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15 JUN 2025

ESSAY-Test 1
निबन्ध-परीक्षा 1
CSE 2025

कार्यालय के प्रयोग हेतु
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निर्धारित समय: तीन घंटे
Time Allowed: Three Hours

अधिकतम अंक: 250
Maximum Marks: 250

General Instructions

This question-cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet contains 32 pages. Question Paper in detachable form is available at the end of the QCA Booklet which can be taken away by the candidate after examination.

Two blank pages (Page Nos. 31-32) have been provided for rough work.

On receipt of the Booklet, please check that this QCA Booklet does not have any shortcomings, torn or missing pages, etc. If so, get it replaced with a fresh QCA Booklet.

सामान्य अनुदेश

इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यू० सी० ए०) पुस्तिका में 32 पृष्ठ हैं। प्रश्न-पत्र क्यू० सी० ए० पुस्तिका के अन्त में संलग्न है, जो अलग (वियोज्य) किया जा सकता है और उम्मीदवार परीक्षा के उपरांत अपने साथ ले जा सकते हैं।

रफ़ कार्य के लिए दो खाली पृष्ठ (पृष्ठ सं० 31-32) दिए गए हैं।

पुस्तिका प्राप्त होने पर, कृपया यह जाँच कर लें कि इस क्यू० सी० ए० पुस्तिका में कोई कमी न हो, फटा हुआ पृष्ठ न हो अथवा कोई पृष्ठ गायब न हो इत्यादि। यदि ऐसा हो, तो इसके बदले नई क्यू० सी० ए० पुस्तिका प्राप्त कर लें।

(To be filled by candidate)

All fields mandatory

(Inaccurate/Incomplete information may lead to delay in the evaluation process)

Name of Candidate : MOHIT GUPTA

Next IAS Roll No. : EC25RA013 Phone No. :

Test Code → TC- 001 Date of Examination : 15/06/25

Exam Centre : Old Rajinder Nagar Jaipur Prayagraj Online

निरीक्षक के हस्ताक्षर
Invigilator's Signature

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Student's Queries for the Evaluator (if any write them below)

Evaluator's response



प्राप्तांक के विवरण (परीक्षक द्वारा भरा जाए) / Marks Details [To be filled by the Examiner(s)]

	निबन्ध विषय सं० Essay Topic No.	अंक Marks	
खण्ड-A Section-A			
खण्ड-B Section-B			
सकल योग / Grand Total			

Your performance vis-a-vis other examinees-

Front Runner	Achiever	Aspirant

EVALUATOR'S FEEDBACK: ESSAY SECTION-A

Parameters	<i>Exemplary</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Needs Improvement</i>
Understanding				
Coherence				
Lucidity				
Structuring				
Presentation				



EVALUATOR'S FEEDBACK: ESSAY SECTION-B

Parameters	<i>Exemplary</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Needs Improvement</i>
Understanding				
Coherence				
Lucidity				
Structuring				
Presentation				



खण्ड-A / Section-A

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Q.1 War is merely the continuation of politics by other means.

युद्ध महज अन्य तरीकों से राजनीति की निरंतरता है।

Q.2 Ecology is the permanent economy.

पारिस्थितिकी स्थायी अर्थव्यवस्था है।

Q.3 History is not the study of the past but the study of change.

इतिहास अतीत का अध्ययन नहीं, बल्कि परिवर्तन का अध्ययन है।

Q.4 Strategic thinking is the bridge between dreams and achievement.

रणनीतिक चिंतन स्वप्नों और उपलब्धियों के बीच का सेतु है।

Strategic Thinking Is The Bridge Between
Dreams and Achievement

It was in 1493 and a ship sailed from Portugal with the dreams of discovering New World!

Albeit it not only carried the weight of sailors aboard but probably of whole Europe which was desperate to uncover New Sea Route.

A mariner's compass, goods for survival and a well functioning ship is what Columbus had. But all those who preceded him also had the same resources; what made this trip unique? Perhaps it was the plan that made the difference. It was a

well designed strategy that transformed
100 year old dream of Europe into a reality
and led to discovery of New World i.e. Americas

It is rightly asserted that strategic
thinking is the bridge between dreams and
achievement. Without a good strategy and
well thought out plan our dreams are
merely a statement of intent. A civilization
like Rome was dream of many preceding
empires, but it became reality by thinking
of visionaries and philosopher kings.

