

ESSAY-Test 1
निबन्ध-परीक्षा 1
CSE 2025

कार्यालय के प्रयोग हेतु
For Office Use

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 : SRASIT KUMAR

Next IAS Roll No. : AIM25.GCL1001 Phone No. :

Test Code → TC- 001 Date of Examination : 13/7/25

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

- Q.1** War is merely the continuation of politics by other means.
युद्ध महज़ 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।

उम्मीदवारों को
इस भाग में
लिखना मना है।
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I.4. Strategic Thinking is Bridge between Dreams and achievements.

Have you ever wondered, what exactly made humans the dominant species on Earth? It was the strategic thinking. We learnt how to control fire, instead of fearing it. We made elaborate stone tools to control the nature. Early humans also wanted a comfortable life, but strategic thinking made it a reality.

Strategic thinking implies coming up with a plan of action for our dreams. It is a long term plan, extensively thought upon. It not only considers our own steps, but also predicts the challenges that might come up. The 'dreams' that we see are also often lofty and long term plan is needed to achieve it.

Strategic thinking thus not only made us the masters of the forest, but also helped in sexual and agriculture domain.

In mid-1960s, India was dependent on PL-480 scheme of US for food grains. We had a dream of self-sufficiency, but due to outdated agricultural practices, famines were common. Strategic thinking of Dr M.S. Swaminathan, and his research allowed Green Revolution in India, achieving the dream.

Today, the government has also considered "Annadata" (farmers) as major pillar for development. Thus long-term strategies like rural infrastructure development, rural industrialisation, reduction in fertiliser use is being focussed on.

In future, our dream is to be the 'food basket of the world' & increase land productivity. Sikkim government has already done strategic thinking, by shifting to organic farming. Similarly we need climate resilient Agriculture against climate change. However, the executive will need strategic thinking in this regard

Executive has historically been the one to fulfil peoples aspirations. However, lack of proper deliberation leads to failures. Mohammed Bin Tughlaq made a plan to shift his capital to Deogiri from Delhi. He didn't think about resources like water, and public resistance, which failed the experiment.

To achieve a dream, one needs to begin with the root cause of problem. PM Jan Dhan Yojana, thus shows how the base itself can solve many problems. This scheme allowed for - financial inclusion, insurance, credit support, formalisation of economy, reduce proliferation of funds (through DBT).

However, tackling the root problem is not enough. Multiple challenges to achieve our dream of equity and inclusivity still remain. A complete plan is needed for administrative reforms to reduce corruption and build "capability", with the help of private sector.

Private sector themselves dream of high profitability, sustenance, monopoly and at times social impact. Despite having resources, lack of plan could lead to failures - Xerox in 1970s developed the "mouse." However, it was used well by Apple & Microsoft, where Xerox was left behind.

In Indian corporates, Tatas have been the pioneer in research. They have taken risk to open Tata Motors, to compete with giants like Toyota, Hyundai. Their strategic thinking allowed them to develop first fully indigenous car - Tata Indica. This has led to increased market share and developing more such cars.

Future has always belonged to those who invest in it today. Facebook (now Meta) always wanted to retain monopoly in social media. They have been able to do this by acquiring Instagram and Whatsapp. Further, ~~the~~ almost all corporates are investing in research - including AI.

Research and Development also requires a long-term plan, as today hardly any breakthroughs are 'accidental'. It is no coincidence that Ancient Greeks, Chinese and Roman Empire ~~was~~ ^{were} so developed due to their investment in research.

These civilisations gave us gunpowder, fireworks, silk, democracy, excellent road networks, which maintained their monopoly.

India has also now started to focus on research by forming Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), but a lot needs to be done.

To achieve our dream of breakthroughs from Indian universities, we need long term plan, right from schools. We need to change our pedagogy to more inquisitive than rote learning based. Increased collaboration with universities and industry is needed.

Defence sector, requires both research & strategic planning. During medieval India, Rajputs were subjugated by Islamic rulers due to their lack of unity. They couldn't think strategically, unlike the Marathas. Marathas came up with newer strategies and united the five houses of Western India.

Today, India due to long term vision has been deploying indigenous submarines, including SSBN Arisht. This began in 1960s, where navy invested heavily in Indian research. We are no longer dependent on imported submarines now.

