

NEXT IAS

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MAIN TEST SERIES 2024 (AIM)

(To be filled by candidate)

TEST CODE : AIM2404

TEST NO. : 04

(Please write test code printed on Question Paper)

Name of Candidate: RITIKA CHITLANGIA Mobile No. [REDACTED]Roll No.: AIM24GCRA 075 Start Time 3:15 pm End Time 6:22 pmDate of Examination: 2/8/24 Medium : English ☒ Hindi ☐

Q.No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
TOTAL MARKS - 100		

Q.No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	
TOTAL MARKS - 150		

GRAND TOTAL :/250

EVAL CODE: EVAL DATE:

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Immediately on receipt of the QCA booklet, please check that this QCA booklet does not have any misprint or torn or missing pages or items, etc. If so, get it replaced by a fresh QCA booklet.
2. Candidates must mention all relevant details like Name, Email, Roll No, Mobile, etc. in the space allocated.
3. Candidate is expected to attempt all 20 questions within the given timeline.
4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized at the time of admission.
5. Candidates must write answers for the specific question under the respective question itself. Any answer written outside the space allotted may not be given credit.
6. Please write neatly. Avoid illegible writing.
7. Do not write/mark irrelevant matters in the QCAB.

सामान्य निर्देश

1. QCA पुस्तिका प्राप्त होने पर कृपया तुरंत जांच लें कि इस QCA पुस्तिका में कोई पृष्ठ या सामग्री आदि गलत छपी हुई या फटी हुई या गायब तो नहीं है। यदि ऐसा है, तो इसे एक नई QCA पुस्तिका से बदल लें।
2. अभ्यर्थियों को सभी प्रासंगिक विवरण जैसे नाम, ईमेल, रोल नंबर, मोबाइल नंबर आदि का आवंटित स्थान पर उल्लेख करना होगा।
3. अभ्यर्थियों से अपेक्षा की जाती है कि वह आवंटित समय-सीमा के भीतर ही सभी 20 प्रश्नों के उत्तर-लेखन का प्रयास करें।
4. प्रत्येक उत्तर, प्रवेश के समय चुनी गयी भाषा के माध्यम में ही लिखे जाने चाहिए।
5. अभ्यर्थियों को विशिष्ट प्रश्न के उत्तर संबंधित प्रश्न के नीचे ही लिखने होंगे। आवंटित स्थान के बाहर लिखे गए किसी भी उत्तर को क्रेडिट नहीं दिया जाएगा।
6. कृपया साफ-सुथरा लिखें। अपठनीय लेखन से बचें।
7. QCAB में अप्रासंगिक तथ्यों को न लिखें / न ही चिह्नित करें।

REMARKS:

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

<u>Student Concerns / Query</u>	<u>Evaluator's Feedback / Response</u>
1	1
.....	
.....	
2	2
.....	
.....	
3	3
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<u>MARKING SCHEME *</u>			
Marks Per Ques	Below Average	Average	Above Average
10 Marks	Below 3.00	3.00 - 3.75	4.00 and above
15 Marks	Below 4.50	4.50 - 5.75	6.00 and above

* Subject to change without prior notice.

<u>IMPORTANT QR CODES</u>	
 Topper's Copy	 Common mistake and Correct Filled QCAB
 Copy Scanner App	 Next IAS Test Centre Location

MACRO COMMENTS

The Purpose of evaluation@nextias.com is to provide constructive suggestions on 'How to improve Answer Writing and thereby score better marks.

STRENGTHS OF THE CANDIDATE

AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT



IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTIONS

Q.1 नागरिक समाज संगठनों और सरकारी संस्थाओं के मध्य साझेदारी भारत के विकास लक्ष्यों में किस प्रकार योगदान देती है? (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

How do partnerships between Civil Society Organizations and Government entities contribute to India's development goals? (10 marks, 150 words)

Effective governance involves partnerships between civil society and government institutions, to ensure quality service delivery.

Partnerships and development goals

1) Helps address governance gaps
→ ensures last mile delivery of goods and services!

Eg: Akshay Patra helps with mid-meal delivery.

2) Awareness and advocacy
→ civil society groups helps to ensure information dissemination.

Eg: Association for Democratic

rights increases awareness about political workings.

3) Accountability and transparency
→ civil society organisations
use RTI to ensure clean
governance.

Eg: Paani Foundations RTI to
improve watershed management
in drought prone areas.

4) civil society groups help in
communicating the needs of
community.

Eg: ASER survey and Pratham
helps to display educational
disparities.

Lacuna

1) low levels of awareness &
penetration about civil society.