Our history is replete with examples
on how design and strategy make dreams
come true. Right from Kautilya's statecraft
to Chandragupta-II's United Gupta Empire,
great Empires rose on the rocks of strategic
thinking. ~~The~~ Spain, Portugal, French,
Dutch etc. were all racing for imperial conquest,

but Britain succeeded on back of economic pragmatism, military strategies, political mastery etc.

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However, the first question which naturally comes is: WHAT DOES STRATEGIC THINKING ENTAIL?

To begin with it's a cocktail of tactics, planning and actionable map. It requires taking into account all the variables and exigencies that can impact our action.

Perhaps MS Dhoni's decision of promoting himself ahead of inform Yuvraj in 2011 world cup final is a case in point. When probed about what prompted this decision, he simply answered that the fact that lead Sri Lankan Bowler Muttiah Muralitharan and himself was in same IPL franchise and he had more practice of his spin variation was seminal decision. Result was we saw 27 year old dream of cricket crazy nation becoming reality.

Apart from quantifiable facts, human

ingenuity and intuition also form backbone of strategic thinking. Stephen Hawking emphasize that to produce extraordinary scientific results, only existing knowledge and calculations don't suffice, the main ingredient is Novelty and innovation.

Lastly, strategic thinking involves discussions and deliberations of all stakeholders

Sometimes from smallest and unexpected places great ideas emerge. An interesting case is

when Elon Musk was giving interview on why FALCON Rocket launch failed, it was the input of a junior scientist that there was need for ^{single} modification in exhaust design.

Now as we explored components of strategic thinking, the next logical question is its utility i.e. HOW DOES STRATEGIC THINKING ACT AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN DREAMS and ACHIEVEMENTS?

For an individual, strategy provide the achievement orientation and a mindmap on how to achieve his goals. Right from attaining your fitness goal, to designing your semester course load, to make a timetable for UPSC preparation or simply to plan the next week; we indulge in strategic thinking consciously and subconsciously.

At organizational level, it takes form of work plan and organization charter. Whether it corporate aiming for maximum revenue of government department aiming for efficient public service delivery, making them a reality requires foolproof planning. It can turn fortunes of organization around, like Malvika Hegde did at Cafe Coffee day. Debt ridden company with 7100 cr debt turned to net ^{worth} positive enterprise owing to strategic manouvers and visionary planning.

Even at National level, growth and development are backed by economic and industrial planning, synchronising domestic

goals with global realities, leveraging strengths and limited resources etc. requires meticulous planning. Horrible PM Modi while unveiling India @ 2047 document rightly emphasized, "To achieve the dreams of Viksit Bharat by 2047, the need is to not only follow but institutionalize this strategy prepared by NITI Aayog".

At a global level, we aim to achieve sustainable development, carbon neutrality, peace and cooperation etc. But all these are merely abstract principles. We can argue that Countering Climate Change is our dream but how to make it a reality? The answer again lies in strategic thinking not only at global level (Paris Agreement) but even at rational level (India's stance on it) and local level (Approved Climate Action Plan).

But, what if we don't have plan and strategy in the first place? Will such a

scenario be desirable? Let's uncover its consequences.

Artificial conclusion is that it would lead to inaction and culture of daydreaming without any intent to make it happen. Worse, it will lead to degradation of existing resources and capital at social level. Comparing stories of Mugabe's Zimbabwe and Mandela's South Africa proves the point.

Both had similar colonial past and almost similar resources. While Mugabe delivered passionate speeches of making Zimbabwe the greatest country, Mandela silently worked on economic, social and cultural development based on National Flag. Result is that though both are neighbouring countries, South Africa is among the fastest growing economies (members of BRICS) while Zimbabwe is still riddled in poverty, backwardness and deprivation.

This example makes clear the salience of strategic thinking, but is it alone sufficient?

or, WHAT ARE OTHER REQUIREMENTS TO MAKE DREAM A REALITY?

First and foremost is the Courage of implementing the plan. To plan is merely to begin, the act is to construct the bridge between dreams and achievement. ISRO's establishment is a case-in-point. Satish Dhawan not only conceptualised a space agency, but boldly arranged a budget, made small strides like launching sounding rocket at Thumba etc. It was this initial act and courage to pursue plan that made ISRO among the leading space agency today.

