



DRISHTI MENTORSHIP ESSAY TEST-1

निर्धारित समय: तीन घंटे
Time allowed: 3 Hours

अधिकतम अंक: 250
Maximum Marks: 250

Name: RUPAM ABORA

Mobile Number: _____

Medium (English/Hindi): ENGLISH

Reg. Number: DKBG-6850

Center & Date: KAROL BAGH
22/06/25

UPSC Roll No. (If allotted): _____

प्रश्न-पत्र के लिये विशिष्ट अनुदेश

(प्रश्नों के उत्तर देने से पहले निम्नलिखित प्रत्येक अनुदेश को कृपया ध्यानपूर्वक पढ़ें)

प्रवेश-पत्र में प्राधिकृत माध्यम में निबंध लिखना आवश्यक है तथा इस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यू. सी. ए.) पुस्तिका के मुखपृष्ठ पर निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर करना आवश्यक है। प्राधिकृत माध्यम के अलावा अन्य माध्यम में लिखे गए उत्तरों को अंक नहीं दिये जाएंगे।

प्रश्नों के उत्तर निर्दिष्ट शब्द-संख्या के अनुसार होने चाहिये।

प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़े गए किसी पृष्ठ अथवा पृष्ठ के भाग को पूर्णतः काट दीजिये।

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

(Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions)

The ESSAY 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. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.

Word limit, as specified, should be adhered to.

Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

केवल मूल्यांकनकर्ता द्वारा भरा जाए (To be filled by Evaluator only)

| | निबंध विषय संख्या (Essay Topic No.) | अंक (Marks) |
|-----------------------|--|----------------|
| खंड-A Section-A | | |
| खंड-B Section-B | | |
| Grand Total (सकल योग) | | |

मूल्यांकनकर्ता (हस्ताक्षर)

Evaluator (Signature)

पुनरीक्षणकर्ता (हस्ताक्षर)

Reviewer (Signature)



Feedback

1. Context Proficiency (संदर्भ दक्षता)
 2. Introduction Proficiency (परिचय दक्षता)
 3. Content Proficiency (विषय-वस्तु दक्षता)
 4. Language/Flow (भाषा/प्रवाह)
 5. Conclusion Proficiency (निष्कर्ष दक्षता)
 6. Presentation Proficiency (प्रस्तुति दक्षता)
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खंड A और B में प्रत्येक से एक विषय चुनकर दो निबंध लिखिये, जो प्रत्येक लगभग 1000–1200 शब्दों का हो: 125 × 2 = 250

Write TWO Essays, choosing ONE from each of the Section A and B, in about 1000–1200 words each: 125 × 2 = 250

खंड-A/ Section-A

1. प्रगति तब जन्म लेती है जब हम सुविधाजनक को प्रश्नांकित करते हैं और प्रश्नांकित को सहयोग प्रदान करते हैं।
Progress is born from questioning the comfortable and comforting the questioned.
2. एक राष्ट्र की शक्ति उसकी भौतिक क्षमता में नहीं, बल्कि असहमति को पोषित करने की क्षमता में निहित होती है।
The strength of a nation lies not in its might, but in its ability to nurture dissent.
3. प्रौद्योगिकी एक उपकरण है; परंतु उसका सार्थक उपयोग कब और कैसे हो, यह निर्णय विवेक पर निर्भर करता है।
Technology is a tool; wisdom is knowing when and how to use it.
4. आशा कोई रणनीति नहीं है, परंतु वह प्रत्येक सफल रणनीति की आधारशिला होती है।
Hope is not a strategy, but it is the foundation of every strategy that succeeds.

