

Time Allowed : Three Hours
समय : तीन घंटे



Maximum Marks : 250
अधिकतम अंक : 250

ESSAY / निबंध

Name Of Candidate परीक्षार्थी का नाम	Garima Mundra		
Roll No./अनुक्रमांक	1910103295	Medium/माध्यम	English <input type="checkbox"/> हिंदी <input type="checkbox"/>
Center Code/परीक्षा केंद्र	1900	Date/दिनांक	13 August 2024

*Center Code : For Online - 1900 / Delhi : Karol bagh - 1901, ORN - 1902, Mukharji Nagar - 1903 / Patna : Boring Rd. - 2001 / Hyderabad : Jawahar Nagar - 2101

INDEX TABLE / अनुक्रमणिका			INSTRUCTION / अनुदेश		
Q. No. प्र.सं.	Max. Marks अधिकतम अंक	Marks Obtained प्राप्तांक	1. Please do furnish Name, Email, Roll No and Mobile in the answer sheet. कृपया उत्तर-पुस्तिका में नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर और मोबाइल नंबर भरें।		
Q.1			2. There are TWO Sections. Each Section has MULTIPLE topics printed in English/Hindi. You have to write on 1 topic from Each part. प्रश्न पत्र में दो खंड हैं। प्रत्येक खंड में अंग्रेजी/हिंदी में बहु-विषय मुद्रित हैं। आपको प्रत्येक भाग में से किसी एक विषय का लेखन करना है।		
Q.2			3. One question in each part is compulsory. प्रत्येक भाग में से एक प्रश्न करना अनिवार्य है।		
Total Marks/कुल अंक			4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. एक प्रश्न/भाग द्वारा किए गए अंकों की संख्या इसके सामने इंगित की गई है।		
Remarks/टिप्पणी :			5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. उत्तर प्रवेश पत्र में अधिकृत माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए, जो कि दिए गए स्थान में इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के कवर पर स्पष्ट रूप से लिखा जाना चाहिए।		
			6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, यदि निर्दिष्ट हो, का पालन किया जाना चाहिए।		
			7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off. प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा गया कोई भी पृष्ठ या पृष्ठ का भाग स्पष्ट रूप से काट दिया जाना चाहिए।		
For Student Only / केवल परीक्षार्थी प्रयोग हेतु					
Start Time/प्रारंभ करने का समय :			End Time/समाप्त करने का समय :		
4:00 pm			6:55 pm		
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MARKING SCHEME

<i>Parameter/ criteria</i>	<i>Aspects Considered</i>	<i>Marks Allotted</i>	<i>Essay 1</i>	<i>Essay 2</i>
Basic Format	Introduction	10		
	Body	15		
	Conclusion	10		
Content	Topic interpretation	10		
	Quotations and ideas	10		
	Analytical skills	10		
Organization	Flow of ideas	10		
	Absence of deviation	10		
	Ease of reading	10		
Language skills	Language and sentence construction	10		
	Grammar and spelling	10		
Examiner's discretion	perception/ innovation/ engaging	10		

<i>Parameters</i>	<i>Very Good</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Poor</i>
Coherence				
Language				
Handwriting				
Pre-writing				

Very Good	Good	Average
120 and above	100-120	Below 100

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The only Impossible Journey Is The
One you Never Begin

Long before we were talking about globalisation, air journeys and hyperloops, the world was barely interconnected. Explorers in Europe had only heard of the 'land of gold and silver' India, but no one dreamt of setting out in the wild ocean to discover this mystery.

The secret was not long held, as it was Vasco Vasco Da Gama, who did the unthinkable. He set foot in town of Kochi, at the end of his 'impossible journey'. All he had to do was begin.

Almost 500 years later, the coast of Kochin was witness to another impossible journey's end. India's first indigeneous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant was built by cochin shipyard, laying foundation for multiple new beginnings.

