



DRISHTI MENTORSHIP ESSAY TEST-2 [ESSAY: 8 Questions]

निर्धारित समय: तीन घंटे
Time allowed: 3 Hours

अधिकतम अंक: 250
Maximum Marks: 250

Name: RUPAM ARORA

Mobile Number: _____

Medium (English/Hindi): ENGLISH

Reg. Number: DKBG - 6850

Center & Date: KAROL BAGH.
6/7/25

UPSC Roll No. (If allotted): 0803879

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)
-



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

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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खंड-A/ Section-A

1. आत्म-चेतना एक अर्थपूर्ण अस्तित्व की ओर पहला कदम है।
Self-awareness is the first step toward meaningful existence.
2. पहाड़ों पर चढ़ाई चोटी दर चोटी नहीं, बल्कि कदम दर कदम होती है।
Mountains are climbed step by step, not peak by peak.
3. जलवायु न्याय के लिये भारत में विकास प्रतिमानों को पुनर्परिभाषित करना आवश्यक है।
Climate justice requires redefining development paradigms in India.
4. शांत जल में आकाश सबसे स्पष्ट प्रतिबिंबित होता है।
Still waters reflect the clearest skies.

खंड-B / Section-B

5. किसी समाज की महानता उसकी सबसे कमजोर आवाजों से आँकी जाती है।
A society's greatness is measured by its smallest voices.
6. करुणा हमारे युग की सबसे बड़ी क्रांति है।
Compassion is the radicalism of our time.
7. पितृसत्ता की बेड़ियों का निर्माण न्यायालयों में नहीं, कक्षाओं में होता है।
The chains of patriarchy are forged in classrooms, not courtrooms.
8. डेटा नई मृदा है- विवेकपूर्ण उत्पादन न करने से यह अनुत्पादक/बंजर हो जाएगी।
Data is the new soil—cultivate wisely or reap deserts.



खंड-A/ Section-A

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हाशिये में नहीं लिखना
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MOUNTAINS ARE CLIMBED
STEP BY STEP,
NOT PEAK BY PEAK.

While thinking about this topic, I remembered the cricket match in which India had to chase a target of 420 runs in 50 overs against Australia. Initially, most Indian fans did not have high hopes. But to everybody's amazement, the tide started turning in India's favour because of two greats of the game, Sachin Tendulkar

and Virat Kohli. That night, in a post match interview, the two heroes were asked to share their strategy and run through their thoughts. Kohli said, 'I was not playing to chase 400 runs once, I was playing to chase 100 runs in 10 overs four times'. Sachin on the other hand said that his only thought was to hit two boundaries in an over.

The above example substantiates the famous quote & this essay's topic, mountains are indeed climbed step by step, and not peak by peak.

Through this essay, we will discuss the various aspects and dimensions of challenges of life (mountains) and the ways & many means to overcome them, step by step.

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It is often said that a life without challenges is not a complete life. Challenges are nature's way to test our thoughts, patience, grit, perseverance and hard work. Often, the challenges come in many forms, seem unattainable at first, like conquering a huge mountain. It is important that we understand the very nature of the challenge and break it into small & achievable targets, and take one step at a time.

The importance of not being afraid of the end target seeming far away can be understood from the story of a monk who instructed one disciple to climb a staircase of 1000 steps by keeping eye at the top and other ~~to~~ disciple to not look at the top but only the next few steps. The second disciple was way quicker

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and enthusiastic ~~at~~ to climb the stairs first.

The importance of setting realistic & small targets is therefore the key. This must be coupled with trusting the process, and yourself. To understand this, we can imagine the troubles of moderates of Indian National Congress who on one hand were enlightened by western ideals & education, understood the exploitative nature of British rule. But also had to face a segmented society, with sectional interests on top, and many revivalist tendencies. The ~~task~~ struggle further was huge as a mountain. But the strategies included various small targets of mass awakening, enlightening Indians with western ideals of liberty, equality & democracy, forging a sense of pride (Swadeshi) while also using prayers and petition strategy to express discontent to the British, and developing grounds for furthering the cause in the future.

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Even today, after 75 years of independence, the government's target of Atmanirbhar & Viksit Bharat by 2047 seems very ambitious. But we can see various targets, everyday steps, & inclusion of masses in campaigns like 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan', 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayaas, & Sabka Vishwas' one one hand & assertive infrastructure spending and economical push on the other, creating a balanced process broken into various targets in all directions.

On personal fronts, everybody has their own mountains to climb, especially in the various moral relationships, be it private or professional. Developing trust & faith requires time, patience & effort. This development

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of trust is furthered by efforts to maintain the trust, confidence &, love and respect mutually.

Regular challenges often strengthen us to face the various kinds of situations in life. This life, as is poetically said, is nothing but a journey. For us humans, it is important to remember to enjoy the journey. In other words, enjoy the process.