खंड-B / Section-B

5. न्याय में विलंब लोकतंत्र से वंचित करने के समान है।
Justice delayed is democracy denied.
6. एक स्वस्थ पर्यावरण प्रत्येक मानवीय उपलब्धि में मौन सहयोगी होता है।
A healthy environment is the silent partner in every human achievement.
7. समानुभूति ज्ञान और समझ के बीच के अंतराल को कम करती है।
Empathy bridges the gap between knowledge and understanding.
8. सच्ची शिक्षा हमें यह नहीं सिखाती कि क्या सोचना है, बल्कि यह सिखाती है कि कैसे सोचना है।
True education teaches us not what to think, but how to think.

उम्मीदवार को इस
हाशिये में नहीं लिखना
चाहिये।

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write on this margin)

खंड-A/ Section-A

1. प्रगति तब जन्म लेती है जब हम सुविधाजनक को प्रश्नांकित करते हैं और प्रश्नांकित को सहयोग प्रदान करते हैं।
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Hope is not a strategy, but it is the foundation of every strategy that succeeds.

PROGRESS IS BORN FROM
QUESTIONING THE COMFORTABLE &
COMFORTING THE QUESTIONED.

A few days ago, while having a rare family union dinner, we were laughing & talking about how inquisitive my brother was as a child, always asking meaningful, vague and confusing questions. As a kid, he once asked everyone, "why is mango sweet? who put the sugar in it?"

while everybody laughed & dismissed the question, my grandfather answered my brother with a vague, kiddish & mythological story cooked up to satisfy his inquisitiveness.

Everybody laughed while remembering the incident. My brother jokingly asked my grandfather what he thought of him asking such kiddish questions as a child, his answer was one to be noted carefully. He said, "Beta, I was very happy to answer your question. I was even more happy that you asked it, that you thought, yourself, it was progress of that age, it had to be nurtured and not dismissed."

Everyone looked and smiled at my brother, who today serves as the Research Head of an important future mission of ISRO.

Three words ~~of~~ out of the above ~~had~~ incidence stuck with me, 'Progress', 'Inquisitive' & 'Nurture'. They will help us throughout the discussion ~~at~~ in this essay.

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Progress, an idea which runs the global competition of practically all aspects of 21st century. In simple words, progress is 'betterment' and advancement from the previously established ideas & creations of human mind, in all aspects of life.

For my grandfather, my brother asking a vague question was progress whereas for DRDO, developing 5th Generation Fighter Jet on time might constitute as progress. Therefore, Progress is relative, continuous & a never-ending pursuit.

The question that arises here is what the ways & means of progress are, since time immemorial, there have been some inquisitive minds, who have questioned their comfortable realities. Their questions & new ideas often times strike the status-quoist & conservatives & no-changers hard. Almost all new ideas & concepts

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are denied at first. Democracy was initially called 'rule of many fools' by the aristocrats. Secularism was easily named 'against the will of God' in theocratic states. Galileo was named 'anti-church' for going against the biblical reference of Earth being at the centre of solar system. These ideals today are very natural to us but they were initially talked about by somebody who questioned their comfortable realities.

Newton saw an apple fall & devised the theorems of gravity. Albert Einstein had to wait for so many years even after his demise for his theory of relativity to be proved. There are many examples like these which indicate the fact that the ones who apply their reason, question the existing norms are the ones who come up with world changing ideas & norms, later termed as progress.

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A rational mind questions despite knowing that the result may not be according to expectations. All progress is also at a risk of being refuted or becoming outdated by new theories, further experiments & evidences. But true progress lies in the fact of acknowledgement of this nature of the game.

As all countries want to progress, we need to ^{reinforce} ~~build~~ a culture where such questioning is welcomed and not dismissed. In words of J.S. Mill, even if there is one person who thinks otherwise, it is the moral responsibility of the majority (often unquestioning) to let him speak his mind. Because all new ideas appear at some place in someone's mind. In ancient India, Sushrut & Charak questioned the occurrence of diseases & became experts on medical operations & medicine respectively with

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their compilations, Sushrutsamhita & Charaksamhita still referred thoroughly.

The same Sushruta that we celebrate today was in his times looked down upon. It still happens in today's world that people who dare to question are looked down and laughed upon. Maybe that is what stops many people from questioning the comfortable.