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It is a journey of grit and resilience of Indian engineers, to have dreamt of building an indigenous carrier, making India only the sixth country to do so. Who would have thought a developing country to achieve this feat?

These two incidents, far away in the timelines of history, but still sharing a common link, show how the impossible only remains so, unless we make it impossible.

In this essay, we would see more about why journeys seem impossible, what prevents us from embarking on one and are all journeys meant to be begun?

THE ROAD NOT TRAVELLED

There would have been multiple times in our lives where we are faced with situations that



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We haven't faced before. Opportunities that knock on our door, only for us to dismiss them. The often used defence, 'It is not my cup of tea', manifests the impossibility of the journey.

Some journeys seem impossible because no one has ever done it before. For instance, thinking of putting a man on the moon - seems like a stuff for the dreams. Other journeys feel impossible because you've not done it before.

For an infant, even walking seems impossible. But as long as one keeps trying, has the ability to fall seven times but get up eight, the task is accomplished. The key here is taking the first step.

One should have no regrets that he failed.
One should regret that he never tried.

But what is it that stops one from taking that first step, to not travel that road?

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THE FIRST HURDLE

We all crave for our comfort space. The darkness of unknowns always prevents us from searching for the light. But as it is rightly said,

"The ship is safe at the harbour. But that's not what ship is for."

Another thing is the fear of failure. The question 'what if I fail' stops us from embarking on anything new or challenging. That makes the journey seem impossible. But all great inventions are a result of failure. Thomas Edison failed a 1000 times before he invented the light bulb.

We also tend to avoid a new path due to the possibility of adversities that might come up. No one likes to be challenged. But just like a diamond is built under pressure, adversities shape our character for the journey of life.

But where do we look for inspiration?

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THE BEGINNER'S LUCK

How can one expect a couple of guerilla contingents to begin the journey of a nation's independence?

As impossible as it sounds, the Revolt of 1857, and the 13th native infantry took the leap of faith and ushered the path of independence in modern Indian history.

Similarly, there will be ample things in life that will try to stop your progress. A roadblock that will seem impossible to pass. Arunima's story, of how a girl, with her legs amputated, can even think of climbing mount Everest is a story for the legends.

Not just on an individual level, sometimes even nations stand at a crossroad. The ship to mouth situation of India in the 1960s made the idea of food security seem super difficult. But India took its leap of faith, with high yield variety seeds. And the journey of Green Revolution had begun.

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It is indeed a matter of channelling your inner strength and muster courage to set out on an unexplored journey. Till three years ago, we could only dream of reaching the stars. But with Elon Musk's space tourism project, that journey is very much possible.

The beginnings are always the hardest. But once you set the stone rolling, the possibility opens far and wide. ISRO's humble beginnings did not prevent it from taking on the journey to Mars, with ^abudget ⁿless than Hollywood films. But unless we don't try, how will we succeed?

ISRO now talks of the human spaceflight Gaganyaan, after reaching the moon and Mars. This shows that how journeys will never end. There will be possibilities after possibilities, but the secret is to keep taking that leap of faith.

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When the covid pandemic hit, no one would have had any expectations from the Indians to develop a vaccine for the world. It was indeed an impossible journey, from generic drugs to a full-fledged vaccine. Had we not tried, we wouldn't be able to gift the world the covaxin vaccine, and contribute in the fight.

Look around you and you'd find multiple impossible journeys reaching their desired end. From the Alexa in our homes, to the flights for your next vacation. From the video call you made this morning, to the groceries you ordered from Zomato. The 20th century man would be baffled.

Clearly, the impossibility is only a limit we put on ourselves. But are ~~are~~ all journeys meant to be taken?

THE URGIE WHICH SHOULD STOP

There are some things which seem impossible and should remain that way. In the quest to

prove our superiority, we should not blindly begin. Even Kant's deontology talks about choosing the right means, rather than end.

The infamous Manhattan Project, where Dr. Oppenheimer began his journey of becoming death, was a result of short-sightedness. Not every journey needs to be taken. The atomic bomb, though proved the superiority of USA, led to an arms race, that we still regret.