2) Mis governance of civil society
funds.

3) Lack of technical expertise.
civil societies are

Nevertheless,
important to ensure SDG 17,
and effective and efficient governance.

Q.2 भारतीय सिविल सेवकों में आजीवन सीखने की संस्कृति विकसित करने के महत्व पर चर्चा करें। मिशन कर्मयोगी ने इस उद्देश्य में किस प्रकार योगदान दिया है? उदाहरणों के साथ स्पष्ट करें। (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

Discuss the importance of cultivating a culture of life-long learning among Indian civil servants. How has Mission Karmyogi contributed to this objective? Illustrate with examples.

(10 marks, 150 words)

A civil servant needs to grow throughout their professional and personal life, to improve their competencies, and Mission Karmyogi is a key medium for that.

Importance of life-long learning culture in civil services

1) Ensures that bureaucracy remains responsive to public needs.

Eg: Digital penetration $\Rightarrow$ updated and upskilled bureaucracy.

2) Life-long learning ensures that efficiency, effectiveness and prudence increases.

Eg: Covid control situations $\Rightarrow$ dynamic responses.

3) Helps to reduce wastages,

leakages and streamline use of resources.

4) civil services will become ethical, conscious and reflective.

Eg: Mumbai blast $\Rightarrow$ RDX brought into city for $\text{₹}50$ bike $\Rightarrow$ needs to learn from such cases.

5) Life-long learning improves intra-department work culture.

6) keeps curiosity and scope for improvement and innovation alive.

Eg: 'Sweekanti' launched for transgender by IAS Manchal Rana.

Ways to improve culture of learning

- $\rightarrow$ Efficiency trainings through Kaunayagi
- $\rightarrow$ lateral entries
- $\rightarrow$ public feedback channels
- $\rightarrow$ Performance-based promotions.

Therefore, culture of life long learning will keep the bureaucracy engaged, responsive and accountable.

Q.3 ई-शासन केवल दक्षता के संबंध में नहीं है; यह प्रत्येक नागरिक के लिए शासन व्यवस्था को सुलभ और समावेशी बनाने के संबंध में है। व्याख्या करें। (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

E-governance is not just about efficiency; it's about making governance accessible and inclusive for every citizen. Explain. (10 marks, 150 words)

E-governance refers to the application of ICT in governance and digitising the functions of service delivery and grievance redressal.

Efficiency

- 1) Reduces the resources required for governance $\Rightarrow$ paperless etc.
- 2) Reduces corruption and mis utilisation of funds $\Rightarrow$ reduces human interface.
Eg: My Gov platform.
- 3) Reduces bureaucratic delays and improves efficiency.
Eg: live tracking of file movement.

Accessibility

- 1) Delivers services to remote areas $\Rightarrow$ 'Antyodaya' model of development.
Eg: SWAYAM & DIKSHA platform

for remote collaboration.

2) Digitised storage of beneficiaries $\Rightarrow$ avoids human error

3) Digital penetration through e-gov has reduced distance between community and governance.

Eg: live courts, telemedicine etc.

Inclusivity

1) Targets the minority and vulnerable population.

Eg: COWIN $\Rightarrow$ immunisation of children
UWIN

2) Helps in grievance redressal of the weaker sections.

Eg: CPCGRAMS.

3) Removes scope for political biases in service delivery.

therefore, effective e-governance has the potential to make democratic and clean governance.

Q.4

अत्यधिक गरीबी को कम करने में भारत की प्रगति को देखते हुए, क्या देश को वर्तमान सामाजिक-आर्थिक वास्तविकताओं को बेहतर ढंग से दर्शाने के लिए अपनी गरीबी रेखा को फिर से परिभाषित करने पर विचार करना चाहिए? गरीबी रेखा को फिर से परिभाषित करने से जुड़े संभावित लाभों और चुनौतियों पर चर्चा करें। (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

Given India's strides in reducing extreme poverty, should the country consider redefining its poverty line to better reflect the current socio-economic realities? Discuss the potential benefits and challenges associated with redefinition of the poverty line. (10 marks, 150 words)

At present, India uses the Tendulkar committee's MRP system for defining poverty, but it needs to be reconsidered given the changing socio-economic landscape.

Strides in Reducing Poverty

income-based poverty has reduced from 45% in 1951 to 23% in 2022 (NITI Aayog), with nearly 14 million people coming out of poverty.

Potential for changing Poverty line Estimates

Need / Benefits

1) Poverty is a holistic concept.
→ income-based poverty is only one aspect ⇒ broader dimension to address levels of poverty.

