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# MAINS ANSWER WRITING APPROACH ANSWERS

Topic- SOCIETY DAY 1



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**Why is India considered as a sub-continent? Elaborate your answer. (10 marks) (150 Words)**

India is a subcontinent due to its geography, politics, and culture. Society considers India a subcontinent for the following reasons:

- India lies on the Indian Plate, which runs from the Himalayas to the Indian Ocean. The Himalayas in the north and the Indian Ocean in the south define it. Its extensive coastline, big desert (Thar), greatest mountain ranges, and large plains (India-Ganga-Brahmaputra plains) offer it continental-scale physiological diversity.
- India has the second-largest population in the world, behind Asia and Africa.
- India has **many races, faiths, castes, etc.**, speaking diverse languages and customs, but all share some unity. Indians share **ethnic, linguistic, cultural, and historical ties.**
- India is the **largest democracy with independent institutions.** Its socialism and secularism set it apart from neighboring countries. India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives are political members of the Indian subcontinent.
- A rich cultural and historical past distinguishes India from nearby regions, with diverse languages, religions, and traditions. Ancient people called the entire landmass south of Indus (Sindhu) India or Bharatvarsha.

In conclusion, India is a subcontinent because of its unique geography, tectonic history, and cultural diversity. The unique confluence of variables has formed India's identity and development.

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**Describe any four cultural elements of diversity in India and rate their relative significance in building a national identity. (10 marks) (150 Words)**

India's rich historical and cultural diversity have shaped its identity. Cultural components of diversity in India and their importance in national identity:

1. **Religious diversity:** India is home to Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, and Jainism. India's national identity is shaped by religious pluralism. India's constitution provides religious freedom, allowing different faiths to coexist harmoniously. Religious diversity has enriched India's **culture and promoted tolerance and respect for other faiths.**
2. **Language diversity:** India has 22 official languages and 1,600 dialects. India's national identity is shaped by linguistic variety. The Indian constitution respects linguistic diversity and gives various languages official recognition. Promoting linguistic diversity has preserved India's cultural past and united its diversity.
3. **Caste system:** Indian society has a unique, thousands-year-old caste structure. It classifies people by birth into social classes. Caste has shaped India's national identity. Despite its reputation for inequity and oppression, the caste system has preserved India's cultural legacy and increased its variety.
4. **Festivals and traditions:** India celebrates its vibrant festivals and traditions year-round. Different religions celebrate Diwali, Holi, and Eid, which have become part of India's national identity. These festivals and rituals have promoted cultural variety and national togetherness.

Finally, these four cultural diversity factors in India have shaped India's national identity. Due to their extensive influence and acceptance in the Indian constitution, religious and linguistic diversity are more important in forging national identity. Caste, festivals, and customs have shaped India's identity but have also been condemned for creating injustice and prejudice.

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### **Do you think marriage as a sacrament in loosing its value in Modern India? 2023**

Marriage in India is a socially acknowledged and approved sexual union between two adult individuals. It is a relationship that is defined and sanctioned by custom and law.

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**Arguments for marriage losing its sacramental value:**

- Individualism has led to people prioritizing their pleasure, compatibility, and personal aims over social conventions. This change in social norms has reduced arranged weddings, which were once considered more sacred.
- Modern Indians are delaying or forgoing marriage to pursue education and careers, making ceremony less relevant.
- Love marriages are rising due to personal feelings and decisions. People value compatibility and connection over religion and rituals.

**Arguments against marriage losing its sacramental value:**

- Religious significance: Marriage is still a sacred connection between bride and groom, celebrated with religious ceremonies. In India, arranged weddings are profoundly anchored in religion.
- Marriage is viewed as the foundation of families. Marriage is fundamental to Indian culture, which is based on the family.
- Lineage continuity: Marriage is viewed as a sacramental way to maintain family and customs.
- Indian marriages continue to include elaborate rites and celebrations.

Finally, while marriage in India is changing, the institution remains important. It is deeply religious, emotionally stable, and ideal for family life and childrearing. However, changing social standards, education and job focus, and love marriages are eroding marriage's sacramental virtues.

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