture also differs. This accounts for different cultures, which can be American, European, Islamic or African culture. It is only when these cultures are seen against each other that we can term them as traditional, modern, backward, forward, conservative, formal, gentle etc. For example, the conservative Islamic culture stands in sharp contrast to the liberal American culture. While Americans might take their liberal culture for granted, its true meaning can be understood only when it is compared to a conservative culture like the Islamic. Similarly, for the English people, formal courtesies are inherent in their way of life. There is exceptional use of politeness in their language and gestures. Therefore, it is considered a usual behavior expected out of everyone. However, the uniqueness of this formal culture comes out when such a behavior is not to be found in other cultures. This is not to be found in Asian culture, where people are comparatively informal.

I also believe that all cultures have certain features in common. Against the statement that only by understanding a distinctly different culture can a person truly understand his own culture, I believe that the two cultures may not be completely opposite to each other. This means that virtues like honesty, truthfulness, sincerity, etc. are found to be common to all cultures. It does not require a culture with opposite features to understand these virtues. On the other hand, it has been seen that every culture is influenced by another culture. Therefore, there is an amalgamation of the features of different cultures in one particular culture. In today's world, it is

seen that different cultures co-exist in the same place. However, at the same time, I would maintain that the uniqueness of a culture comes out when it is compared to another.

To sum up, I would like to say that all cultures have certain unique features. However, there are certain features that are basic to all cultures. The understanding of the features of a particular culture becomes easier and vivid when it is compared with another culture, which need not be completely opposite in nature.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 137

"To truly understand your own culture-no matter how you define it-requires personal knowledge of at least one other culture, one that is distinctly different from your own."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 137

Success is the achievement of goals that a person sets for himself and strives to fulfill. Success makes a person become rich, famous or achieve a high social position. Therefore, it brings a certain amount of power in the hands of successful since they become recognized and are placed at a position above the rest. However, how is this power used? Some people are satisfied after they reach a certain position, while for some the newfound success could be used to expand the already existing empire by making money and achieving further goals. On the other hand, it could also be used for the betterment of society, uplifting the downtrodden and assisting the needy. This, in my view, is the best use of success. However, not many successful people devote themselves to a cause. I agree with the statement that there are many people who achieve success, however, very few that make its appropriate and best use.

Success is generally a personal achievement. However, the formula of achieving success differs from person to person. While some people adopt the way of hard work and sincerity, there are others who practice deceit and shrewdness to reach to the top. Whatever path a person follows to achieve success, one question remains, what is the use of this success? Is it the end or is it used to achieve something higher and of more value? How can the best use of success be made?

Everyone strives to be successful and adopts different methods for the same, but very few can give a justified answer to this question. For most people, the best use of success is to further personal goals and interests. Once a person tastes success, its feeling makes him intoxicated and he wishes to gain more power and triumph. This eventually takes the form of a cycle that does not end. However, is this the most appropriate use of achieving power? In my view it is not. I believe that success is not just the result of personal efforts. It is a combination of efforts of a person and his destiny. While there are many who work hard to reach to the top, not all are as successful. This is because of the difference in circumstances, situations and luck. Therefore, those who are less privileged would not meet the same result as someone who is successful. This is the reason that a successful person should not become overconfident but remain humble.

The success and power of a person should not only be a means to achieve higher accomplishments but should also be used for the betterment for those who are less fortunate. I believe that there is a purpose behind success of a person since he is the chosen one by destiny. This purpose is to serve humanity and support the deprived. Success should be taken as an opportunity to help the destitute and make things easier for the ones who find it difficult to make their ends meet. There have been people who have set an example for others with their humanitarian works. For example, Mother Teresa had devoted her life to the concern of the poor,

sick and orphaned. Similarly, Princess Dina was a famous public figure who supported many charity projects as well as causes like AIDS. While there are many big names that have used their position to work for humankind, many others are only concerned with personal gains. Many politicians use their position and power for their own interests. There are many youth icons who, instead of promoting high morals amongst youth, are involved in cases of terrorism, black-marketing and underworld. This is surely not the best way to bring success to play.

A successful person may not completely devote himself to social work. I maintain that there is no harm in aiming for a higher goal and achieving more heights. However, even partial effort made towards the betterment of society makes it worth. I surely am of the same opinion as mentioned in the statement that while people know how to achieve success, very few make the best use of the same.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 138

"People have been so encouraged by society to focus on apparent differences that they fail to see meaningful similarities among ideas, individuals, and groups."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 138

A society is formed of people. There are many similarities as well as differences found amongst the people of a society according to which people have made self-created distinctions. Those with similarities form a group amongst themselves and consider themselves different from the rest of the society. In the process of finding the existing differences, these man-made distinctions become so large that they surpass all other things that keep us binding to each other. I agree with the given statement that the society created by man makes him focus largely on the differences amongst people, which eventually make them unable to see the basic similarity that exists among human beings. People forget that despite the differences there are many things that are common amongst everyone, which are of a greater importance.

One might wonder what these differences that exist between people of a society are. While God did not make any distinctions while creating human beings, we have created differences like caste, religion, regionalism and nationalism. These boundaries exist in every society as people identify with the people of their own caste, religion and region. Because of this, people tend to distance themselves from others belonging to a different caste, religion or region. For example, people of a particular religion follow certain customs and beliefs that are different from the customs of another religion. They worship different gods, have different Holy Scriptures and chant different hymns and prayers. These differences become the basis of their existence and they forget that the gods and goddesses they worship are just different manifestations of the same God. However, people do not acknowledge the existence of one God and instead go ahead to attack other religions in order to protect their own. There have been cases where this religious intolerance has resulted in riots and violence as well. However, what people fail to understand is that while there are different religions, the purpose of all is the same. There is a greater similarity between these religions, which teaches love and affection for all living forms, but this is overlooked in order to protect the man-made customs.

Different nations come at war with each other due to the difference in existing ideas. However, what we fail to realize is that there are common enemies like terrorism, pollution, global warming and exhausting natural resources, which need to be concentrated upon. It is only joint effort of all nations that can save the earth from all these things. This effort requires different nations to unite and look above the differences in ideas in order to come to a solution. Similarly, people of one region and caste consider themselves different from the people of another region and caste. On the basis of these boundaries, people only focus over the existing diversity. However, if we look at these differences with a wider perspective, we will find that we all are a part of a single bigger whole.

As mentioned in the statement, there are many meaningful similarities which people fail to see. One can see these similarities only if the smaller differences are surpassed and ignored. It is only then that people will realize that all humans need love and affection. The basic desires of all people are the same even if they reside in different nations. It is the behavior, humanity and attitude of a person that make him stand out and not his caste or religion. The differences are only a social creation and these exist only due to the focus and attention given to them. It is only when people will realize the shallowness in these differences and willingly accept them as a mere social construct that they will be able to rise above these differences and identify with the similarities.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 139

"As people rely more and more on technology to solve problems, the ability of humans to think for themselves will surely deteriorate."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 139

It is human nature to look for shortcuts. When we have an easier way of doing something, we do not take the longer path in order to avoid trouble. As the world is advancing, it is making our lives easier. Many problems faced in the olden times which required a lot of physical as well as mental effort are now only a matter of a few clicks. Since technology has entered every home, office and school, there is an increased tendency to depend on it to get our jobs done. I agree with the fact that human dependence on technology has increased. This points at the suggestion made in the statement that the ability of humans to think for themselves will deteriorate in time. However, if this is realized at the correct time, such a situation can be avoided. Moreover, this may not be the case with every individual. The advancement of technology itself is a wonder of the human mind. It is only when great thinkers and learned people think on an individual level that development becomes possible.

Due to the advancement of technology we have now forgotten the pains taken to accomplish a task as was done before any development in that particular field was made. It is only when we are faced with problems that we make efforts to find a solution to it. We can find examples of this in history where it was only when people faced the problem of traveling long distances on foot and carrying heavy loads that made them think of a solution. This resulted in the invention of the wheel that made their work easier and less burdening. On the other hand, when there is no problem faced by us, we don't find the need to look for solutions and advancements.

The power of a human brain is unfathomable. However, it is important to keep the brain working by performing mental exercises. There were times when people relied on their mental abilities to perform calculations. This kept them mentally active and alert. However, as calculators came into existence, people started performing even simple calculations on the calculator. This is the reason why we are not able to solve a mathematical problem orally while our fathers, who did not use calculators, are still quick to solve the same. This indicates that we started depending upon calculators for every calculation, which made our brains dull and irresponsible to mental calculations. As the computer came into the world, it reduced our mental work even further.

If a machine were not used for a long time it would start creaking and eventually stop working. Our brain, like any machinery, needs to be exercised in order to keep it working. Therefore, it is on us to exercise our thinking abilities and keep ourselves active. If we depend too much upon technology and avoid mental exercise, it would definitely deteriorate our thinking abilities. Therefore, along with taking the benefits of technology, we should develop a habit of thinking and solving problems at our own. Students should be encouraged to develop a problem-solving

attitude by giving them tasks related to finding solutions. Similarly, we must calculate our monthly budget without any help. Instead of turning to the interiors of our homes and offices in the hot weather, we should think about the possible solutions to reduce global warming. Likewise, it is only when we give a personal thought on how to save fuel that practical solutions like sharing vehicles to schools and offices can be sought.

As I have discussed earlier, technology is a creation of the human mind. This development is possible only because of the advancement of human thinking abilities. However, we must make it a point that we do not become a slave to the advancement of technology and retain our thinking abilities, which would keep the development going.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 140

"Colleges should require students to engage in public-service activities in order to assure that each student receives a balanced, well-rounded education."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 140

Education is not just imparting academic knowledge amongst students. It is the development of all around personality of a student in order to make him eligible to adjust and succeed in the society. That is why along with cognitive development, education should seek physical, cultural, moral and social development of the child. I agree with the statement that engaging students in public-service activities helps in their all around development. I would like to add that this should be an extension to curriculum followed in schools for children's social development. Moreover, along with engaging students in public-service activities, it is important to inculcate values like helpfulness, social responsibility and respect towards every work, even if it is small, so that they do not view any task as a menial job, and have the willingness to continue doing it in their later lives.

Each individual is a member of the society. Therefore, it is important that students are educated about their role in the society. Every citizen of the society has a social responsibility. They need to realize their responsibility at the right time so that they perform their duties well. College is the pinnacle of students' education. It is here that they are finally prepared to face the world and be at their own. Hence, the curriculum of colleges should not only include the academic part, but must also concentrate on social education. If the students are made to do works like cleaning a public park, extending help to patients like donating blood and helping poor to get food, medicines etc., it will develop a feeling of compassion amongst them for the needy and also make them realize their role as a responsible citizen.

It is often seen that the young misuse public utilities like water. Many times public taps are kept running and leaking. No one makes an effort to close these taps and save water. It is only when the students are made to do public services that they realize the importance of such things. Therefore, if colleges step-in and encourage the students to avoid wasting water, and provide clean drinking water to the needy, it will help in building up good values and guidelines for them. This will encourage them to follow these guidelines throughout their lives.

As I have mentioned earlier, it is not only the colleges that should keep in mind the all around development of a student, but the schools should also ensure that they form the basis for the same. Therefore, the curriculum in a school should also include social education where students should be taught the benefits of maintaining good social behavior. It is only when our educational institutions help in inculcating such habits that we can have a healthy society of balanced individuals. Such a step from the colleges and schools encourages the students to take up the cause of social work and eradicate evils from the society.

It is true that each individual cannot become a social worker, or is not able to join a social service institute, but we can do our little bit by following the path taught in colleges. Respecting the importance of public property and engaging in a little social work makes a person more conscientious and dutiful towards the society. These values surely go a long way in developing a balanced and all around personality of a person.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 141

"People make the mistake of treating experts with suspicion and mistrust, no matter how valuable their contributions might be."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 141

Survival and success in today's modern world is largely determined by your skills in surpassing the others in the race to excel in your choice of career. Every field of study or profession will have its own experts who have an in-depth knowledge of the subject being handled. At the same time, there will be people who have not been able to reach that position due to varied reasons like the inability to study or lack of interest in the subject. It is a common trend to treat experts with suspicion and mistrust especially since the others probably have little or no knowledge about the study or practices being carried out by the experts. To be more precise, people make the common mistake of suspecting the experts of carrying out something that can be potentially harmful for them or for the society.

If you go to a new dentist for curing a toothache and the dentist suggests that the tooth be extracted, how many of us will immediately get it extracted? There will be only a handful of such people who will completely trust the dentist. A majority of people would avoid getting the tooth extracted until they have taken a second opinion from another dentist who confirms that the same action is actually required. A dentist is an expert in his field. He may have made invaluable contributions to the town in which he resides. Nevertheless, he will be treated with mistrust and suspicion by a majority of people because the people themselves are unaware of dental problems and their remedies. It is this lack of knowledge that leads people to eye experts suspiciously.

People make a huge mistake by not trusting the experts in their field of work. Such mistakes have often led to grave miscalculations. For instance, take a look at the profession of politics. Most politicians are experts in their chosen fields. They are capable of leading their country on the path to progress. No matter how honest a politician is, he will generally be treated with suspicion and every action carried out by him will be doubted by the public. People feel that there is an ulterior motive behind every action being taken by the politicians. It may be true to an extent as some politicians are indeed unscrupulous, but doubting the authenticity of a politician's actions may lead to major losses for the country's economic progress.

Experts have the answers to the questions that may remain unanswered if common people try to solve them. Therefore, it is for the benefit of the public that they instill faith in the experts in each field and let them take the major decisions. If a flyover has to be built over a congested area of the city, the architects are the best people to decide how the flyover has to be built. The architects should not succumb to political or public pressure to build a flyover that is limited by financial or other constraints. The construction experts will succeed in building a successful flyover only with the support and faith of the people for whom it is being built. Doubting the

credibility of the construction company will only lead to protests and it will ultimately delay the implementation of the project.

The main reason behind this attitude is the ignorance about the subject being handled by the experts which makes the public feel that they might be cheated and that the experts are probably carrying out their work for personal gains rather than for the society as a whole. Therefore, even though experts may have made numerous valuable contributions to society, they have always been treated with suspicion and mistrust by the common man.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 142

"Government should place few, if any, restrictions on scientific research and development."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 142

We have all heard, "Science is a necessary evil." Why was this saying coined? The reason is evident as all research work in science has two aspects. The results of scientific research can be used both for constructive purposes as well as for destructive purposes. The probability of the result of a scientific research being misused assumes greater importance when the research is being carried out by private companies and organizations. Therefore, it is imperative that the government puts some form of restrictions on scientific research and development.

Research work in the field of nuclear science has always been a controversial issue. The energy produced by nuclear reactions can be tapped for constructive purposes like generation of power. At the same time, this nuclear energy can also be utilized for developing weapons for mass destruction. If a private company carries out research for fabricating nuclear weapons, then it is bound to make a lot of profit by selling these weapons to revolutionary outfits and other countries. This would lead to a volatile situation wherein the power to cause destruction on a large scale would be available with numerous organizations. Is this acceptable? We all know the aftermath of the atomic explosions at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Can we afford to let it happen again? It would be worse if it happens at the hands of a terrorist outfit. The memory of the terror attack on the World Trade Center towers in New York is still fresh in our minds. The widespread destruction as the result of a probable terror attack based on nuclear weapons confirms the fact that there is a requirement of restricting the scientific research and development of nuclear energy.

One cannot refute the fact that the greatest contributions to the progress of mankind have been made by scientists who carried out scientific research on their own without having to seek permission from their respective governments. However, the scenario today is entirely different from what existed centuries ago. In the present times, the quest to earn huge amounts of money and fame has reached alarming proportions. People are willing to go to all possible extents to make their lives more comfortable. Surgeons have carried out research work and developed compounds like botox that can wipe years off your face by a couple of injections. This may be useful for people who are associated with the glamour world and who earn their livelihood because of the youthful appeal of their faces. However, what about the common people who are now getting addicted to annual botox administrations? Won't these have side-effects? For how long can one conquer age? If one does intend to remain youthful all his life, then is mutating the genes of human embryos justified?

Research is already underway for cloning animals, but there is widespread speculation about the results of similar experiments on humans. Is it warranted to have a baby that is the clone of a

popular movie star or a clone of his own brother or sister? What would be the result if such a technology falls into the wrong hands? People can use this for creating clones that will carry out crimes by impersonations. All this will be possible if the research work on human DNA is allowed to be carried out without any restrictions. At the same time, one cannot deny the fact that extensive research on human DNA has led to the emergence of the stem cell technology that can cure you from terminal diseases later on in life.

In view of the above, it is evident that putting stringent regulations on scientific research work would not be a wise decision. Nevertheless, there should be some restrictions applied by the government on all forms of scientific research to ensure that the technology being developed will be used for the betterment of mankind.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 143

"In any profession-business, politics, education, government-those in power should step down after five years. The surest path to success for any enterprise is revitalization through new leadership."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 143

Does a leader lose his charisma and competence after five years? The answer to this question is debatable. People in power may be competent enough to handle their responsibilities, but it would be a grave mistake not to give a chance to the others. It is likely that there may be someone else who is able to handle the same responsibilities in a better manner. Moreover, since the modern world now elects its leaders in almost all professions, it would be a wise decision to change the leadership regularly. It may not necessarily be after every five years. The duration may be further reduced or increased, but a change is inevitable for success in any enterprise.

There have been monarchs who have successfully ruled their countries for decades. On the other hand, there are examples of rulers who were overthrown in a coup because the public found that they were not worthy of the position of power held by them. If monarchy was indeed so successful, then why is it that democracy has replaced monarchy in most countries across the world? This is because there is the requirement of a change in leadership at regular intervals. This change of leadership serves two purposes. Firstly, the person in power is aware of the repercussions of carelessly handling his responsibilities. He knows that he can be removed from his post even before his tenure is over, so he puts in his best for doing what is expected of him. Secondly, this process ensures that new talent is given a chance to come and prove their competence in carrying out the tasks assigned to them. There is always the possibility of someone remaining in power for the next term also if the organization fails to identify a suitable replacement for him. Therefore, a change in leadership is bound to bring in long-term benefits for the enterprise in addition to success in all its ventures.

It is an exhilarating feeling to have the power to make people dance to your whims and fancies. It is this feeling that is the reason behind the prevalent corruption amongst the people in power. We have heard of so many instances wherein the people in power have misused their official position for personal gains. Stories of embezzlement of accounts, fraud, bribery and nepotism have generally been found in the front pages of our national dailies. These are all related to the misuse of power by the people who have been placed in this position for the betterment of the organization that they work for. A change in leadership ensures that such people will eventually be removed after their tenure is over and the new person thus appointed may be much more honest and cooperative, thereby improving the working conditions in the organization.

There are numerous students who earn professional degrees every year. As technology keeps changing at short intervals, it would be a wise decision to try out new talent as they would be

trained to keep instep with the latest developments. If the head of the computer department of a high school is a teacher who had graduated 10 years ago, wouldn't it be a better option to replace him with a teacher who has recently graduated and who is aware of the latest technological developments in the world of computer science. The school and the students will benefit from the knowledge of the new teacher who can give an entirely new dimension to the computer education being imparted in the school.

In sum, it becomes necessary to change the leadership at regular intervals in order to ensure that the best available talent in the market is tapped for leading an organization on the path to success.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 144

"Spending time alone makes one a better companion to others."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 144

Who is termed as a good companion? A good companion is someone who keeps you happy, accompanies you, holds discussions on topics of common interest and is available for you whenever you want him to be with you. Can these traits be developed by spending most of your time alone? People who spend most of their time alone get used to a different kind of lifestyle in which they no longer prefer to be in the company of others. Therefore, it is obvious that someone who spends time alone cannot be a good companion for the others.

