

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.  
( Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

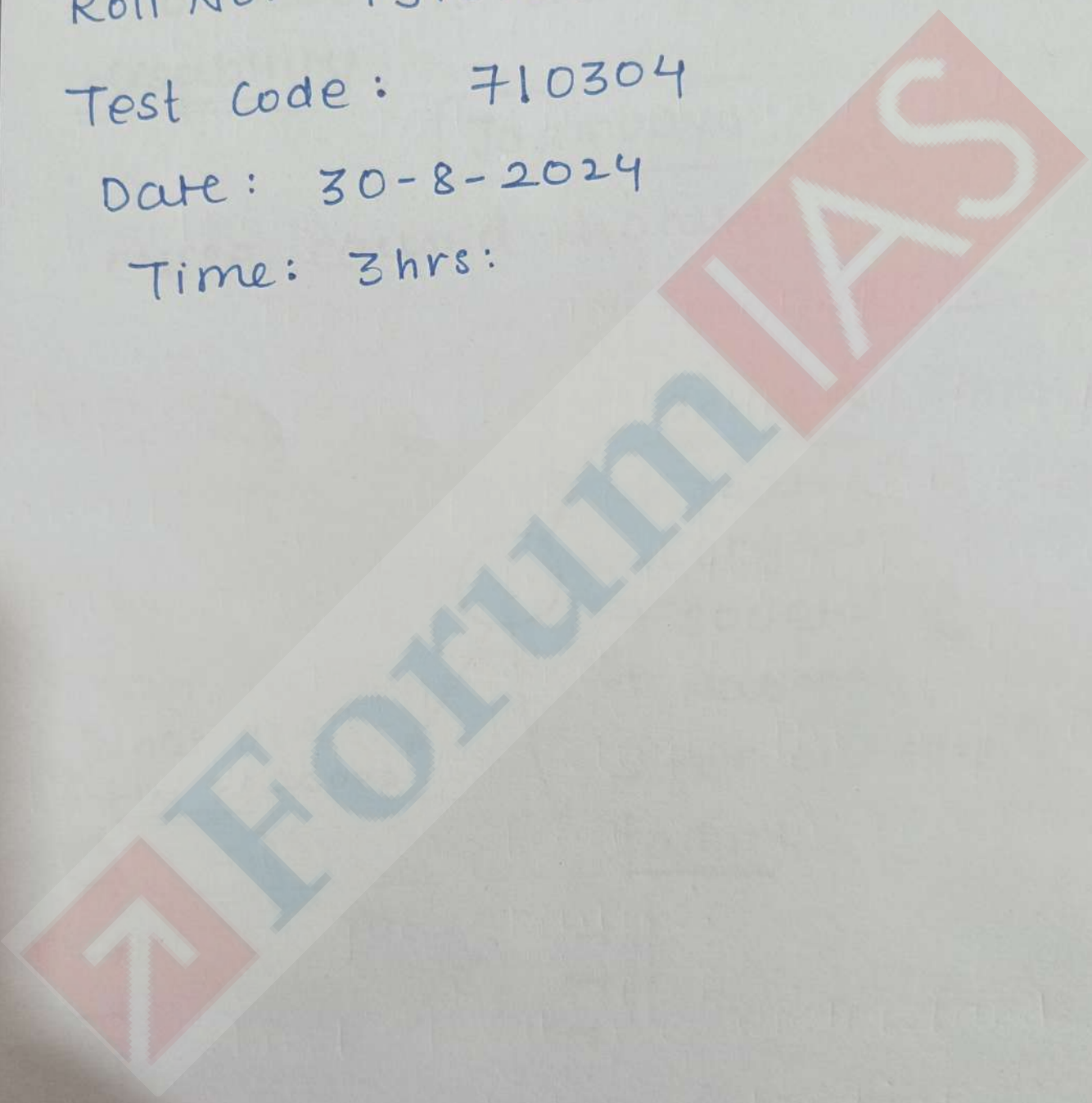
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Roll NO: 1910101622

Test Code: 710304

Date: 30-8-2024

Time: 3hrs:



Write **two** essays, choosing **one** topic from each of the following Section A and B in about 1000 - 1200 words each. 125\*2 = 250 Marks

खण्ड A व B प्रत्येक में से **एक** विषय चुनकर **दो** निबंध लिखिए, जो प्रत्येक लगभग 1000 – 1200 शब्दों का हो: 125\*2 = 250 अंक

