



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

निर्धारित समय: 3 घंटे  
Time allowed: 3 Hours

अधिकतम अंक: 250  
Maximum Marks: 250

Name: Rupam Aroza Mobile Number (as registered on DLA): \_\_\_\_\_  
Medium (English/Hindi): English Reg. Number: DKBG-6850  
Center & Date: Karol Bagh 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. स्वतंत्रता केवल बाहरी नहीं होती, यह आंतरिक क्रांति से आरंभ होती है।  
Freedom is not just external, it begins with an inner revolution.
2. प्रकृति हमारी सबसे महान शिक्षक है, फिर भी हम सबसे कमजोर विद्यार्थी हैं।  
Nature is our greatest teacher, yet we remain the poorest learners.
3. नवाचार वहीं पनपता है, जहाँ असफलता से भय नहीं होता।  
Innovation thrives where failure is not feared.
4. हम जितना अधिक उपभोग करते हैं, हम उतने ही कम होते जाते हैं।  
The more we consume, the less we become.

**खंड-B / Section-B**

5. भारत की आत्मा उसके गाँवों में बसती है, किंतु क्या हम उसकी सुन रहे हैं?  
The soul of India lives in its villages but are we listening to it?
6. परिवर्तन की ओर पहला कदम है जागरूकता। दूसरा कदम है स्वीकृति।  
The first step towards change is awareness. The second step is acceptance.
7. इतिहास झूठों का एक समूह है, जिस पर सहमति बनी है।  
History is a set of lies agreed upon.
8. जिसके पास जीने का कोई कारण होता है, वह लगभग किसी भी परिस्थिति को सह सकता है।  
He who has a why to live can bear almost any how.

उम्मीदवार को इस हाशिये में नहीं लिखना चाहिये।

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खंड-A/ Section-A

1. स्वतंत्रता केवल बाहरी नहीं होती, यह आंतरिक क्रांति से आरंभ होती है।  
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INNOVATION THRIVES  
WHERE FAILURE IS  
NOT FEARED.

While thinking about this topic I remembered the story of a mother who was called to her son's school and handed over a letter by the principal, sighting her son's low IQ, irrelevant

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questioning habit and non-appreciation towards bookish readings in school, making it impossible for him to pass to the next grade, advising her to get him admitted to a 'Special school'. At home, when her son asked her why he was asked to leave the school, her mother gathered a smile over her face & told him that the principal said that he was too brilliant for other students, his experiments left everyone in awe and such a high IQ child must pursue something great, not possible at that school. She lied, to not his attitude get lost.

She was the mother of Thomas Edison, the great scientist, inventor of light bulb, ending his career with over 1000 patents.

That day I realised that innovation thrives where failure is not feared.

उम्मीदवार को इस  
हाशिये में नहीं लिखना  
चाहिये।

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Through this essay we will try to discuss 'Innovation' and its many aspects and factors, its relationship with Success and most importantly failure. How failure must be dealt with and its importance in our lives, to make us grow.

## INNOVATION : SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL

Innovation refers to success in finding, imagining and proving new things, theories, technologies, art and more.

Ability to innovate separates humans from animals. Innovation is a process continuing since time immemorial. For neolithic man, developing spoked wheel and controlled use of fire was innovation of the time whereas today's world is in a race for innovating on Quantum Computers, Blockchain, Semiconductors & Air Defence Systems.

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Innovation therefore forms the basis of all human material and spiritual development. In this modern era of a globalised world, Innovation has transcended boundary of human comfort and has become an important aspect of hegemony, rational security and survivability. It therefore becomes important for a country (including India) to create an atmosphere of innovation in its institutions & society.

INNOVATING IS LIKE FLIPPING A COIN.

As discussed above, the country that stays relevant in the race for innovation will be the one which ensures survivability as 'Empires of the future will be empires of the mind.'

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But, does innovation and its  
pursuit always lead to fruitful results?  
The answer unfortunately is 'No'. The pursuit  
of innovation is often filled with  
'questioning the comfortable', going against  
existing accepted and normal norms often  
attracting criticisms and skepticism from  
non-believers and rivals. On top of it,  
the hard journey is supplemented by  
no surity of ~~success~~ immediate success.

For instance, space agencies of the  
world active since 20th century were  
challenged in their theory by Elon Musk  
(founder of SpaceX) who proposed a  
launch vehicle which can return to earth  
and is reusable. His efforts of half a  
decade of innovation led to development  
of reusable space rocket Falcon 9.



But its first test flight led to a complete crash and destruction of the rocket within a minute of the launch. The corn flopped in the unwanted direction. With this we come to the next aspect of our discussion, 'Failure'

FAILURE : OOPS ITS' TAILS.

Failure hence forms an inevitable stepping stone in the path to success of innovation. It refers to results after hard work not going in one's direction as intended.

