DRISHTI MENTORSHIP ESSAY TEST-6

[ESSAY: 8 Questions]

निर्धारित समय: 3 घंटे *Time allowed: 3 Hours*	अधिकतम अंक: *250* *Maximum Marks: 250*

Name: Rupam Arora

Mobile Number *(as registered on DLA)*:

Medium (English/Hindi): English

Reg. Number: DKBG-6850

Center & Date: Karol Bagh. 29 July

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 मूल्यांकनकर्त्ता 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)		

मूल्यांकनकर्त्ता (हस्ताक्षर)

Evaluator (Signature)

पुनरीक्षणकर्त्ता (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।

(Candidate must not write on this margin)

खंड-A/ Section–A

1. मन संसार को दर्शाता है और संसार मन को।
   The mind reflects the world, and the world reflects the mind.
2. लैंगिक समानता न केवल महिलाओं को, बल्कि पुरुषों को भी रूढ़ियों से मुक्त करती है।
   Gender equality not only liberates women but also men from prescribed gender stereotypes.
3. आप विकास के बिना संधारणीयता प्राप्त नहीं कर सकते और संधारणीयता के बिना विकास।
   You cannot have development without sustainability and sustainability without development.
4. परिवर्तन जीवन का नियम है, केवल अतीत या वर्तमान में उलझे रहने वाले भविष्य को खो बैठते हैं।
   Change is the law of life and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.

खंड-B / Section-B

5. सोशल मीडिया का बच्चों की मानसिक और भावनात्मक सेहत पर प्रभाव।
   Impact of social media on mental health and emotional wellbeing of children.
6. एक बार निर्णय हो जाए तो आपको चिंता छोड़कर काम शुरू कर देना चाहिये।
   Once a decision is made, you should stop worrying and start working.
7. निर्धनता ही क्रांति और अपराध की जननी है।
   Poverty is the Parent of Revolution and Crime.
8. युद्ध यह निर्धारित नहीं करता कि कौन सही है, केवल यह तय करता है कि कौन बचा है।
   War does not determine who is right only who is left.

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।
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खंड-A/ Section–A

1. मन संसार को दर्शाता है और संसार मन को।
The mind reflects the world, and the world reflects the mind.

2. लैंगिक समानता न केवल महिलाओं को, बल्कि पुरुषों को भी रूढ़ियों से मुक्त करती है।
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Change is the law of life and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.

GENDER EQUALITY NOT ONLY LIBERATES WOMEN BUT ALSO MEN FROM PRESCRIBED GENDER STEREOTYPES.

One day, at a Diwali get-together at a friend's house, there were discussions revolving around the role of men and women, almost as if two teams were debating. ~~about~~

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Suddenly, my friend's uncle asked a question to the so called 'modern girls' in a taunting manner. "So girls, you mean to say boys should be cooking rotis and girls should work outside?"

The way she shouted, everybody fell silent. An old yet strong voice was heard replying to her.

"The Roti and Office chair do not mind being cooked or sat on by a boy or a girl, but us humans do. Strange, isn't it?. It was my friend's grandfather. Every young person clapped as though they won the debate.

That day, looking at a patriarchal man and a feminist grandfather, I realised that Gender Equality not only liberates women but also men from prescribed gender stereotypes.

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The discussion in this essay will cover the various aspects of Gender Equality, gender stereotypes, feminism and it being a liberator of both men and women from the prescribed stereotypes prevalent in the society.

The Gender Debate & Rise of Feminism

The debate on gender equality, although sporadic since times immemorial took the contemporary solid form with the rise in consciousness of feminism, with it's many waves and demands. As it is always in discussion, it becomes essential to take up feminism and it's perspective on gender equality as the first aspect of discussion.

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Rising from a critique of universal male dominance in all systems and structures, (called patriarchy), feminism is a politico-socio-psychological thought that challenges the notion of male superiority & aim to establish gender equality.

Feminists raise the distinction of sex & gender & personal & political. They accuse men of assigning roles to each sex, and considering females as 'Second Sex' (by Simone de-Beauvoir). Accepting the biological differences of males & females, they accept sex-differences but are critical of chivalry & genderisation. As famously said "Women are not born, women are made."