Therefore, the next aspect of discussion arises from this fact. What would have happened to my brother's inquisitiveness had everybody dismissed his vague question & my grandfather did not answer it? In this world, it is perhaps not so easy to question the uncomfortable, for the fear of going against the society is greater than the pleasure of proving them wrong for many.

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Only questioning the comfortable hence is only one side of the coin. Real progress, attaches a humanistic value of nurturing the inquisitiveness. Therefore, comforting the questioned is the other side of the coin.

Late Hndl. President Abdul Kalam often held discussions with students & encouraged them to ask questions, which were often about his personal & professional life & about the value systems to be inculcated. He made sure that he answered them all, and leave each questioning kid with a thought to ponder upon.

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Questioning people if nurtured with respect for their ability, strength, courage & ideals (if right) will develop ~~an~~ key ideas & projects which help all of humanity, nations & communities.

But, if a culture of beating down new ideas & not respecting people for the same develops, it will eventually make them lose their inquisitiveness.

Lost inquisitiveness is lost progress, which will lead to stagnation, in human terms, stagnation is death of conscience.

A beautiful quote by Mirza Ghalib explains the pain of an inquisitive man accepting the fate of succumbing to the non-willingness of society at large.

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" Hui muddat ke Ghalib mar gaya
par yaad aata hai, vo har
baat par kehna, yun hota to
kya hota. "

(Ghalib died a long time ago but
remembers the time when he used
to question things)
(metaphorically)

Ghalib, when he saw his inquisitiveness
fade away called himself as 'dead'.

Acceptance for current social order, ideals,
material reality ~~with~~ might lead to
a comfortable lives in the present but
not in the future when questioning of
the comfortable catches up with the
reality.

The progress of the ancient Indian civilisation in terms of ideological, spiritual & material aspects,

18th to 20th century progress of western world in the field of socio-political ideologies & material advancement throughout the world since globalisation show us that all progress is based upon a cycle of advancing upon the basis of previously accepted reality, therefore progressing & later refuting the same for the advancement of furthered ideologies & realities.

In other words, a cycle of questioning the comfortable & comforting the questioned.

Having discussed the meaning of progress the two sides of the means of progress involving questioning & nurturing, we can conclude that ~~we~~ as rational questioning humans, we must realise that to question is to use our intellect & to use our intellect is human. That is what separates us from the animal world.

On the other hand, we must respect people who are trying, questioning, developing new ideas & realities. Their positive tolerance gives mankind a hope for a better tomorrow.

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Many communities like LGBTQ+, are questioning realities but have to fight this intolerance ~~of~~ at ideological level.

A beautiful Hindi quote explains how ideas & by great questioners of ~~the~~ reality outlive them & serve as the base for future progression.

"Us pyaale me zehar tha hi nahi,
Vasna Sukraat (Socrates) mar gaya hota."

(The cup did not have any poison
or else the ideas of Socrates would
have died as well).

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खंड-B / Section-B

5. न्याय में विलंब लोकतंत्र से वंचित करने के समान है।
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EMPATHY BRIDGES THE GAP
BETWEEN KNOWLEDGE
& UNDERSTANDING.

While thinking about this topic I remembered a famous a famous story from Ramayana on which me and my grandmother had a discussion about life morals and how they applied in the story below.

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हाशिये में नहीं लिखना
चाहिये।

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While in Shabri's house, Lord Ram & Laxman were waiting for her to get some fruits for them. Upon her return with a basket full of fruits, Laxman ji was taken by surprise and displeased by Shabri's further doings. She presented half eaten fruits, which she herself tasted just before offering them to both Lord Ram & Laxman. In popular representations on T.V, Lord Ram is shown eating those fruits with a smile on his face & appreciating the taste, while Laxman ji is shown to be displeased & throws away the fruit. He feels that Shabri is insulting the stature of Lord Ram by offering half eaten fruits but Lord Ram ~~thinks~~ himself doesn't seem bothered by it.