Another support pillar is values and ethical principles which support our process of reasoning and planning. Only inclusive ~~not~~ mindset and welfare orientation can lead to such ~~great~~ achievements which increase standards of living for all. Whether we will use uranium to power our houses

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or to build nuclear weapons depends on Civilizational values of a nation.

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Lastly important ingredient is the availability of opportunity and resources to be able to deploy a sound plan. This responsibility lies not only on political power but also on social environment where planning is done.

Life of Shreeta Devi, a paralytic archer shows that despite her deprivations of multiple disabilities, she used her skills in the right direction. However, support ecosystem of parents, coaches, and government schemes were important ingredients in her success.

So far we have established that strategic thinking is not only important but must be backed by various supporting components. But an important question is: HOW DO WE DEVELOP A CULTURE OF STRATEGIC THINKING?

Possibly the first step is to aim for rationalisation of mindset. We need to

use logical bent of mind to discover solutions, ethical framework to achieve it in morally correct manner and developing a solution-oriented attitude. To achieve our dreams is studded with various difficulties but aptitude, attitude and values will help us devise a roadmap to achieve it.

In our classrooms, we need to move beyond traditional rote learning and outcome oriented approach. We need to promote CRITICAL THINKING and EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING to develop a culture of strategic thinking. Our New National Education Policy aims to develop a nation of innovators and leaders by emphasizing on hands-on and critical learning curriculum.

At a social level, we need to accept that 'failures are as important as success'. When we develop a plan, it is probable

that while implementing it we might fail.
However society needs to create a culture
where failures are seen as opportunity to
learn and modify plan and not as standards
of failure.

When we ~~create~~ ^{achieve} this culture of
strategic thinking we will be able to chart
out a path from dreams to success. It
will start with an individual who tries,
who fails but most importantly WHO THINKS;
it will lead to institutions who not only
follow traditional ~~with~~ methods but
develop innovative plans to grow.

These institutions will shape a
progressive society who will write its
own destiny from lower stages of development
to achieving higher stages of develop and
a culmination of such rational individual,

Institution and society will result in a MOVING NATION which strategises its growth and strives for excellence and realisation of dreams in all spheres of life.

For Christopher Columbus could have been every day job or even a failed adventurer, he became among the greatest discoverers owing to power of STRATEGY and PLANNING to make dreams a reality!

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खण्ड-B / Section-B

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Q.5 Life is a long lesson in humility.
जीवन विनम्रता का एक लंबा पाठ है।

Q.6 Empathy is the antidote to shame.
समानुभूति शर्म का प्रतिकारक है।

Q.7 Don't let someone else's opinion of you become your reality.
किसी और की आपके बारे में धरणा को अपनी वास्तविकता न बनने दें।

Q.8 Information is the building block of reality.
सूचना वास्तविकता का रचक खण्ड है।

Don't let Someone Else's Opinion of You
Become Your Reality

As our Honorable first PM Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru
announced India's independence and its destiny
with destiny to embark on a new chapter of
development, few gave it a chance!

India was known as a land of snakechar-
mers, mixed in tradition and a cesspool of
backwardness. Had our leaders let these negative
biases affect them, it would have led to downfall
of a nascent nation. But today India symbolizes
itself as a Champion of Democracy, world's
5th largest economy and a civilization which

Shows how to balance tradition with modernity - we became creators of our own REALITY and thus sculptors of our prosperous future.

The title asserts correctly that letting opinions of others become our reality is not the way; it emphasizes our AGENCY and OWN WILL to construct our reality. This is true at all levels of organization starting from an individual and all the way till global communities.

Let us begin our investigation by looking at individuals first.

Others' opinions about us are merely biases, prejudices and malice-laced thoughts which are aimed at reducing our agency and ultimately make us fatalistic. For example, had A.P.J. Abdul Kalam listened to society's advice and added education for workers, he would never have

become a great rocket scientist and eventually
Honourable President of India whose visionary
thinking still inspires us to become a "nation
of great minds".

~~Swami Vivekananda~~ Swami Vivekananda asserts,
"One must use his will and risk taking aptitude
to chart out our future, if you succeed, you
become master of our fate, and even if you
fail, it becomes a guide to improve".