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A core demand of Feminism is 'Gender Equality', which brings us to the next aspect of the discussion.

Gender Equality refers to equal treatment, considerations & opportunities across genders, breaking the chains of mentality of male dominance as natural. It enables freedom of choice for all individuals and form the basis of Human Rights as guaranteed by Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

A Society that Stereotypes.

In 'The Feminist Mistique', author Betty Friedan identifies the existing stereotypes to be the biggest challenge of the feminists. It is reflected in the fact that there are many patriarchal women as well.

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Stereotypes are oversimplified value judgements or assumptions about a section of society, often creating mass expectations from the society for people to behave in a particular way.

For instance, the mother of Sanskaar and Asha is often taunted by her neighbours to let Asha play cricket and let Sanskaar learn cloth embroidery. While there is no scientific or rational wrong in their mother's decisions to let them follow their likings, the societal expectations are the opposite, and fixed, called stereotypical.

We are a society in which many Sanskars and Ashas of the world are 'taught' rather than follow their natural inclinations, towards many persuasions, linking them to genders.

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While Asha is expected to be loving, caring and soft, Sanskaar is expected to be strong, bold and assertive.

Ashas are expected to cry when troubled, but Sanskaars are since very childhood thrown with lines like "Men dont cry" & "Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota".

While girls are expected to like pink, boys must like blue. Girls are encouraged for pink collar jobs and boys for blue & white collar as natural. Girls are expected to be good home makers while boys are not. On the flipside, boys are expected to be responsible to earn a living while girls are not.

We are surrounded by such stereotypes, and are socialised by it. It has affected us even subconsciously. But what's the way out?

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Liberation from Stereotypes

Liberation from such stereotypes lays in furthering the cause of gender equality.

Here the mention of J. S. Mill becomes important who, being a male, is considered as the first modern feminist of the west. He was the first philosopher to call out for women empowerment & equality.

A relevant example of Mahaveer Phogat father of Geeta Phogat, popular Indian medalist wrestler (popular representation in movie Dangal) comes to mind where he challenges not only his wife's mindset but his village as well by envisioning his daughters to be medalist wrestlers by saying "Hamari Chhoriyaan Chhoron se kam hain ke!" (Girls are equal to boys)

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We need such fathers like Mahaveer Phogat to break the stereotypical barriers.

Boys must be taught & expected to do work expected to be done by girls like household work & vice-a-versa. Virat Kohli is a great cricketer, but so is Mithali Raj. So it is definitely not a men's game.

The support for Gender Equality has also been found in the Indian Constitution with U/A 14, 15, 16, 17 (Right to Equality). The shift in societal values is evident & prominent but alot more has to be done.

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New Dimentions to Gender

While the two gender debate ~~fo~~ has reached it's zenith, there are new rise of consciousness ~~to~~ in LGBTQ+.

Everybody, especially the feminists are expected to understand & support them in their struggles and not just focus on oneself. Gender equality covers all, not just concerns of oneself.

The Feminist Caution

It is also important, ~~to~~ especially for women to not demand in extras, or wish against men. It is the key to ~~rember~~ remember that "an eye for an eye makes the world blind.". Equality must satisfy normative aspects to break stereotypes.

To conclude, gender equality is the first and most important means to uplift Ashas & Sanskaars of the future to pursue pink & green according to their wishes & not societal construct.

"It is easier to construct equality in the future than to fix the past"

and so should be the target in respect of eliminating stereotypes.

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खंड-B / Section-B

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Once a decision is made, you should stop worrying and start working.

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War does not determine who is right only who is left.

ONCE A DECISION IS MADE, YOU SHOULD STOP WORRYING AND START WORKING.

Like every year, my friend hosted a dinner in honour of his grandfather, Retired Captain Verma on Kargil Vijay Diwas (26th July), and like every year we bombarded him with questions about Kargil war, and he as usual was ready with his first hand stories and

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ofcourse, moral of the stories.

"So dadaji, tell us, weren't you afraid even once? what were your thoughts before ~~capt~~ launching the attack? How is it being in the middle of gunfire? You couldve been hit!!", asked my friend.

