

219872\_620303\_1910123489\_(2023-08-18 22:24:07)

(Please do not  
write in this  
space)

कृपया इस स्थान  
में प्रश्न संख्या के  
अतिरिक्त कुछ  
न लिखें।

# UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
Content of the Question is more important than length.  
( Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस हाशिए में  
नहीं लिखना  
चाहिए  
Candidates  
must not  
write on this  
margin

Name - SRISHTI DABAS

Test Date - 18 August 2023

Time - 7:45 - 10:35 am

MGP+ (Essay Test 3  
620303)

(Please do not write anything except the answer in this space)

कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अनिश्चित कुछ न लिखें।

219872\_620303\_1910123489\_(2023-08-18 22:24:07)

# UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
Content of the Question is more important than length.  
( Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस लक्ष्य में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
Candidates must not write on this margin

The power of perception shapes our understanding of reality.

Flying fish... dancing ants.... singing birds... and giggling elephants.... such was the 'perception' of the little boy in the movie 'Tare Zameen Par'.

His imaginations shaped his realities. He enjoyed being in his world of dreams, distancing himself from the utterly 'real' world.

Such is the power of perceptions, our beliefs and convictions shaping our victories and failures. The perception of beauty, the perception of intelligence or even the perception of happiness — everything begins from the head and then becomes reality.

(Please do not  
write anything over  
the questions written  
in this space)  
कृपया इस स्थान  
में प्रश्न संख्या के  
अतिरिक्त कुछ  
न लिखें।Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
Content of the Question is more important than length.  
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

Through this essay, let us explore the various dimensions of perception, the factors shaping it, positive and negative perception and their impacts on reality.

### Decoding the Power of Perception

One is often asked whether the glass is half full or half empty?

The reply depends on the perception of the person - whether optimistic or pessimistic.

An optimistic person will find opportunity in every difficulty while a pessimistic person finds difficulty in every opportunity.

The outer world perhaps remains the

(Please do not  
write anything  
in this space)  
कृपया इस स्थान  
में प्रश्न संख्या के  
अतिरिक्त कुछ  
न लिखें।

219872\_620303\_1910123489\_(2023-08-18 22:24:07)

# UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
Content of the Question is more important than length.  
( Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस तालिका में  
नहीं लिखना  
चाहिए  
Candidates  
must not  
write on this  
margin

same. What differs are our thoughts and beliefs. We perceive the world how we are.

For instance, someone who has a 'Transphobic perception' will shape his understanding of reality as 'exclusive' and 'intolerant' towards the LGBTQIA+ community. On the other hand, someone with a 'Transfriendly perception' will shape his understanding of reality as 'inclusive' and 'respectful' towards all sexualities.

And hence, it won't be wrong to say that what manifests outside, first occurs inside.

Be it our success or failure, first we win or lose in our

(Please do not  
write anything  
in this space)  
कृपया इस स्थान  
में प्रश्न संख्या को  
अतिरिक्त कुछ  
न लिखें।Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
Content of the Question is more important than length.  
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

conviction and then only do we  
rise or fall in reality. Because  
it is our perceptions which shape  
our values, our beliefs, our  
attitude and eventually our behaviour.

This takes us to two diverging  
roads - one towards positivity  
and progress, while the other  
towards negativity and disdain.

Prospects of a Positive Perception:  
The path to prosperity

It is said that someone who  
has love filled in her heart  
will shower immense love on  
the outside world. Such was the

(Please do not write the question number in this space)

कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या को अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

219872\_620303\_1910123489\_(2023-08-18 22:24:07)

# UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
Content of the Question is more important than length.  
( Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस कक्ष में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
Candidates must not write on this margin

epitome of kindness - Mother Teresa.  
Her positive outlook towards life made her help the needy and feed the hungry.

Same goes for social reformers like Jyotiba Phule, Raja Ram Mohan Roy, who could perceive positivity and take the society towards a progressive path and ultimately change the reality for many.

Great leaders like A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Abraham Lincoln and Nelson Mandela - all share one thing in common, their firm belief in reforming their nations and taking them to path of success. Such were these visionaries!