In a society which succeeds to innovate, there is inherently a positive view towards failure, which help us get better the next time and grow. Moreover it is important to comfort the one's who fought hard but couldn't win the battle to make them believe that war is not over.



PM Modi hugging and comforting former ISRO chairman after the crash landing of Chandrayaan 2 exhibits the push towards embracing failures with as much grace as one does with success.

TAILS: You WIN.

Innovation therefore thrives when failure is not feared, but embraced and made into a reason to try again, harder and smarter. Let us understand this by a few instances.

Thomas Edison failed a hundred times before successfully inventing the light bulb. Upon asking, he said "I didn't fail, I understood hundred ways that didn't work getting me closer to success everytime."

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The Indian National Movement, upon a macro view is nothing but a collection of failures (Revolt of 1857, Non-Cooperation movement, Civil Disobedience and more) where the leadership of varied nationalists found out ways to get better each time until India became free finally. We also in hindsight study the various long-lasting and empire shaking impacts of that various movements had, that contributed to the many small dents until the wall of British empire fell.

Elon Musk, after witnessing the crash in front of himself innovated again and successfully developed it. His rockets are so trusted that they ~~was~~ were chosen to bring back Sunita Williams & Butch Wilmore from the ISS. This highlights his statement "What looks impossible today is the reality of tomorrow."

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## INNOVATION : DOUBLE EDGED SWORD

The advancement in technology often witnesses the misuse of it. Therefore, it is the human intention that adds morals to innovation. Nuclear science can be innovated further both to serve humanity by nuclear energy and to destroy it by nuclear weapons.

It is therefore the moral responsibility of individuals, society & governments to raise our consciousness & moral standards along with technical and innovating expertise. Moreover, failure is inevitable but we can aim to minimise it by not reinventing the wheel and perfecting the successes of previous innovations.

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DRDO's innovation excellence of  
Integrating S-400 Triumph with indigenous  
Akash & Trishul surface to air missiles  
is an example of the same, coming in handy  
for national security during Op. Indoor  
by neutralising Pakistani drones & missiles.

## INNOVATING : THE INDIA WAY.

This brings us to the discussion of India's standing and future possibilities, with regard to innovation. Since the ancient times till medieval, India was a pioneer of innovation, with persons like Chanakya and Sushruta innovating on warfare & medicine respectively, the iron pillar at Qutub Minar which hasn't rusted for thousands of years and many more examples in the field of astronomy, textile and more. This couldn't have been possible with a constant fear of failure.



However, after modern colonialisation, India lacked behind due to its focus on uplifting people from extreme poverty & providing basic necessities. But within eight decades of independence, India is back in the race.

The government's push on becoming a valuable addition to global innovation, value and supply chain has led to strides like Make In India, PLI, DLI, India Semiconductor Mission & India Quantum mission. Yes, some might fail, but India today is not afraid to give it a shot, and hence, some might succeed exponentially.

India's recent push towards refusing USA's F35 Raptor 5<sup>th</sup> gen fighter aircraft offer and to build our own AMCA & Kaveri engine is great step towards bold innovation, free of fear.

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FINALLY HEADS & TAILS ARE  
NOTHING BUT OF THE SAME COIN

Having discussed all the above aspects of innovation and its relation with the graceful embracing of failure, we can conclude by reiterating that a push for constant innovation with a moral purpose is what makes humanity grow. A nation like India must focus on normalising failure as a stepping stone to success and encourage innovation through policies & incubation centres to transform India from a service economy to an innovation economy.

After all after the a few years of crashlanding of Chandrayaan 2, the words of Dr. S. Somnath (ISRO chairman) filled every Indian with greater pride when he said "India is on the moon" (Chandrayaan 3)

"Kyon dare zindagi me kya hoga,  
Kuch na hoga to tazuba hoga."

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खंड-B / Section-B

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HE WHO HAS A WHY  
TO LIVE CAN BEAR  
ALMOST ANY HOW.

While thinking ~~to~~ about this topic, I tried to imagine the the pain and agony of the 10<sup>th</sup> sikh Guru Gobind Singh Ji during the Battle of Chamkaur, where he with only about 40 soldiers faced the Mughal army of thousands.



He lost all four of his young sons (Chaar Sahibzaade) in battle, with two being burned in bricks alive for not wavering from their morals and purpose even at the age of 14. Even in such unimaginable horrors the Guru motivated his soldiers by the famous line "Savaa lakh se ek ladlaun." After the battle, where most people would have lost hope, he continued his purpose of the human welfare & consolidating the teachings of all sikh gurus into Guru Granth Sahib.

This instance is sure to touch the hearts of all and serves as a strong reminder of the statement, "He who has a why to live can bear almost any how."

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In this essay, we will discuss the many aspects of having and finding the purpose behind one's life and how it helps navigate a person through the challenges of life, which in often cases exceed normal human perception limits, making us stronger in life.