An individual should decide on own terms
what to pursue and how to construct the
meaning of social world. To innovate is to
think different and to bring revolutionary changes.
Had Kalpana Chawla let others dictate her life,
she would never become first Indian origin woman
astronaut and more importantly an inspiration
for generation to come.

While individual's agency is paramount,
so does of family he/she is a part of.

Traditionally family is seen as site of socialisation where it is implicit that you accept social values and viewpoint. However, to imbibe them unquestioned leads to status quoism and conservative traditions in family which can manifest as casteist attitude, patriarchal behaviour etc.

A family must be site of democratic discussions where family norms are rationally decided and only those social values are accepted that leads to betterment of individual, family and society. In 1870s, ~~new concepts~~ tradition was dominant reality for most families. However, Jyotiba Phule and Savitribai Phule exemplified that when one rejects unjust imposition of social reality, miracles happen. Not only they became emancipators of downtrodden, but their liberal familial outlook reflected in institutions like Satyashodhak Sangh.

Balhatya Prabandhak Goshwami etc., it became a
* lighthouse emanating new social standards i.e.
Creating a new reality.

From family, now let us probe at organ-
izational level on how someone's ~~close~~ superior
can lead to downfall of great institution.

If institutions follow the 'set path' and
blind following of old strategies, they are
destined to fail. Warren Buffet asserts,
"If a CEO is only worried about media reports
and public perception, he loses sight of
organizational goals and targets".

Institutions should rather become
creators of own image/reality. An interesting
case here is of M. ~~hat~~ Vogel who was CEO
of pharma-multinational Merck. When they
discovered a cure for West Nile Fever, the
traditional ~~idea~~ ^{idea} about it is to patent and mint
money (image of pharma companies as Profit
oriented enterprise). However, he publicly disclosed

the formula and saved millions of life simply because as a company Merck could transcend notions of Profit over People. Tata Group with their CSR Culture and Innovation Promotion show that when ~~an~~ organizations take control of their reality, miracles unfold.

Similarly, government departments are equated with red tapism, inefficiencies and delay. A passive officer would hide behind them and develop bureaucratic attitude resulting in poor performance. However, a positive minded officer can take charge and change not only image but ~~also~~ department's work culture. It takes only one TN Sheshan to transform Election Commission's image from ruling party's clerical to credible independent watchdog of Indian Democracy.

As organizations aim to be creators of their reality, so does nations too. In the

starting, we discussed how India took charge of our reality and transformed it contrary to global opinions. It is necessary for nations to not pay unnecessary attention to global commentaries and ethnocentric allegations.

Hon'ble Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar rightly asserts, "For centuries we say India from European lens, but now when we challenge their colonial biases and disrupt entrenched hierarchies; it unsettles many in the West".

A nation's reality should be shaped by its population aspirations, its economic goals and its civilizational values. A reflexive of this combination is Lee Kuan Yew's Singapore growth story. Abrupt decolonization and low natural resource base was the reason many renowned economists were passive of Singapore's future. However, unperturbed by such external opinions, Singapore's rationale and

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able leaders took control in their own hand
and the result is a developed country with
among the highest per capita GNP and
high quality of life.

But ^{even} in ~~such~~ prosperous nations, possibly
the worst affected sector is of subaltern
identities. These are often materially deprived
and powerless minorities, whose worldview
is most dominantly shaped by hegemonic
narratives. Case in point are Dalits, women,
tribals, non binary gender, etc and their emergent
intersectional identities.

Dominant class opinions about them
often shape how they view social instit-
utions about them and they often become
fatalistic. However, when they reclaim their
agency and assert their rights, it
become site of social revolution and

Resultant Progress.

When BR Ambedkar was writing Manusmriti and when Niyamgri tribals were protesting against mining hegemony, they were not merely asserting their identity but also giving impetus to social world and a more equitable social reality.

Till now, we have understood that it is important to reject someone else's opinions to create one's social reality. However, other's opinions are NOT totally futile. They serve various important functions, lets explore them.

Firstly they point out benchmarks to improve one's performance. Criticizing our shortcomings highlight aspect of one's behaviour that demand improvement. Kabir rightly asserts,
"Keep your critics close, for they help you improve and keep you grounded".