(Please do not  
write anything except  
the question number  
in this space)  
कृपया इस स्थान  
में प्रश्न संख्या के  
अतिरिक्त कुछ  
न लिखें।Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
Content of the Question is more important than length.  
( Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

It was the perception of Dashrath Manjhi that made him carve a way across the mighty mountains, or of Sonu Sood who extending a helping hand to poor during covid crisis.

The list of such personalities just goes on and on. Be it Elon Musk who perceives a world with sustainable mobility or Sonum Wangchuk who perceives a world of sustainable living. First, they changed themselves by adopting environment friendly practices (eg: Sonum plants trees whenever he takes a flight) and then only would they aim for changing the world. Wish everyone was like them. but it is not the case.

(Please do not write anything except in this space)

219872620303\_1910123489\_(2023-08-18 22:24:07)

# UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
Content of the Question is more important than length.  
( Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस लागि में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।  
Candidates must not write on this margin

कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

Pitfalls of a Negative Perception:  
The Distorted understanding of reality

There are people who could not control their negative outlook, thereby causing havoc in the society. Be it Duryodhana who perceived himself to be all mighty and shaped his understanding of reality as one where he and only he is the centre of the universe.

Or be it Hitler who, because of his negative perception of Jews, undertook their genocide. Even the Britishers had perception of whiteman's burden when they treated Indians as barbaric and inferior, leading to the spectre of Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

Page \_\_\_\_\_



(Please do not  
write anything except  
in this space)  
कृपया इस स्थान  
में प्रश्न संख्या के  
अतिरिक्त कुछ  
न लिखें।Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
Content of the Question is more important than length.  
( Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

Fast forwarding to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we see that humans have created a perception of themselves as 'Demigods'. They are tampering with the nature and shaping the reality of climate change. Changing courses of rivers, creating artificial rain, developing genetically modified crops — all are taking us towards fury of nature through extreme weather events.

Not just ecologically, but also ethically, we are treading towards an ethical apocalypse where our negativities, vices and hatred are taking us towards the doomsday.

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space.)  
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अनिश्चित कुछ न लिखें।

219872\_620303\_1910123489\_(2023-08-18 22:24:07)

# UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
Content of the Question is more important than length.  
( Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस लागि में नही लिखना चाहिए  
Candidates must not write on this margin

Be it the rise in terrorism, xenophobia, fundamentalism or extremism, or be it the intolerant mindsets, which led to the death of Mahsa Amini or attacks on Salman Rushdie.

All these negative perceptions of hatred, anger, revenge and superiority complexes, have denied us true liberation.

The treatment given to women as seen from rising cases of marital rape, acid attacks, dowry deaths and sexual harassment at workplace, including online abuse in today's world — all reflect the negative perceptions of a society as a whole.

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
Content of the Question is more important than length.  
( Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस हिसाब में  
नहीं लिखना  
चाहिए  
Candidates  
must not  
write on this  
margin

When so much is going wrong,  
have we reached the dead end?  
Is there no way to alter our  
perceptions and reshape our  
realities? Certainly there is!

Treading the path of Transformative  
Perceptions: Changing our world views

The issue with all of us is  
that our perceptions are not truly  
ours, but are shaped by the  
outside world.

Remember the Snowwhite story →

"Mirror, Mirror, on the wall,  
who is the beautiful of them all?"

Similarly, we humans try to  
seek validation for our

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
Content of the Question is more important than length.  
( Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

actions and gain conformity for our decisions. This approach of being a part of the 'majoritarian' group and not taking the 'Road not Taken' is the cause of our sufferings.

We must remember and remind ourselves time and again that —

“Ships do not sink because of the outside waters but because of the water that gets inside.”

And hence, we need to delve deeper within our own selves and ask ourselves whether our beliefs and perceptions are right or wrong. The inner voice of conscience will give the most pure and authentic reply.