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~~later~~

When I asked my grandmother, why Ramji did not get angry & why did Shabri do so, she explained me the hidden morals of empathy & love very well known in the story.

Shabri tasted the fruits & only gave sweet ones to her guests as a matter of respect. While Lord Ram understood her doing, Laxmanji could not look beyond the established norm of presenting fresh fruits & not half eaten one.

Can we say Shabri was right? Can we say Laxmanji was wrong? We can debate about it. But we all can agree that Lord Ram looked beyond acceptable ideals into her intentions & love. Lord Ram was more understanding and ~~empath~~ had more empathy which made him enjoy the fruits.

This story reinforces a popular belief that Empathy bridges the gap between knowledge & understanding.

To understand further, let us take up 'Knowledge' as our first discussion.

~~We have many knowledgeable people around us, but do we get along well with all of them?~~

Knowledge is the basis of human intellect. The details and information about ideas & realities of life make us more knowledgeable and versatile beings.

A knowledgeable person is respected, welcomed and a boon to the society if he uses it ~~to~~ in pursuit of purposes ^{with} socially accepted morals.

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Sources of knowledge are many. Formal education imparts knowledge. Its structure has changed from the ancient Ashram & Gurukul system of India to the formal education & university system. We also get knowledge by our observations & from our preferences. Man is a social animal & observes a lot. It is often said that during table discussions teach a lot to kids by observational skills.

There are yet a few sources of knowledge like Gut level preferences & intuitions which are not fully explained by the consciousness & comprehension of humans presently.

Many say that intuitions are an amalgamation of our morals, social interactions & genetics coming out as an unidentified source of knowledge in crucial ²⁰ times

With their writings, pursuits, stories & life, we can vouch for the fact that all of Albert Einstein, Lord Ram, Ravan, Mahatama Gandhi, Hitler were men of great knowledge. ~~Even around us~~, But we can still categorise them into men of varied kinds of understandings and not as one. Even around us, there are so many ~~people~~ knowledgeable people but ~~we~~ do we get along well with everybody?

The ultimate aim of knowledge is to 'understand' the world, ourselves, higher moralities, purpose of life better than before & to further our pursuits with such moral considerations. Did Hitler & Ravan do it the same way as Lord Ram, Gandhiji & Albert Einstein?

उम्मीदवार को इस
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"To educate a person in mind & not in morals is to educate a menace to the society." — Theodore Roosevelt

This quote holds true in the above examples. Hitler & Gandhiji both very knowledgeable had different sense of understanding of their righteousness. Therefore, one became a menace to the society & other became an impersonation of truth & non-violence.

Now, let us discuss the other aspect, 'Understanding'. Appropriate comprehension of ourselves, others, situations etc can be called as 'good understanding'.

Knowledge however is the key for all kinds of 'Understandings.'

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In the previous example, Hitler understood wars, strategies & ~~non~~ violence better while Gandhiji understood the ideals of non-violence, truth, justice & the subordinated masses better.

Therefore, knowledge acts as a pre-requisite but only knowledge can not fulfill the normative & substantive aspects of our 'understanding'. It needs something more than knowledge, which is not just cognitive but also has a humanistic touch. Knowledge, needs empathy for itself to be converted to a higher, moral & virtuous & ethical understanding. Knowledge of fruits is what both Lord Ram & Laxman had but empathy by Lord Ram is what makes the incident reversed.

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This brings us to the discussion of Empathy. In simple words, it means the ability to get into the other person's shoes and ~~see~~ understand the feelings & intentions of them.

~~Ex~~ If knowledge is what makes us powerful, empathy is what makes us human.

A prominent example is our mothers, who can always understand their kid's mental ~~to~~ troubles, without having to go through the same situations necessarily, be it office troubles or personal life.