Everybody has different characteristics when it comes to their personality. A person may be an extrovert or an introvert depending upon how he interacts with others. If a person is an extrovert, but he has been spending most of his time staying alone, then this habit may probably not affect his capabilities as a good companion. This is because he will easily be able to adapt to the environment and mix up with others as per their requirements. However, if someone is an introvert and likes to stay all by himself, then it will be all the more difficult for him to develop the habits that are necessary in order to be a good companion.

Man is a social animal. He has to live in society and for that he has to learn the norms of society. A person will have to inculcate habits that make him acceptable and liked in a group of people. A person who stays aloof and rarely participates in any form of discussion is unlikely to be popular in his peer group. One learns a lot by interacting and discussing with others. If you are more interested in spending time alone, it may not be possible for you to be aware of what is happening in your family, neighborhood or peer group. Therefore, if you are asked to accompany someone, you will probably be lost when it comes to discussing the latest events in the neighborhood. In addition, you may probably not be proficient in team games, thereby limiting the contributions you could make as a good companion. If you have the habit of staying alone, then you will probably be uncomfortable accompanying others to parties and get-togethers.

This does not mean that someone who likes to be alone most of the time cannot be friends with others. It is likely that such people form long lasting relationships with others who share their interests and who have similar habits. However, generally speaking, staying alone makes a person susceptible to becoming an introvert and he rarely likes to socialize with others. Such people find it difficult to strike a conversation with others and they feel uncomfortable in noisy groups. They may be good companions for people who like to be clam and quiet, but it is not necessary that they will be good companions for all types of people.

Let's consider a scenario wherein you have two neighbors. The first one likes to spend his time alone and the second one is an extrovert who has a large friend circle and who is lively and

talkative. If you are sitting alone at home on a holiday and you want some company, whom would you call over: the first one or the second one? You may probably not even know the name of the first one as he is aloof from the others. Moreover, you will have a doubt that he might not come over even if you call him. On the other hand, you may probably look forward to calling over the second one as you would be sure that your boring day will be made interesting by spending it with your second neighbor. Hence, this example justifies the conclusion that spending time alone seldom makes people better companions for others.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 145

"One can best understand the most important characteristics of a society by studying its major cities."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 145

As the good old cliché goes, "when you are in Rome, do as the Romans do," it is understood that Romans can be expected to behave in a manner that is represented by the city of Rome. In other words, the city of Rome reflects the characteristics of the Roman society. Is this true in the present world also? This cliché may be questionable in the modern world because Rome would now constitute of people from various societies who have chosen to settle there due to various reasons like their choice of career. Therefore, it is now very difficult to understand the most important characteristics of any one society by studying its major cities. On the contrary, these characteristics could be better understood by studying the villages and small towns of the society where the traits and characteristics of that society would still be preserved.

In the past, the major cities of any civilization or society were the economic, cultural and political centers of that particular society. These cities reflected the true characteristics of the society that they were a part of. However, due to rapid developments across the globe, now most of the major cities of the world are almost the same. This is because there has been an intermingling of various societies with people traveling far and wide in search of careers and better homes. Any major city of the world would now consist of people who may have varied origins.

Can a study of Paris help in understanding the true characteristics of the French society? The answer to this question would probably be a "No". This is because by virtue of being the fashion hub of the world, Paris now the home of designers, fashion models, garment manufacturers who have their roots in some other country. Therefore, a study of Paris cannot be relied upon for giving accurate information about the French society. Moreover, over the years, there would have been inter-race marriages leading to a new generation that does not carry the traits of the societies of either of its parents. In fact, the case is similar in most of the major cities across the world leading to a generation that is not related to any one society in particular. On the contrary, small towns and villages situated in the countryside of France will give you an idea of the characteristics of the French society as these townships would be consisting of French people who have been able to retain their traditions through the generations.

Extensive excavations in Pakistan had led to the discovery of the civilizations of Mohenjodaro and Harappa. These excavations revealed the remains of the towns that were a part of the Indus valley civilization. A study of these towns has shed light on the characteristics of the society that existed in those times. The people of the society were restricted to living in these cities due to lack of suitable means of transport for long distance traveling. They were probably born and

brought up in the same city and this made them follow the norms of the society religiously. Therefore, a study of the major cities in the past would have given an exact indication of the characteristics of the societies that existed in those times. However, the same may not be true in the present context.

In sum, it is definitely true that a study of the major cities of any society helps in understanding the characteristics of the society. However, this may not necessarily be true in the modern world where the characteristics of a society are probably limited to its rural areas.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 146

"In most professions and academic fields, imagination is more important than knowledge."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 146

What would have happened if Thomas Alva Edison had not imagined a futuristic world in which there would be an electrical source of light? If the early man had not imagined a more comfortable life, the wheel would have never been invented. In order to progress ahead in life, one has to imagine what the future holds for him and then only can he plan his present. It is always your imagination that will lead you to success because imagination gives you an aim that can be achieved using the knowledge that you have acquired. Merely acquiring knowledge in any field does not ensure success in the long run. Your knowledge will remain limited to your books and memory if you do not effectively utilize it for giving a shape to your imagination. Therefore, it is true that imagination is more important than knowledge in almost every profession and in academic fields.

Imagination is crucial for success in any field. The theories of science and all related facts and figures are available as commonly known knowledge. However, path breaking discoveries and inventions are realized by only those who dare to imagine something that has never been thought of before. It was the Wright brothers' imagination that led them to experimenting with traveling in air leading to the development of the first flight by a fixed-winged airplane. If they had not imagined such a thing, people would have probably never even thought that man can utilize fixed-wing aircraft as a reliable form of transport. The theories and knowledge related to science were available for everyone living in that time. However, it was the imagination of the Wright brothers that made them devise aircraft controls that facilitated the fixed-winged flight.

Another example exists in the professions related to the world of business. An enterprising business entrepreneur needs to imagine how he can change the face of his business before he utilizes the knowledge available with him for doing the same. Bill Gates is one of the richest men in the world today. He started as a common man who had a vision of creating something that would change the world of software. Today almost every computer in the world has one or the other Microsoft application installed. This has been possible because Bill Gates had let his imagination run free and he later devised the tools for realizing his dreams.

Art is one such field where there is no scope for success without imagination. Painters, poets, writers etc. all have to imagine before they can put their thoughts on paper. Literary works by famous writers are by and large works of fiction that have stemmed from their imagination. J. K. Rowling is rolling in millions because she imagined a character called Harry Potter and authored a series of books that revolve around a fictional storyline. This book series catapulted her to instant fame and fortune in a short span of time. There are thousands of writers struggling to get a break, and the one who has actually succeed in becoming a multi-millionaire overnight is the

one who utilized her imagination in the best possible manner. All painters have the knowledge that is required for mixing colors and creating designs on canvas, but the ones who have created a niche for themselves are the ones who have put their vivid imagination on canvas.

In view of the above, it is obvious that imagination is more important than knowledge for success in any field. This is because all people have easy access to knowledge and so one needs to be imaginative in order to leave the others behind and come up with something inspiring and useful for the society we live in.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 147

"The most effective way to communicate an idea or value to large groups of people is through the use of images, not language."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 147

Why does the education system pay a lot of emphasis on visual training aids? This is because it is a well known fact that people absorb information better through the medium of visual images as compared to language. However, this may not always be true. There may be instances when language surpasses the effectiveness of images in conveying an idea to a large group of people. Therefore, ideas can be communicated to large groups most effectively through a combination of images and language.

A large audience may not always be receptive to what is being spoken at the center stage. Take the example of a large gathering which is being addressed by a leader. Depending on the acoustics of the enclosure when everyone is seated and the public addressing system that is being utilized, the people who are the farthest from the center stage may not be able to even hear what is being said by the leader. If the organizers of the event plan to install a giant screen on which some images related to what is being said are displayed, the audience will be in a better position to understand what is intended to be conveyed by the leader. We all have been witness to popular award functions where you can see huge screens displaying what is happening at the center stage. Moreover, these screens are used to display short clips for showcasing a new movie or the lifetime achievements of an award winner. We all have observed that this is a much more effective way of communicating with the audience rather than reading out lengthy speeches related to the same information that has been easily conveyed by the visual images.

On the contrary, there may be certain cases where images are bound to confuse the audience and it becomes necessary to supplement the images being displayed with spoken information. For instance, the person chairing a seminar on a new idea for help in quitting smoking may utilize certain images to highlight the side-effects of smoking, but he will have to resort to lengthy speeches to explain the same to the audience. Simply viewing the images may not have the desired effect on the audience. Additionally, the lack of spoken information may puzzle the audience as they will probably not be able to understand the message that the speaker is trying to convey. The use of language will assume greater importance when the speaker has to discuss the anatomy of the human body which is most likely to be affected by smoking. The audience may not be able to comprehend what is being displayed if they are not told what part of the human body it is. On the other hand, simply talking about the issue without displaying relevant images may make the talk boring and it is likely that the audience will lose interest in the talk that is being delivered. Hence, there is a requirement that the speaker works out a system where he is able to effectively utilize images to support the idea that he wants to convey to a large audience.

It is very difficult to generate interest in a large group. Lack of interest in what is being spoken is likely to make people drift away from the discussion and they may start talking amongst themselves or they may leave the discussion altogether resulting in the failure of the speaker to convey his idea. Utilizing images and other visual aids ensures that people are interested in knowing what is being discussed. If images were not all that important, then there would be no requirement of ad campaigns which are designed to reach out to the masses for conveying a message. An advertisement containing only text will probably not even be read by people, but an advertisement with an image with the accompanying text catches the attention of common people. Therefore, it is obvious that the best way to convey an idea to a large group of people would be to try out a combination of images and language in suitable proportions.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 148

"The people who make important contributions to society are generally not those who develop their own new ideas, but those who are most gifted at perceiving and coordinating the talents and skills of others."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 148

People who have the talent to develop their own ideas may not be able to contribute much to the society if they are unable to present their skills in a suitable manner. On the other hand, people who have the inborn talent to recognize and coordinate the skills of others would be contributing more to the society that they live in. In other words, most of the important contributions are made to the society by the people who are adept at coordinating the skills of others and not by those people who develop their own ideas.

The modern world is highly competitive and people have to struggle for their survival. Nobody can earn fame and success on the basis of his ideas alone. He will need the assistance of a second person who can showcase his talent to the world. Take the example of an individual who is gifted with a beautiful voice. Can he make any significant contribution to the society without the assistance of a music company which will launch him as a singer or release his music albums? It is true that the owner of the music company would probably be doing this for monetary benefits, but he would eventually be making an important contribution to the society by coordinating the vocal skills of different people and creating music that can be appreciated by people of all ages. The individual singers may be very talented and they may even be capable of devising new music compositions, but they may not even be heard by the public unless they are promoted by people who have the skill to perceive their talent and present it to the world in an attractive packaging.

There have been numerous leaders in history who are famous for the contributions that they made to the society. Both Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela have fought against racism. Neither of the two could have been successful in his endeavors if he had not been able to coordinate a movement consisting of people who had similar ideas. Mahatma Gandhi succeeded in freeing India from the British Rule only because he was able to tap the patriotic spirit that existed in the people of those times. Wars have been won by military leaders because they have been able to coordinate the skills of their soldiers. There are soldiers who may be skilled snipers, while others may be experts in handling mortars. An army wins a war because the men who are at the top in the military hierarchy are able to coordinate all the available skills in such a manner that victory is inevitable.

There is no denying the fact that great thinkers and scientists have made innumerable contributions to society by developing their ideas single-handedly. These ideas may have been related to the conceptualization of theories or the invention of important devices. However, such

individuals will be outnumbered when compared to the people who have made significant contributions by coordinating the skills of the others so that they were able to achieve a common goal. Hence, it can be said that any form of success in the modern world cannot be achieved without the efforts of leaders who can coordinate the skills and talents of the people who work with them. Therefore, it is these leaders who make significant contributions to society.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 149

"Truly profound thinkers and highly creative artists are always out of step with their time and their society."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 149

It has been seen that in the past, great thinkers and artists have generally been out of step with their time and their society, but it cannot be taken as rule. In other words, it is not necessary that great thinkers and artists have always been out of step with the people who have lived in their times. This is because there are examples of artists who were recognized and admired in their times by their societies and the number of such thinkers and artists is now on the increase.

There are many thinkers and artists who remained obscure for as long as they lived. Their works and achievements were given due credit long after they died. This is because the coming generations were able to understand the real meaning and impact of the contributions made by these thinkers in their time. History is replete with examples of scientists and thinkers who had challenged the notion that the earth is at the center of the universe. They were misinterpreted by the societies of those times and some of them were rebuked for voicing their opinions. However, the coming generations recognized their contributions as it was later proved that the earth revolves around the sun.

The reason behind the rejection of the ideologies of thinkers and artists in their times could be that art and philosophy need time to be understood by people. If in the past, an individual came up with a new idea, the society did not immediately agree to whatever he envisaged or foresaw. He had to stand the test of time before the people began to understand the truth behind his philosophy or his pieces of art. The erstwhile societies were rigid and they found it difficult to accept the views of someone else who chose to defy the norms that were being followed or the ideology that was being believed. It may be true to a small extent even today. For instance, today there are a number of people who claim to have seen aliens and unidentified flying objects or who have formulated theories of camouflaged aliens living amongst humans. There are numerous movies that have been based on the same concept. Contemporary society may scoff at them or probably treat their theories with complete disbelief. However, if in the future, it is proved that aliens actually exist or they are indeed living amongst humans in a different form, then these very people will be elevated to the status of great thinkers who had predicted the existence of aliens and had created movies based on them.

Thinkers like scientists who were able to support their ideologies with scientific evidence have been appreciated in their lifetimes by their societies as the people believed what they had brought forth. For instance, theories of scientists like Isaac Newton and Albert Einstein were accepted by the society in their times and they received due recognition for their work in their lifetimes. Gautam Buddha was revered in his lifetime by thousands of people and long after he has gone,

the religion of Buddhism is followed all across the world by millions of people. The principles of Gautam Buddha were accepted both in his lifetime and in the era after his death.

Contemporary society is more open to new ideas as compared to the societies in the past. People are given a platform to project their opinions and the society is quite receptive when it comes to giving recognition to some piece of art. There are numerous thinkers in modern society who have a large number of supporters who believe in the ideology being propagated by the thinker. There are many cults that have come up which follow an ideology of their own and they have been able to garner enough support from the society as well.

Therefore, in the modern world, there is a greater chance of thinkers and artists getting recognition as compared to the erstwhile societies which were more orthodox. Therefore, it can be said that some great thinkers and artists may have been out of step with their times, but when seen in the larger perspective, most of these artists and thinkers have got their due during their lifetimes and will continue to do so in the future.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 150

"People today are too individualistic. Instead of pursuing self-centered, separate goals, people need to understand that satisfaction comes from working for the greater good of the family, the community, or society as a whole."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 150

The common man today has completely forgotten his commitments towards the society he lives in. Owing to the tough competition for survival, man is more concerned about his own well being. Everyone has set a goal for himself and he tries his level best to achieve that goal by putting in his best efforts. Even if one does achieve his goal, it is unlikely that he will be satisfied with what he has achieved. He will probably set a new goal for himself and put in all possible efforts to attain the new goal that he has set for himself. In this mad race for success, the welfare of one's family and society are completely forgotten. Hence, there is an urgent requirement of making people understand that true satisfaction can come only from working for the good of the family and the society rather than by pursuing individual goals.

If one of the children of a small family is getting a good job in a city that is far away from home, he will probably not give a second thought to his parents or younger siblings who would be left at home. If he is successful in his career, he will probably never give up his career to come and stay with his parents. On the other hand, he will try his level best to convince his parents that uprooting themselves from their hometown to come and live with him would be a wise decision. Hence, it can be seen that people are willing to travel to different cities in pursuit of their goals with total disregard to their parents or other dependants who are left behind at home.

The same holds true for the attitude of people with respect to their society also. Take the example of a bright student from a poor third world country who immigrates to the US in pursuit of higher studies. If he does well in his professional course, he will be more interested in settling in the US and using his talents for doing well in his career. It is highly unlikely that he would like to fall back to his own country and utilize his competence and talent for the betterment of the society where he had been born and brought up. This is evident from the huge surge in the number of students from third world countries who are preparing for exams like GMAT, GRE, LSAT, MACT etc. so that they can study in the US and probably settle there only. This 'brain drain' has become a cause of worry for some of the third world countries who are facing an acute shortage of professionally qualified people.

Therefore, the immediate requirement is that people be taught to place their families and society above their personal gains. This is absolutely essential for the betterment of the society as a whole. How can a society progress if its people are busy pursuing their individual goals with total disregard to the harm that it may bring to the entire society? There was a huge hue and cry over the use of pesticides in some of the popular cola drinks. Why had the companies not

disclosed this to the public when their drinks were launched initially? This fact came out in the open after some tests were conducted on the soft drink samples. Did the cola manufacturing companies stop their production in view of the threat to the health of the public? On the contrary, the companies went all out to prove that the percentage of pesticides in the ingredients of the drinks were negligible.

Are we as individuals concerned about the depletion of the ozone layer? What are we doing to ensure that the society benefits from our contributions to saving the ecological balance of the earth? Are we careful about not using plastic as it is non-degradable? People are careful about not using plastic bags only if their use has been debarred by the local authorities. All these facts prove that people are no longer concerned about the well-being of either their families or their society. All that they are concerned about is the pursuit of their individual goals. Therefore, there is a requirement of encouraging individuals to work for the interests of the society, thereby making the world a much better place to live in.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 151

"Schools should be required to teach the essential interconnectedness of all human beings and thus help eliminate wars, cultural clashes, and other forms of conflict."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 151

A school is an institution where the young budding minds of a country are trained by imparting education so that they can become capable to make the future of that nation brighter. Although the basic aim of all schools has been to make better human beings still we have seen cultural differences, wars and all other forms of human differences. It may lead us to believe that our education system must be flawed somewhere as it is not able to achieve its aim of interconnecting all humans. We have been taught basic principles of humanity in our schools but still when we all grow up we all forget what we learned in our school. I believe that even if more stress would be made in schools to teach students about interconnectedness in all human beings, it still would not solve the problem of ongoing conflicts which have always been there amongst humans.

We are taught good things in life but the bad we notice our own. Even though we as young students are imbued with the goodness in life, some of that goodness becomes devilish. Here we have not discussed the circumstances under which the humans are instigated to go against human values. There are so many cultural clashes, so many wars that have happened and are still going on in some parts of the world. This certainly does not mean that all those people who are part of these clashes and wars were never taught the basic principles of humanity but due to some unavoidable circumstances they are forced to do all such inhumanly acts. The very famous incident of 9/11 which shook the whole world is one such example. The people involved certainly had human values. The people behind such an attack were from a community that lays emphasis on being kind and nice to all fellow humans. The people who can sake their religious principles for the feeling of revenge can certainly forget what they were taught about humanity in school.