"Yes, there were many thoughts running. I called my family, took their photos with me, said a final goodbye to everyone, heart was heavy. But that was before the attack. Once we started the climb for Point 5410, the only thing in our minds was to get to the top. The bullet that has your name on it will meet you for sure. what greater honour for a soldier to meet that bullet with spirit and grace!" replied Captain Verma.

That day, I could draw parallels with 'point 5410' as a task, 'bullet' as the challenges, 'honour of soldier' as fearless work and 'grace' as to stop worrying.

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In realised that once a decision is made, one must stop worrying and start working. In this essay we will discuss about the aspects of decision making, fearless and targeted work and it's balance with cautions & worries.

Decision Making — Inevitable

In life we are always surrounded in situations where we need to take decisions, from micro decisions like picking clothes for the day, to major decisions which impact us significantly, often including an ethical dilemma.

This forms an inevitable part of life. While we can not escape it, we can get better at it with conscious efforts, and learning from experiences.

~~Thought Before Diler~~

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Thoughts Before Decisions

We often find ourselves in deep thought, evaluating the pros & cons, effects & consequences of taking or omitting a decision.

The same happens with someone planning to quit his job, jumping into the world of uncertainty to start a business, or to prepare for a competitive exam. The heart knows it's calling, but the world pushes it back, reminding of the great challenges, and throws statements like "What if you fail like most do?"

In a way it helps us to consider all possibilities, plan carefully, mitigate risk, insure negative possibilities, have a plan B, develop courage of conviction and answer to oneself, "What if I succeed like some do!"

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The Moment of Decision.

While it is important to consider all possibilities, use the negatives, worries, risks to plan carefully ~~and~~ to our advantage, we must take care that the right moment of decision doesnt slip away in course of planning and only planning. Having followed it's prey for quite sometime, the tiger must leap to catch it at the right time or else it sleeps hungry.

The moment of decision hence must ~~contain~~ resonate with a fine balance of not being too early and less planned & too late and over-strategised. It should not be very rigid, neither very flexible.

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The Moment Arrives: Get Set Go.

Once the decision is made, it becomes important to work, and navigate through challenges thrown upon, as the test of tolerance, perseverance, fortitude & integrity.

The importance of not thinking too much after a decision is made is reflected by the many examples around us. In 1990, Dr. Manmohan Singh had the option to continue with India's economic policies as usual, or to liberalise and open up the market for private trade, a path never envisaged by country's politics before. He decided, took the decision at the right time, any delay wouldive pushed India into insolvency, he worked, and were reaping the fruits today having become the 4th largest economy.

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Such examples are even found in India's traditions and mythology. Lord Ram, when asked to leave the royal mansion and spend 14 years in forest did not delay any further and took actions ~~a~~ for the same.

More recently, after the Pahalgam Attack, India planned and delivered a counter blow in a measured ~~man~~ and responsible manner, targeting only terror sites. The apprehensions and risks of targeting civilian and military sites of India by Pakistan came true, but India was prepared to hold it's ground and counter attacked. Once thought, next prepared, then delivered. The power of preparations, work & not letting negative thoughts interfere while working was displayed in the ~~m~~ success of op. Sindoor

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Window for Course Corrections

The nature of life is such that we can not plan our actions to perfection. Life and our targets test us by throwing us off-track by throwing at us unforseen circumstances and challenges. It is therefore important to go with the flow with eyes open, and adapting to the situations.

For instance, Thomas Edission failed more than a hundred times before successfully inventing the light bulb. Upon asking, he mentioned how he tweaked his formulas as per his faliures to ultimately find the right one.

Similarly, India was not a favourable destination for business right after LPG reforms. It was made so by various policy changes adapting to the situations and needs.

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It is but human to worry

While it is established that working without worrying is as important than planning to work, many humanist concerns can be raised here.

"What if we fail?"

"To worry is human", or else man will turn emotionless and all practical."

These questions and concerns are equally important to be addressed. A beautiful Krishna - Arjun Samvaad (Discussion) holds a metaphorical addressal to the question with a discussion on Nishkaam Karma. It is our duty to put in our best efforts but not to worry about the results. This forms the normative foundation of the concern.

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Moreover, the more decisions we take, the better we become at handling our choices, working towards them and tweaking our course as per the needs of times. Ex

Even a battle-hardened army trains for war when at peace.