~~The~~ The value of empathy was put to forefront during COVID-19 by nurses who could feel for both patients & doctors & acted as a link between them.

The world of today is overflowing with knowledge but lacks empathy.

Now the question arises, how we can develop empathy and interact it with our knowledge to create better understandings for ourselves.

Out of the many ways, one way of developing empathy is to get in touch with people we want to understand about or empathise with, e.g. going to an old age home.

Another method is to enhance our empathy & situational knowledge by exposing ourselves to new information, reading, watching documentaries, films etc. An example can be watching ~~the~~ or reading the documentary of Anne Frank.

Literature, music, art, drama are the best ways to arouse emotions and gain empathy value and personal growth.

Perhaps the best way to gain empathy is 'Role Playing' or 'Role Reversal'.

For example, people dismissing household work by women as work can take up the role for a few days to understand with empathy about their challenges & struggles.

Empa

One might argue that empathy might lead us to fall into a trap of conscience ~~by~~ as even Hitler had supporters.

While this is true, it is upon us to raise our consciousness by questioning.

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हाशिये में नहीं लिखना
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It regularly & ensure that we
fructuate higher morals and also
enact them when situations arise
with empathy.

While the world is based on progress based
on knowledge, empathy is often takes a
back seat in the age of exploitation &
profit blindness.

But various examples like Mother Teresa
& even modern concepts like SDG
~~have are~~ have a hint of
requisite of empathy, ~~without wh.~~
with which we can make the world a
better place to live & bridge the gap
between our knowledge & understanding.

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(रफ कार्य के लिये स्थान)

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ROUGH



Space for Rough Work
(रफ कार्य के लिये स्थान)

उम्मीदवार को इस
हाशिये में नहीं लिखना
चाहिये।

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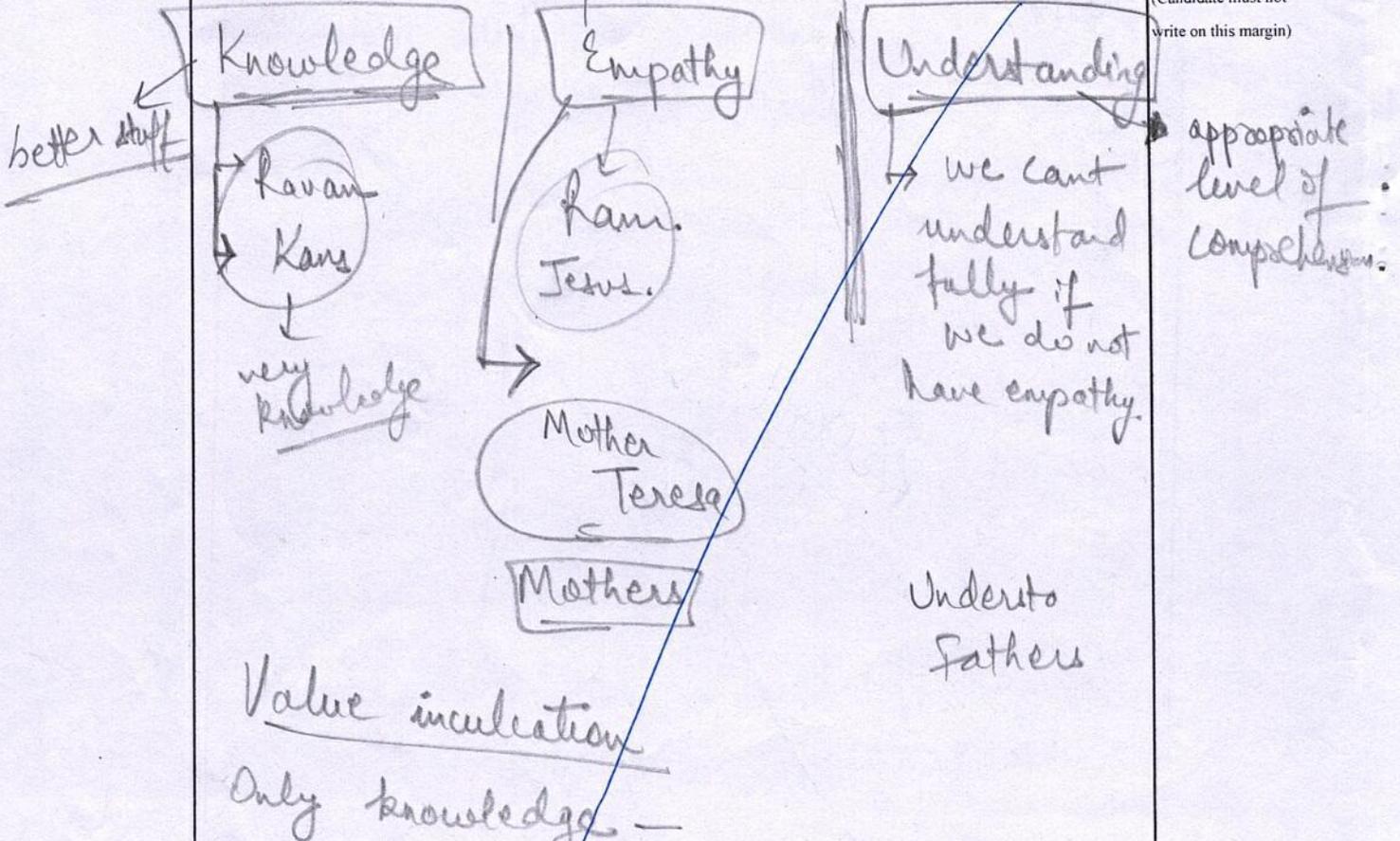
ROUGH.