- 2) Tendulkar committee uses
fixed reference period system $\Rightarrow$
not complete picture.
- 3) Outdated poverty basket goods
- 4) Inflation variations across
regions $\Rightarrow$ supply-demand
mismatch $\Rightarrow$ uniform poverty
estimates do not work.

Challenges

- 1) Policy direction will need to
change to cater to multi-dimensional
poverty values.
 - 2) International image may be
hurt due to revised metrics.
 - 3) Lack of political will $\Rightarrow$ hurt
the incumbent's policy projections.
 - 4) Statistical issues due to lack of
updated census data.
- India needs to consider Kangarajan
committee's policy estimates
of using MMRP system, along
with regional inflation estimates.

- Q.5 103वें संवैधानिक संशोधन के निहितार्थों का आकलन करें, जिसने भारत में सामाजिक न्याय के सिद्धांत पर आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्गों (ईडब्ल्यूएस) के लिए दस प्रतिशत आरक्षण की शुरुआत की है। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दें) 10 अंक
Assess the implications of the 103rd Constitutional Amendment, which introduced a ten per cent reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), on the principle of social justice in India. (10 marks, 150 words)

In the Jankit Abhiyaan case 2019, the Supreme Court upheld the validity of 103rd constitutional Amendment, giving 10% reservation to Economically weaker section.

Implications on principle of Social Justice

Positive implications

1) Addressed the 'class-based' inequalities, rather than caste-based.

2) Nearly 25% of India's population still lives below poverty line

→ ensure representation of EWS in education and employment avenues.

3) Upholds constitution equality

and social justice :

- recognises the weakness of low income groups.
 - vicious circle of poverty and low productivity
 - encourages participation and equality of opportunity.
- 4) upholds Article 14 ⇒ Equality before law & equal protection of laws, Article 46 ⇒ upliftment of weaker sections.

Negatives

- 1) Entrenches class based discrimination
 - 2) reservation stigmas to the EWS category.
 - 3) misuse of EWS certificates ⇒ frauds.
 - 4) issues of income criteria to determine EWS status.
- Nevertheless, 103rd CAA upholds and entrenches social justice and constitutional morality.

Q.6

भारत में कल्याणकारी योजनाओं का ध्यान "कल्याण" से छति-निर्भरता की ओर स्थानांतरित हो रहा है। इसके आलोक में, क्या आप इस बात से सहमत हैं कि कल्याणकारी योजनाओं ने भारत में "मुफ्त की संस्कृति" को जन्म दिया है, जिससे गरीबी और भूख उन्मूलन से ध्यान भटक गया है? (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

The focus of welfare schemes in India is shifting from "well-being" towards "over-dependency". In light of this, do you agree that welfare schemes have inculcated a "freebies culture" in India leading to a divergence of focus from poverty and hunger alleviation?

(10 marks, 150 words)

Welfare schemes give meaning to the
Directive Principles of State Policy.
but lately, their focus has
shifted from 'well-being' to
'over-dependency'.

Shift in Focus of Welfare schemes

1) Public Distribution system ⇒
PM-Govt's Kalyan Yojana has
made the food grains indefinitely
free of cost.

2) MGNREGA ⇒ the focus has
shifted from temporary livelihood
provision to dependency on
unskilled manual work.

'Freebies culture' creation and
Divergence of focus

1) lack of political will to maintain populist spending.

Eg: Andhra Pradesh $\Rightarrow$ Anna Vada
breakfast scheme $\Rightarrow$ free food.

Lakshmi Sidi, Ladli Bihra $\Rightarrow$ cash transfers.

2) Electoral benefits $\Rightarrow$ Eg: retrospective application of PM-KISAN

Shift in spending:

1) The fiscal deficit increases due to populist freebie culture $\Rightarrow$ less resources for welfare-skill schemes.

2) cultivates over-dependency rather than empowerment.

Therefore, need of the hour is to stabilise the poor, upskill them and ensure the reduction of

beneficiary base of welfare schemes by generating productive employment.

- Q.7 प्रमुख पश्चिमी देशों के साथ गहरे होते राजनीतिक मतभेदों का वैश्विक शासन व्यवस्था और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग पर पड़ने वाले प्रभाव का मूल्यांकन करें। वैश्विक मंच पर अपने राष्ट्रीय हितों को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए भारत को इन मतभेदों से किस प्रकार निपटना चाहिए? (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

Evaluate the impact of the deepening political divisions within the major Western States on global governance and international cooperation. How should India navigate these divisions to advance its national interests on the global stage? (10 marks, 150 words)

The geopolitical dimensions of the western world are increasing getting fragmented and polarised, creating a diplomatic tightrope for India.