The students in schools are taught all values related to humanity so that they can practice them in their lives. The duty of a teacher is to teach a student but what the student does of the education imparted to him is entirely upon the student. A student from the same class can become a renowned scientist while the other can end up becoming a terrorist. This certainly does not mean that the efforts on the part of the school should stop to make better citizens out of young children. The endeavor to teach students about humanity certainly helps as at least their brains are integrated towards the right direction. Therefore, schools should adopt various measures to teach students the interconnectedness of all human beings with a hope that wars and cultural clashes would be eliminated but certainly, it would not secure the wars and such clashes.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 152

"Major policy decisions should always be left to politicians and other government experts, who are more informed and thus have better judgment and perspective than do members of the general public."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 152

People of a country represent the worth of the nation. Different nations across the world have different policies for running their government. Where in some nations democracy is prevalent on the other hand there are nations where autocracy is still in existence. No matter which form of government is prevalent in a country, the interest of the people of that country can not be overlooked. The will of the people in a democracy is very importance and I believe they have all the right also to take part in all the decisions which would affect their interest as they are eventually going to be affected by it. Therefore the major policy decisions of a country can not be left to the politicians or government experts. The say of the members of the general public should have equal weight age in this case.

Political leaders are public representatives and they are given the authority and responsibility on the part of the public to take decisions. A political leader can take a decision to construct a flyover bridge for a place in a city to solve the problem of merging traffic in a particular area. The construction of the flyover would not only result in large expenditure but it can also leave some people homeless or jobless in the area where buildings have to be demolished for building the flyover. It could be quite possible that the city must be in more need of a school rather than a flyover and moreover the problem of merging traffic can also be solved by diverting certain traffic from that area. These issues can only be brought to the notice of the political or government authorities through representatives of general public. These members would not only convey the public viewpoint they would also they would be able to convince public in regard to the decision made by the government. They would prove to be an effective link between public and government and would be able to remove major conflicts or misunderstandings from both the fronts.

There is no doubt about the advantages of having members representing general public as it is in the favor of both, the public and government. There are certain matters at times which can not be discussed with public in open as it could lead to panic. Such situations arise during wars or in emergencies During such times we as citizens should have full faith in the decisions of our political and government officers as they have been elected by us and are our true well-wishers. They are the ones who have the responsibility to run our country and we have to help them in doing so and not prove to be a hindrance in their way. However, it should also be the responsibility on the part of the government and political leaders to involve the general public in making decisions related to them whenever it is possible and required.

It is difficult for both the government and the public to work and perform solely. They are different sides of the same coin and hence inseparable. They are incomplete without each other therefore they should work in harmony.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 153

"All students should be required to take courses in the sciences, even if they have no interest in science."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 153

A human is a student all his life from the time he is born until his death. The process of learning is an ongoing process and it never ends. Whatever knowledge a human acquires is beneficial to him. A school is a temple for a student who aspires to gain knowledge there. A student in a school is taught different subjects related to different fields of life. All these subjects play a very important role in a student's life. There are various mandatory subjects that a student is required to learn till his matriculation and this is to make him well versed with the world outside. This initial education about all the subjects is sufficient for the student to give him an idea about all the subjects. After matriculation it's up to the student to take further education in whichever subject he wants. A student opting for a language course in English certainly can not be forced to take up a course in science as it is not of his interest. A student after a certain age is free to learn what he wants to and can not be forced to learn what we want him to learn. Therefore I believe it is an individual preference of a student to take up whatever course he aspires to take up in his educational front.

All subjects taught to students in school are very important in life and they help the students to learn and become more prepared in life. It certainly does not mean that science is very important and it should be made mandatory even if a student has no interest in taking up that course. If a course in science is made mandatory in schools it would give a wrong impression to the students who are otherwise not opting for such courses. It would certainly shake their ego as the subject of their interest is placed second to science. If a student has an eye for an art and he is forced to take up a course in science it would not only affect his interest in his subject but he would also not be able to do justice to the science course. Taking up a mandatory science course would not guarantee a student of a better career option. If a student is going to pursue a course in arts later then taking up a science course would be of no help.

The importance of science as a subject can not be overlooked and our life is based on science only. Science is applicable in all fields of life and students are taught science as a mandatory subject in schools. Science certainly can not be made as a forced subject as it would lose its impact upon students. Those students who wish to study science with an interest would now consider it as an obligation. Therefore to keep the charm of science alive in students it should not be made mandatory, rather it should be left on the student's discretion as to which subject he wants to pursue in higher education.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 154

"Patriotic reverence for the history of a nation often does more to impede than to encourage progress."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 154

History of a country is a mirror of its developmental process. It's the history of a country that is the true heritage and the nation's recognition in the world front. People around the world know us because of the rich heritage our nation has. The role of patriotic leaders in a country's history is indispensable as they are the ones who made history with their bravery and courage. Patriotism has always influenced people of any nation as the patriots are considered the true heroes of all times. In all fronts of life we are given the examples of our patriots about how they fought and did tremendous work for their nation by staking their lives. I believe patriotic respect for the history of a nation has always been inspiring the youth of the country to perform better. Patriotic leaders have been the ideals of the younger generation and they aspire to do what their mentors have dreamed of doing for their country. Therefore patriotic regard have always been helpful in regard to the nation's progress and it has been inspiring youth to do better.

History is the backbone of any nation and history reflects a nation's true picture to other nations. The great patriotic leader, French general Napoleon Bonaparte was a true hero of his nation and till date holds a distinctive place in the history of France. Napoleon was not only a great patriot but he also made remarkable place for himself in the French history. His innumerable deeds of courage have been inspiring people of all ages and not only is he a part of French history but also of the histories of other nations. Napoleon was a great man and he has been inspiring people around the globe to achieve laurels for their country. Similar achievements have been made by Mohandas Gandhi in India. He made his country free from East India Company and for that he had to undergo many hardships. All those hardships paid and till the date people in India swear by his name. Gandhi not only made for himself a place in history but also inspired a huge number of people to adopt non-violence. It would not be possible to talk about Indian history without referring to Gandhi. There have been numerous patriots around the world who made history with their bravery and not only are the people of that country inspired but also are the people around the world. If these patriots would not have done so much for their nations then it would not have been possible of those nations to reach such heights of development. Patriots are the guiding force for the development of a nation.

Although the place of patriots in the history of any nation is indispensable but still too much patriotism would also not be in favor of a country as people would only be interested in patriotism and would not do justice to their work. The deeds of patriots in our history should only inspire us to do better in our respective fields and not make people fanatics.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 155

"Government should never censor the artistic works or historical displays that a museum wishes to exhibit."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 155

People of a nation are given some fundamental rights which are necessary for their survival. It becomes the prime responsibility of the citizens of any nation to exercise their rights and duties with utmost care. People in a country are free to say, write and do as they please but it should not be harming the interest of any other individual. The same applies for a museum that wishes to exhibit the artistic work or historical displays. In such matters government plays a vital role as government has the right to censor any objectionable or obscene display of any form of art in museums. I believe that the government should censor all artistic works or historical displays that need to be displayed to general public. The government is not only responsible for securing the rights of its citizens but also for what it needs to present to the citizens as it can also violate law.

A country's government, which has vast cultural differences, needs to be very discreet in its public display of any kinds. Museums are the places which all sections and strata of people visit for recreation. The displays made there should be carefully selected as they should not harm the sentiments of any section of the society. A government not only protects the interest of people but also prosecutes those who harm the interest of the others. The government has to take active part in all the matters concerning the interest of general public. If any artist wishes to present his thought through his paintings but his paintings harm the interest of a section of a society then such a display can not be permitted by government. Similarly if any historical display which a museum needs to display is extremely precious then it becomes the vital responsibility of the government to save such a possession.

Although the government should be concerned about what is been displayed in the museums but the government should not have a very strict approach towards such displays. In country where there are vast cultural difference if the government officers favor a particular community then they would consider their interest with priority but this certainly does not mean that they would not take into consideration the interest of other communities. Government should be consulted for the decision but the artist should also be able to make his point clear on his displays. The endeavors should be made on the part of government to keep some qualified people in the museum who can help people understand the display better without any misinterpretation or confusion.

Therefore the role of the government should be vital. The government should also take into consideration the interest of the artist who wishes to display his creation for public or any

historical display by any organization. The interest of the general public should also be taken into notice by the government while making any such decisions.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 156

"Government should preserve publicly owned wilderness areas in their natural state, even though these areas are often extremely remote and thus accessible to only a few people."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 156

Every nation is proud of its culture and heritage. The government of a country takes various measures to protect its heritage. There are numerous historical places and monuments that a country owns and if such places are not taken care of then eventually with the passage of time they would get damaged. Therefore endeavors are made on the part of government to maintain such areas with outmost care so that they do not get damaged with the passage of time. I believe that the government should make efforts to preserve public owned wilderness as much as possible in their natural state but from time to time maintenance would help in saving such places. The government should also make efforts to make such places more accessible to the general public because if such places are visited often then the government authorities would be more prompt to take care of them.

All countries around the world have beautiful and great historical places and along with that certain places which are not in a maintained state. Therefore it becomes the prime responsibility of a country to maintain that property for the sake of their nation with utmost care. If such areas are left to the mercy of their own then with time they would be automatically destroyed. The government should take measures to maintain such areas and also periodic care must be ensured. Even the wonders of the world which are the heritage of the whole world are maintained from time to time and are not left untouched. Anything if left unattended and ill-maintained would definitely turn into a pile of concrete. If such places around the world are made accessible to public then the tourism of that particular country would also increase. It would get more tourists and hence more revenue for the government. In this way not only would the country's heritage be safe but it would be taken care of also.

In spite of the fact that a government should take necessary measures to protect its heritage but the maintenance should not be at the cost of altering the priced heritage. If too much maintenance is done then the originality of the place would be lost. There fore the endeavors on the part of the government should be such that the maintenance work should only be limited to protecting the heritage and not tampering with it. Excess of anything is not good so it should be taken care of but not amended. The government should also see to the fact that if such a place is not in accessible by common people then it should be made accessible but the natural charm of the place should not be hampered. The peace of the place and the harmony of nature should be in sync with each other.

Therefore such places should be taken care by the government and maximum effort on the part of the government should be to preserve the originality taking into consideration the maintenance of that place.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 157

"In any field of endeavor, it is impossible to make a significant contribution without first being strongly influenced by past achievements within that field."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 157

Every individual wishes to accomplish great goals in life. Whenever an individual is thinking of achieving great heights he always has someone to look up to for inspiration. We all get inspired in our day to day lives. It is very much possible that when a person aspires to do something remarkable in life he gets influenced by some past achievements. I believe it is very natural on part of an individual to get inspired by the past achievements of people as then only can they create something new and better.

Inspiration in ones life keeps that person going and if we do not have inspiration this life would be colorless. Inspiration of any sort makes a person do things which were never thought of. If singers of today were not inspired by the singers of older days they would not be able to create such different and unique melodies. Similarly, if the present generation scientists do not get inspiration from the older generation scientists then these remarkable developments in technology would not have been possible. Inspiration lays foundation for creation of something new or rather it can be said that out of inspiration something new and different is obtained. The achievements of the past are the basis of our present knowledge. Past achievements are like the roots of a tree and if roots are missing how can a tree ever grow or prosper? Past achievements work as a study which could yield outstanding results in the respective fields of research. Theories of the past are used to solve the problems of present.

Getting inspired from the past achievement certainly does not mean deadening of individual creativity. Inspiration does not mean copying past achievements rather they help the present generation people to achieve new heights. Getting help from past achievements does not mean that innovation is lost; rather innovation is triggered and a better outcome is achieved.

Although is very unlikely that people do not get influenced by past achievements of people. There are people who have done remarkably well on their own without getting inspired by anyone. Such people make a stand and recognition of their own and without the influence of anybody. They become the trendsetters and then they are the basis of inspiration for other people. It is also true that if too much dependence is on past achievements for inspiration then the chances of creating something unusual are lost completely.

Therefore, we must look upon our great achievers from past with due respect and get encouraged and inspired but we should not get so influenced that our work has the traces of their work. We must have an individuality of our own. Whatever we create from any inspiration should contain

an imprint of our individuality and it should bear our style. It should be so distinctive from the inspired work that they both appear to be separate and not concluded parts of each other.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 158

"Government funding of the arts threatens the integrity of the arts."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 158

Since time immemorial art has been an integral part of our society. The varied creativity of people results in distinctive forms of art. There are various forms of arts prevalent around the world. Different nations have different forms of arts and arts depict the culture of a nation. The various forms of art act as a mirror of the country's values and beliefs. Art is not dependent upon any other source for its existence. The only thing that an artist ever wishes for is his admirers who are the true source for his inspiration. In the present scenario government has taken due interest in protecting various forms of arts of a country. I believe that an artist does not need any sort of monetary support and hence an artist is capable of protecting his form of art. Therefore, government's intervention by funding arts is unnecessary and it would certainly harm the integrity of any art form.

An artist only seeks admiration from public and the various forms of art came into existence without any monetary support but out of creativity. An artist's creativity does not depend upon any sort of funding and an artist can not be forced to create any form of art because that art form is funded by government. A dancer does not need funds to support his dance rather he needs admirers and followers who would take his legacy to another level. Similarly, a sculptor is not dependent upon government's funds for his sculptures rather he would need students who would keep alive his art form. There are numerous examples from history which depict that the various art forms came into existence without any sort of funding. These art forms are till date followed by people. The great painter artist Leonardo de Vinci was not funded by any government for his art form but his admirers were the true source of his popularity. Art has been prevalent in our history without the support of funding from government.

Although art has always been there since the time humans have been there in this world. There are numerous art forms that are in existence without the support of the government. The government intervention in protecting certain art forms because those art forms were on the verge of extinction is credible. In such fields the role of government has shown remarkable success. The support from government has only helped in saving an art form and also it has aided artists to keep their art form alive. The various small scale industries are supported by government and pottery is one of them. The artisans are now provided funds by government to save their art form.

Various art forms have been in existence on their own and without the support of the government. It is not important that art needs funding for its existence but when any form of art needs funds the support from government can always be asked for. The government should adopt

measures to fund arts when it is needed. The government should also take steps to encourage young aspiring artists.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 159

"Young people should be encouraged to pursue long-term, realistic goals rather than seek immediate fame and recognition."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 159

We all aim to achieve great heights in our professional front. Nothing comes easy in this world. We all have to strive hard to achieve our aim in life. It is very well said that timely hard work leads to sweet fruit of success. All those who work hard in their lives taste the sweet fruit of success. The present generation is forgetting the true meaning of success. The younger generation is aiming at getting overnight success in their careers. In the present scenario nobody wants to work hard for success but they want success on the very first step of their careers. I believe that the younger generation should be shown the true path of hard work and success as that would lead to their true success. They should be encouraged to get their final goal in life rather than running after momentarily success.

We all fight in our lives to prove ourselves in the rat race of earning our livelihood. We all are in a hurry to prove ourselves in our respective fields. In this run the true essence of success is getting lost. The present generation is running after only fame and recognition. This is resulting in adoption of wrong means to do work to obtain success. The need for success is making people blind and they are instigated to adopt all the wrong means to fulfill their aim. We have numerous examples of people from our past generation who struggled in their lives and came out shining bright in their respective fields. There is no denying that sheer hard work surely pays. There is a very famous saying that slow and steady wins the race. It is correct in context to all fields of life. When in life we are deliberate in making our decisions then the outcome is remarkable as the decision was well thought over. Therefore, the chances of doing something wrong are minimized to a great extent. The various technological developments which are the result of many years of research and hard work have made our day to day life easy and simple. The scientists have put in so much effort and hard work in inventing all such innovations. Therefore hard work has always resulted in remarkable achievements.

Although the outcome of hard work is always credible but people who get instant fame and recognition in life are hardworking too. It is the creativity of those persons that has shown them the doors of success in life. In spite of the fact that few people are successful early in their life it certainly does not mean that the way to success is always short. Those who strive hard always get blessed with success in life. Therefore, younger generation should be encouraged to achieve their long term goals rather than running after short term success. Short term success is short lived and long term goals yield true success in life.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 160

"In any field of inquiry, the beginner is more likely than the expert to make important discoveries."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 160

A person who is constantly working to achieve his aim in life and in the end does achieve it is an expert. An expert is an expert because he knows all the aspects related to his field and he knows the answers to all the related questions. The experience an expert has gone through to reach his aim can never be felt by a beginner and most of the times what procedure a beginner goes through an expert has already gone through. Therefore, I do not agree that in any field of inquiry, the beginner is more likely than the expert to make important discoveries. It can be by chance that beginners discover something but otherwise an expert is an expert because he has already gone through all the stages of learning.

We see so many scientific creations around us. There is so much of hard work that has gone into making the perfect creations. There must be so many failures before the actual creation was made. If there were many failures they do not make an expert less trained but he is learning from his experiences. His experiences provide a yardstick for the newcomers in the same field. A new chef can make a dish nicely the very first time but making the same dish again and again with the same flavor is an expert's work. Similarly, Newton did not become an expert in his field after discovering that apple fell from the tree because of some force but when he researched and studied on it then only was he able to prove that the force is gravity. A newcomer can make a film and that can be appreciated by every one but mastering the techniques of good film making is not that easy, one has to put in real hard work to master it. There are film directors who are one film wonders and there are those directors who keep making good films after good films. "Always listen to experts. They'll tell you what can't be done and why. Then do it." Robert Heinlein has described in these lines the true meaning of an expert.

Although there is no comparison between experts and beginners but still there are beginners who have created history. Madam Curie is one such example who discovered radium. Radium is used till date and Madam Curie won Nobel Prize for this discovery of hers. A beginner has many ideas and his area of thinking is vast as compared to an expert's restricted vision.

All the important discoveries are made by experts and their contribution in the history can not be denied. In any field of enquiry we need to trust our experts as they have put in so many years of research into it. There has been so much practice gone by an expert into discovering something and such practices make a perfectionist.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 161

"Technologies not only influence but actually determine social customs and ethics."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 161

It is an undeniable fact that the face of human society has been drastically changed over the years by the advent of technological advances. Man's thinking and lifestyle have always been influenced by the technologies of his era. Technology has even succeeded in modifying the social customs and norms that are followed by humans. Nevertheless, the fact remains that customs and traditions still retain their age-old roots as technologies will never be able to completely control the social customs and ethics of society.

It would be an exaggeration to state that social customs can be determined by technologies. Since time immemorial, Man has been living in a society by following certain norms and these customs and traditions have been passed down from generation to generation. The advent of technology may have modified the norms and customs of society to suit Man's needs. For instance, it is a custom in most Hindu societies that the brother travels to the sister's home on a festival called 'Rakshabandhan', to enable his sister to tie a 'Raakhi' on his wrist. However, modern technologies have made it possible for sisters to send the 'Raakhi' to their brothers through the Internet or courier services. This is quite convenient in view of the traveling distances involved and the exigencies of one's career. Therefore, technology has succeeded in modifying this custom to the extent that people now find it convenient not to travel but still celebrate the festival in some or the other way. However, technology can never be influential to the extent that brothers and sisters stop celebrating this festival altogether. They would have been following this ritual annually ever since they were children and the emotional attachment to this ritual will prevent them from letting technology determine a new future for this custom.

Technology has affected our entire lifestyles including our eating and clothing habits. Nevertheless, no matter how busy people are, they will always try their best to celebrate 'Thanksgiving' in the traditional way. Modern technologies may assist them in getting frozen pre-cooked turkey, but the same technologies will have no bearing on their faith and customs. The Christian bride dresses in white for the wedding ceremony. Technology may have altered the location of the altar because of the ease in traveling and arranging for commodities in almost any corner of the world. There are news of brides and bridegrooms who have exchanged vows in the weirdest of locations like in mid-air or in gardens and historical monuments. Technology may have improved the quality of the dress materials, but still in almost every case you will still see the bride dressed in white. The bride and bridegroom will still exchange the same vows that were exchanged by their ancestors, centuries ago. The custom of marriage may have been modified by technology, but technologies have no control over the religious ritual of marriage.

Technological tools like the internet, print media and television have succeeded in bringing the people together. The customs and traditions of other societies have started to have an effect on everyone across the world. At the same time, intermingling of people from different societies has now become possible because of people traversing across the globe in search of jobs.