(Please do not  
write the question number  
in this space)  
कृपया इस स्थान  
में प्रश्न संख्या को  
अतिरिक्त लिखें  
न लिखें।

# UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
Content of the Question is more important than length.  
( Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस हार्जिन में  
नहीं लिखना  
चाहिए।  
Candidates  
must not  
write on this  
margin

Once we get the reply, it is our  
job to rectify the wrong perceptions  
and nourish the positive ones. There  
is no shame in accepting the  
faults and correcting them. If  
the Great Ashoka can, why can't we?

Let us subside the perceptions of  
love, humility, forgiveness,  
compassion and kindness, and  
transform our understanding of  
reality → for a peaceful, prosperous  
and progressive world!

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)  
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

219872620303\_1910123489\_(2023-08-18 22:24:07)

# UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
Content of the Question is more important than length.  
( Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।  
Candidates must not write on this margin

Culture can unite what history and geography has divided

Bloodshed and violence .... cries of helplessness and heartbreaks of separation .... Such was the scenario when India and Pakistan partitioned ... The forces of history and geography shaped this division ... The Divide and Rule policy of the British broke India from both sides and cut off her two arms...

Yet, we see the commonalities of cultural practices, be it the shared heritage of Indus Valley Civilization or the roots of Sanskrit giving rise to Hindi and Urdu. India constitutes <sup>one of</sup> the largest Muslim populations. The Punjab-Lahore

(Please do not  
write in this space)  
कृपया इस स्थान  
में प्रश्न संख्या के  
अतिरिक्त कुछ  
न लिखें।Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
Content of the Question is more important than length.  
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

bus and the Kartarpur corridor connects not just two nations but billions of hearts.

But, are we really appreciating these convergences? The situation of ultra pressure during cricket matches between India and Pakistan are testimony to the fact that we are heading towards more confrontation than collaboration.

Let us explore through this essay the divisions of history and geography, and the cohesions of culture. Further, we will see how cultures also clash and the need for peaceful coexistence of cultures.

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)

कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

219872\_620303\_1910123489\_(2023-08-18 22:24:07)

# UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
Content of the Question is more important than length.  
( Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस लक्ष्य में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।  
Candidates must not write on this margin

## The Divisive Tendencies of History and Geography

Numerous nations have been sliced into fragments of territories by the colonial masters. African nations are a case in point. The almost straight vertical and horizontal divisions reflect the thoughtless acts of the so called developed nations.

It was during the World Wars that new nations emerged — Iceland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and the division of Austria - Hungary. Germany was partitioned into East and West and the Berlin Wall was erected.

The spectre of past haunts the present



(Please do not  
write anything extra  
in this space)  
कृपया इस स्थान  
में प्रश्न संख्या के  
अतिरिक्त कुछ  
न लिखें।Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
Content of the Question is more important than length.  
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

of many nations. Be it the conflict over the islands in South China Sea (like Spratley or Pratacl) or be it the Russian revanchist tendencies over Belmia and Ukraine

And not just nations, history also divides states within the nations.

The State Reorganization Act of 1956 of India split it into numerous states, though for administrative convenience. This led to conflicts over resources and rivers (awery water dispute).

Even the neighbouring nations of India - Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh - share so much common, yet divided by boundaries. Still their culture provides ties of affinity.

(Please do not write anything except the question in this space)

219872\_620303\_1910123489\_(2023-08-18 22:24:07)

कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

# UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
Content of the Question is more important than length.  
( Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हार्जिन में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।  
Candidates must not write on this margin

## COHESION OF CULTURE : COMMONALITIES AND CONVERGENCES

Culture knows no boundaries, neither geographical nor historically constructed barriers. Instead, it provides a cohesive & adhesive glue to people, bringing them closer and together.

We can see how cuisines vary in tastes, yet people enjoy the variety of Chinese, Japanese and continental foods. Art forms like dance and music is yet another binding factor.

Be it Kathak or Garhwali, it provides immense contentment to the audience - irrespective of their nationality.

