

## Question 2

Suggested time: 40 minutes

(This question counts for one-third of the total essay section score.)

Jawaharlal Nehru (1889–1964) was a leader of India’s independence movement, and the first Prime Minister of independent India. On February 2, 1948, he delivered the following eulogy at the funeral of Mahatma Gandhi after his assassination. Nehru considered Gandhi a great mentor and friend, and the two worked together closely in Indian politics. Read the speech carefully. Write an essay that analyzes the rhetorical choices Nehru uses to communicate his views on the significance of Gandhi’s legacy.

A glory has departed and the sun that warmed and brightened our lives has set, and we shiver in the cold and dark. Yet he would not have us feel this way.

Line After all, that glory that we saw for all these years,  
 5 that man with divine fire, changed us also—and such  
 as we are, we have been molded by him during these  
 years; and out of that divine fire many of us also took  
 a small spark which strengthened and made us work  
 to some extent on the lines that he fashioned. And so  
 10 if we praise him, our words seem rather small, and if  
 we praise him, to some extent we also praise ourselves.  
 Great men and eminent men have monuments in bronze  
 and marble set up for them, but this man of divine  
 fire managed in his lifetime to become enshrined in  
 15 millions and millions of hearts so that all of us became  
 somewhat of the stuff that he was made of, though to  
 an infinitely lesser degree. He spread out in this way  
 all over India, not just in palaces, or in select places or  
 in assemblies, but in every hamlet and hut of the lowly  
 20 and those who suffer. He lives in the hearts of millions  
 and he will live for immemorial ages.

What, then, can we say about him except to feel  
 humble on this occasion? To praise him we are not  
 worthy—to praise him whom we could not follow  
 25 adequately and sufficiently. It is almost doing him  
 an injustice just to pass him by with words when he  
 demanded work and labor and sacrifice from us; in a  
 large measure he made this country, during the last  
 thirty years or more, attain to heights of sacrifice which  
 30 in that particular domain have never been equaled  
 elsewhere. He succeeded in that. Yet ultimately  
 things happened which no doubt made him suffer  
 tremendously, though his tender face never lost its  
 smile and he never spoke a harsh word to anyone. Yet,  
 35 he must have suffered—suffered for the failing of this  
 generation whom he had trained, suffered because we  
 went away from the path that he had shown us. And  
 ultimately the hand of a child of his—for he, after all, is  
 as much a child of his as any other Indian—the hand of  
 40 a child of his struck him down.

Long ages afterwards history will judge of this  
 period that we have passed through. It will judge of  
 the successes and the failures—we are too near it to be  
 proper judges and to understand what has happened  
 45 and what has not happened. All we know is that there  
 was a glory and that it is no more; all we know is that  
 for the moment there is darkness, not so dark certainly,  
 because when we look into our hearts we still find the  
 living flame which he lighted there. And if those living  
 50 flames exist, there will not be darkness in this land, and  
 we shall be able, with our effort, remembering him and  
 following his path, to illumine this land again, small as  
 we are, but still with the fire that he instilled into us.

He was perhaps the greatest symbol of the India of  
 55 the past, and may I say, of the India of the future, that  
 we could have had. We stand on this perilous edge of  
 the present, between that past and the future to be, and  
 we face all manner of perils. And the greatest peril is  
 sometimes the lack of faith which comes to us, the  
 60 sense of frustration that comes to us, the sinking of  
 the heart and of the spirit that comes to us when we  
 see ideals go overboard, when we see the great things  
 that we talked about somehow pass into empty words,  
 and life taking a different course. Yet, I do believe that  
 65 perhaps this period will pass soon enough.

He has gone, and all over India there is a feeling of  
 having been left desolate and forlorn. All of us sense  
 that feeling, and I do not know when we shall be able  
 to get rid of it. And yet together with that feeling there  
 70 is also a feeling of proud thankfulness that it has been  
 given to us of this generation to be associated with this  
 mighty person. In ages to come, centuries and maybe  
 millennia after us, people will think of this generation  
 when this man of God trod on earth, and will think of  
 75 us who, however small, could also follow his path and  
 tread the holy ground where his feet had been.

Let us be worthy of him.