Technology has succeeded in bridging the gap between people from different societies, but still the people have been able to retain their customs and traditions despite the influence of technology. Technology had succeeded in placing Man on the moon decades ago, but technology has not been able to uproot the entrenched custom of certain communities that do not let their women step out of their homes without veiling their faces. Therefore, it is true to an extent that technologies may influence our social customs, but it cannot be agreed upon that these social customs are actually determined by technologies because ethics and culture are an integral part of any society and they cannot individually be determined by technology.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 162

"Leaders are created primarily by the demands that are placed upon them."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 162

Who is a leader? A leader is a person who is followed by others due to his charisma and his ability to lead people in the right direction. A leader must exude qualities like confidence, integrity, dedication, honesty and competence in carrying out the tasks related to leadership. A leader has to cater to the demands of the people who are led by him. However, the contention that the demands of people can create a leader is not justified as not everyone can inculcate the qualities that are required of a leader. A person can be elected as a leader by his people but he will not be able to succeed in becoming an effective leader unless he has the inborn traits of leadership. Hence, it is true that leaders cater to the demands of the people who are led by them, but leaders can never be created by these demands alone.

A leader's prime responsibility is to provide a solution for the development of the people who follow him. Take the example of political leaders. These leaders are elected by the general population. During the election process, political leaders are pitted against each other and the one who is able to garner the highest number of votes wins the election. What do these leaders have to do for winning elections? They have to consistently prove to the populace that they will cater to their demands and provide them with facilities that they are in need of. The leader who is ultimately voted into power is expected to carry out his promises. A leader who is able to meet the promises made by him during the campaigning process will probably be elected into power for the second term as well. His competence in carrying out the promises made by him cannot be developed overnight. People may have elected a person and placed demands on him, but he cannot win the confidence of his people and be respected as a leader unless he demonstrates leadership qualities.

The demands that are placed upon a person are a big challenge for him to become a leader. In a business enterprise, a manager is expected to lead the people working under him in such a way that the productivity of the company increases and the company reaps high profits. Good qualifications and experience may have assisted in placing the manager in this position. However, he will need leadership skills in addition to his capabilities in order to meet the demands placed upon him if he has to succeed as an effective leader. Inability of the manager to handle the people under him in the most cost-effective manner may lead to a scenario wherein he is replaced by a more competent manager. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary for a person to prove his competence after being nominated as a leader because merely placing demands is not sufficient for creating leaders.

One can look up history to find examples of numerous leaders who rose to lead their people because there were demands placed upon them. Mahatma Gandhi led the people of India to

independence, but could the people of India have created a Mahatma Gandhi out of any other person by placing demands on him? It was the qualities, ideology and principles of Mahatma Gandhi which were revered by the people who followed him. The freedom struggle of India placed crucial demands on all its leaders, however only a few of them were actually able to lead the people successfully. Therefore, effective leaders can be created by external demands placed on them along with the support of the inherent leadership qualities that are required to be present in the person who is nominated as a leader.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 163

"College students should be encouraged to pursue subjects that interest them rather than seek programs that promise entry into the job market."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 163

The basic requirement for success in any field is hard work and the determination to succeed. One gets the impetus for putting in sustained hard work if the work to be carried out interests him. An interest in one's career related tasks would be able to generate the dedication that is required for success in his chosen field. A lawyer in a reputed firm may be able to earn a good salary by virtue of his being a successful lawyer. However, if he has no interest in either studying law or practicing law, then his future would be full of frustration and discontent as he would be carrying out his job related tasks half-heartedly. Therefore, it is in the interest of the college students that they should be encouraged to pursue subjects of their choice rather than forcing them to seek programs which would better their chances of getting lucrative jobs.

Parents start planning the careers of their children right from the time when their children are in kindergarten. Parents try to teach their children the skills that are necessary for them to excel in their lives. Seldom do the parents contemplate on the likes and dislikes of their children. The subjects that interest their children are generally ignored for want of seeing their children succeed in a lucrative career despite the fact that the child may neither have the aptitude nor the inclination to pursue studies related to that particular career. This ultimately would lead to frustration among young people who are forced to pursue careers that do not interest them.

Even if parents do not influence their children's choice of career, the students themselves are in a dilemma as to what subjects they should choose in college. There is a lot of pressure due to the stiff competition in the job market. There are subjects like medicine, law, engineering etc. that can make them financially stable if they are able to succeed in a career related to that subject. On the other hand, there are subjects like fine arts, literature, physical education etc. which will probably not be able to help them get established in a well-paying career. Therefore, more often than not, college students suppress their inherent desires and they choose to opt for subjects that will help them pursue a career which may give them a false sense of success.

A student who chooses to pick a subject that does not interest him, may have immense difficulties in successfully completing his studies. He will have no reason to be attentive in the classroom and he may find it boring to study at home. This lack of interest may lead to a scenario wherein he is not able to pass with good grades. This would lead to his not being able to get a good job despite the fact that he chose a subject that could have led to a financially rewarding career. On the other hand, if he had chosen a subject that interested him, he could have studied with eagerness leading to academic excellence in that particular subject. He may not be able to get a job that pays him well, but he would be happy with his routine job which centers on a

subject of his choice. A person who has a deep rooted interest in painting will never be able to succeed as a doctor. Even if he manages to complete his medical studies and becomes a doctor, he will never be satisfied with his job as he will always be trying to take out time for pursuing painting. This would seriously hamper his professional competence as a doctor.

In sum, it is advisable to strike a balance between your choice of subjects and career. College students should be advised to take up a subject that interests them. However, the onus of utilizing that subject for a rewarding career lies entirely with the students themselves. A little bit of entrepreneurship and imagination can make you succeed in a career related to any kind of subject. A person who is interested in becoming a good orator can study the skills of public speaking and become a motivational speaker, which is a thriving business today. Therefore, college students should be encouraged to study subjects of their choice as this would ensure that they are happy and satisfied with their respective careers later on in life.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 164

"Most people think that their deeply held values are the result of rational choice, but reason often has little to do with the way people form values."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 164

Social values are taught to a child from the time he learns to understand his environment. As time passes by and the child grows into an adult, he may have the perception that his deep rooted values have a rational backing, but the real truth is that values have little to do with rationale and more to do with the society that one has been brought up in. Therefore, it is true to a large extent that reason has nothing to do with an individual's deeply held values.

Man is a social animal and he cannot survive without the assistance of a society. For living in a society, everyone has to follow the ideologies that are being followed by the rest of the people in the society. There will always be some people who choose to rebel against the norms laid down by society, but when seen in the larger perspective, people form their values because of socializing with other people either from their own society or from other societies across the world. There are a number of societies that have orthodox rituals and traditions. Such societies may have stressed upon their youth to carry forward their customs and traditions either by force or by advocating the good that will come by adhering to those values. For instance, almost all societies stand by values that advocate giving respect to the elders. Most people of the society following these values would think that this is a result of their rational choice, but the truth is that these values would have risen with no apparent reason behind them. There is nothing that will happen if someone chooses not to respect his elders. He will probably be scorned upon by the other members of his society, but beyond that there are likely to be no other repercussions. Despite this, people have deep rooted values that prompt them to respect their elders.

Values that are integral to a particular society may not be of any consequence to another society. Does this mean that the people who form part of the second society have a reason for not following the same set of values? The values of most societies are patriarchal when it comes to matrimony. What about the matriarchal societies? Is there a valid reason for them to decide that the name of the mother, and not the father, will be carried forward? The societies themselves will be able to cite several reasons in favor of a matriarchal society, but does that mean that the patriarchal society is inconsistent?

There is no rationale behind the religious beliefs followed by most people. Numerous societies have associated superstition and fear of the unknown with naturally occurring events like solar and lunar eclipses. There are customs like not stepping out of homes on the day of an eclipse. People blindly follow the rituals that are recommended to be done whenever there is an eclipse without bothering to look for a reason behind carrying out those particular actions. Atheists lead

perfectly normal lives despite the fact that they do not believe in any of the values propagated either by their societies or their religions.

Therefore, we can see that there is actually no reason behind the values upheld by a society, which is further substantiated by the fact that not adhering to these values will not affect your lives in any way, apart from a possible ostracism from society. Even if you consistently question the system that has instilled these sets of values, it is unlikely that you will be able to unearth any valid reasons behind the implementation of these values. This is because the values that are deeply held by most people rarely have any reasoning behind them.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 165

"In any academic area or professional field, it is just as important to recognize the limits of our knowledge and understanding as it is to acquire new facts and information."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 165

It has been said time and again that the more knowledge you acquire, the more learned you will become. However, one needs to ponder over the fact that he will not be able to absorb the additional information if he does not have the capability to understand whatever knowledge he has acquired. Before setting out to explore new avenues in the field of knowledge, it is imperative that one is aware of the limits of one's own understanding capabilities. Everyone does not have the same intelligence level. Therefore, rather than emulating others, it is always a better option to give equal importance to your own level of understanding as that given to acquiring new facts and information.

There are people who have exceptionally good memory while there may be others who grasp complex mathematical formulae easily enough. These people may be interested in carrying out higher research in the field of mathematics. Can another person who had to literally cram mathematical formulae to clear his tests, successfully emulate these people who have a much better understanding of the nuances of mathematics. It is absolutely essential for you to recognize your limits of understanding before venturing to acquire new facts and knowledge. You will not be able to gain anything by amassing the new information as you would be incapable of absorbing and utilizing the same. Is it beneficial for someone who does not have an understanding of communication technology to spend time in gathering information about wireless technology? He will not be able to do anything with the newly acquired knowledge as he would be clueless about the basic knowledge that is required for a deep understanding of the new found information.

Take the example of a doctor who is interested in carrying out his post-graduate studies in subjects related to heart surgery. Can he take this decision without assessing his competence in the subject areas related to heart surgery? It is likely that he has limitations that would prevent him from becoming a successful heart specialist. Therefore, it would be in his interest to spend time in analyzing the limits of his knowledge and understanding and proceed to undergo his Masters in heart surgery only if he is confident of the level of his understanding. Failure on his part to analyze his limits would lead to a scenario wherein he rushes to enroll himself in the program of study, only to find that he has not been able to complete it successfully.

One cannot deny the importance of acquiring new facts and information either pertaining to your field of interest or to any other field. It is always beneficial to know as much as you can as this not only helps you progress in your career, but it also serves the purpose of preparing you for life in a better way as you would be well informed. However, the decision to keep acquiring new

information without assessing your limits in understanding this new information will always be questionable.

One can never put newly acquired facts and information to good use if he does not have an understanding of the same. Can a painter utilize software for making digital paintings if he does not have an understanding of the basic computer controls? Can a person think of learning how to drive a truck if he could never pass the driving test for car driving? Common sense tells us that it is absolutely essential that one pays due importance to knowing his limits with respect to knowledge and understanding. If not more, this importance should be at least of the same level that is attached to acquiring new facts and information.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 166

"The concept of 'individual responsibility' is a necessary fiction. Although societies must hold individuals accountable for their own actions, people's behavior is largely determined by forces not of their own making."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 166

People develop their behavior depending on the way in which they have been brought up, their environment and the society in which they live. The behavior of people is determined by external elements, but people have the liberty of making the choice to behave in a particular manner and they are solely responsible for their behavior. The external forces do not determine the behavior of people in a major way as people can take the decision to fight the external forces and behave in a manner that opposes the forces. Therefore, it is true to an extent that the behavior of people is influenced by forces that may not be under their control, but it is highly unjustified to assume that the concept of 'individual responsibility' is a necessary fiction.

Individual responsibility plays a very important role in determining the behavior of people. Take for instance the behavior of students. External forces like the requirement of doing well in one's studies for getting a good job play a significant role in determining a student's behavior with respect to his studies. However, it is ultimately the student's individual responsibility that will determine the exact nature of his behavior. A particular student can choose not to be influenced by this external force and he may decide not to devote time to his studies despite the irreversible effects it may have on his career. On the other hand, there may be a student who chooses to be influenced by this external force and he puts in his level best in studying for doing well in his life. Thus, it can be seen that the behavior of students with respect to their studies is not influenced as much by an external force as compared to their own individual responsibilities.

It is true that external forces like those pertaining to society, schools, parents, law etc. determine the behavior of people to a significant extent. People stay within a set of laid down norms as per the laws that have been enforced. People of a particular country may be more responsible towards cleanliness by not throwing garbage on the streets as the laws of their country prohibit them from behaving in such a manner. When the same people go to another country where there are no such laws, it is their sense of individual responsibility that will come into play and they may choose to behave in a particular manner depending on how responsible they are towards keeping their environment clean.

There are people who choose to break the laws that have been enforced and this is evident by the crime rate that exists in almost all societies. What about the effect of external forces on these people? These people may have no control over the external forces like law and order, but they have decided not to let the external forces determine their behavior. Moreover, they have taken

the decision to ignore the responsibilities that they should shoulder and so they alone are responsible for their conduct. No other force can be held responsible for their behavior.

A society which chooses not to blame the individuals for their actions can never thrive. There will be mass disobedience of rules and the framework of law and order of the society will break down. Therefore, it is essential that individuals be held responsible for their behavior as they are the ones who have chosen to behave in that particular manner. In sum, it can be said that more than external forces, it is the individual's responsibility that determines his behavior.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 167

"Universities should require every student to take a variety of courses outside the student's field of study because acquiring knowledge of various academic disciplines is the best way to become truly educated."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 167

It is true that one should be aware of various academic disciplines in order to expand his vision and become truly educated. One's knowledge cannot remain restricted to one's own field of study or else he will not be able to analyze his knowledge with respect to the happenings in other related fields. However, the decision to acquire knowledge of academic disciplines other than their fields of study should rest with the students themselves. The recommendation that students should be forced to study subjects other than their fields of study is extremely unconvincing.

Students are in universities for a short duration of time that amounts to a couple of years in which they have to acquire maximum possible knowledge about their fields of study. These students will go on to become professionals in their respective fields. Is it justified to take out time from this precious period to study subjects that will have no relevance to the career that the students plan to pursue? If someone is studying medicine, will it be justified to force him to study history? It is true that knowledge of history will definitely make him truly educated as he will be aware of historical facts which are essential for being well-informed. However, would this knowledge make such a big difference to his life that it should be made mandatory for him to study this subject that has no relevance to his field of study?

It is a well known fact that students have to appear for various tests to prove their capabilities in a particular subject. They are given admissions to various programs of study depending upon their performance in such tests. Therefore, will all students be able to study all subjects of the university level with equal ease? A student who has an aptitude for Biology may not be in a position to study Mathematics that easily. If he is forced to take a course in Mathematics, it might eventually turn out that he spends more time in studying Mathematics rather than studying Biology which is his main subject. Making the students study subjects other than their fields of study cannot be justified without assessing the aptitude of the students and their liking for the additional subjects.

It is not warranted to force an engineering student to study English literature in the time that he should have spent studying the concepts of engineering. Such an action could have serious repercussions like the student not being able to become a competent engineer as he wasted precious time during his years in the university memorizing facts that were of no relevance to his choice of career. It would be a much better option to give ample time to students in their years in the universities to learn as much as they can about their fields of study. They can choose to take up additional courses pertaining to other disciplines if they feel that they have spare time for the

same. For instance, a student studying History may have additional time on his hands as he does not have to go for practical classes and therefore, he may choose to take up a course in some foreign language.

In conclusion, there is no denying the fact that gaining knowledge about various disciplines is of a great advantage as it helps you to be more learned and educated. At the same time, enforcing regulations in universities that force students to take a variety of courses outside the students' fields of study is unwarranted as the students should be allowed to take this decision depending upon their capabilities.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 168

"People work more productively in teams than individually. Teamwork requires cooperation, which motivates people much more than individual competition does."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 168

Competition is the backbone for success in the modern world. An inherent strength for excelling in your career can be successfully derived from the force of individual competition. One cannot expect to be successful in his career if he lacks competitive spirit. At the same time, the cooperation required for teamwork ensures that the workforce of all the individual team members is united and the team is able to provide better results in addition to better productivity. Productivity may depend on the type of work involved as well. There are certain types of tasks where individuals may be able to show increased productivity if they are working on their own; whereas there may be tasks where better results can be produced only if teamwork is involved. Therefore, individual competition and team work are both essential for high productivity depending on the types of works that are involved.

It has been seen that teamwork is generally at a disadvantage in respect of productivity due to negative competitiveness. There may be a difference of opinion amongst the individual team members and neither of them would be willing to accept the point of view of the others. Each of the individual team members makes a bid to impress his immediate superiors in order to display his capability in outshining the others when it comes to providing effective results. There would be team members who are willing to go to any extent just to let down the others. This kind of attitude can be detrimental to the productivity of the team. However, the presence of an effective team leader can sort out all such problems and ensure that the teamwork progresses smoothly in the right direction. The research and development departments of almost all business establishments consist of research teams who are successful in developing new products. An individual may not be able to demonstrate the same level of productivity when he is working on his own despite the fact that he may be having a high competitive spirit.

On the contrary, preparation for exams is an area where one can be expected to produce greater productivity if he is studying alone as compared to studying in a group. Although, there are a number of students who are comfortable studying in groups as they can discuss their problems; they would like to be on their own as the exams draw closer. This is because students tend to talk amongst themselves more as compared to concentrating on studies whenever they are studying in a group. It is a well known fact that people like writers and painters look for solitude whenever they have to think of new concepts for their pieces of writing or art. This is because such people have always been found to be more productive when they are working on their own. At the same time, organizations like ad agencies require more than one designer to work on designing an advertisement and more often than not this form of teamwork is able to yield good results.

Therefore, it is not necessary that either individual competitive spirit or teamwork alone is sufficient for high productivity.

There should be a willingness among team members to accept each other's ideas, failing which a team will not be able to produce good results. On the other hand, an individual must not let go of his competitive spirit without which it will not be possible for him to succeed in his endeavors. In conclusion, it is necessary to strike a balance between individual competition and teamwork to attain the highest standards of productivity. It is up to the team leader to be able to extract the best possible level of work from the team members even if it means that they be allowed to work on their own for short durations in order to contribute to the teamwork.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 169

"Although, critics who write about the arts tend to deny the existence of any objective standards for evaluating works of art, they have a responsibility to establish standards by which works of art can be judged."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 169

A piece of art has to be appreciated as it stems from the imagination of the artist. Critics may have assumed the responsibility to critically analyze the works of art put forward by artists, but can they compare the works of art of two different artists? Each artist has his own perspective and he may choose to express his views in a form or style that is different from those of other artists. It is difficult to define a set of rules that can determine how an artist can express himself. Hence, it is not justified to establish standards for judging such works of art and therefore, there is no requirement of critics to set standards for evaluating works of art.

The works of art that we come across are manifestations of the artists' views, emotions and observations. An artist may define his feelings in a manner that is not common. For instance there may be a painter who chooses to make monochrome paintings that are devoid of colors. Can the critics set a standard that paintings should utilize colors thereby, making the work of this particular artist sub-standard? The paintings may appeal to a particular section of the society; whereas there may be another section of society that does not find these black and white paintings attractive enough. People have the liberty of voicing their opinions and critically assessing artwork, but it would be unjust to set standards that have to be met by artists while making their artworks.