This especially holds true if we work hard ~~for~~ in pursuit of challenges taken up by our own interest or free-will. It can be looked upon as a blessing to be able to exercise our free will, with challenges as part of the package.

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Another reality of life that strikes most people, especially middle class is that there is mostly no shortcut to success, and hence we find ourselves surrounded by various challenges on various fronts simultaneously. In such situations we must remember to focus on our process than the outcome. The philosophy of Nishkaam Karma (detached Karma) from Geeta is an eye-opening opener regarding the same.

The importance of focusing on the process & controlling the controllables was highlighted in an interview of Rohit Sharma, the Indian cricket team captain, who after losing a final match of ODI World Cup 2023

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talked about future strategy and said,
"Nothing, we'll just keep doing what we
do, practice & have the belief that we can win!"
He led the Indian team to win the
T20 world cup the very next year.

This brings us to another major &
inevitable aspect of our life, failures
and setbacks. Rohit and his team lost
a final ^{before} ~~without~~ winning one. In Ramayana,
Laxman was critically wounded by
Indrajit before defeating him.

Mahatama Gandhi was arrested quite a
few times before India's independence. All
these examples highlight not just the
importance of grinding through setbacks, but
also the importance of failures itself.



Falluses and setbacks, for the ones serious in their pursuits are times of learning, re-strategising, challenging one's consistency and emerging back stronger. In times like these it is important to reflect on how far you have to go, but more important to motivate oneself by being proud of how far you have come.

With the above discussion, we have established that the mountains of challenges ~~of~~ of life need a well strategised, divided targets & a step by step approach.

But, ~~this~~ life doesn't always give us the chance to follow this approach.

Sometimes, Mountains ~~are~~ have to be climbed not step by step, but peak by peak.

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There are innumerable instances of cases such as situations of fight or flight or radical movements and revolutions like French Revolution (1789) & The Revolt of 1857 which are rather impulsive, with a huge target and no time for a step by step approach.

More recently, Operation Sindoor, India's decisive response after the Pahalgam terror attack is one such example. Quick strategising, quick preparations and quick actions were to be made, with an intense impact and preparedness for escalation into a full-blown war.

Even in times like these a quote famously used by the Indian army guides us, "We prepare for war when at peace."

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The more challenges we face, the better we get at facing situations of conquering peak to peak in quick succession. Sometimes while conquering is not an option or beyond reach, our grit and experiences from previous challenges help us survive well. As Captain Vikram Batra said, "Difficult will be done immediately, Impossible will take some time."

This beautiful hindi lines by poet Nida Fazli explain and sum up our discussion metaphorically, highlighting the importance of both challenges of life & to overcome them step by step.

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"Safar me aghoop to hogi, jo chal sako to chalo
Sabhi hain bheed me tum bhi nikal sako to chalo."

~~Yehaun dekh kar koi chuska nahil deta.~~
~~Yehaun~~

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खंड-B / Section-B

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A SOCIETY'S GREATNESS IS
MEASURED BY ITS SMALLEST
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While pondering upon this topic, I remembered the day when I had a conversation with two strangers at a riverside cafe in Himachal Pradesh. One of them was an Indian Muslim and other a Syrian Christian refugee of 3rd generation.



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While talking about India & how the Syrian Christians find it, he said that India is ~~to~~ such a country where they were not looked at ~~by the~~ ~~as~~ ~~different~~ for their past of persecution & being different was normal. ~~When~~ When the Syrian asked the Indian Muslim about the reason his forefathers didn't go to Pakistan during partition, he replied, "They never felt the need to, India was their 'watan' (nation)"

This incident left a lasting impression on me and left me agreeing to the thought that a society's greatness is indeed measured by voice of not the powerful but the small, minority & different.



In this essay we will try to discuss the various dimensions of society, greatness of it & the perspectives of the ~~small~~ voices of the small.

First, thought that comes to mind is, "what is a society?" and what makes a society great? Society can be broadly referred to as a group of people that identify with something common. A professional society ~~with~~ of that of doctors to a ~~a~~ society of the nation and now, a global society or global village, the expanse of a society can vary according to the scope of enquiry.

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As regards a national society, the western idea of a nation lies ~~with~~ in identification with a language. It associates Germany for Germans and Spain for Spanish. This is why Winston Churchill was confident about India's breaking into a hundred pieces as there were many nations in India (Punjab for Punjabis). I take the liberty to proudly say that Indians proved Churchill wrong.

The idea of India as a society has always been very accomodative and cosmopolitan. India has been an amalgamation of many cultures. Tagore said that India is not just a geographical unit, every culture that interacted with it found itself becoming a part of the greater consciousness of India.

