

ESSAY-Test 1
निबन्ध-परीक्षा 1
CSE 2024

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 उपरान्त 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 : MUSKAN SRIVASTAVA

Next IAS Roll No. : GSMACT24A1224

Test Code → TC- 061 Date of Examination : 21 JULY 2024

Exam Centre : Old Rajinder Nagar ☐ Jaipur ☐ Prayagraj ☐ Online ☒

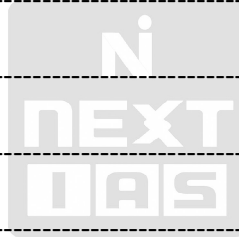
निरीक्षक के हस्ताक्षर
Invigilator's Signature

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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				



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



खण्ड A और B प्रत्येक से एक-एक विषय चुनकर दो निबंध लिखिए, जो प्रत्येक लगभग 1000-1200 शब्दों में हों:

Write two essays, choosing one topic from each of the Sections A and B, in about 1000-1200 words each: 125×2=250

खण्ड—A / Section-A

Q.1 If it costs you your peace, it is too expensive.

यदि इससे आपकी शांति छिनती है, तो यह बहुत महँगी है।

Q.2 In the flood of data, the thirst still remains.

आँकड़ों की बाढ़ में, प्यास अब भी बाकी है।

Q.3 A star has to burn to give light to others but that's what stars are meant for.

एक सितारे को दूसरों को रोशनी देने के लिए जलना पड़ता है, लेकिन सितारे इसी के लिए बने हैं।

Q.4 The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

किसी व्यक्ति का अंतिम मापदंड यह नहीं है कि वह आराम और सुविधा के क्षणों में कहाँ खड़ा है, बल्कि यह है कि वह चुनौती और विवाद के समय कहाँ खड़ा है।

खण्ड—B / Section-B

Q.5 Civilization begins with order, grows with liberty, and dies with chaos.

सभ्यता व्यवस्था के साथ प्रारंभ होती है, स्वतंत्रता के साथ बढ़ती है, और अराजकता के साथ समाप्त हो जाती है।

Q.6 A single drop never feels responsible for the flood.

एक बूँद कभी भी बाढ़ के लिए खुद को उत्तरदायी नहीं मानती।

Q.7 Never does nature say one thing and wisdom another.

प्रकृति और बुद्धि अलग-अलग बात नहीं कहते।

Q.8 Present demonstrates the lessons of history, albeit the hardway.

वर्तमान इतिहास के सबक को दर्शाता है, यद्यपि कठिन तरीके से।

★ ★ ★

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Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हशिप में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
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Q.2 "In the flood of data, the thirst still remains."

"--- Water, water everywhere,
nor any drop to drink ---"

The above lines are excerpt from Samuel Taylor's "The Rime of an Ancient Mariner," It highlights

the paradoxical situation of abundance that doesnot translate to the fulfillment of human needs.

Similar is the case of the today's world where there is no dearth of the 'new-age currency' that is data. But does it fulfill the 'human thirst' of progress, wellbeing and need of deeper insights? Let us find out.

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The Industrial Revolution with it brought the Scientific Revolution. This was the time was of rise of the natural science. Besides, the rational rules and logic that form the premise of these disciplines, there is one more thing that is common to all. That thing is the 'empirical data or information'.

This obsession of information later entered the domain of governance and strategy planning. Special squads were raised in the World Wars who can give exact 'data' on the troops and number of ammunition on the enemies' side. Similarly, the governments of day started expanding their repositories with all kind of statistics on parameters ranging from health, road, food production, economic activities

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कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

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and so on.

So far so good as the 'data' ^{was} that available were often translated into actionable item for human good. But then came the age of internet. With the meteoric rise of social media, there came a 'big bang explosion' of data. In the ~~to~~ present day world, billions of e-mails are sent across the globe, millions of messages are sent across messaging apps, thousands of videos are uploaded on Youtube and hundreds of stories reported by each news website.

But the 'thirst' still remains. In the poem of 'the Rime of an Ancient Mariner', despite the abundance of water, there was not a single drop to drink, because people were stranded on a ship surrounded by vast

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salty ocean water. Thus, to quench the thirst there must be availability of fresh water.

Same is the case with the 'data', for it to translate into human progress and wellbeing, we must be able to 'mine' the data for inputs. However, the scale at which information is being generated it is getting increasingly difficult to do so. That is the reason the new field of studies like 'data science' and 'Big data' are coming in vogue.

Moreover, many a times, the data that is being generated is incomplete, malicious or even fake. This not only deepens the human thirst but pushes us to the boundary

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of getting dehydrated. Our battles with deepfakes, misinformation and fake news is a testimony to this.

Some other times, we are unable to 'join the dots' from a given pieces of information, owing to its size, for a tangible outcome. The massive security breach in Israel on October 7 is being attributed to 'Intelligence' for this very reason.

People like Bill Gates or Elon Musk, acknowledge that human by very nature are lazy or complacent. This is due our evolutionary instinct of survivability. Our 'Ostrich head' tendency to unsee the seen also sometimes determine whether we use the 'metaphoric water' in form of data to quench our thirst or not.