An inevitable repercussion of setting such standards would be that artists would no longer feel free to come up with revolutionary ideas. They would be compelled to follow the norms that have been laid down and the result would be a monotonous production of works of art, most of which would be similar to what has been put up by other artists. This is because no artist would like to make something that is below the standards that have been set for that particular type of artwork. If a standard has been set for all works of art regarding sculpture, why would sculptors try to think of something that deviates from the laid down norms? Even if a sculptor makes some piece of sculpture that does not meet the recommended standards, he will probably never put it up in an exhibition because his name might be tarnished for putting up a sub-standard piece of art. The result would be that the world would never come to know what he had made and there is a probability that it could have generated mass appeal if that piece had been displayed to the public. Therefore, it is evident that imposing such standards may affect the creativity and ingenuity of artists in a major way.

The ideas and values that are represented by an artist's work of art cannot be accurately evaluated by critics as there may be a difference of opinion amongst the critics themselves. It is not

necessary that all critics would have the same opinion regarding a work of art. Take for example the book reviews or the movie reviews that we come across on the internet or the print media. There are some people who find the particular work being reviewed useful and appealing while others find that it is not worth spending time upon. This example consolidates the fact that people have a difference of opinion when it comes to evaluating any kind of work, irrespective of whether it is a work of art or not.

The very fact that people have different choices related to music, holiday destinations, movies, clothes, colors, flowers etc. proves that works of art will also be assessed differently by different people. How can then a set of people designated as critics set standards for evaluating works of art? Therefore, it is evident that it is not possible for art critics to set up standards that are globally unquestionable, for evaluating works of art.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 170

"It is unfortunate but true that political decisions and activities affect all aspects of people's lives."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 170

Politics basically entails governing a system such as a society or nation. The political set up of a nation is responsible for controlling both its internal and external affairs. As a nation or society is made up of people, it is obvious that political decisions and activities affect people's lives in a major way. However, this influence of politics on the lives of people may be fortunate or unfortunate depending on the course of action that is taken by the political leadership of a society. Therefore, it is not necessary that this influence would always be unfortunate as there are numerous instances in which this influence has had a positive effect on the lives of people.

A dictatorship or a monarchy, where the people have no control over the political leadership of the country, may be one of those societies in which the political activities may have an unfortunate effect on the lives of people. There may be widespread discontent amongst people due to the political activities taking place in their country and this would be an unfortunate scenario wherein the people will not be able to escape from the effect these activities are having on their lives. Political decisions like waging a war against another country or imposing unfair restrictions will adversely affect the lives of the people. A war will shoot up the prices of essential commodities, the economy will slow down, numerous citizens will be killed and the administration of the country will come to a standstill. Despite these effects, we constantly hear about countries wherein the decisions taken by the political leadership has resulted in a country being at war with another country. The worst scenario is wherein a country is torn by internal wars which have been waging for numerous years. The people are suffering because of the decisions taken by their political leadership.

On the other hand, there are various positive effects of political decisions, especially in the case of political leadership which has been voted into power by the people themselves. The political leadership is always trying to win the confidence of the common people by providing them with the best of amenities so as to stay in power for as long a time as possible. On the other hand, the opposition parties try their best to please the people so that they are able to topple the ruling party in the next round of elections. The lives of people are always affected in a positive manner by these decisions. The political decisions may be related to various other aspects like administration of the country, implementing new laws, levying taxes, foreign trade etc. All these decisions will affect the lives of people in a major way as they are the ones who will be directly affected either personally or professionally by these decisions.

There have been numerous incidents when innocent people have been held hostages by anti-social elements or terrorists. The government has to take the decision to either accede to the

demands of the terrorists or let the hostages be killed. Irrespective of the decision taken by the leadership, the lives of the people will definitely be affected. The demands of the terrorists may be the release of their brethren who are languishing in jails or their demand may be a safe passage for them out of the country. In both the cases, the lives of the people will be affected as dreaded terrorists would be let loose and they might make a deadly strike again in the future. On the other hand, if the demands are not met, then it would amount to affecting the lives of the bereaved families of the hostages. Therefore, it is evident that any form of political decision will affect the lives of the people in some way or the other.

In sum, it is evident that political decisions do affect people in a major way, but it is not necessary that the effect will always be unfortunate. There would be many instances when the political decisions will result in the betterment of the people as a whole.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 171

"Colleges and universities should offer more courses on popular music, film, advertising, and television because contemporary culture has much greater relevance for students than do arts and literature of the past."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 171

The young represent the present. They relate to the contemporary culture more than they do to the art and literature of the past. At the same time, it is in colleges and universities that they are given knowledge about all the aspects of art and culture. According to me, colleges and universities should not concentrate only over popular music, film, advertising and television, but must also educate students about the art, culture and literature of the past. I believe that there should be enough courses to teach the culture of the past since students would benefit from the experience.

The contemporary culture has evolved from the culture of the past. The present culture did not originate on its own but has slowly emerged out of the changes in times. Therefore, even if the popular music, film and advertising have their unique features in the present, they bears their origin in the past. It can be said that the education of art and culture will be incomplete if the colleges and universities concentrate more on the popular culture and neglect the culture of the past.

The colleges and universities have a responsibility of giving proper education to students. Giving partial education about the past and emphasizing more on the present would not be imparting complete education. It is only when the students will learn the features of the art, culture and literature of the past that they would understand its value and importance. The statement assumes that students are basically interested in popular music, films and television. However, if they were not exposed to the music, literature and culture of the past, they would never get an opportunity to explore and understand the same. It is only when they will get a taste of the culture of the past that they will begin to appreciate it. I, therefore, believe that the statement ignores the possibility of the students developing a liking for the art and literature of the past.

Further, the exceptional works of music, art, theater and films belonging to a particular time are relevant not just to that time, but to the times to come as well. If the literature in the past has been significant and noteworthy, it would have a great significance for students in the present as well. Studying this art and culture would give them great learning experience. For example, Shakespeare has contributed to the field of English literature to the extent that his plays are enacted even today. If his works are excluded from the curriculum of the colleges, it would leave a great void in the study of literature. Moreover, this knowledge can be imparted well only in colleges and universities since a detailed study can be carried out for the same. Colleges can maintain literature, recordings, manuscripts, reports, articles and documentaries about the art and

culture of the past in order to educate the students. If the colleges would not step in to offer detailed courses for the same, there would not be any other source that would help in such a comprehensive study of the past culture. On the other hand, students will have many options to study popular art, music and culture. Therefore, it becomes increasingly important for colleges and universities to concentrate on the art and culture of the past.

In the end I would like to sum up by saying that it is only in colleges and universities that we can expect a tradition of teaching and learning the art and literature of the past to be carried out. On the other hand, students can have immense opportunities to learn the contemporary music and culture. Therefore, students should not be deprived of the opportunity of studying the literature, art and music of the past by concentrating more on popular music and art and colleges should offer enough courses for the same.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 172

"In any realm of life-whether academic, social, business, or political-the only way to succeed is to take a practical, rather than an idealistic, point of view. Pragmatic behavior guarantees survival, whereas idealistic views tend to be superceded by simpler, more immediate options."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 172

The given statement asserts that being practical guarantees survival as against being idealistic. In any field - be it academic, social, business or political - it is the pragmatic behavior which helps in the survival of a person, but an idealistic view is overcome by other simpler options. I agree with the argument that practicality is the key to a successful life. However, I also believe that idealistic approach is the driving force behind many actions. It is the idealistic view that encourages people to keep good morals and high values in life and thus it should not be discarded completely.

It is only actions that generate results. If there are no efforts towards a goal, we cannot expect a tremendous outcome of the same. Let us take the example of academics where it is only the efforts by students towards studying that pays off in the end. It is only if the students follow a pragmatic approach that they will believe in studying hard for their exams. There is a great amount of competition in the field of education where every student has to prove his worth. In order to do better than the rest, a student must study hard and perform in his exams. It is only if he adopts a practical approach that he will work towards learning and improving his knowledge. Ultimately, in the race of emerging at the top, it is the one who displays greater knowledge and learning that wins. It has been seen that the learned and scientists, like Newton and Einstein, have been able to invent new things only out of their practical efforts in their particular fields.

Similarly, in the political field it has been seen that the government which promises big changes and development but never fulfills sees its own downfall. On the other hand, if the administration is practical and works upon its words to improve the infrastructure and makes efforts towards development, it has greater chances of public approval, which ensure its survival.

According to the statement, an idealistic view is generally superceded by simpler, more immediate options. However, I believe that every action of a person must be guided by ideals. While it is the practical efforts that give shape to achievement, it is the ideals behind the efforts that give a positive direction to these efforts. It is not important to achieve and be successful by hook or crook. What is more important is to choose the right path and follow it in order to ensure a purely deserving achievement. Anything ill gotten is better not achieved in the first place. If a student tries to find his way to the top by unfair means like cheating, he will only fool himself in the long run. It is only a short-lived success that he will get by ignoring morals and ideals and will soon stumble due to his exclusively practical efforts.

Idealistic view helps in keeping positive and provides encouragement to accomplish the task. While practicality is important to consummate any task well, having good ideals makes it well accomplished and deservedly achieved. Therefore, I partially agree with the argument where it says that pragmatic behavior guarantees survival, however, at the same time I refuse to believe that idealistic views have no contribution in this survival. While survival is important, it must be of a high quality that is ensured by an idealistic approach to life.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 173

"The pressure to achieve high grades in school seriously limits the quality of learning. An educational environment without grades would promote more genuine intellectual development."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 173

It is true that a child is very sensitive. At a very tender age children are burdened by the requirements of education and achieving higher grades in school. There is an increased pressure over them to perform and prove themselves by getting good grades. This may have many consequences, out of which one can be a decline in the quality of learning. However, I also believe that grading in the education system has its own importance and cannot be done away with. I agree that the grading system can have many adverse effects on students and their studies, but I disagree with the part of the statement that says that educational system without grades would promote genuine intellectual development.

Competition in the field of education is ever increasing. There are a lot of expectations from children in terms of their performance in school. Due to these expectations there is an increased pressure over the kids to perform well and get higher grades. However, every child is different and has different capabilities. While some students can manage to work hard and retain most of the topics taught to them, there are others who are slow learners and are not as capable. Since it is not in the capacity of every child to grasp everything that is taught to him, it becomes difficult for him to learn his lessons. In such a case, if he is burdened all the more to get higher grades, he does not concentrate over understanding the material before learning, but goes on mugging up his lessons. This in turn results in a low quality of learning, since the concentration of students shifts from understanding the material to memorizing it.

The writer of the statement probably is of the view that removing the grading system would help because the students will not require to prove themselves by getting higher grades. However, an education system without any form of grading system also brings in many other problems. If there were no system to evaluate the performance of students, it would also bring non-serious attitude amongst students. I believe that having a system to grade the performance of students helps in determining a goal for them. It gives them motivation to work hard towards attaining the highest grade that they can get. If there were no grading in schools, many students would become careless towards studies, which again would result in a low quality of education.

Further, there must be some system of evaluation of students in the education system. Evaluating the performance of students teaches them to compete with each other. This prepares them for a higher level of competition in their colleges and later lives. If they would not face this evaluation in school, they would be helpless when they would face the outer world. I, therefore, believe that evaluation is a very important aspect of school education.

In the end, I would like to repeat that though a grading system puts pressure on students, which might result in a low quality of learning, an education system without any grading system will not be any better. There is no guarantee that an educational system without a grading system ensures genuine intellectual development. A grading system is a must to ensure that the students remain focused and do not take their studies lightly.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 174

"Governments should provide funding for artists so that the arts can flourish and be available to all people."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 174

Art of a society represents its culture and traditions. It expresses the ideas, feelings and values of a society. It can rightly be said that the richness of a society is determined by its art and culture. Therefore, it becomes important to preserve it as well as progress it further. It is not the responsibility of one individual or an organization alone but it should be done with a joint effort of the whole society together. I agree with the topic that the government should provide enough funds to help the artists and to promote art. However, I would like to add that people and other private organizations should also do their bit in conserving and progressing art.

An artist, whether a painter, a sculptor, a dancer or a musician has unique talent. However, in order to create an artistic creation, any artist requires funds. A painter would require a workshop and enough money to create his paintings. Further, he would require more funds to arrange for exhibitions in order to display his paintings. Similarly, in order to promote music, there need to be concerts and shows where the musicians get an opportunity to exhibit their skills. The promotion of any art needs such platforms where artists get recognition and acclaim. It is only when such events are first conducted on a small scale that such arts can get a larger platform. This not only promotes the art and culture but also encourages the artists to keep continuing their work and improve their talent. While it is the government that must help in promoting these events, such events should also be promoted by the various art and culture organizations.

There is immense budding talent in every nation, which only needs a little encouragement and some form of resource. No art or artist can progress in isolation. While these artists can come up with their efforts, there comes a point beyond which they are not able to reach due to monetary restrictions. Here is where the government should step in and remove these restrictions so that art can flourish to the utmost level. It is the government's responsibility to encourage these artists by giving them avenues to improve their talent. The government can allocate funds for concerts, arrange exhibitions, form organizations that work to promote art, promote the art and culture internationally, establish art galleries in maximum locations etc.

However, it is not only the government that must be responsible for the promotion of art, but it should be promoted by the private sector as well. Government is an administrative body responsible for the working of the whole nation. It needs to generate funds for many works like building infrastructure, encouraging trade and public sector, developing technical know-how, uplifting the poor, education of all and creating jobs for unemployed etc. Therefore, the government has to judiciously allocate funds for its entire works. Moreover, there is great potential in private art organizations to generate funds for this work. A lot of money can be

arranged by selling tickets of concerts and shows of great artists for which government's help is not required. Hence, there should be an equal effort from people attached to art and culture to promote it as much as they can.

In the end I would like to maintain that it is the art and culture of a nation that make its heritage rich and vibrant. It takes the joint effort of the government and other organizations to promote its art. Only such efforts can fully develop art to the extent that the nation is proud of its culture and heritage.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 175

"For better or worse, education is a process that involves revising the ideas, beliefs, and values people held in the past."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 175

Education is a process of teaching and learning which seeks to improve knowledge and skills. In other words, education can be called a step towards progress and development since it aims at making the society knowledgeable and skilled. In the process, education involves changing some of the long held ideas and beliefs. I agree with the statement that the values, beliefs and ideas of people in the past get revised as the society gets more educated. It may or may not lead to a better society in future, but it is a slow and continuous process in which the old beliefs get replaced by new ideas that are more practical and convincing.

In the primitive times people were not educated. They would believe anything that they would see without understanding the logic behind it. If there were something that was unexplainable to them and beyond their knowledge, they would relate it to the supernatural and form ideas and beliefs regarding those phenomenon. However, as science progressed and explanation was found behind most of the things happening around us, the shallowness in these beliefs became exposed. This is how new ideas and beliefs replaced the older ones. Therefore, it is only with the increase in knowledge that the older beliefs get replaced with new thoughts in the minds of people.

In the previous ages, when man did not know the art of cultivation, a natural phenomenon like rain was considered a heavenly fury instilled on mankind. However, slowly as man got the knowledge of cultivation, this heavenly fury changed into a blessing for farmers. They would depend completely on rain gods to water their fields. This saw a change in the beliefs held towards a simple phenomenon like rain. As times progressed, people came to know about the facts like scarcity of water, contamination of drinking water and global warming. This has changed the whole perspective of people towards rains. Now, people do not only view rains as a natural phenomenon, but they are also knowledgeable about the factors that control rains. Therefore, there are increased efforts made by environmentalists towards planting more trees and stopping deforestation.

Similarly, there have been many versions of people regarding the origin of the solar system. While earlier people had no idea about the outer space, they believed that earth is the center of the universe. Slowly, the theories like big bang came to be known which shattered the older beliefs of people. It is only with more awareness that people shun their previously held beliefs and adjust to the changing times.

Most of this change brought due to education is for a better and advanced future. However, some changes in values can also prove to be dangerous. For example, with education, the world is coming closer. As a result, there is a greater influence of developed countries on the young minds. Children are more exposed to an open culture where their traditional values get replaced with these western values. Such a change makes them take to bad habits like drinking and drug addiction at a younger age. It has been seen that the more developed a nation is due to its advancement in knowledge, the more its children are involved in drug abuse.

In the end, I would like to sum up by saying that with advancement and progress, the change in ideas and beliefs of people is inevitable. I agree that education, which leads to this advancement of a society, involves the change in the way people think and also the way they believe.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 176

"The study of history has value only to the extent that it is relevant to our daily lives."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 176

History is a great teacher. We not only have many things to learn from the experiences of people in the past, but history is a guiding light for our actions. These may be the actions of our daily lives, or actions to be carried out in future. The given statement takes only one aspect of the effect of history. I believe that along with being relevant to our daily lives, history has a lot more to offer as a guiding principle to our decisions in future as well.

When a student studies history, he might feel that it is no use digging out old graves. However, he would realize the importance of history when he begins to correlate his present with the events in the past. As it is said that history repeats itself, it can be observed that there are many things that happen today which may have a reflection in the past. What we are today is only a transformation of the past. The civilized society of today has its origin in the ancient civilizations, the only difference being that with time there has been advancement and development. However, if you come to think of it, we learnt to live in a civilized society much before there was any development.

Apart from having its origin in the past, our present is greatly effected by events and happenings of the past. We have learnt to stay in harmony with each other only because a history of conflict and hostility has proved to be dangerous for everyone. We have seen that the wars in the past have been extremely devastating. The world wars have not only caused great losses to life and property, but they have also made irreparable damages to the existence of mankind on earth. The formation of peace treaties and alliances in the present amongst various nations is due to these lessons learnt from history. It is clear from a study of history how a nation becomes easy to conquer if it is not united. The British had conquered many nations and made them their colonies by adopting the policy of divide and rule. This teaches us that in order to keep a foreign power from overpowering the nation, it must remain united and strong.

Similarly, since people have known a dictator like Hitler in the past, there is increased awareness amongst them about their rights. It is only because we understand how dangerous dictatorship can be for the common man that we can prevent a situation leading to dictatorship today. That is why, every move and action of the governing body is observed and questioned by all the citizens who want their rights to remain protected.

History guides us for the decisions to be taken for our future as well. For example, it has been seen that deforestation and pollution has led to a great environmental imbalance. The life-saving ozone layer is depleting. There are fewer rains and the increase in the global temperatures has resulted in the melting of ice caps. All of this is but the result of human actions of increased

pollution and cutting down of trees. Contemplating that the result of this human behavior can be dangerous for the existence of life on earth, it is being advocated to plant more trees and refrain from polluting the environment further. Even if life continues today with the amount of pollution, such decisions are made so that we can have a better and secure future. Therefore, it is the past that teaches us the effect of deforestation and pollution on the environment.

In the end I would like to affirm my stand by saying that history not only has great relevance in the present, but also it is a guiding principle for our future. We can see the reflection of our present in the past and can also predict the outcome of our actions in the future by keeping in mind the similar situations in history.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 177

"It is primarily through formal education that a culture tries to perpetuate the ideas it favors and discredit the ideas it fears."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 177

Every culture sees changes where some ideas are perpetuated while some are discredited. Since there can be many ideas that are not in accordance with the needs of a culture and can only harm in some way or the other, it is best to shun them completely. Similarly, the ideas that are favorable need to be carried on further. However, how is this change brought about? While I agree that education helps in the knowledge of good and bad, I would like to add that there are other means as well that are effective in changing ideas. Education is one of the means, but such cultural changes need not be brought about primarily through formal education.

First of all, let us discuss the role of education in embedding the ideas a culture favors and discrediting the ones it fears. A child's mind is like clay that can be molded in a desired shape. It is in school that many of the ideas develop amongst children. For example, a school can influence the patriotic feelings of a child by giving him the knowledge of the acts of great leaders and freedom fighters towards one's country. Such ideas are generally perpetuated indirectly by education. Formal education includes imparting knowledge of various subjects and also making the child capable of thinking, reasoning and understanding things on his own. Therefore, when it comes to professing the ideas of a culture, education may not be used as a direct medium of perpetuating them, but makes the students capable of understanding the usefulness or uselessness of the idea.