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Having discussed both the homogeneous example of society (west) & heterogeneous concept of society (east/Indian) the question ~~arises~~ that follows is of greatness of the societies.

In the modern democratic world, greatness in simple terms can be related ~~said~~ to be a feeling of security, and ~~the~~ comfortably expressing one's rational beliefs without the fear of negative consequences for being different. This extends from the smallest homogeneous societies to large heterogeneous nations like India.

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While this feeling of security is easier to be found in societies with less variabilities, it is a larger challenge for a country like India which must accommodate interests of innumerable cultures and societal sections, especially the minorities.

Greatness of a society therefore can be measured with the relativity of tolerance, multiplicity of belief systems & their co-existence, mutual respect, freedom of will, fraternity, equality of opportunity, freedom to dissent and other such high ideals with natural reasonable rational restrictions of the same.

A famous quote 'Kindness & Greatness start at home.' finds relevance

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The way we treat our househelp, and other helpers reflect how we have shaped up the mini-society of our house.

Similarly the voice of those who can not be sure of being heard due to lack of numbers is an important measure of the high ideals discussed above, also referred to as greatness of the society.

J.S. Mill, the 19th century philosopher, theorised that even if one person dissents from the view of majority, he must be heard as radical & transformative ideas often come to mind of one person & moreover it will be unethical to suppress a ~~one~~ person from expressing his views.

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Hannah Arendt, a Jew of 20th century criticising totalitarianism of Nazi Germany and their 'final solution to the Jewish question' (Holocaust) even went to the extent of saying that real power doesn't need violence to rule over citizens. This reflects the deep concerns of majoritarianism taking to unethical considerations over co-existence.

The effects of ~~globalisation~~ such examples during world war II, Indian consciousness & high ideals of west led to influence over Indian National movement and Constitution assembly & finally the constitution of India.

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Gandhi advocated for Sanva Dharma Lambhau while awakening mass-consciousness.

B.R. Ambedkar fought against caste-based discrimination & Annihilation of Caste.

Ram Mohan Roy & Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar worked endlessly ~~for~~ against Sati & ~~for~~ for widow remarriage respectively. Many such reformers chose one or more aspects to ultimately reform the woes of Indian society.

The Constitution of India, as a culmination of all such ideals is a revolutionary document which gives freedom to all to believe & express their beliefs without fear of repression, be it for dignity of

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life (Art 21) or religious freedom (Art 25-28)

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The world today is more globalised than ever. This has resulted in multiculturalism being a global phenomena. Rampant migration for work & settlement abroad has led to the emergence of concepts like representational safeguards of minorities all over the world. India already had means like Schedule V & VI and article 371 for the same.

The question therefore arises, if the limits should be set only on powerful majority or the weak & minority as well. The answer to this lies in the values of Constitutional morality which enable full expression with rationality of reasonable restrictions.



But, as a society which tends to be polarised at times, we must ensure that neither the strong nor the weak & small misuse their power, rights & authorities at the cost of others.

In India, it is unfortunate that while we have come a long way in creating a harmonised society, we have fallen short of creating the India of both Gandhi & Ambedkar.

Therefore, as citizens who must believe in scientific temperament, we must raise our consciousness further and not let the divisions of caste, sectional interests, regional interests and other such tendencies dilute the greatness of Indian & world society.

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While old forms of minority dissent are well debated throughout time, there has now arisen newer debates like women rights, LGBTQ+ , Human rights and more, thereby signifying that to build a great society is one thing to maintain the greatness of society is an everlasting game.

This beautiful Hindi Quote expresses the importance of harmony between powerful, strong & weak & small.

"Ham hi ham hain to kya ham hain
Tum hi tum ho to kya tum ho."



Space for Rough Work
(रफ कार्य के लिये स्थान)

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हाशिये में नहीं लिखना
चाहिये।
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Mountains → types
climbed → conquer, worked, survive.
step by step, not peak by peak

One day at a time / one ball at a time
test match - step →

Mountains → INM | moderates → social awakening
extremists → mass to be included.

Economics → Atmanirbharata → various steps.
→ Multi-dimensional poverty & also FDI & Chip Plant.

Don't be afraid of how far you have to go.
Be proud of how far you have come.

Safar me dhoop to hogi.

Banane padte hain himmat se apni.
Safar me raaste hote kahan hain — Waseem Bari

Monk & Student

Mountains → targets, challenges, survivability.

climbed →

Step by step

Personal Goals,
Relationships, Setbacks,

Everybody has their own
Mountains to climb.



Space for Rough Work
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Sometimes — peaks are challenged directly.

↳ firefighting mode, less time, big goal.

↳ eg. → Shah Bano Case.
Anna Andolan.

↳ When we are
at peace, we
prepare for war

↳ Reparation for war happens in
peace time

↳ operation Sindoor.
overnight →

Ramayana

↳ last war / many steps.