There are enough evidences that we are going through sixth mass extinction, temperatures rising and environmental degradation. UN Emission Gap reports even ~~off~~ offers actionable, concrete data on the same. However, ~~the~~ our reaction to this is known to the common wisdom.

The data explosion and the intensifying human thirst has not remain elusive to common man any more. The digital revolution has brought this paradox as near to us as it can be.

Ed Sheeran was asked why he decided to forego the use of smartphones. He recalled an incident where he was 'offline' for a week. On the 8th day he found ~~that~~ 1000s of messages waiting for him, hundreds of people who tagged him

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etc. It took him a day to go through him it all. But ~~a~~ not a single item on the list was contributed positively on his wellbeing or career. This incidents highlights that we are living in an age of "noise".

Herbert Simon also corroborates the above fact when he said -
"The wealth of information creates poverty of attention." Not only flood of data is creating a noisy environment around us but ~~creating a~~ negatively impacting our mental health.

However, the rich repository of data has also unlocked new potential for human needs and progress. ~~2014~~ is said to be the watershed year in the field of computer science. With the vast amount of data, we are able to power through 'Deep learning' models since 2014. This has the promise to revolutionize healthcare with precision

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and personalized medicine, raise human productivity, reach the underserved and underserved masses. Though it poses a few challenges but we should remember that since the cave-man times, it is the progress in sciences that ushers new era of human well being.

Sydney Sandbergs acknowledges "We cannot change what we are unaware of. When we are aware we cannot help but change." Same is the case of with collection of data. It helps in identifying the problematic areas to work on and promotes evidence-based policy making. For example, the National Family Health survey guides us through planning health interventions.

Thus, 'the flood of data' is a double edged sword, whether

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It hydrates or de-hydrates us, is the choice we have to make. There are several ways where ~~it~~ we can tame the flood for our own good:

Firstly, redesigning the education system. Yuval Noah Harari in his book '21 lessons for 21st century'; writes

Our education system based on rote learning emulates 19th century ^{model} when the information was scarce. In today's world, when there is no dearth of it, students should be taught distinction between truth and untrue information, making sense of data and how to use them for their holistic development.

~~Similar~~

Secondly, we should promote adoption of new-age technology not only in engineering but ⁱⁿ all the departments. Learning data science, Big Data



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Analysis, Information Mapping etc. is not a luxury but a necessity.

Thirdly, ~~human~~ discourses on the objective of ^{the} use of data. Cases like Cambridge Analytica raises the potential to misuse of information. An ethical framework to address such concerns is a must.

Fourthly, social media guidelines to curb fake information. This will help us to tackle manipulation, cyber bullying and rising discontent among people in wake of data explosion.

Nextly, in an era where there is inevitable rise of data, the social contract should recognize new rights. The right to privacy, right

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to be forgotten must be inalienable part of new human rights.

To conclude, with rise of access to internet and online platforms there is a flood of data. This flood will not be able to fulfill human thirst of deeper insights, progress and well being because of various factors. The factors can be due to size, scale etc. However, 'data' per say is important for our overall survival in the new world.

'Data' is considered 'new oil.' However, the oil in itself is useless unless it is used to create energy in vehicles, power station or industry. Similarly, 'data' has no use value if it does not serve human needs. We are standing at a cross road of change, at a dawn of new age. The dawn will be of 'Heaven' or

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'Here' is yet to be decided. ~~The~~
The change guided by 'data' and 'numbers' is not enough. What we need to put in this recipe is the ingredient of human soul and genius! Only then will our thirst be satisfied!

Section - B Q. 6

“A single drop never feels responsible for the flood.”

A group of IT engineers from Bengaluru visited Bandipur Tiger Reserve for their weekend get-away. They decided to trek in the pristine forests. They camped their tents on the nightfall and decided to do a song jamming session.

A-midst this session, one of the friends went outside the tent and lit a cigarette for a 'harmless smoke'. While coming inside he put-off the cigarette by throwing it to floor and smashing it with his foot.

Fast forward to the next morning, the friends remembered being rescued by helicopters as a massive forest

fire broke overnight. Later on, an investigation found that the fire was the result of ~~the~~ a single spark that came out of a half-burnt cigarette.

This is the tale of 2018 Bandipur forest fire which forest authorities fought for days. The unsuspecting IT engineers never thought a single drop (a harmless smoke) can cause such a massive flood (the forest fire).

This essay is an endeavour to delve deep into the above stated topic. Let us explore!

'A single drop' often refers to small effort or small event that seemingly have no impact. For example, an extra bite of chocolate for dessert.



On the other hand, 'a flood' is a massive scale impact or event. It is often thought to be caused 'suddenly'. For example, a seemingly fit person getting a heart-attack.

The two (drop and flood) do not seem to have any correlation on the surface. However, when we go beyond the surface we often find that a drop is a precursor to a flood. For instance, most heart-attacks are a result of high cholesterol accumulating over the years due to that ^{extra} bite of Unhealthy food.