### **SECTION – A**

1. You are the master of your conscience and you are the ruler of your destiny.  
"तुम अपने अंतःकरण के स्वामी हो और अपने भाग्य के शासक हो।"
2. The inability to see potential in others is the greatest disability  
दूसरों में क्षमता को न देख पाना सबसे बड़ी अक्षमता है।
3. Men are governed only by serving them.  
"मनुष्य केवल अपनी सेवा के माध्यम से ही शासित होते हैं।"
4. Desires cannot be contrary to nature since it was given to man by nature itself  
"इच्छाएँ प्रकृति के विरुद्ध नहीं हो सकतीं क्योंकि इन्हें स्वयं प्रकृति ने मनुष्य को दिया है।"

**SECTION – B**

1. Technology and inclusion go hand in hand in eliminating barriers

बाधाओं को दूर करने के लिए प्रौद्योगिकी और समावेशन एक साथ चलते हैं

2. To do great things is difficult; but to command great things is more difficult.

महान कार्य करना कठिन है, लेकिन महान कार्यों को नियंत्रित करना और भी कठिन है।

3. India's world view is consultative, democratic and equitable, but must find clearer expression.

भारत का विश्व दृष्टिकोण परामर्शी, लोकतांत्रिक और न्यायसंगत है, लेकिन इसे और अधिक स्पष्ट रूप से व्यक्त किया जाना चाहिए।

4. Too much Democracy is Detrimental to Development.

बहुत अधिक लोकतंत्र विकास के लिए हानिकारक है।

# UPSC

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2. The inability to see potential in others is the greatest disability

The film "Taare Zameen Par" tells the story of an eight year old boy, 'Ishaan Awasthi', who struggles with dyslexia. His difficulties are exacerbated as his parents and teachers do not recognise his unique capabilities and potential and often compare him with his brother.

The turning point in Ishaan's story comes when he encounters 'Ram Shankar Nikumbh', an empathetic art teacher. Nikumbh identifies Ishaan's interest in art and encourage him to pursue it.

This movie beautifully shows

the transformative power of recog-  
nising potential of others and the  
negative consequences which arise  
when we fail to identify potential  
of others.

There is an incident in  
Ramayana where Hanumanji forgets  
about his superpowers. But he  
later realises his potential when  
Jambavan reminds him. Both of  
these incidences show the importance  
of mentor or teacher in recognising  
in our unique abilities.

First of all, we understand,  
what is meant by potential?

Potential refers to inherent  
capabilities to transform our lives  
through education, training and  
practice. It is like a hidden  
gem inside us, when someone

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identifies these capabilities and provide supportive environment with motivation, a person can really do wonders.

Dr. Babasaheb Amedkar, who had inherent exceptional intelligence, was supported by influential persons like Sayajirao Gaikwad of Baroda, Shahu Maharaj of Kolhapur who identified his true potential. Shahu Maharaj provided fund for 'Mooknayak' newspaper started by Babasaheb and stood behind Babasaheb like solid tower of strength.

When someone recognizes and nurtures others potential, it provides them with confidence and self-esteem. It gives motivation and willingness to take challenges. Anand Kumar of Patna recognised potential of underprivileged students

and started 'Super 30' Initiative, which empowered these students to pursue career in IITs.

In an organisation when people recognise each others potential it fosters culture of collaboration and team work.  
Satya Nadella, CEO of Microsoft introduced the concept of Growth Mindset and encouraged employees to experiment, learn from failures, which increased innovation and creativity.

A society which recognises the unique potential and supports ~~their~~ initiatives of its members, is more inclusive, equitable and dynamic. It helps not only those who are being empowered but also strengthens fabric of communities.

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Dr. Verghese kurien recognised potential of rural communities and led to creation of 'Amul brand' which not only transformed lives of that village but created global model to replicate.

similarly, a person whose potential gets recognised not only progresses in his/her personal life but also make a country proud at global stage.

Manu Bhaker whose potential got recognised in khelo India games won two Bronze medals at 2024 Paris Olympics in 10 metre air pistol event.

Recognising potential not only helps a person whose potential is getting recognised but also helps the person who is supporting. It increases the feeling of happiness and satisfaction. It also leads to increased optimism and gratitude.



When we identifies potential of others it develops our own leadership skill. " A leader is <sup>one</sup> who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way." Leader not only sees potential in others but but also shows the right path. During freedom struggle, Bapuji recognised potential of masses and showed them path of truth and non-violence.