Outcomes Differ from Expectations

The process established above leads to an inference that many times, the outcomes differ our expectations while still succeeding.

Interestingly, a dedicated student who's target was to become a fighter pilot missed his rank by one mark. But went on to become the 'missile man of India' and later the President of India, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.

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In another, more recent case, Zomato's Cofounder Mr. Dipender Goyal was asked a question. "What if you had all the knowledge at the begining of your enterprise? How easy would it have been for you?" He replied, "If I knew all what was to come my way, I would never have started Zomato, fearing faliure."

This instance, while giving a new perspective also sums up our discussion. While it is important to carefully plan, it is perhaps more important to not think negatively, about the consequences or faliures while working towards a goal. The journey might lead to unexpected outcomes which might have a changed perception of success.

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Moreover, what is life but a set of decisions, and what is character but how you work on your decisions.

"Do not discard your worries,
But do not let your worries discard you."

Space for Rough Work

(रफ कार्य के लिये स्थान)

Space for Rough Work

(रफ कार्य के लिये स्थान)

Space for Rough Work
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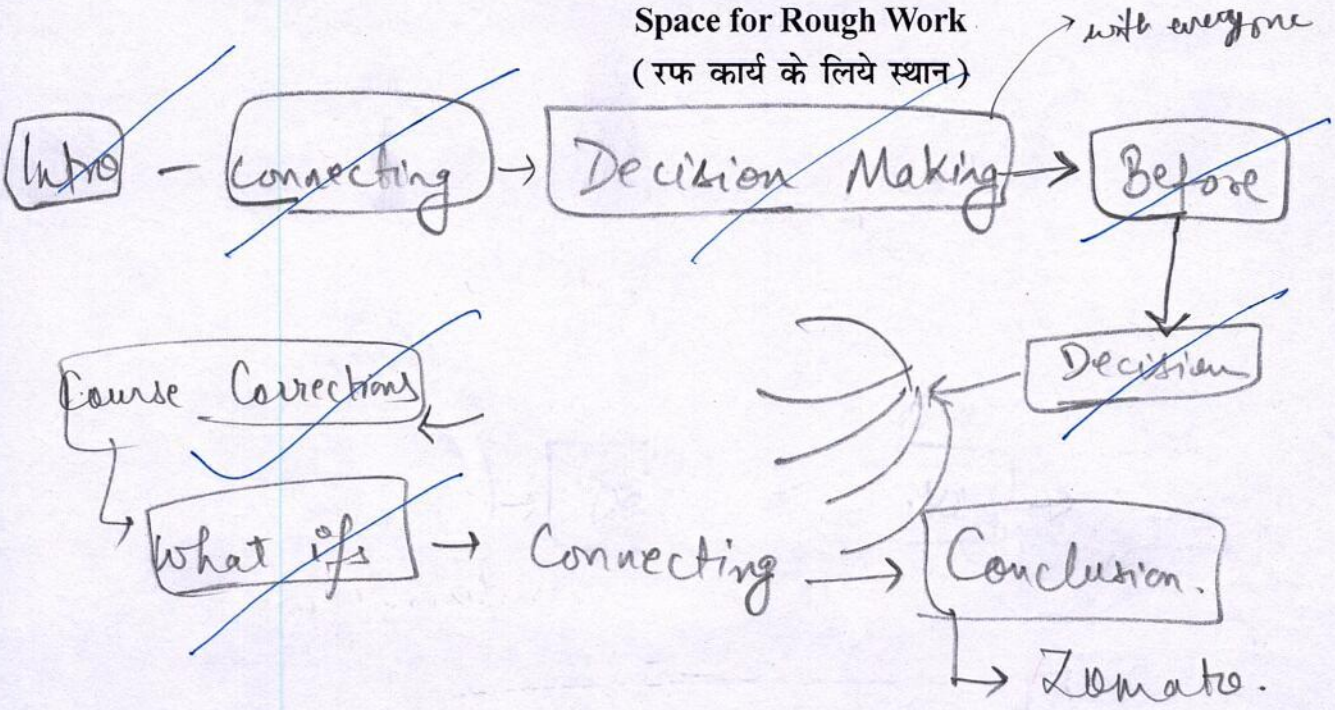

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