(Please do not  
write anything except  
in this space)  
कृपया इस स्थान  
में एडम संख्या के  
अतिरिक्त कुछ  
न लिखें।Answer Questions In NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
Content of the Question is more important than length.  
( Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

There is a certain sense of  
'Transcedance' in arts and artists,  
as the King of Romance Shahrukh  
Khan says.

Cinema brings not just people but  
societies closer. The Korean dramas  
are famous all across the globe.  
Who does not know Michael  
Jackson or Emma Watson? The  
cross cultural cinema has seen  
a boost in today's time. We  
have Biyanika Chopra taking the  
Indian image to Hollywood  
and making the country proud.

Besides art, it is the traditional  
aspects of a culture that spread  
in the air like fragrance.

# UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
Content of the Question is more important than length.  
( Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए  
Candidates must not write on this margin

India's belief in 'Atithi Devo Bhava' (Guest is God) is well reflected in the way we treat tourists, more so evident during the G20 summits. The slogan call for 'Padharo Mahre Desh' (welcome to our nation) depicts the inclusive and welcoming nature of India's culture.

The belief of 'Sarva Dharma Sambhav' also emanates from India; yet applies all across the globe. People celebrate Diwali, Eid, Christmas and even Halloween with full vigour and happiness. Practitioners of one faith respect other religions, for instance the Buddhist ideals of 'Karuna' (compassion)



And it is not that such unity develops on its own. People as well as nations have to take proactive steps to build such connections.

For instance, the recently held Kashi-Tamil Sangam aimed to bring cultures together.

Not just within India, but globally as well, we see a cosmopolitan culture developing. The culture of western clothes, pop music and liberal ideas.

But, is all this always so rosy? Are cultures always cohesive without any clashes? Certainly not.

# UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
Content of the Question is more important than length.  
( Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

(Please do not write the question number in this space)  
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

## CULTURAL CONFLICTS: CLASH OF CIVILIZATIONS

For cultures to promote unity, it is necessary to be tolerant and accomodative, Inclusive and appreciative of differences.

However, we usually start glorifying our culture while demeaning the others. We start assimilative practices - forcefully and insensitively.

We can see the cultural demise of the 'tribal traditions' because of the pressures of mainstreaming them. The clashes between Islam, Judaism and Christianity in Middle East are a ugly face of non-reconciled cultures.



Be it the conflicts among Sikhs,  
Tamilians and Buddhists in Sri Lanka  
or the 'othering' of the North-  
Eastern communities of India,  
all this shows the real picture.

Even while we talk of globalization,  
we need to be aware of the fact  
that excessive homogenization  
of cultures is never good.  
English has become the lingua franca  
while sidelining the linguistic  
diversities.

Where has the culture of letters  
gone? Where are the Guru-  
Shishya parampara of Gurukuls  
and the street plays? Where  
are the pure shayaris? Have we  
lost all of this? Definitely not!

(Please do not write anything except the question in this space)

219872\_620303\_1910123489\_(2023-08-18 22:24:07)

# UPSC

उम्मीदवारों को इस तारीख में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।  
Candidates must not write on this margin

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.  
Content of the Question is more important than length.  
( Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

## REVIVAL OF CULTURE: TRANSCENDING THE WALLS OF HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

Today is the era of fusion — of the old and the new, the coexistence of modernity & traditions, spiritualism and materialism.

What we need is a fine balance between all the cultural practices to adopt the 'MADHYAM MARG'.

Even if we don't appreciate certain cultures, we must never demean or disrespect them.

Our culture, our heritage, our traditions should always be adopted with pride. As shown in the movie Swades, the roots of our culture should never be up forgotten.



We must adopt the belief of -

“ UNITY WITHOUT UNIFORMITY,  
DIVERSITY WITHOUT FRAGMENTATION. ”

There should always be scope for reformation and accomodation; learning from the other cultures while also sharing our traditions.

As Gandhiji says -

“ We must open our windows  
to let the breeze of all cultures  
refresh us, but not gets uprooted  
by the winds & storms. ”

Hence, let us all pledge to spread love, peace and harmony and the belief in Vasudhaiva kutumbhakam (The world is One family)