Not seeing potential in others:  
— ~~the~~ greatest disability

" Everyone is genius. But if you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid "

This quote by Albert Einstein

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captures the negative consequences of failure to see unique potential of everyone and judging all on same parameters

Education system, which is based on standardized tests and rote memorization neglects diverse talent and learning abilities.

People who are not recognised for their abilities often struggle with self worth. It leads to self doubt exacerbated by lack of support leading to perpetuation of cycle of underachievements.

At organisational level also lack of support fosters culture of fear. Employees become hesitant to take risks which stifles creativity. Similarly, when society fails to appreciate unique capabilities, it leads to perpetuation of systematic

inequalities , social fragmentation  
and breaks the bond of social  
cohesion. This feeling of relative  
deprivation often vents out in the  
form of extremism , regionalism  
and communalism.

But the main question is  
why person , organisation or  
society fails to see potential of  
people. There are some barriers  
which prohibit our abilities to  
recognise potential of others.

One of the important  
barriers is ingrained biases. We  
often hold some preconceived  
notions about some group or a  
person , which cloud our judgements ,  
and hinder ability to see full  
range of capabilities other person  
hold.

Traditionally women are being

seen as a weaker sex. Societies didn't recognise their true potential and made them confined to four walls of home. But World Bank report shows participation of women in labour force can increase GDP growth rate by 1.6%. Not only economic growth but Naga Mother's movement showed how women can play important role in establishing peace.

second barrier can be lack of interpersonal skills like effective communication with others. Because realising potential in others requires ability to effectively connect with others, listen them and empathise with them. It requires ability to understand feelings of others and strong willpower to support them. One of the barrier is ego, or feeling of superiority. Ravan

Undermined the potential of "vanar sena" which led to his defeat. We have been listening story of rabbit and tortoise since childhood. The feeling of superiority and overconfidence hindered ability of rabbit to analyse potential of tortoise.

Sometimes people also fail to recognise others potential and support them due to fear of being surpassed and jealousy. Also this process requires time, focus and concentration, which some people fail to do due to lack of patience.

What it takes to be able to recognise potential of others ?

The main thing it requires is "Emotional Intelligence"

It means ability to know our own feelings and understand others feelings. As Socrates said "an unexamined life is not worth living" one should continuously try to be self-aware and approach others with open-mind to see beyond surface level traits and ingrained biases and prejudices.

Efforts should be taken from childhood to develop these leadership skills. Through initiative called 'Kalika Chetavike' Karnataka government is promoting activity based learning, community level engagement going beyond rigid walls of classrooms.

After seeing potential, the suitable environment should be provided to transform potentiality to actuality. Japan's Womonomics is ~~also~~ an example to explain this

Japan provided women with supportive environment, childcare facilities and it increased female labour force participation by 10% in last decade.

The India's government has also taken the steps to realise potential of all sections of society. Like self Help Groups, Stand-UP India scheme, suganya Bharat to make public spaces accessible and PM suraj portal for underprivileged sections.

But still there is a long way to go. IF we want 'India of our dreams' to become reality, we have to not only see but support unique potential of every citizen as Ram Nikumbh did for Ishaan Awasthi in Taare Zameen Par.

1. Technology and inclusion go hand in hand in eliminating barriers

In a small tribal village, in a remote corner of India, a group of women were facing hardships in marketing their traditional tribal crafts. But the situation changed, when a local NGO introduced digital entrepreneurship program in their village.

These women got training on how to market their products on e-commerce platforms like Amazon, Etsy, also got support for branding and packaging. After few months, to their surprise, they started getting orders from all over the country. This program not only

empowered a group of women economically but made entire community thrive.

This story of tribal women shows, though technology is itself a neutral thing, but when it intersects with inclusion it leads to breaking down of physical, social, economical and cultural barriers. Hence it aptly said that.

" Technology is best when it brings people together "

- Matt Mullenweg

Empowering lives : Role of Technology in Eliminating Barriers

Technology is playing an important role in eliminating physical barriers and making society more inclusive, accessible and safe for physically challenged persons. The



Rights of persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 emphasises the role of technology in eliminating barriers.

Assistive technologies like Hearing Aids, screen readers are making life easier for persons with disabilities. smart cane, a device equipped with ultrasonic sensors making it easier to navigate for visually challenged persons. Whereas softwares like Talkitt helps those who face speech difficulties by converting their speech in more understandable format. All these technologies are making education and employment opportunities more accessible.