## FINDING ONE'S 'WHY TO LIVE'

The magic of life has been one of the oldest questions of humanity. Many, in the pursuit of finding answers to 'what is life, how is it made possible, transcendental aspects and the faith behind it,' turn to spirituality as science has yet been unsuccessful in giving us a solid explanation.

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Therefore, we find answers in scriptures of almost all religion that indicate our lives on Earth to have some purpose.

For those who do not believe (skeptics), finding the purpose of one's life still makes sense to make the best out of the only one life.

'Purpose' <sup>becomes</sup> therefore <sup>our</sup> base for discussion. It is referred to as the intention or logic behind pursuing a goal, or in this case, our life. Our purpose can also change with changing stages of life.

For instance a cricketer's purpose today is to play for his country but in school could have been to score good marks.

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It is often said that 'a life without purpose is a life wasted'. This in most cases holds true as having a purpose in life helps us set targets for ourselves, achieving them, and looking out for new ones and eventually evolving and growing in physical & mental grit and moral conscience.

## A PURPOSE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

Having discussed why purpose is necessary, we can discuss about the various intensity and aspects of the same. For instance, a person who is working hard & smart for lifting his family up from poverty affects a few people around him.

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But, many human souls have walked on this earth who changed the world by challenging the discriminations & bad practices of their times with a socially - contradicting higher order visions, converted into their purpose of emancipating the masses.

In cases like these and other, where many were positively affected, we often see that their lives were disproportionately difficult and challenging. (like Guru Gobind Singh)

## THE CHALLENGES OF LIFE.

This brings us to discussion regarding the challenges, faced by all of us in our lives. We see many people around us fighting and surviving through ~~our~~ their challenges and difficulties. A cancer patient, an abused housewife, a struggling athlete,

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all have a bumpy road ahead. But why is it that many sail through these challenges beautifully while others don't?

The answer lies in the fact that it is the purpose of our life that helps us keep ourselves motivated in times of crisis and gives us strength to bear these times.

### SAILING WITH A SMILE

Shivaji and Subhash Chandra Bose both revered greatly, were jailed. While they could have accepted it as their fate & stopped pursuing their purposes, but they beared through the challenges while pursuing their goals even more strongly, escaping the jail and fighting Mughals and raising the Indian National Army respectively. This example indicates the ~~responsibility~~ role of Purpose during challenges.

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In other example, Savitribai Phule was splashed on with cow-dung, abuses and sometimes stones as she walked daily towards the school she established for Dalit girls. It was her identified life purpose of emancipating the dalits along with her husband Jyotiba Phule that helped her go through every day insults.

Today, both of them are highly honoured for their pioneering struggles even after so many years.

We also see many such examples in our surroundings, not necessarily famous, but equally important. Having had an opportunity to interact with victims of domestic abuse through NGO Parakh, I ~~was~~ was shocked to hear

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that they went through regular abuse for many years. One day they decided to raise their voice but now they have to bear societal allegations of ~~being~~ not being a good wife. Upon asking what made them move on and on with life. one of them said, "safety of my children in the initial years and living my life with self respect ever since I decided to complain". Purpose as simple as safety and survival, bruises that remain for life but nevertheless couldn't be put down by abuse.

## CHALLENGES: THAT HELP US GROW.

Having discussed the various examples of people with a purpose sailing through

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The challenges thrown at them in their life, we can now discuss about how challenges help us.

It is often said that a ship in the dockyard is safe but it is not what it is made for. Similarly, the life of humans is not for escaping the difficulties but rather living through them. They help us get better & stronger to live our life and face further challenges better. But, it is important to stay true to morality and raise our consciousness while adding a purpose to our lives and facing challenges.

THERE IS MORE TO HUMAN LIFE  
THAN TO FACE SUFFERING.

This brings us to the last aspect of our discussion which ~~help~~ helps us look at

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challenges positively and face them to end our sufferings and not let ourselves fixate in a loop of suffering.

We must also not think that people who could not bear the sufferings till the end (like suicide victims) did not fight at all or are not brave enough.

Having compassion and raising morals still remains the key towards evolving.

In Hindu traditional fold, surrender along with working hard is the way accepted norm.

Finally we can conclude by reiterating the our discussion upon the importance of having a will to live through ever

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evolving purposes in life, ensuring  
morality and raising consciousness through  
~~our~~ personal growth and looking at  
challenges of life as a learning  
steps, helping us evolve and grow.

The importance of taking the  
right steps with the right purpose  
despite knowing that various challenges  
lie ahead is beautifully described  
in ~~the~~ these hindi lines by poet  
Mrida Fazli

4 Safar me duroop to hogi, jo chal sake to chalo.  
Sabhi hain bheed me tum bhi nikal sake to chalo.

(The path will be tough, move if you can  
everybody is on their path, you also move if you can)

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Space for Rough Work  
(रफ कार्य के लिये स्थान)