However, in some cults, formal education requires the students to understand and imbibe by the norms of the culture. For example, in Buddhism, along with formal education the monks teach their disciples the complete discipline of their faith and culture. Similarly, education in madrasas is influenced and dominated with religious studies and cultural ideas. Nonetheless, these are but a few examples. Speaking in general, formal education only professes the cultural ideas to a certain extent in an indirect way. As I have mentioned earlier, there are other means apart from education that are effective in carrying forward ideas favorable to a culture and discrediting those which are not.

Means of mass communication like television, radio and newspapers are extremely effective in encouraging or discouraging the masses about cultural ideas. These means not only reach out to a great number of people but also are helpful in influencing their ideas. It is through the television that people can watch their leaders profess the virtues and condemn the bad elements inherent in a culture. Consequently, the followers of these leaders get influenced by their speeches, documentaries, films, promotional advertisements etc and as a result, there is a change in the

ideas held by people. Similarly, many programs can be relayed through the radio that have a similar purpose and can reach to a greater audience.

Newspapers are another means of communicating the ideas of thinkers. Through the articles published in these papers, there are many changes brought about in the thinking that influence the cultural traits of people. What is done indirectly by formal education, the media is capable of doing in a direct and a straightforward way. For example, a documentary on backward villages can help in exposing the shallowness of backward thinking and promote modern outlook.

In the end I would like to maintain that education is only one of the means to perpetuate the ideas favorable to a culture and discredit the others. There are other means used for this purpose, which are extremely effective and successful.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 178

"The true strength of a country is best demonstrated by the willingness of its government to tolerate challenges from its own citizens."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 178

The strength of a nation depends upon its government as well as on its citizens. Not only does the government require to be strong enough to administer the country and maintain peace and order, the citizens also need to be aware and active in the affairs of the country. I agree with the given statement that the strength of a country is demonstrated by the willingness of its government to tolerate the challenges from its citizens, but I also believe that strength comes from stability. This stability might be attained by tolerating the challenges from the citizens or it might be maintained by a dominating government. The basic requirement therefore is the ultimate triumph of peace and order over all issues.

As was seen in the older times, a nation's strength was measured by the size of its army. The bigger a kingdom the more its army would be, which translated into a superpower. Those were the days when the citizens were non-existent since their aggression, if any, was oppressed easily. The strength of the country therefore depended upon how strong the governing body was. Slowly, the power began to be shifted into the hands of the citizens. They started voicing their thoughts that the governments could not ignore. Today, most of the nations have democratic governments in which the citizens play an active part. There is a constant check over all the actions of a government by the citizens who watch its every move cautiously. The government is responsible and answerable to the citizens. On the other hand, it needs to be stable enough to withstand internal disturbances created by some sections of the citizens. Therefore, it can be said that the success of a government lies in its capability to face the challenges of this citizens.

There are many contrasting social issues in a developing nation that the government has to fight in order to progress. In a country like India, the society consists of both, modern and backward classes. Therefore, the government has to maintain a balance between the both. There are many laws that are made against the thinking of these citizens who basically reside in villages; however, it is difficult to fight the evils of a society. The government has to face the reality of female feticide, restriction over widow remarriage, child marriage etc. There are also clashes amongst citizens over religion and caste. If the government tries to uplift the scheduled castes by giving them special quota and grants, it has to face the opposition of others who would be effected with this decision. However, the strength of the country ultimately emerges from the ability of the government to handle such contrasting issues and maintain peace and harmony in the country.

As I have mentioned earlier, if the government is dominating enough to govern the country and exercise considerable control over its citizens, it can maintain peace and harmony. For example,

the Chinese are communists because their government enforces certain laws over all citizens. The power is in the hands of the Chinese government and as against democracy, the citizens remain passive. However, China is one of the major powers today. This makes us think that the strength of China may not lie in its ability to deal with the challenges of its citizens, but its strength lies in maintaining a balance. It is only since there is peace and order in the country that it is able to emerge as a strong nation. However, if there were internal chaos and disturbance in China, its position would be different. It would have to make efforts to restore peace in the country, which takes much of the attention and focus of the government. No government can be called successful if this chaos and disorder continues.

To sum up, it is the ability of the government to maintain stability and harmony that makes a country strong. A government may face internal challenges where a tense situation is created by its citizens; however, its capacity to deal with these situations and emerge successful determines the strength of the country.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 179

"All students should be required to take at least one course in ethics, even if taking the course means a decreased emphasis on academic subjects."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 179

For a healthy society it is very important that the people develop an ethical attitude. It is only when people have an understanding of what is good and what is bad that the society can be free of evils. Ethics are not only required for a better society but also at an individual level. It is the ethics of a person that help in his positive growth and make him socially acceptable. I agree with the statement that students should be given a course in ethics. At the same time, I would like to point out that it need not require shifting their attention from academic subjects. Academic subjects have their own importance and this should not be ignored. I believe that both, ethical education as well as academic training should go hand in hand by giving due importance to both disciplines.

The main purpose of education is all-around development of a child's personality. Education aims at the personal development of a child so that he grows up to be independent and well adjusted in the society. That is why education should seek an all around development by keeping in mind ethical development along with cognitive development of a child's personality. This knowledge not only helps him at a personal level but also helps to progress professionally.

At a personal level, the ethics of a person restrict him from getting into unlawful activities like promoting drugs, blackmailing, harming public property etc. When a student is given education, he should also be told to make good use of his knowledge. A society can be free of evils only if all people know their ethical limits and these limits guide their behavior.

The knowledge of ethics also goes a long way in the professional development of a person. Ethics are the basis of every profession, be it a teacher, a doctor, an engineer, a scientist or a politician. It is the ethics followed in a profession that guarantee a clean record of an employee, which helps in his progress. For example, a teacher is guided by his ethics when he is fair to all students. He must not resort to practices like leaking the test papers or giving marks to undeserving students. On the other hand, if he is involved in such unethical activities, he will soon see his own downfall. Similarly, a political leader should keep his words and not make false promises to his followers. He should work towards fulfilling his promises instead of personal gains. Public servants should extend help in every possible way to the citizens rather than use the government facilities for their own personal benefits. It is the code of ethics that guide the politician to perform his duties well.

However, I would like to add that academic subjects are also extremely important. The curriculum of education is decided by keeping in mind all the important things that a student

must know. Therefore, it should not be ignored at any cost. However, I believe that there is enough scope to add a course of ethics along with the general academic courses. Moreover, I would like to add that ethical education is a continuous education that begins from the day a child enters school to the time he completes his education. He not only learns to behave from courses on ethics, but a child learns a lot more by observing the way his elders and teachers behave. Therefore, along with introducing a course, ethics should be imbibed in the child's nature throughout his education.

Conclusively, I would like to say that ethical education is very important for students, which can be taught by setting examples for the child as well as by introducing a course in it. However, academic subjects are equally important and the focus on academics should not be decreased.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 180

"Instant communication systems encourage people to form hasty opinions and give quick replies rather than take the time to develop thoughtful, well-reasoned points of view."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 180

Instant communication systems like telephones and Internet have brought the world closer. They have made it possible to reach every corner of the world within a few seconds. They have surely helped in connecting people, surpassing all differences in terms of distance. Since they help in forming a direct contact between people, there is an instant exchange of ideas and thoughts. I agree that this system of instant contact can result in making hasty decisions since they demand an instant reaction. There is very little time to react and the response is guided by the instinct of a person. However, I am also of the view that people can make unreasonable decisions without thinking logically even if they have enough time to respond. Therefore, more than encouraging people to give quick replies, it can be said that these instant communication systems do not offer the option of amending your opinion and changing your mind.

The instant communication systems make a person react to a situation for which he is unprepared. In most cases, it is impossible to know beforehand about a call that a person is about to receive. For example, your employer might call you suddenly on a day when you are off to know certain details or explanation regarding some official work. The phone calls received by call center employees from their customers are sudden and need immediate attention. Similarly, in a one-to-one online discussion, there is a direct contact established between two people. In all these situations, it cannot be known beforehand what the nature or subject of the call/discussion would be. However, since a direct contact is established, it requires the person to answer the queries instantly. This leaves very little time to think before replying and there is no way to undo the response once given. As against this, if a person receives a letter by post, there is more reaction time and he can think and change his opinion in his reply.

I would like to add here that these responses, whether it is to a telephone call or to a handwritten letter, are led by the instincts of a person. How a person reacts in a particular situation depends upon his nature. It is possible that a person is able to give the most thoughtful reply instantly on a telephone. On the other hand, it can be so that given the time to think reasonably, the result is not logically sound. Therefore, according to me, basically it is not the fault of the instant communication systems that lead a person to make unreasonable decisions. Telephones and Internet might prompt a person to make hasty decisions, but they may not always be unreasonable. A deal which could take months of pondering and thinking might have the same result as a deal quickly executed due to these instant communication systems. Therefore, the role of these communication systems is to reduce the waste of time in the execution of the deal, rather than encouraging the parties to take illogical decisions.

To sum up I would like to reaffirm my point of view that the instant communication systems are the fastest way to get any piece of information or opinion from a distance. This could encourage a speedy reply, but it would be unfair to hold these systems completely responsible for a response that is unreasonable and not thoughtfully developed.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 181

"In many countries it is now possible to turn on the television and view government at work. Watching these proceedings can help people understand the issues that affect their lives. The more kinds of government proceedings-trials, debates, meetings, etc-that are televised, the more society will benefit."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 181

In a democratic country, every citizen has a right to information. The government is answerable to its people who form the basis of the administration. I agree that when government proceedings are televised it makes people understand the issues that the government is dealing with. At the same time I disagree with the part of the statement, which says that the more the kinds of proceedings that are televised, the better it is for the society. In the following paragraphs I would like to discuss the points that make me agree only partially with the given statement.

There are many democratic countries today that telecast the live proceedings of their governments. A citizen plays a very important role in a democratic government for which he must have information about the leaders. The first role of a citizen is that of a voter. Since he has to cast his vote in favor of the leader who according to him is most responsible and competent, he can do this only by a better understanding of the way these leaders work. With the telecast of the proceedings, the citizens come to know how the leaders chosen by them are running the government. It is only then that people can understand their leaders better. It makes them the supporter of the leader who is most efficient and their precious votes help the leader to get elected in the elections.

The second important role played by the citizens is that of a critic. It is in the hands of the citizen to change the government if they are not satisfied with its work. With such live telecasts of parliamentary activity citizens can understand the working of the government clearly. It helps them to form their opinions and make a judgment about their leaders. They get an idea of who can work better as an administrator. Therefore, if the government is not doing justice to its office, the citizens can observe this by the televised programs and change the government when required.

The televised programs are definitely helpful for the citizens, but at the same time I maintain that too much telecast of the proceedings can harm, rather than benefit the society. The first reason that makes me hold this view is that there could be many issues in the proceedings that need secrecy, and if exposed to the public, would create serious security concerns. Discussions related to the defense mechanism, contrasting views regarding religion, caste etc., measures to deal with national and international terrorism etc. need to be discussed in secrecy. For example, there are chances of a communal riot to break out if the government's debates regarding sensitive religious or communal issues are telecasted. Similarly, if the parliamentary meetings over the issue of

security and defense measures are televised, it is likely to be misused by anti social elements, which can pose a threat to the country.

The second reason for my disagreement with this subject is that the live telecast of more and more government proceedings exposes the behavior of the parliamentarians. There are many debates, conversations and discussions held in such proceedings, which sometimes lead to quarrels. It is agreeable that the issues dealt by the government are not easy to handle and every leader can have his personal opinion. However, if quarrels and violence by these leaders is televised, it puts a wrong impression on the citizens. They could start losing confidence in the government and would probably stop believing in the otherwise good leaders.

In the end I would like to reassure my stand that telecasting government proceedings surely helps the people in understanding their government better. However, if this is taken to an extent, and more of these proceedings begin to be televised, it can harm the society to a great extent.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 182

"The purpose of many advertisements is to make consumers want to buy a product so that they will 'be like' the person in the ad. This practice is effective because it not only sells products but also helps people feel better about themselves."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 182

Advertising is a very important part of marketing a product. It aims at reaching out to the consumers and telling them the benefits of the product. Therefore, all efforts are made to make these advertisements attractive for the consumers. That is why these advertisements generally feature personalities that are liked by people so that they create the best effect. I agree that advertisement encourages the consumers to buy a certain product because they want to follow their icon and be like them. It surely is a good sales technique and does make many people feel better about themselves. However, people should not be carried away by these advertisements and should make a careful choice of the products so that they do not get disillusioned in the end.

With the introduction of a number of brands of a particular product, there is cutthroat competition in the market today. Each brand wants to attract more and more customers. This is where advertising plays a very important part. When people see their favorite personality, promoting a product, they believe that these celebrities use the product in their personal lives as well. These celebrities become their role models and people want to emulate everything they do in their lives. Therefore, they get attracted towards the product that features famous models and celebrities in its advertisements.

While some people feel that they can be like the person in the advertisement, others feel that the product promoted by these models is of the best quality and makes a style statement. For example, people would like to use the cream used by Julia Roberts thinking that this could be the reason behind her beauty. Similarly, if Brad Pitt models for the advertisement of a watch, people would like to buy it even if it is extremely expensive. They make a world of illusions around themselves and this gives them a sense of satisfaction, which makes them feel good. However, it must be realized that what is shown in these advertisements is not the truth. If this is not realized, it might lead to frustration and disillusionment of people.

The models and celebrities featuring in advertisements are generally famous because of their beauty and fitness. However, it must be realized that these models are paid to feature in ads and it does not necessarily mean that they use these products. The purpose of choosing famous people is only to attract more and more customers to buy a particular product, which may be only slightly different from a similar product. Therefore, the expectations from the products should not be taken too far. Although the models also have a responsibility and they only feature in the ads of a good quality product, people should not believe that the product could have magical effects. There are many people who think that a fairness cream promoted by a film personality

can work wonders and other products are useless. However, in reality when the desired results are not achieved, it can cause disillusionment in some cases as well.

Therefore, after some time people need to come out of their dream world and be realistic to understand that while some products can make some differences, drastic changes should not be expected. In the end I would maintain that a product's sale gets affected if it features a famous personality in its ads, as people want to imitate their idols. This can bring some satisfaction to them; however, it should not be taken too far to lead to frustration and disappointment.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 183

"When we concern ourselves with the study of history, we become storytellers. Because we can never know the past directly but must construct it by interpreting evidence, exploring history is more of a creative enterprise than it is an objective pursuit. All historians are storytellers."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 183

History is an account of events as they occurred in the past. Since our ancestors are not present to tell us these events, we depend upon historians to construct the same for us. The writer of the given statement believes that historians are no more than storytellers since they treat the construction of history as a creative enterprise rather than an objective pursuit. However, I differ with the writer on this point and believe that history is basically based on objective facts. All the facts are diligently brought together to construct the events of the past with little use of creative enterprise.

Knowing the past directly is impossible. However, our historians present a picture of the past as if they have recorded these events. This makes many people believe that historians make the use of imagination in order to give shape to the few facts in hand. However, a historian's work is not that easy. History, as it is presented to us, is not just the framework of the mind of a historian loosely based on a few objective realities. There are many studies and discussions amongst historians that go into constructing history. Therefore, history is the putting together of all facts to form a continuous record of events.

History is made when historians get a lead from excavating new sights, studying the remains, interpreting manuscripts, fossils and collecting similar data. Along with these, historians rely on radiocarbon dating in order to calculate the age of the old objects found. It is after a detailed study of all these that historians come to a particular conclusion. For example, when different types of tools made of stone were found, it could be understood that early man used these to cut trees and kill animals. Similarly, the excavation of ancient civilizations has helped the historians in establishing history. From these excavations it could be understood that man learnt the art of cultivation, pottery, trade and other such things. Similarly, the complete history of British Empire is not just a construction of the imagination of historians with a couple of pieces of evidence, but it is after collecting as much evidence as possible from the British empire as well as its colonies that its history has taken shape. There has been evidence in form of written account of British lords as well as others, newspaper articles, letters and many such unavoidable proofs that help in establishing the facts. Therefore, the role of creative enterprise is very limited in such cases.

I however, do not refute the fact that there is no place of creative pursuit in history. When it comes to bringing continuity between two facts, the historians have to construct the most probable story. That is why sometimes there are contrasting views between the interpretations of

different historians. However, this creative pursuit does not take away the truth provided by evidence. That is to say, these imaginative bits and parts of the story are only gap fillers and history remains dominated by objective pursuit of these historians. If history were more of a creative enterprise than objective pursuit, there would be no difference between historical accounts and folklores or legends.

To sum up, history cannot be regarded as a story told by a storyteller since there goes in a lot of effort on the part of historians in order to come to a conclusion. History is backed with enough evidence for which it cannot be dismissed as a creation of the mind of a historian, but must be regarded as unchangeable account of facts and events.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 184

"The worldwide distribution of television programs and advertisements is seriously diminishing the differences among cultures."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 184

Today television is an integral part of every household. Television viewing has become a daily activity, more than a source of entertainment for everyone. It offers its viewers an exposure with which they are exposed to most of the world and its culture. People get influenced with its programs and advertisements to a great extent. I agree that these programs and advertisements are diminishing the differences among cultures. There is an increased awareness about different cultures that results in blending of traits of all cultures.

Since television has become increasingly popular, its programs and advertisements reach to a wide range of people. Moreover, the freedom of expression has further encouraged these programs to depict varied cultures. There are programs and movies from the west telecasted in the east. Similarly, the western countries can access the programs of the eastern countries. This not only makes it easier for them to understand different cultures but they also adopt many of these traits consciously or unconsciously.

For example, since the western movies are shown in almost all parts of the world alike, it creates a great impact on the minds of its viewers. The film stars belonging to one part of the world become known and are admired by people all around the world who watch them on televisions and advertisements. These stars define fashion by what they wear and how they look, and people try to imitate their favorite star. In turn they incorporate many traits of the culture as are depicted by these stars. Similarly, the Buddhist culture made famous by the television programs has become very famous all over the world. We can see people from different parts of the world taking to Buddhism and other such sects since they have been encouraged by what they watch on television.

This trend of borrowing from other cultures is most commonly seen amongst youngsters who are always ready to try new things. Young girls get influenced by clothes worn by Britney Spears and want to look like her. Therefore, a similar pattern of clothes can be seen adorned by a Chinese, American, Indian as well as Malaysian. However, this cultural influence is not restricted to youngsters only. Others seem to incorporate some features of a foreign culture in their lives as well. For example, people are shifting from joint families toward nuclear families, and from nuclear families to living alone or with a partner. Where marriages were an important feature of many cultures, live-in relationships can increasingly be seen in every part of the world.

There is no doubt that the role played by television programs and advertisements in diminishing the differences amongst cultures is immense. As a result, a cosmopolitan culture has come into

existence that can be identified by most of the people all over the world. However, this does not mean that the original cultures would cease to exist in the times to come. Like there are people who accept the features of another culture, there are those who strictly follow their culture. This means that even if there is intermixing of cultures there are those who preserve their culture willingly.

In the end I would like to conclude by saying that television not only introduces different cultures to people but also influences them to follow the traits in such a way that the difference in two cultures begins to diminish. At the same time it is by the conscious and deliberate efforts of few strong willed people that there is hope of survival of distinct cultures.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 185

"Some educational systems emphasize the development of students' capacity for reasoning and logical thinking, but students would benefit more from an education that also taught them to explore their own emotions."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 185

Education seeks to make a child well adjusted in society and help him to lead a satisfying and successful life. It not only aims at the cognitive development, but physical, moral, ethical and social development as well. While it is important that the child develops reasoning abilities, it is also important that he is able to understand his emotions as well as control them when required. I completely agree that education must develop reasoning and logical thinking along with teaching the students to explore their own emotions.