Laxman knew but couldn't understand → Ram & Shabri - episode.



Space for Rough Work
(रफ कार्य के लिये स्थान)

उम्मीदवार को इस
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Value inculcation
Only knowledge -

→ To educate a person in mind & not mo-
world does not lack knowledge,
it lacks understanding
Majorities & minorities.

Nature | Forced Contact | New Info. | Literature,
music - Qawwali. 30 | self motivation
self writing

Empathy → Shantiniketan - R. Tagore.

Space for Rough Work
(रफ कार्य के लिये स्थान)

उम्मीदवार को इस
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चाहिये।
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Covid - empathy.

Knowledge → education, observation,
gut level preferences,
intuitions.

→ good
→ ultimate aim - to understand the
world, ourselves, purpose of life
better, to further knowledge.

Understanding → appropriate comprehension
→ understood situations
need something more than knowledge.
→ Only knowledge doesn't fulfill substantive

Empathy → def.

↳ ~~ego~~ Covid Doctors
Dog.

Quote from
History Paper

Conclusion

↳ to make the world a better place, to raise
Consciousness.

Space for Rough Work
(रफ कार्य के लिये स्थान)

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हाशिये में नहीं लिखना
चाहिये।
(Candidate must not
write on this margin)

1) Story — I was a child — questioned
various books, stories.
One day on dinner table.
Father dismissed the question.
Grandfather answered.

Today when I asked — what did you think
He said that he was happy that I asked the
question, that I thought, that I progressed.

He said that day it was v. imp to answer &
comfort, to keep the inquisitiveness alive.

What is progress → How → PATH → Primary

Various examples ← Questioning the comfortable

But is it so easy to Question the comfortable?

looked down XYZ

Important to Comforting the Questioned

grandfather

Abdul Kalam.

↳ Kids
↳ ask questions

loss of inquisit,
Subrat mar gaya
ghadi

you hoto to
kya hoto

Conclusion

→ True moral & progressive state.
→ Can not act indep — like west of 20th c.

acceptance of current order
Even if there is scope
for betterment

must encourage to question
must nurture.

↳ to pave our way to progress continuously

→ Usi pyale me
zehar tha hi nahi
varna subrat mar gaya
hota.