→ we do it again
Process over Outcome

↳ Importance → Dharm

Enjoy the journey / Setbacks.

Test of endurance,
Perseverance, Grit,
Fortitude, Integrity.

Best time to plant a tree was 20 years

~~No shortcuts to success.~~

Consistency needs
motivation

No mountain climber

Vikram Batra, Tiger Hill.

Make it easy

Elon musk — we are one

↳ Quita

Divide target into small steps.

Conclusion → Japu me shruj k hogi.



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Intro

Themes —

Mountains — challenges → personal life,
professional life
~~offer~~ like giving up ← many ways to deal
career

Various elements

1NM → Atmanibharta

Relationships

Trust in the process → we do it again. Rohit Sharma.

Setbacks → are natural — part of process.

no shortcuts need to give room.

↳ kuch na hoga to
tozuba hoga.

Tiger hill was not climbed in a day.

But ↳ Difficult will be done.

Impossible

Sometimes — peaks are to be challenged directly also.

↳ emergency. xgs
Preparation in war 30

Society's Greatness - measured - Smallest voices



↳ Syrian Christian

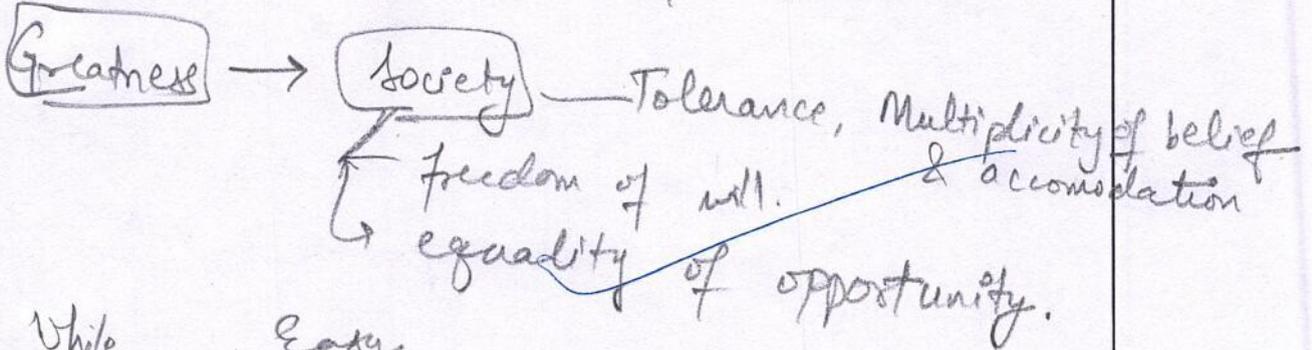
Space for Rough Work
(रफ कार्य के लिये स्थान)

~~Mill~~, ~~homelaga~~

Jews.

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

How we treat our helpers, juniors,



White - ^{Easy} ~~important~~ in Majority
Important for majority.

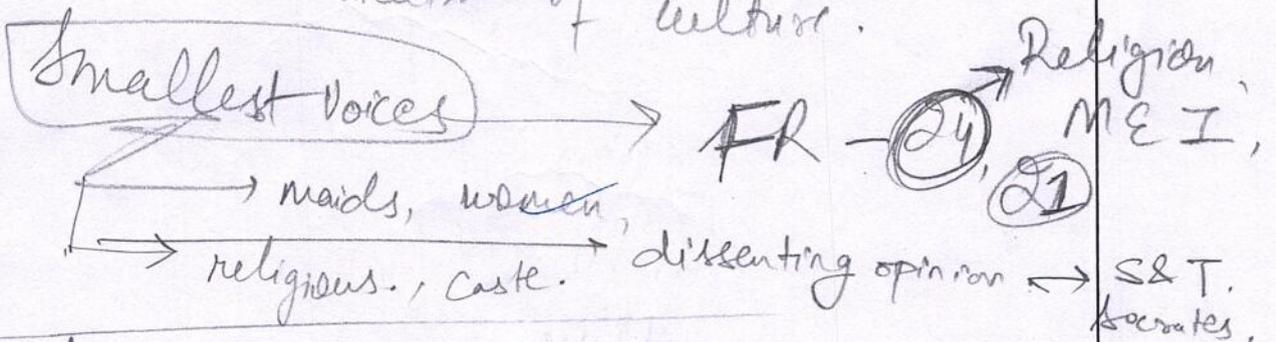
superiority

Asendt - community - jewish - against totalitarianism

Multiculturalism — globalisation

India — always multicultural

Tagore — not just geographical but
assimilation of culture.



White India is — we must move forward,
neither Gandhi's nor Ambedkar's.



Space for Rough Work
(रफ कार्य के लिये स्थान)

उम्मीदवार को इस
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