Education has a very important role to play in a child's life. It prepares the child to face the world and shape up his future. It is in school that students learn the most important lessons of their lives. It not only sharpens their skills but also makes them civilized human beings. Therefore, the role of education is significant in shaping up an all around personality.

Since a person is met with problems and difficulties at every step in life and career, it is very important to have the ability of reasoning out the solutions. In order to be successful, a student must therefore learn to think logically and come to the most logical solution. For example, it is very important for a businessman to tackle tricky situations with logic and reasoning. He has to make an estimate of his resources before expanding his business. Similarly, he must understand the demand and supply of his products, or the ratio of input and its output. Moreover, if he is faced with any unexpected problems, he must be able to come out of it by thoughtfully coming to a conclusion. This ability of thinking and reasoning is taught through education.

On the other hand, it can be understood that doing a task is as important as being able to endure the emotional requirements of the task. While logic and reasoning help in making decisions and doing any task to the best of one's capacity, the exploration of one's emotions is the driving force, which makes a person believe in the task. As mentioned by the writer in the statement, education must also teach students to explore their emotions. If the students are able to understand their emotions, they can guide themselves to a better decision. For example, a student may be extremely intelligent due to which he could be encouraged to become a doctor. However, if he is unable to see the sufferings of others, or does not have the heart of facing a mutilated body, he will never be able to succeed in his profession. Therefore, along with knowing the mental capacity of a student it is important for him to understand his emotional strength as well.

I would like to add here that along with teaching the students to explore their emotions, students must also be taught to control hypersensitive emotions. An emotionally weak person has no

place in this competitive world. A student should therefore not only be able to identify his emotional weakness but also should be taught to come out of it. As discussed above, to some extent, it is the emotions of a person that make him decide a number of things in his life, however, one should not be a slave of his emotions as well.

In the end I would like to reaffirm my stand that education should encourage all around development of a student. Therefore, along with teaching the students the ability to think and reason logically, education should also seek to make them understand as well as control their emotions.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 186

"It is primarily through our identification with social groups that we define ourselves."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 186

The identity of a person is his characteristics, features or beliefs that help in distinguishing him from others. It gives the answer to a stranger who is unknown to you and thus helps in defining your persona. However, one wonders what the best definition of a person would be. I believe the definition of a person depends upon the people he is interacting with. While superficially we can identify ourselves with social groups in order to define ourselves, a deeper definition becomes explicit, giving importance to individual identity within a social group. Holding this view, I agree with the statement only partially, and I would like to add that a person does not only define himself by identifying with a social group but also by his personal characteristics that differ from others'.

People are generally a part of some social group or the other. This social group can be identified for its distinct characteristics from another and these characteristics help the person define his personality. This is the definition of an individual as taken in the superficial sense. For example, if a student visits a foreign country for an exchange program, he refers to himself according to his nationality, which is the social group he belongs to. In an international beauty contest, we have different contestants from various parts of the world and they are referred to as Miss Africa, Miss Venezuela etc. Sometimes an individual is a part of more than two social groups at the same time. That means that a person can be a Christian as well as an Indian. Belonging to a social group helps to identify peculiar characteristics of a person with the members of the same group and distinguish from those of another. It is not only a matter of convenience to refer to the broader social groups that a person belongs to but also the only thing that significantly distinguishes a person from others.

On the other hand, I hold that the true definition of a person lies in what he is when he stands as a single unit, without attaching himself to any social group. It is this definition of the self which is more important and detailed when it comes to the description of a person. For example, if a person goes for an interview for a job and is asked to define himself, he would have to bring out his personal definition by introducing himself by his name. Further, the employer would like to know his personal achievements, interests, experiences and skills. It would not matter to him if the candidate belongs to any social group. Similarly, the personal achievements of people like Newton and Graham Bell is what helps to define them.

Further, the view expressed in the statement also does not help to define a person who does not belong to any social group. There could be many people who are not socially active and thus do not identify themselves with any group in particular. The statement does not help in defining these people who however may establish their personal identities.

In the end I would like to conclude that defining a person by identifying him with a social group only defines him on a superficial scale. However, on a detailed scale, it is the personal characteristics, interests, sex, achievements, skills and ideas that make a person different from the other.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 187

"Humanity has made little real progress over the past century or so. Technological innovations have taken place, but the overall condition of humanity is no better. War, violence, and poverty are still with us. Technology cannot change the condition of humanity."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 187

We have come a long way over the past century. Our lives have changed to unimaginable limits. There has been a technological boost that has helped in changing the standards of living. In the past one century there has also been a change in the condition of humans. People have risen from their past to a better position and there are fewer wars and violence all over the world. However, this has little to do with technology. I differ from the given statement because according to me, the condition of humanity is affected by technology only to a limited extent, beyond which it is the administration that is responsible for its people. Therefore, technology can do only little on its own to make a difference to the condition of humanity.

As mentioned earlier by me, there has been a great change in humanity in the past century. If the evils of the society like war, poverty and violence have not completely vanished, they have surely reduced. Many countries have gained independence in the past century and are on the road to development. Similarly, peace treaties are signed among nations to avoid wars. The condition of poor has improved to a great extent because of the innovation of technology. For example, in case of floods about a century ago, people either used to be wiped out or die of hunger since there was no way to reach to them. However, these days due to advancement of technology, it is easier to reach flood-hit areas and provide people with food and medicines. They can be evacuated and thus many lives can be saved. Similarly, with the help of technology, it is easier to predict cyclones and sea disturbances, and consequently people living by seaside be warned to move to safer places. Apart from technological help, there are many organizations working for humanity. Therefore, it would be incorrect to say that humanity has made very little progress in the past century.

As can be observed, technology has helped humanity in the ways that it could. However, for the upliftment of the poor and progress of humanity, it is not the technological development but the government organizations and efforts made by people that make a difference. It is the efforts of the administration that can help in reducing violence, wars and poverty. Technological innovations have made life easier, but it must be noted that it is not easily accessible by the poor. A developing nation could have technical know-how but it also could have a lot of people below poverty line. For the poor it is more important to make their ends meet. It becomes difficult for them to afford costly treatments and medicines etc. Similarly, a poor farmer burdened with debt cannot afford to buy good variety of seeds, pesticides, tractors etc. This is where the government steps in. It is only if the administration is efficient that humanitarian work will make progress. The administration can provide subsidized seeds and pesticides to farmers. It can establish

government hospitals in order to extend free medical help to the poor. Similarly, it is only when the administration makes efforts to educate all children, bring down the gap between rich and poor and provide jobs for all that there is hope of a brighter future.

Similarly, we cannot hold technological innovations responsible for the wars and violence, but it is the administration that has to make wise and appropriate decisions by keeping in mind the benefit of the masses. If nuclear power poses a threat to world peace, it is in the hands of administration to make justified use of the same.

I therefore believe that humanitarian work is but the efforts of people and administrators. While humanity has surely made great progress since the past century, war, violence and poverty can only be reduced by the efforts of administrators.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 188

"It is through the use of logic and of precise, careful measurement that we become aware of our progress. Without such tools, we have no reference points to indicate how far we have advanced or retreated."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 188

Progress is a process of improving in order to get nearer to achieving a particular goal. It is a relative issue since we measure this success in terms of how near to the goal a person has reached. I agree with the given statement that it is through certain careful measurements that we get to know actual progress. However, I also feel that such tools can help in tracing the progress of only certain fields. The progress in many fields is not possible to measure in terms of accurate and precise measurements, but it is left to observe how far we have retreated or advanced or in which direction we have progressed.

Measuring one's progress starts early in life when a child begins to go to school. There are predefined standard measurements used in school that grade a student's progress. Not only does this help in making an estimate of individual progress, but it also helps in recording a student's progress against the progress of others. With every advancing class, there is advancement in the mental capabilities of a student. Another example of measuring progress through accurate and precise tools can be taken in the field of business. A business is called progressive if its customers, profits as well as shares are increasing. All these factors can be measured and can clearly indicate the direction of progress. Similarly, the number of votes a government gets is an indicator of its progress. In order to judge the progress of a nation, the increase or decrease in its national income, number of people below poverty line, the value of its currency in international market etc. can be measured.

Scientific measurements can definitely help in simplifying and vividly indicating the progress in a field. However, I hold the view that these measures and tools are only limited to certain fields which have a criterion of measurement. There are many such fields that are abstract and only refer to some idea. It is impossible to measure these ideas with scientific tools and units. For example, can the progress in goodness, truthfulness and humanity be measured by use of logic and precise measurements? These ideas and qualities are only understood and their progress is comprehensible only by observation and understanding.

Let us take the example of happiness. Can any tool or unit of measurement tell us the extent of happiness? We cannot measure on any scale if a rich businessman is happier than a poor farmer. The status of their respective wealth is in no case a measurement of their satisfaction and happiness in life. A businessman can be extremely wealthy but at the same time he could be undergoing tensions and worries that keep him from being happy. An addition of money to his riches cannot ensure that his happiness quotient will also advance. The state of happiness is

however reflected on the facial expression of these people, which is only observed and understood, but cannot be measured.

To sum up, I would like to say that there are certain methods of measuring progress in many areas. By using logic and scientific tools, we can not only come to know if we have advanced or retreated, but also know the extent of progress or retreat. However, this is possible only with an exception to certain fields that cannot be measured in terms of quantity, distance or any other units. It is only a matter of understanding and observing progress in these fields and that does not come from any scientific measurement.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 189

"With the growth of global networks in such areas as economics and communication, there is no doubt that every aspect of society-including education, politics, the arts, and the sciences-will benefit greatly from international influences."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 189

With the world coming closer due to various networks, it is possible to communicate and interact from a distance within no time. Telecommunication and satellite communication have greatly helped in building up interaction across the world that has affected almost every field in its own way. There is tremendous impact of these global networks on every field like education, politics, art and science. However, it cannot be determined whether all these fields stand only to benefit from this impact. I agree that there is great benefit of these global networks, but global networking has also proved to be detrimental in certain ways to these fields.

If a field stands to benefit from global networks in a particular way, it might be at a disadvantage in another way. Therefore, it is a matter of how these networks are used by people of various fields in order to know its merits or demerits distinctly. Let us begin by emphasizing the benefits of network connections throughout the world. In the field of art, these global network connections help in giving a greater canvass to artists. Therefore, there is global recognition of their art. The distinct features of art can be presented to the world and inspiration can be drawn from the works of others.

Similarly, the influence of global networks on education and science is noteworthy for its benefits. It is through these network connections that it is possible to access information from any part of the world. The Internet works as a storehouse of information for students. It also makes international exchange of ideas and discussion amongst students as well as teachers possible. The science, technology, research and information developed in one part of the world can be shared by the whole world at the same time. Scientists from all over the world can have chat sessions and communicate their ideas through these network connections.

In the field of politics, global networking plays a very important role. It is through these connections that a country can express its concern towards an international issue. It gives the opportunity to learn from the political blunders committed by other countries and avoid such situations in future. For example, it can be learnt from the political situations of Iraq that a state of chaos can lead to internal and external disturbances.

On the other hand, these global networks have proven to be disastrous in many ways. For example, in the field of art, the negative effect of global network is seen in the intermingling of different features of art, which would eventually destroy the originality that exists in a particular genre. In the field of education, students are exposed to a lot of information that can have a bad

influence on their minds and can divert them from their goals. With global sharing of science and technology, even dangerous information gets shared worldwide, which can be used against humanity and mankind by many international terrorists. World politics also stands to affect from global networks in such a way that it can favor the powerful as well as the fanatics to know the weakness of the politics of another country. Hence, this weakness can be made use of and these countries can be exploited to the extent that it causes internal disturbances as well as increases international dependence.

I would like to sum up by saying that no field is left unaffected by global networks. However, it is not always to the benefit of a particular field to have international access and connections. As there are benefits, there are also disadvantages that come with global networks.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 190

"In any field of endeavor-the sciences, the humanities, the social sciences, industry, etc.-it is not the attainment of a goal that matters, but rather the ideas and discoveries that are encountered on the way to the goal."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 190

While attempting something new or different, one encounters many new experiences. The whole process of the attempt to reach a certain goal becomes a learning experience. One faces new ideas and discoveries at every step of the endeavor. I agree that these discoveries and ideas are very essential and help in the overall growth. However, I also believe that attainment of a goal is equally important. It is not only the means but also the end that I consider of great value.

When we undertake a task to accomplish a particular goal, we also have a firsthand experience of working towards the goal. In this process, there are many new discoveries and ideas that we come across. These discoveries not only increase the knowledge but also refine the way we work towards our goal. A student who aims to be a doctor needs to work hard with sincerity and dedication in order to accomplish his goal. Moreover, he needs to have clear ideas and feeling of compassion towards people so that he can help them get rid of their miseries. These ideas help in shaping up his career and refining his skills as a doctor. It is only through his experiences that he would learn the bigger lessons of life.

Many times it so happens that these discoveries and ideas that appear in the effort to get to somewhere are what help to define a successful endeavor. For example, it was only when Newton was struck with the idea of an apple falling from the tree that he came up with the laws of gravity. It is evident that he did not have the aim of finding gravity since this phenomenon was not known beforehand to him. However, it only came to existence due to the discoveries and ideas of the great thinker while doing a completely different activity. Therefore, it can be said that the ideas and discoveries in the path of an endeavor are a creation of the working mind and they can lead to great discoveries of the future.

The means to reach to a goal are important because they are the soul of the task and define the quality of work. However, it does not undervalue the importance of having a goal. I am of the view that it is the goal that is the driving force behind the task and this should not be ignored. It gives a lead to the task and becomes an inspiration for us. Things like telephones, bulbs etc have been invented only because the scientists had a goal in mind. It is the goal of forming a stable and a secure society that gives birth to democracy and fundamental rights. Similarly, in an industry or business, a target has to be formed beforehand to produce a given number of goods in the given time so that the best use of its resources is made. An endeavor is not complete unless its target is reached. In case the need of forming a goal is underestimated, the efforts and hard work loses its direction, and it might result in a waste of time in the end. If an industry were not

able to meet its deadline, all the produce that it produces would go waste along with the efforts put in it.

I therefore feel that along with the discoveries and ideas that are encountered in the way to the goal, the goal itself is also important. We should not ignore any of the two in order to have a successful and satisfying endeavor.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 191

"When research priorities are being set for science, education, or any other area, the most important question to consider is: How many people's lives will be improved if the results are successful?"

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 191

Research work in any area is carried out to look for answers to existing questions or to dig for information that was hitherto unknown. How can then one assess whether the results of the research work would be successful or not? Even if there is a strong possibility of the results being successful, how can one ascertain how many people's lives would be improved by these results because no one knows what the results would be like. The need to provide a high priority to the question, "How many people's lives will be improved if the results are successful?" is therefore, highly unjustified.

Before starting research work on any subject, the priorities of the research team would involve planning the method in which they have to carry out their research work, the time constraints, the ideal end result that they are looking for etc. It is true that the effect of the results on the lives of people will also be an important aspect that has to be considered, but this question cannot be accorded a high priority as we would be incapable of accurately judging the number of people whose lives would be improved. Even if one does arrive at an estimate of the number of people whose lives would be improved, one will have to take into account the side-effects of the results as well. All the results of any form of research work can be used for both positive as well as negative purposes. If we start taking the negative aspects of the results of research work into consideration, then it is unlikely that we will be able to justify the conduct of a majority of research works in all fields.

When the research work on atomic energy was being carried out, could there have been an estimate of the number of people whose lives would be improved by the results of the research work? On the contrary, millions of people lost their lives and even more people are living with the aftermath of the atomic explosions at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Had the researchers been able to foresee this effect that the results of their research work had on mankind? There is no denying the fact that a number of people have benefited from the results of the said research work as it has led to the generation of power as well. Even if the negative impact of the research work had been foreseen and it had been given a high priority, then stopping the research work could have led to a scenario wherein the generation of nuclear power would not have been possible.

The controversial research work on genetic mutations may affect the lives of millions of people by finding the cures for various terminal diseases. However, the results of such a research work can also be used for altering the genetic makeup of humans and animals to create monsters. Hence, it is evident that the effect of the results of a research work on the lives of people should

not be given a high priority as one cannot predict the turn of events that might take place once the results are available for common use.

Therefore, it is in the interest of the society that all forms of research work should be allowed to progress without paying much importance to the number of people who are likely to see improvements in their lives as a result of the consequences of the research work.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 192

"So much is new and complex today that looking back for an understanding of the past provides little guidance for living in the present."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 192

Technology is experiencing an exponential growth in the modern world. Gadgets and their associated technologies are getting obsolete within a couple of years. Until about 10 years ago floppy disks were the main devices for external storage or data transfer and now the latest machines don't even come with floppy drives. Does this mean that we can completely forget about studying how floppy disks worked or can we afford to ignore the advantages and drawbacks of floppy disks? On the contrary, it was a detailed research on the pros and cons of using floppy disks that led to the development of CDs and DVDs. Therefore, it is evident that despite the complexities of modern world, it is important to look back and understand the past for succeeding in all future endeavors. Moreover, one can find the solutions to present day problems only by learning from past experiences.

Why is there such a hue and cry over nuclear disarmament all across the world? This is because Man has been witness to a nuclear holocaust early in the Twentieth century. The experiences of the past have guided us to improve our present by taking necessary steps to ensure that such an event does not recur in the future. Could this have been possible if we had chosen to ignore studying the past for planning our future?

Everyone is aware of the toll taken by the World Wars on human lives and national economies. A study of these wars has prompted nations to strive for improving their relations with each other in a bid to avoid unnecessary wars. At the same time, studies of the wars that have taken place in the past are a very important part of the military strategy of any country. The defense tactics of any army is largely based on the lessons learnt from the wars fought by them in the past. Whenever an operation has to be launched by troops in a new area or terrain, the first step is to gather information related to similar operations that may have been conducted in the same area in the past. Such information prepares them for what can be expected during the course of their impending military operations. Therefore, it can be seen that understanding the past is absolutely essential for living in the present despite the fact that now we are much more technologically advanced than we were in the past.

Technological advancements have succeeded in providing us with the modern luxuries of life, but we have been able to come this far only because of the guidance we got from our past. The roots of the present day technology lie in the scientific theories that were formulated in the past. Can we afford to ignore the theories of Science or the Mathematical formulae, which were established in the past, for setting forth new theories? It is absolutely essential for researchers and scientists to study what has been researched in the past so that they are able to get the

required guidance for their research work in the present. This is the research work that results in the technological developments.

We have been awed by the archaeological marvels that were constructed in the past. There have been numerous studies based on the construction techniques of the past and the modern day architects have utilized the same techniques time and again for constructing buildings in the present. A study of the past not only reveals the mistakes done by the people of that era, but one also gets to learn a lot from the time tested techniques that were used successfully. In conclusion, it is evident that we are progressing into the future only because we have chosen to understand the past and utilize it as a starting point for all our present day work.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 193

"At various times in the geological past, many species have become extinct as a result of natural, rather than human, processes. Thus, there is no justification for society to make extraordinary efforts, especially at a great cost in money and jobs, to save endangered species."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 193

It is the responsibility of humans to maintain the ecological balance of our planet by virtue of their being the most intelligent creatures on earth. Moreover, Man has the necessary power to save endangered species to ensure that the ecological balance of the Earth is not disturbed. However, there is no apparent reason for society to save endangered species at costs of money and jobs that are very high. Therefore, it is essential that society makes all possible efforts to save endangered species, but if the costs involved are sky high, then the society can choose not to save the species and save the human costs instead.