Sometimes, we are already in the midst of a journey, but we don't know when to stop.

Rachel Carson, in her book, The Silent Spring, talks about - we have two roads diverged in the woods. But both are not equal. We choose the one with incessant consumption, materialism, and we never stopped and turned around.

One should always keep track of the journey. If we are going down the right path. There is no harm in pausing and introspecting. We need to question constantly. Do we need technology

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to deliver us fruits within minutes? Do we need to engineer our climate to prevent global warming? Choosing what you want to turn into a possibility is very important.

So how do we get ourselves to begin down the right path?

THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

As Buddha had said, to win the battle outside, you need to journey inside. That is the biggest impossibility for most. If you conquer that battle, no journey would seem impossible. Believing in oneself can make challenges seem like opportunities. Lord Ram made Hanuman realise his inherent power to go to Lanka.

We can take inspiration from stoicism, the hellenistic philosophy. Just as nature takes every obstacle and works around it - incorporates it into itself - so too, a rational being can turn each journey into a reward. Courage is the most cardinal virtue as per the stoics.

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Only to begin is not the end of the game.
We need to begin, but also be determined not to quit. We need to wait for the light at the end of the tunnel. To be patient, to celebrate even the small wins along the journey, that is what would help us take it till the end.

For most, life in itself is an impossible journey. But it is important to experiment, to experience failure, only to come out as the winner.

Just like Vasco da Gama's maine adventures, and landing upon the treasure that is India, have faith that each journey will reward you in its own way.

You fear to begin,
thinking you'd fail,
But oh dear!

Without the turbulent winds,
how will your ship set sail?

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Eyes cannot see what the mind does not know

On the night of December 9, 1914, a fire broke out at Edison Industries. Everything was burned down by the flames, including Thomas Edison's major works. The loss exceeded \$2mn.

Next morning, the 67 years old inventor went to see the disaster for himself. But strangely, he had a slight smirk on his face. On being asked that why is he not devastated, he replied - There is great value in disaster.
All our mistakes are burned up. It is an opportunity to start new.

A few weeks later, Edison produced one of his greatest inventions, the phonograph. This shows that for Edison, his mind could not believe the disaster to be a setback, and so his eyes saw it not as fire, but as an opportunity. An opportunity to start fresh.

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So how does what we see match with what we know? And are they always in sync? How can we achieve the best out of it? Let's find out.

THE MINDGAME

If you take a trip down memory lane, to your class 10 Biology class, you would remember the chapter on 'The Eye'. It is a beautiful organ. Our window to the world. But ~~is~~ the concept is a little twisted.

When light rays fall on our cornea, it actually creates an inverted image in our head. So what we see is actually a reflection of how we think or what our brain knows. The mind creates the vision for us, the eye is just a mediator.

We only see what we believe. If our mind's not aware of something, we often turn a blind eye towards it. For instance, some people believe in paranormal activities. Such people

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would tend to see visions of ghosts more often than those who don't believe in such activities.

This trick can work either ways in our life - for the good or the bad.

THE GLASS HALF EMPTY

Just like the perception of glass half empty is a vision created by our mind, sometimes it lives in denial of the good parts. Or in denial of the full truth.

The moderates believed in the presidential mission theory of the Britishers. Their mind did not know the drain of wealth, the power of masses, or the outright exploitation. They saw British rule as good for India, ushering in the modern railways and English education.

Their eyes could not see the objective behind it, or the worsening condition of Indian economy. This was only changed with the arrival of the Extremists and different thinking.

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Similarly, the ancient Indians did not know of the hydrological cycle or the science behind it. Hence, they couldn't see the rain as a natural weather phenomena, but associated it with the rain god, Indra, as a gift.

These half truths can prove to be dangerous. It is a consequence of our closed thinking and narrow approach. It is evident when some people believe in the fact that Shudras are born out of ^{the} feet of the god and hence see their presence as a form of pollution. They cannot see in the true light that all beings are equal.