Impact of political divisions on global governance & cooperation

- 1) Outlook on war → division between Democrats and Republicans of USA; conservative & Labour of UK; extremist right wing of Hungary → Eg: Russia-Ukraine war response.
- 2) Debates on climate change and funding → Eg: Republican USA denies cc and funding provisions may be impacted.
- 3) Data privacy and security

issues etc

4) Rising hate crimes and secular divisions.

Eg: Different response of UK-USA on Kashmir issue.

Navigation by India

1) Deepening bilateral relations with individual state actors.

Eg: PM Modi visits to Russia & USA.

2) Improving people to people connect and hardening soft power to reduce chances of political impact.

3) Strengthening economic exports by market diversification to create non-negotiable position on global forums.

4) Espousing values-based and ethical leadership at international fora to gain credibility.

Thus, India can balance the growing divisions by diversifying its engagements.

- Q.8 भारत की आर्कटिक नीति उसके व्यापक विदेश नीति के उद्देश्यों के साथ किस प्रकार संरेखित है? आर्कटिक परिषद के साथ भारत द्वारा किए गए सहयोगों और समझौतों पर व्यापक रूप से चर्चा करें। (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)
How does India's Arctic Policy align with its broader foreign policy objectives? Broadly discuss the collaborations and agreements India is involved in with the Arctic Council. (10 marks, 150 words)

India's Arctic Policy is based on mutual respect for sovereignty, sustainability and shared responsibility, following India's foreign policy objectives.

Alignment of Arctic Policy & Foreign Policy

- 1) mutual respect for sovereignty ⇒ India wants equitable and peaceful sovereignty discussions.
- 2) Involvement of India-led regionalism in Arctic ⇒ seat at discussion table.
- 3) shared cooperation to develop the resources of the arctic.
- 4) Sustainability and welfare of humanity.

Collaborations in Arctic

- Arctic council $\Rightarrow$ 8 members
- 1) Investments in Russia's far-east by India $\Rightarrow$ hydrocarbons etc
 - 2) Use of Northern sea route by India $\Rightarrow$ 25% of India's cargo handled by Murmansk port.
 - 3) India's research stations ~~time~~ Himadri in Norway.
 - 4) India's green partnership with Scandinavian countries.
Eg: lead it with Sweden.
 - 5) Collaboration of NASA (USA) and ISRO (India) for polar satellites.

Therefore, India is deepening its presence in Arctic, and ensures its national interest in this new frontier for mankind.

- Q.9 QUAD, AUKUS, I2U2 आदि जैसे नए क्षेत्रीय और बहुपक्षीय समझौतों के आगमन के साथ, गुट निरपेक्ष आन्दोलन (NAM), दावोस और G77 जैसे संगठनों द्वारा प्रतिनिधित्व की जाने वाली पुरानी वैश्विक व्यवस्था अपनी प्रासंगिकता खो रही है। चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

With the advent of new regional and multilateral agreements like QUAD, AUKUS, I2U2 etc the old world order represented by organizations like NAM, Davos, and G77 is losing its relevance. Discuss. (10 marks, 150 words)

The dynamism of geopolitics is reflected in temporal alliances, and emergence of QUAD, AUKUS, I2U2 reflects the changing alliances of global order.

Relevance of new multilateral Agreements

1) contemporary threats necessitates the alliances with new partners.

Eg: India - USA ⇒ estranged democracies to natural allies to contain chinese threat ⇒ QUAD, blue dot etc.

2) changing geopolitical realities

Eg: Middle East ⇒ coming together of Israel, Saudi, UAE ⇒ I2U2

3) Defense diversification and national interest. Eg: AUKUS submarine deal.

Losing Relevance of old world order organisations

1) NAM $\Rightarrow$ product of cold war $\Rightarrow$ end of cold war $\Rightarrow$ little relevance for NAM in geopolitics.

2) G-77 $\Rightarrow$ G-20 has replaced G-77 due to diverging interests, overlapping conflicts and redundant objectives.

3) Davos $\Rightarrow$ inclusion of multiple stakeholders but deepening divergence of interests leads to reduced efficiency.