We no longer see Dinosaurs on the planet whereas they freely roamed on Earth eons ago. Has their non-existence made any difference to life on Earth? It can be accepted that their disappearance would have made some difference to the food chain as they were one of the most prominent predators. However, in today's context their absence has no effect on the food chain existing on the planet. Similarly, it is highly probable that the extinction of a particular species of animals may be of no consequence in the future. Therefore, it would not be justified to spend an enormous amount of money in trying to save the species. On the other hand, if the species can be saved without much investment, then society should do its bit to preserve the environment and the animals that live therein.

The same line of reasoning may not hold true for certain types of plants and animals. This is because apart from providing nutrition, certain species of plants and animals have been known to have therapeutic advantages including herbal remedies. For instance, cod-liver oil is well known for its content of Omega 3 fatty acids that help you fight against heart disease, cancer, depression, arthritis, Alzheimer's disease, ulcers, diabetes and a host of other diseases. Plants containing Aloe Vera have now been found to have extremely useful healing properties and all the species containing Aloe Vera are now in high demand. Therefore, society may have to make an attempt to save any of these species if they are endangered, but technology has now developed so much that one can look for other alternatives if the cost of saving these species goes beyond what society can easily afford.

There are certain natural events that are beyond the control of society. Recurring floods, storms, forest fires, climatic changes etc. may be playing havoc with the existence of certain types of rare species. There is little that society can do to contain such events in such a way that the species are preserved. There will be the requirement of pulling in maximum resources for making efforts to save every endangered species. Society will need to go to extreme extents in case of

attempting to save endangered species that exist at high altitudes or at ocean floors. Therefore, in a majority of cases, society should avoid making an attempt to save endangered species that would require colossal efforts.

The fact remains that in the face of catastrophic chain effects as a result of the extinction of a particular plant or animal, it might become necessary for society to save the species. Other than this reason, there is no evident reason for which society should invest huge amounts of money and other human costs to save each and every species of plants and animals.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 194

"We owe almost all our knowledge not to people who have agreed, but to people who have disagreed."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 194

The greatest source of knowledge is interaction with others. If we analyze the knowledge that we have acquired over the years, some of it would have come to us by reading but most of the knowledge would have been imparted to us by either our parents or by other people around us. This includes all people who have either agreed or disagreed with us. Agreement reveals new aspects in favor of the topic being discussed and disagreement brings forward aspects that would not have been thought of by us. Therefore, both agreement and disagreement contribute in a major way to whatever knowledge has been acquired by us.

When you interact with a person who disagrees with your point of view, you try your best to convince him and prove the validity of your stance. If you are not able to immediately think of strong evidence in your favor, you may even go back and read more about the issue that was being discussed so that you are able to prove your viewpoint whenever the discussion comes up again. Moreover, you may feel the urge to explore the viewpoint of the other person so that you are able to refute his claims in some way or the other. The entire process will ensure that you have increased your knowledge about that particular topic from different perspectives. On the other hand, if you interact with someone who agrees with you, then you may not be able to acquire additional knowledge as you will not feel the requirement of reading more about the issue. However, you may be able to learn something new from the positive discussion in which people would bring out more points in favor of your viewpoint.

At the same time, disagreements can lead to unpleasant situations wherein no one is willing to accept the viewpoint of the other. Such discussions lead nowhere and none of the participants is able to gain any knowledge as they are busy contradicting the views of the other people who are disagreeing with them. It would be highly unjustified to assume that such a discussion could have favorable results. The same set of people may be able to learn something if they interact with people who share their views. Common grounds for discussions lead to a constructive interaction wherein people share their knowledge with others who have the same viewpoint.

Take for example, discussions carried out by teachers in classrooms. The teacher always encourages active participation from the students in the form of healthy discussions. There is never a restriction on the students to stick to the viewpoint of the teacher. The students have the liberty to voice their opinions as this is considered as the best method for imparting knowledge. Schools keep conducting debate competitions wherein students can speak for or against the motion. If it were true that disagreement does not lead to any fruitful gains with respect to

knowledge, then the education system would not have emphasized so much on discussions in classrooms where the students have the liberty of choosing their points of view.

Whenever there are conferences regarding some project either in business establishments or in public undertakings, everyone is given a chance to voice his opinions as the person chairing the meeting knows that discussions which are done either in agreement or in disagreement will reap benefits. This is because people who speak in favor of the issue being discussed will bring out the advantages of the implementation of the project and the people who do not agree with some aspects of the project will be able to reveal some flaws in the project, which were perhaps ignored by the management.

In conclusion, it is evident that people tend to gain knowledge whenever their ideas and viewpoints are opposed by others. At the same time, we have to accept the fact that people who are in agreement with us serve to add to our knowledge by providing us with appreciation for our ideas and other information that further consolidates our views.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 195

"It is possible to identify a person's politics within a very short time of meeting him or her. Everything about people-their clothes, their friends, the way they talk, what they eat-reflects their political beliefs."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 195

It has been heard time and again that the first impression is generally the last impression. A person's behavior speaks volumes about the type of thinking supported by the person. Therefore, one needs little time to gauge the beliefs of a person by studying his dressing style, his company and his general mannerisms.

The political beliefs of a person may be related to his views on various issues pertaining to the society, economy, government, human relations etc. The best way to know a person is by talking to him. He is bound to discuss issues in such a way that it will reveal his political beliefs. If he supports nationalistic views, there would be no reason for him to support an issue that goes against the interests of the nation as he would like to accord a high priority to the interests of the nation. A person who is a conservative will always support the norms laid down by society irrespective of being outnumbered by people who think otherwise. Someone who supports liberal views will demonstrate that in his mannerisms and attitude as such a person will have an inclination for giving a higher priority to personal satisfaction above everything else.

If you have met a woman a couple of times only, but you have always seen her dressed conservatively, then it is obvious that you will get the impression that she supports conservative views. It has been rarely seen that people who dress conservatively support liberal views. This is because the views supported by a person dominate his dressing sense to a large extent. If a person is of the opinion that there is no problem in dressing unconventionally, then it is obvious that this opinion will be reflected in his dressing style. For someone who is conscious about his image as seen by others, it would be very important to dress decently and appear well groomed at all times. On the contrary, someone who does not pay much emphasis to external appearances will generally be seen dressed casually with an unkempt look. Hence, it is evident that a person's beliefs can be easily determined by analyzing their dressing sense.

People like to stay in the company of others who share their views. If a person is generally seen with people who are known to be unsociable and rowdy, then one can draw the conclusion that this particular person shares the same thoughts and ideas as those of the group. If he had different ideas, then he would have felt uncomfortable in this group and he would not have been in their friend circle. A person can comfortably stay within a friend circle only if he shares common views with his friends. Therefore, studying the friend circle of a person gives a fairly good indication of the beliefs of the person in question.

In sum, it can be said that the political beliefs of a person are reflected by his mannerisms and his circle of friends. These beliefs will also be reflected by the way a person chooses to dress and interact with others. It is true that people can easily dupe others into believing that they support views other than what they actually follow. This is evident in the case of political leaders who succeed in projecting an image that is contrary to their actual image by manipulating their mannerisms and dressing styles. Barring exceptions like this where people try to deliberately camouflage their actual beliefs; it is generally true that one can determine the true beliefs of a person within a short period of meeting him.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 196

"Instant foods, instant communication, faster transportation-all of these recent developments are designed to save time. Ironically, though, instead of making more leisure time available, these developments have contributed to a pace of human affairs that is more rushed and more frantic than ever before."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 196

All modern developments like instant foods, instant communication and faster transportation serve to save time which has been further utilized by humans for increasing their productivity. The end result is that lives are now much more frantic and fast-paced as these technological developments ensure that Man need not waste his time in travelling, communicating or eating. Therefore, it is quite true that these developments have contributed to making human lives more rushed than ever. Nevertheless, one cannot ignore the fact that the basic human nature to succeed in one's endeavors also contributes immensely to this fast-paced life.

It is the basic nature of humans to strive for more as they are seldom satisfied by their achievements. The urge to excel in your career makes you go all out to prove yourself despite the lack of time. People carry their official work to their homes and they keep working at unearthly hours with total disregard to their health or the quality time that should be ideally spent with their families. Their inability to effectively utilize the time available will result in a scenario wherein they have been surpassed by others in the race to succeed in life. In order to utilize maximum time for working, people resort to saving time wherever possible.

Modern technological developments have provided us with faster means of transport which are utilized by people to save time that would have otherwise been spent in travelling. If you have to travel to another corner of the country on official business, it is rare that you will travel by road unless your financial status does not permit you to fly down. However, the time thus saved is not utilized by people for relaxing. On the other hand, they try their level best to utilize this additional time for doing some extra work. Even if a person wants to relax in the additional time that is now available, it is unlikely that his employers would allow him to spend this time as leisure time.

Private companies, small businesses, government undertakings, organizations like schools and hospitals are all under a lot of pressure to provide good results. This pressure affects the working environment in the organization. The employees are under constant stress to display their professionalism and their commitment towards their official responsibilities. Any laxity on their part may lead to the termination of their employment. Therefore, all the time that has been saved because of the technological developments is either utilized by the employers for extracting work from the employees or the employees themselves have the inherent inclination to utilize this additional time for putting in additional work or completing their pending work.

The availability of instant food has made people consider bringing official work to their homes as they need not bother about spending time on cooking elaborate meals. Instant communication has enabled people to get quick decisions and therefore, the official work proceeds at a constant pace with no requirement of spending time waiting for the decision to reach you by post. We are now leading a faster-paced life as compared to our ancestors. The present day generation pays more emphasis on efficiency as that is the key for success in today's competitive world.

In conclusion, it can be said that the modern developments have indeed saved time for humans, but it is the competitive spirit of humans that has made them utilize the time thus saved for increasing their productivity, thereby making their lives hurried and hectic.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 197

"The past is no predictor of the future."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 197

Experiences of the past have always made us wiser with respect to various aspects of life. It is not necessary that our past will be an exact indication of the future, but the happenings in the past do have some bearing on the probable events that might take place in the future. Therefore, it may not necessarily be true that the past cannot predict the future accurately, but there may be instances when the past has helped us in determining what might happen in the future.

The future has always intrigued humans to the extent that they have often resorted to utilizing crystal ball gazers, horoscopes, tarot-card readers, fortune-tellers etc. for foretelling what the future holds for them. The authenticity of such predictions is always questionable, but the past can definitely be useful for a vague estimation of what the future holds for us. Studying the past has always been used for ascertaining success in the future. Whenever there is a requirement of carrying out a particular action, there has been a study of the effectiveness of that action in achieving its aim in the past. This study can be used to forecast the results of that particular action in the future. This is because there are some occurrences that follow a certain pattern. For instance, the meteorological departments of most countries have been able to successfully predict the weather in the future by studying the present meteorological data coupled with the effects that they have had in the past. Generally, these predictions have been found to be true and this has been made possible by studying the data and the results from the past.

On the other hand, it is not always necessary that studying the past can give an estimate of what the future holds. Take for example the future of a business enterprise, which can be predicted to quite an extent by studying its profitability in the past. The success of a business in the past may not be a definite indication of how it will fare in the future. Nevertheless, the past will be able to give a rough estimate of the profits that the business can make in the future. However, the future of the business will also depend on various factors like the success of its competitors, the variations in the demand for the company's products, changes in technology and the adaptability of the company to modify its products to meet the demands of the consumers. For instance, a company well known for its photography equipment may not be able to maintain its profits if it fails to manufacture cameras that support the latest digital imagery technology. Therefore, in such a case, a detailed study of the success of the company in the past will not be able to predict its losses in the future as no one will be able to foretell how the company's top management will choose to react in a particular situation.

In conclusion, it has been seen that the past has been able to loosely predict the future in some cases. These cases would include events and situations that have been known to recur in a particular pattern. However, when seen in the larger perspective, a study of the past cannot

include unforeseen events that may occur in the future and affect the results that have been predicted. Therefore, it is not necessary that the past will always be able to provide an accurate prediction of the future.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 198

"Society's external rewards are no measure of true success. True success can be measured only in relation to the goals one sets for oneself."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 198

Most people start planning their future from their school days. They set an aim in life and struggle hard to achieve that aim. Such people can be considered to be successful if they are able to even get close to the goals that they had set for themselves. Society's external rewards probably have no bearing on either their happiness or their definition of success. Therefore, success can be measured only on a personal level and it is further dependent on the goals that one has set for oneself.

Society may choose to give due recognition to people who have excelled in their respective fields, but this does not mean that people who are not appreciated by the society have not been successful in their ventures. A new motion picture's director may have directed a film that falls in the category of off-beat cinema. He may have experimented with addressing certain controversial issues in his movie. Therefore, his movie may bomb at the box-office and he may not win any popular movie awards. However, the director may consider himself successful because he would have succeeded in conveying a message to the masses through the medium of his movie. Additionally, it is likely that his movie earns good critical reviews and probably that is what matters the most to the director. Moreover, the young director may be noticed and be appointed for directing movies under certain prestigious banners and probably this was the goal that the director had set for himself. Therefore, despite directing a film that neither earned any awards nor raked in high profits, the director may consider himself as successful because he succeeded in achieving the aim that he had set for himself. This aim might be quite different from what society has deemed necessary for a director's success. Therefore, if the director is happy and satisfied with his work and he feels that he has attained his goal, then that is success for him.

There are thousands of scientists and researchers who have spent years in their research related work. All of them cannot be awarded the Nobel Prize. Does this mean that all these scientists have been unsuccessful in their endeavors? The research and development departments of a number of business establishments succeed in developing new products based on the latest technology. If no one outside the company knows about their contributions, does it imply that these researchers are not successful? Success is largely attributed to personal satisfaction which comes as a result of attaining one's goals.

There may be people who are not satisfied with whatever they have achieved. This is because they may have set a very high goal for themselves. An area sales manager of a company may feel that he has not succeeded in his career unless he becomes the General Manager (sales) of the

company. On the other hand, consider a person who comes from a humble background. If he succeeds in getting a job that improves the standard of living for his family, then he is truly successful even if the society does not term that particular job as a measure of success in one's career. He may be quite low in the company's hierarchy, but if his aim was to bring about a radical change in the living conditions of his family, then he would consider himself to have attained success.

In view of the above, it can be seen that more than the standards set by society or the rewards given by society, it is the individual goals set by people that are a measure of the success achieved by them. Success can be measured by gauging the level from where you started and your present position with respect to the goal that you have set for yourself. Society's rewards do little to measure the success attained by individuals.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 199

"Facts are stubborn things. They cannot be altered by our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passions."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 199

There are certain globally accepted facts which we feel cannot be challenged. This is how our ancestors also felt, but time has proved that certain facts could be altered to quite an extent, if not completely. Man's wishes have propelled him to develop technology that can assist him in modifying facts as per his wishes. However, there is no certainty that all facts can be modified in a similar manner. On the other hand, we do not know what the future holds for us. We may be able to develop technology that gives humans the power to modify almost every existing fact. Therefore, in the present context, it is not necessary that none of the existing facts can be altered as there may be certain facts that have already been altered or will probably be modified by humans.

It is an age-old fact that people cannot fly. Our ancestors tried to imitate birds by making artificial wings to satisfy the wish to fly free in the air. There are innumerable stories of people who attempted to fly and jumped off cliffs with artificial wings only to meet a fateful end. Centuries later, the fact that Man can never fly has been technologically modified in such a way that flying like a free bird in the air has become a popular sport. People go for Para drops, hot-air ballooning, hand gliding, bungee jumping etc. to experience the exhilarating feeling of flying free in the air. Transportation by air is another aspect of the modification of the said fact for making it possible for people to travel by air in large groups. Though the fact that Man cannot fly still remains undisputed, Man has been able to refute this fact to quite an extent by utilizing technology.

Death is inevitable and so is old age. However, take a look at the latest cosmetic tools available that defy old age. Botox injections, face-lifts, cosmetic surgery etc. are all used by the people who can afford them to conquer age. The fact that age will show on one's face sooner or later has been modified by humans by developing technology that can either delay the onset of wrinkles or can iron out the wrinkles by cosmetic surgery. There are numerous celebrities who do not look their actual age because they can afford to undergo treatments for turning back the clock. However, there is no permanent solution to the problem of ageing. The effects of anti-ageing treatments are temporary and age will start showing if one is not regular with the treatments. Therefore, the fact remains that ageing cannot be stopped, but man has been able to suitably modify this fact to meet his desires.

The facts being discussed above may have been termed as stubborn facts by our ancestors, but today's generation no longer finds these facts stubborn as they are living in an era when these facts have been modified. Similarly, facts that are considered stubborn and unshakeable today

may not necessarily be treated in the same way in the future as well. There could be a giant leap in technology and Man may come up with the knowledge to modify most existing facts to cater to his inclinations and desires. However, there will always be certain facts such as the rules governing the rotation and revolution of the earth, the modification of which may probably be beyond the power of Man. In sum, it can be said that barring some stubborn facts, Man has been able to alter most facts and will continue to do so in the future also.

GRE Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Topic - 200

"It is often asserted that the purpose of education is to free the mind and the spirit. In reality, however, formal education tends to restrain our minds and spirits rather than set them free."

GRE AWA Analytical Writing ISSUE Essay Sample Solution - 200

A child learns whatever is taught to him by either his parents or his teachers. The knowledge being imparted to a child conforms to the facts and figures which have already been established. It is seldom seen that children are given the time or the space to explore their inner selves and free their minds. This is because the pressure of doing well in school in order to earn high grades is so much that children often have no option but to stick to their school books. When the same children grow up into adults and they are well settled in their careers, the formal education imparted to them plays on their minds all the time and they are unable to think outside the realms of formal education. Therefore, formal education that has been acquired over a period of time succeeds in restraining our minds and spirits instead of setting them free.

The importance of learning in a formal classroom environment has assumed a great significance in the modern world because the grades that you get in your high school or college can determine how your future will shape up. Children do not have the freedom to learn aspects that interest them as they are under constant pressure from their parents to get good grades in school. Moreover, the children themselves are conscious of the performance of their peers in school and so they try their best to keep in step with their friends who may be doing better than them. The fear of failing to score the passing grade makes them concentrate on their studies.

Even if students are able to secure good grades in school, the story does not end there. After completing high school, there is stiff competition for securing admissions to reputed professional courses and only a few students are able to join a program of study of their choice. This is because there are various standardized tests which test your competence in the field in which you wish to carry out your higher studies. If you want to succeed in a career of your choice, then it is essential for you to earn degrees that endorse your skills in the fields related to your career.

Once you are settled in a career of your choice, you are again limited to utilizing the information gained from your formal education because it is this knowledge that will help you rise in the hierarchy of your career. Therefore, it is evident that the life of an individual constantly revolves around his formal education. A person's thinking ability is largely influenced by the formal education that he has received and this education restrains him from thinking otherwise, unless he does so by risking his career and a successful future. A person will have to make a substantial effort to tear himself away from the norms of formal education if he wants to free his mind. The rewards for doing well in your formal education are manifold and these rewards deprive people of the motivation to set their minds free. The end result is that people do not have the incentive to

set their minds free as their minds are restrained by the formal education that has been imparted to them.

In view of the above, it is evident that formal education assumes immense importance in the early years of life. The pressure exerted by the importance of formal education is such that there is little or no time left for anyone to allow their minds to be free and to think of something outside the realms of formal education.