Despite this collorary, "a single drop does not feel like a flood." Let us uncover a few reasons for the same:

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Firstly, we humans are accustomed to 'small scale' thinking. Thus, perceiving the impact of efforts/incidents beyond a span of few months or years remains out of question. For example, the ~~to~~ devastating earthquakes of 2015 in Nepal was a result of thousands of years of Indian plate moving towards Eurasian plate, a few nano-meters at a time.

Secondly, complacency plays an important factor for non recognition of impact of a single drop. People tends towards instant gratification over delayed gratification. This is the reason why many people find it difficult to continue their fitness regime as do not 'see' immediate results.

Thirdly, Ignorance or Denial

of any 'isolated' incident is not uncommon. Pew research while delving into the causal factors of domestic violence in India, found that most women ignored the initial 2-3 incidents thinking it to be "non-ordinary" one-time mistake" of their perpetrators. Little did they know they would have to sustain a consistent domestic abuse later.

Fourthly, many a times "single drop" being a signal to a flood is difficult to identify. For instance, ~~when~~ China did 'small incursions' in territory of India in 1950-60s. It was difficult to identify as a precursor to a war as the diplomatic relations that time were "very strong" between the two nation. ~~on the~~

Fifthly, consistent deliberate negligence is too a reason. It has been ^{more than} 50 years since the flagship environment conference ^{took} in Stockholm, which highlighted the adverse impact of human activities on biosphere. But not much has changed. The 'small drops' in form of 'pollution, carbon emission etc.' is now staring in our face as a 'flood of environ-mental damage'. However, we humans continue to be negligent as if it is business as usual.

Thus, "a single drop ~~does not~~ never feels responsible for the flood," highlights the role of 'cumulative impact' of 'small ~~size~~ efforts'. It is a double edged sword. The efforts magnify in the direction we take. Thus, it has wide application in human world.

It raises the importance of consistency. James Clear in his book "The Atomic Habits" argues that doing just 1% better everyday than yesterday for a year, will make you 37 times better than your initial self. We can apply this to our daily lives by targetting micro-steps over massive jumps.

Moreover, the idea of cumulative efforts also mean that each ~~step~~ effort matters and no effort is small. Building on the same principle, the Indian Prime Minister gave the mantra of Mission Life - asking ordinary people to join the fight against climate change through small sustainable ~~hacks~~ life hacks.



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Further, the idea of 'single drop' causing flood is also vouched by share-market genius "Warren Buffet". He has given the idea "principles of compounding" for finances to signify how small monthly savings can turn into massive assets.

Nonetheless, this idea can also help in designing cost-effective innovative solutions for our more pressing needs. To exemplify, let us take the story of Mongolia. It's women and girls were facing acute anaemia in 1970-80s. Due to lack of resources to take nation-wide medicine based intervention, it started to think outside the box. The health authorities in Mongolia started promoting 'Iron based' utensils to cook. It was even linked to religion to motivate people to do so. Within a year of this, anaemia levels dropped drastically. These iron

intent is 'little by little' did their magic.

However, there are times when 'a single drop' cannot cause 'flood'. Especially during the periods of droughts. Sometimes, we need heavy precipitation to bring relief. Let us take Gender Gap Report for instance.

According to it, we need 137 years to bring gender parity ^{at} ~~in business~~ the present day progress. Here, 'small improvements' cannot be a solution. What we need is a massive intervention to cause the flood of equality.

~~similar is the case of~~

But it does not dilute the wisdom of taking small efforts for bigger changes. Similarly, the application of this principle in a negative way can also not be disregarded. Such



an awareness for this principle can be raised in following ways:-

firstly, thinking with a long-term vision. We should recognize the impact of our every action on our long term agenda.

secondly, we need to adopt zero tolerance policy for even seemingly micro incidents. Incidents like abuse, ~~the~~ exploitation etc. cannot be ignored.

Nextly, let us ^{start} celebrating our micro wins. After all it is these small moment of triumphs that motivate us to run a life-long marathon.

To conclude, 'a single drop' is never ~~a~~ small enough to be not 'attributed' ~~as~~ to a flood. This flood magnifies in the direction from which it is fed - thus is a double



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edged sword. We humans have the power of ~~our~~ joining our hands to make this world - a better or a worse place.

Coming back to Bandipur Tiger Reserve in 2019. This time again a group of IT Engineers were visiting this pristine forest for a weekend getaway. They also did take 'a small effort' an effort to clean the area of plastics in which they were camping. In a few hours they collected 20kg of waste. A few days later their story was printed in almost all leading newspapers. They were asked what motivated them to clean the forest? One of them replied -

“Boond Boond se Bharata Sagar”

(“Oceans are formed with tiny drops”)

Their efforts ~~of~~ was a ~~pledge~~^{plea} for

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citizens of Bengaluru to take small efforts to clean our forests especially in aftermath of Bandipur fires 2018. But it certainly can be applied to a larger human world. After all, there are 8 billions of us - we can certainly cause a flood of change for a better tomorrow if each of us take/make that single drop !