Technology breaks not only physical barriers but also eliminates social and psychological barriers for marginalised sections of society. social



Media platforms making it easier to connect for these groups and raise their voices. It not only fosters sense of belonging but also ensures socio-economic empowerment. Movements like # Metoo, # Black Lives Matter gained prominence due to these platforms. They are also promoting social acceptance of LGBTQ+ community and reformative steps like decriminalization of same-sex relationships.

The evolution of digital landscape has also transformed financial, education, health and agriculture sector. Various schemes like Jan Dhan Yojana, Aadhar enabled Payment System (AePS) had brought vulnerable sections under formal banking sector. The platforms like UPI have made

banking so much easy that we can make transactions anytime through our smartphones. Not only these but digital lending platforms are increasing the availability of credit, very much needed for businesses and socio-economic progress.

Technology is democratizing education sector by making quality education available to students from remote areas. physically challenged persons and girls who often face social barriers in accessing education. Platforms like SWAYAM and DIKSHA are making quality content available for all and the technologies like Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality are enhancing learning experiences.

The other important sector which has been revolutionised

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and made inclusive is health sector.  
Without leaving homes, people can  
connect with medical practitioners  
virtually and seek their advice.

Teladoc. Doctors on demand are  
providing quality healthcare - anytime  
anywhere. Ayushman Bharat Digital

Mission aims to reduce errors in  
health system by digitising health  
records. Not only physical health,  
but mental health is also being  
take care of through initiatives  
like Tele-MANAS.

And of course, agriculture.  
the backbone of Indian economy  
is being transformed with technology.  
Initiatives like e-NAM are  
expanding market reach of farmers  
beyond local mandis, and making  
supply chains more efficient by  
reducing number of intermediaries.

Advent of technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) making agriculture more sustainable and resource efficient [precision agriculture].

Telangana government has been leveraging emerging technologies under "Saagu Bagu" project to transform lives of Annadata.

However, the path of eliminating barriers is not without challenges. Technology, on the other hand, can exacerbate existing inequalities.

The double-edged sword: Technology's Role in Exclusion and Inequalities

The most important challenge is that of "Digital Divide". Technology helps more to those who are already privileged to have access to resources like

Smartphones, internet etc. In India 24% rural households have access to internet, which is very low compared to 66% in cities (NSSO). Whereas National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) data shows that 33% women use internet compared to 57% men.

Hence, though technology has opened the doors of new opportunities like work from home, gig economy for disadvantaged sections, their advancement is being limited by digital divide. The second challenge is that of 'digital illiteracy'. Mere availability of digital device does not ensure its role in eliminating barriers. The lack of knowledge and skills often make marginalised

sections dependent on 'middlemen' to get benefits under various schemes. In India only 38% households are digitally literate and this is <sup>the</sup> lowest among groups like casual workers in Agriculture (13%) and scheduled Tribes (21%) which can lead to 'Digital exclusion'.

And the another challenge is job loss due to automation. World Economic Forum predicts that Artificial Intelligence will result in 83 million job losses over next five years. And most of these jobs are low-skilled in which most of the marginalised sections are women are concentrated.

But as Robert Kiyosaki said, "Inside of every problem lies an opportunity" we can take steps to tackle these challenges.

## Bridging the Gap : Making Technology work for inclusive society

The focus should be on bridging the 'Digital divide' through public-private investment. Broadband connectivity should be reached to the remotest corners of the globe. In India, government already started initiatives like Digital India Mission, Bharatnet, Common service centres etc

The efforts of non-governmental organisations, private sector can be leveraged to promote digital literacy. PUKAR (a research collective under Azim Premji Foundation) is providing training to rural youths in Palghar Maharashtra, so that these e-seraks can help their communities avail

benefits under various schemes. whereas Amazon providing training to artisans on using e-commerce sites through its Karigar program.

Though technology is leading to job loss, on the other hand, it is also unleashing new frontiers

The need of the hour is to upskill our labour force through initiatives like 'Future Skills Prime' and Google's "Women Will" initiative.

Hence, bridging the gap between 'haves' and 'have not's' can surely unleash the potential of technology in eliminating barriers. If our is destination is 'inclusive, sustainable and equitable Viksit Bharat' by 2047, inclusive technologies can act as our vehicles to reach there.