At organization and social level, other's opinions can lead to performance improvement and improved result. Critics of economic policies highlight additional inputs and commentaries on a company's product shows areas of improvement. Tennis great Roger Federer in an interview said, "I always love my critics more than my fans, for without them, I could still be an average player".

Other's opinion also create a motivation orientation to prove them wrong. They help in individual to make sustained efforts towards one's goals.

~~Lastly, the critical theorists and post~~
Lastly opinions of others about you also help one understand the biases one should take into account while engaging in interpersonal relationships. So other's opinion about you are

dysfunctional when you allow them to dominate your rational mind, rather, one should actively use them as inputs and use our rationale to ~~help~~ employ them for improving our present and future.

It becomes imperative towards the end to list the components which should help us shape our own reality. They include's Individual identity, agency and asserting oneself, optimistic outlook towards reality and strong will to chart out one's own course. And if one gets ~~lost~~ confused or how to ignore other's biased opinions and construct our own paths to success, last 75 years of India's own trust with destiny are not only a shining example but a motivator for individual, ~~or~~ family, organization, society, nations and world.

reflecting, "Don't let someone else's opinions
of you become your reality, but, BE YOUR
~~OWN~~ OWN MASTERS"

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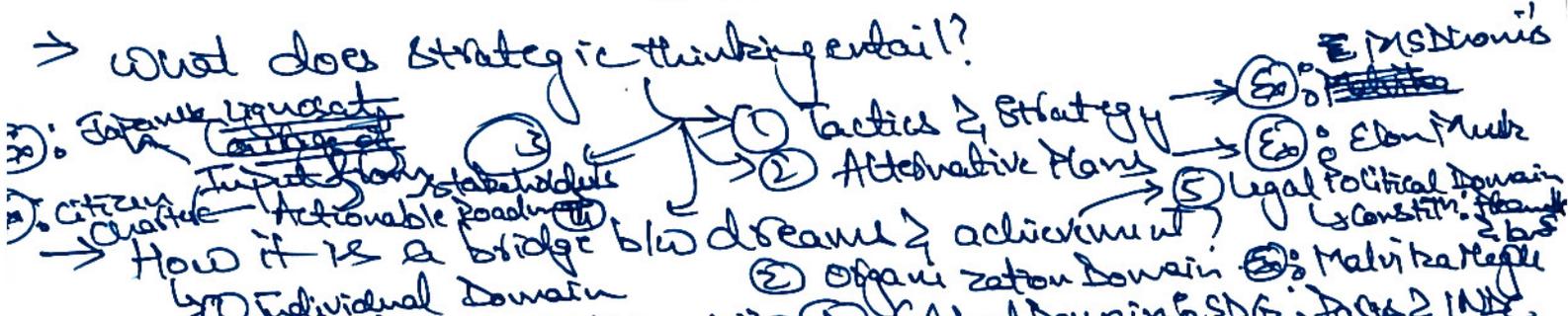
Space for Rough Work

Strategic thinking is the bridge b/w dreams & achievement

→ ~~Columbus story~~ → ~~Strategic linkage~~ ~~Sadashitama~~ ~~West Africa etc~~

→ Historical Dimension of Asota, CRM; Gupta Empire, China
- British EIC colonialism

→ What does strategic thinking entail?



→ How it is a bridge b/w dreams & achievement
↳ Individual Domain
↳ National Domain: Vision 2030
↳ Organizational Domain: Wayward & Directionless
↳ Global Domain: Mygalbe vs Mandela

→ What happens in absence of strategic thinking?
↳ Culture of Incomp. → Wayward & Directionless
↳ Dreams remain dreams
↳ Strategic thinking alone sufficient?

→ How to develop culture of strategic thinking?
① Individual
② School & Coll → Critical Thinking & Exp. Learning
③ Social level → Altruistic Thinking & Exp. Learning

→ Is strategic thinking alone sufficient?
↳ Courage of Implementation → Example: Tata
↳ Ethics & Values → Example: White Collar Crime
↳ Opportunity to develop

→ Conclusion: ~~Strategic thinking~~
↳ Strategic thinking can lead to records → America, ISRO → Moon, Sochim →
A great mind → a great society → a great Nation

↳ Dreams & Achievement are for benefit of all
↳ Inclusive Thinking → Example: Rockefeller