People don't want to know and stay in the dark as it challenges their generational thinking. It is a consequence of not knowing the woman as equal of the man, that orthodox families still see marriage from the point of view of a transaction, as involving bride price, and not as a union of two equals.

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This can lead to unwanted consequences.
It hampers world peace. Russian leadership doesn't know the idea of territorial integrity, or the negative fallout of a war. And hence, sees Ukraine territory as theirs, and pursue full conquest.

It can also lead to degradation of society.
Be it the paternalistic forces or communalisms.
Even for a few years ago, Indians didn't know the importance of sanitation and toilets. They couldn't see the effect it has on mortality, nutritional deficiencies and general well-being.

But sometimes, not knowing things can work in our favour.

THE GLASS HALF FULL

In direct contrast to our earlier idea, it implies a positive outlook. The perception we create can have a huge role to play in how we see things.

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Henry Ford, the father of assembly line manufacturing, suffered early losses in his business. But he never knew what failure meant. He only saw failure as another opportunity to succeed. This gave him the willpower to keep trying.

Similarly, not believing in the entire truth can work wonders. The Indian cricket team during the 1983 world cup is a case in point. The world knew that they were doomed to fail. But Kapil Dev, the captain, never knew, or rather believed in it. Hence, he could see India winning the world cup, and they eventually did.

Not thinking too much can shape how we proceed in life. OR in policy. China saw its burgeoning population as a disaster, knowing the pressure it will put on resources, and brought the one child policy. India, on the other hand, ~~saw~~ didn't know of the negatives, but saw it as a demographic dividend.

Therefore, if we know how to work around our thoughts, we can use our half knowledge to our advantage.

But are we always so predictable?

THE BLIND EYE

At times, even after knowing fully well the situation, the consequence, we turn a blind eye, and don't see the reality for what it is. This happens due to 'living in denial'.

We all know the manmade disaster of climate change is the biggest crisis at hand. But nations still turn a blind eye towards the extreme weather events, and indulge in blame games on the climate table, rather than accepting the responsibility.

On an individual level, our mind knows our duties as citizens. The role each vote plays in a democracy. But we still see the voting day as a holiday, leading to turnouts that never cross 70%.

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Such behaviour leads to cognitive dissonance and can cause internal damage. It also leads to ethical dilemmas. When we are well aware of the evils of patriarchy, we still ^{can't} see ~~at~~ how our mothers eat at the end, or are responsible for serving the guests.

We try to justify it using the attribution theory. Seeing someone else's victory as luck, and our own as hardwork. Even though we know the reality deep inside.

So how can we ensure that things remain in sync! That we don't create such alternate realities?

THE 'REAL' REALITY

We need to focus from the bottom-up. We need to educate our minds in the right direction.

Education is not about knowing the 'how', but questioning the 'why'. That would help our mind become more aware as children, as citizen and as humans.

Similarly, the art of questioning needs to be developed. As is rightly said,

Doubt is the origin of wisdom

We need to constantly doubt what our eyes see, and if it matches with what we knew. This is extremely important in the age of fake news and infodemics. We cannot believe we knew and we cannot believe what we see.

We also need to practice introspection. We need to spend time with ourselves to find our own reality. Marx used to be alone in his room for hours when he was writing the Communist Manifesto. That helped him to sync what he knew with what he saw.

Life always throws some curveballs. There are things we don't accept, we don't know or we can't see. But ~~we~~ as humans, we always evolve. From not knowing that the earth is a sphere to thinking that plants don't have a life, we have been proven wrong time and again.

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We need not fear an idea when time has come, as Leo Tolstoy said. We need to embrace the change. Accept that no one is a know-it-all. We are here to live and learn.

We need to unlearn the negatives like anger, hate, jealousy, fear, failure and learn the positives. Just how Tagore believed India to be - "where the mind is without fear, and the head is held high?"

We can create our own versions of India, in this Amrit Kaal.