The dream of robust defence thus needs investment. In future, we need to indigenize our weapons. We ~~also~~ also need to focus on infrastructure—like roads on border areas and build Thorium-based nuclear reactors for nuclear deterrence.

In geopolitics, "there are no permanent friends, or enemies, just permanent interests". Thus, interests are what should shape our thinking. India followed Non-Aligned Movement during early-Cold War to avoid being proxy field of USA & USSR. However, when our interests shifted, we aligned with USSR.

Today, we practice strategic autonomy. It has not only allowed us good relations with Russia, but also West.

Our planning, ~~was~~ allowed us to resist international pressure, and now we ~~have~~ are closer to our dream of a multipolar world, with us having good relations with all.

Strategic planning is now required by European Union. Their old ally, the US is giving mixed signals. They need to come up with their own strategic independence to avoid being a junior partner to the USA.

We saw how strategic thinking has allowed for results across time & space. However, it alone may not be enough.

Strategic thinking also needs collaboration and trust building. Unless we can assure others and gain their trust, the dreams are going to remain that way. This was observed in case of 3 farm bills in India, where the govt. failed to have productive dialogue with farmers. Thus, the "strategic plan" remained a plan.

Courage and dedication to plan is also needed. Often, the plan ~~one~~ one comes up with may be unconventional. Pursuing it requires courage. Failures are also inevitable, despite the most flawless plans. This is where dedication is needed. In the movie Shawshank Redemption, the protagonist spent 10 years to dig

a tunnel for his escape. This required both courage & dedication in addition to excellent plan.

Finally, action without arrogance is the last part of puzzle. Kodak company was the first to get the digital camera technology. They thought strategically and invested in newer products. However, due to their arrogance of monopoly, they failed to follow it up. Arrogance led to failure of Kodak, -the market now captured by the 'late entrants'.

Strategic thinking thus is a sine qua non to achieve our goals. It can be developed by reading ~~on~~ more about the topic of interest. Along with that, the process needs to respect dissent and focus on trust building. One should ~~be~~ have patience, humility and dedication to follow the plan through. And last but

not the least—ask many questions.

"One who asks questions, doesn't lose the way" — African Proverb.

Strategic thinking has brought humans out of many problems — from being prey to predators in African forests, to the most recent pandemic. However, when it comes to the biggest contemporary challenge — the climate change arrogance takes ~~over~~ over. I'm sure the humans would come up with a strategic plan soon, because we are back to our most fundamental dream — "The Human Survival".

खण्ड-B / Section-B

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इस भाग में
लिखना मना है।
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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।



7. Don't let someone else's opinion of you become your reality

David Schneider is a famous scholar who gave concept of "Cultural Universe". According to this, our perception of universe is shaped by the culture. Thus, words like "Chairman" or "Rashtrapati" shape the perception that women are not capable enough to hold power in such societies. However, this opinion has been broken by many, including our current President Mrs. Draupadi Murmu.

Someone else's opinion means the perception they hold of you. This perception could be correct or flawed. However, in either case, a person is not others perceive him to be, he is one who himself believes he is.

We observe that in many cases, people end up believing what others think about them is true. This could be ^{due to} cultural reasons as we saw above, or be a deliberate strategy as we will see later.

A individual, when is born is like a clean slate. A child has no perception whatsoever, either of himself or the world. Once the socialisation process begins they start behaving in certain manner. If the parents believe the child is quiet and meek, the child would do so. Children subconsciously believe they need to behave in certain "acceptable" way to be "part of society."

This phenomena is observed both in case of perception of — overachiever and underachiever. A person perceived to be an overachiever strives to excel at everything. Since this is not humanly possible, they start hating their "flaws". On the other hand, one perceived to be underachiever would always be underconfident, ~~for~~ creating a self-fulfilling prophecy.

In such cases, individuals need to talk to a trusted person. Here, psychotherapists also come in, who could help one see more clearly.

Such perceptions are often shaped by family. The family does so to not be an outcast in society. If a family member shows behaviour tabooed in the society, the entire family faces humiliation. Thus, the family strives to shape perception of children according to socially acceptable characters.

In patriarchal societies, families would try to suppress girl child. They would have much less freedoms, and never be allowed to be independent. Once the girl becomes older, she would have no confidence to step out in the world. Thus, the family successfully continued the societal norms.

With the coming up of liberal and feminist ideas, family itself needs to come out of societal norms. The elders in the family here need to read more about such ideas. Also courage is needed on their part to break the molds of societal norms.

The society tries to shape the reality, to ensure its stability. A society has many individuals, and if most of them try to rebel, the society would end. Thus, societies adopt conformist cultures to discipline its members.

Ancient society began 'Varna system' to ensure division of labour among castes. This strict labour division was perpetuated by ban on inter-caste marriage as explained by BR Ambedkar. Now, the society punishes those who are involved in marriages outside their caste, because the foundation itself of such a system is threatened. Such caste system ensured that people from "lower" castes don't take up better jobs. Even today, 97% of manual scavengers are Dalits, with society shaping the perception.

A society needs to be more tolerant of dissent, for its own survival. If the culture is not flexible, people would leave it for other cultures.

The urge to conform seeps into the organisational level as well. Among corporates, each company is believed to be a 'giant' or irrelevant. However, just because a company is perceived to be ~~so~~, it may not be true.

Lamborghini's owner earlier used to make tractors. After being humiliated by Ferrari's owner, he began car manufacturing. Ferrari believed Lamborghini could never make super cars like them, until one day their market share was eaten up. Similarly, BMW used to make airplanes during World War 2 & with the loss of Germany, they were banned from making planes, so they became the pioneers in car industry.

In such cases, the companies often have to walk alone on an unknown path. Most companies never dare to go to uncharted territories, thus remain what others perceive them to be. Those few who do, change the reality itself.

In a nation also, those who dare to walk the lesser taken road change reality. Often nations, due to confidence and dedication deficit fail to change their realities. They may also be too comfortable with their parochial ~~world~~ world-view to make amends

India after independence was perceived to be a famine-stricken, technologically backward country. However, India broke the perception with Green Revolution, Chandrayaan-3, nuclear tests etc. On the other hand, African countries of Sahel are perceived to be too fragmented for stability, and they continue to believe it as their reality.

Solution to such problems lies in two factors — self confidence and a trusted friend. India had self-confidence in its abilities, and a trusted friend in form of Russia, that helped us grow technologically. Probably same model is replicable by the African nations.

On a wider scale, the world also tries to form a perception to ensure subjugation. The colonial powers deliberately perceived other nations to be inferior to justify colonialism and racism. Had the perception been better, to colonised nations may have changed the reality by fighting back against colonist.

These perceptions were broken when Japan defeated Russia in early 1900s. Today, China is challenging the superiority of the USA. For decades, the West perceived Asia to be weaker & inferior. But ^{some} Asian countries refused this perception to shape the reality.

In such cases, cultural pride plays a very major role. Pride in ~~oneself~~ oneself, and its capabilities won't allow any such deliberative tactics to stop the development of nation.

However, there are two cases, where I believe one can allow perception of others to ~~be~~ be our reality.

First case, is ~~is~~ when our well-wisher believes so. There are numerous examples where when the child believes their parents is a good person, they also mend their ways. People leave crime, addictions just because they don't believe the opinion of loved ones about them to change.

Second case is when we are perceived to have some good quality, when it might not be true. If my boss perceives me to be a hard worker, then I shouldn't lag around. One should try to try to convert such positive opinions to reality of their own sake. The classic "fake it until you make it" could be the path here.

Apart from these two cases, one should never allow other's opinion of one to become reality. This is even more relevant today in world of social media.

Social media allows us to live in a "digital world". Everyone has a perception of others based on their 'profile'. People, especially teenagers need to understand that their digital and real worlds are different. Often due to cyber bullying and harassment, people lose confidence in the real world. Frequent breaks from social media is necessary to stop such problems to overflow.

Today's generation is grappling with depression, anxiety and isolation. Instead of real friends, they are seeking online friendships. Since, there is no human

connect, people online are often horrible and mean towards one another.

To fix the problem better role modelling, better and more involved parenting and a digital-free lifestyle is necessary.

We cannot spend our time being someone who we are not, because when we meet god in the end:

"God won't ask why weren't you Einstein,

Virat Kohli, or a Michael Jackson, he would ask you why weren't you yourself?"

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Space for Rough Work

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