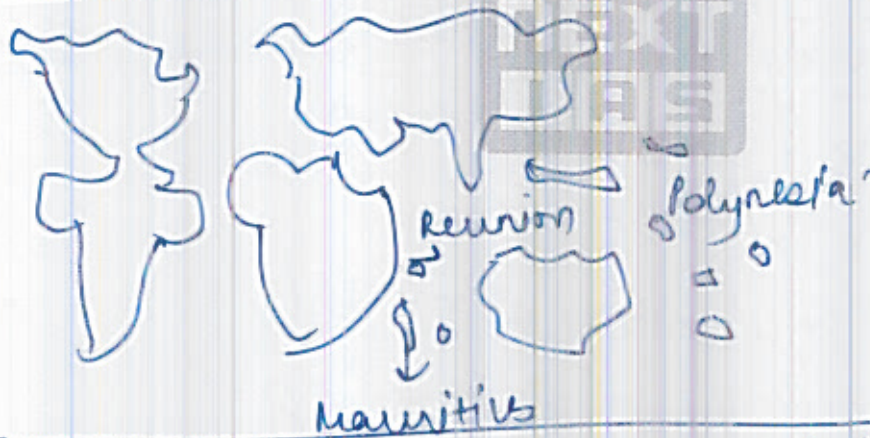
Nonetheless, stakeholder involvement through NAM, Davos etc. still provides space for cooperation, global governance and conflict resolution.

- Q.10 दक्षिण प्रशांत से अफ्रीकी तट तक के द्वीपीय राज्य और क्षेत्र भारत के बदलते रणनीतिक भूगोल में नए केंद्र बन गए हैं। इस संदर्भ में, भारत के लिए इन द्वीपीय राज्यों के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालें और इन राज्यों के साथ संबंधों को मजबूत करने के लिए भारत द्वारा की गई पहलों पर भी प्रकाश डालें। (150 शब्द, 10 अंक)

The island states and territories from the South Pacific to the African coast have become new nodes in India's changing strategic geography. In this context, highlight the importance of these island states for India and also throw light upon the initiatives taken by India to strengthen ties with these states. (10 marks, 150 words)

Islands are the new centres of power, and have set off a geopolitical race for cooperation and engagements.

Importance of island states for India



- 1) Location ⇒ vantage points for Indian Ocean (African islands), Pacific Ocean (Polynesian islands).
- 2) Securing sea lanes of communication
 Eg: Socotra Island ⇒ Persian Gulf
 Mauritius ⇒ Indian Ocean
 Tuvalu ⇒ Pacific Ocean

3) climate change impact $\Rightarrow$ small islands will be the points of suffering.

4) countering china $\Rightarrow$ Eg: china's 99 year lease of colombo's port, military presence in Djibouti etc.

Initiatives taken by India

1) Development of air strip in Mauritius and Madagascar islands.

2) opening up of MT-Zanzibar, Tanzanian island coast.

3) Development aid to Tuvalu in wake of tsunami of 2022.

4) Health services and covid-19 vaccines to Papua New Guinea.

5) Setting up of military presence in the French Reunion Islands and USA's Diego Garcia.

Therefore, India needs to step up its collaboration with island states to its frontiers.

- Q.11 सतत विकास लक्ष्यों (SDGs) की प्राप्ति के लिए क्षेत्रीय संदर्भ और स्थानीय परिस्थितियों पर विचार करना आवश्यक है। इस कथन के आलोक में जमीनी स्तर पर विकास और सतत विकास को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए उत्प्रेरक के रूप में पंचायतों की भूमिका का परीक्षण करें। (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)
- Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals requires consideration of regional context and local situations. In light of this statement examine the role of Panchayats as catalysts for grassroots development and advancing sustainable development. (15 marks, 250 words)

Sustainable Development Goals are the list of economic, social and political aspirations of 21st century which needs the involvement of Panchayats for fulfilment.

Regional contexts and local situations for SDG implementation

1) Economic differences

Eg: Gujarat and Bihar have different macro-economic conditions.

2) Geographic variations

Eg: Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh will not deal with climate change in same manner.

3) social and demographic differences.

Eg: UP and Kerala have different demographic challenges.

4) Rural-Urban divide.

Eg: Delhi and Sikkim have different SDG priorities.

Role of Panchayats : Grass root development and sustainable development

1) Analysing the economic micro-variations and respective resource potential.

Eg: SDG-1 $\Rightarrow$ No poverty.

(UP) $\Rightarrow$ Agriculture
(Andhra Pradesh) $\Rightarrow$ Aquaculture.

2) Panchayats can involve community and stakeholders for 'needs' based development.

Eg: Dongria Kondh's protest against mining in Niyamgiri hills $\Rightarrow$ Panchayat efforts for SDG-14.

3) help in grievance redressal and local communication.

Eg: Schedule 546 $\Rightarrow$ N.E $\Rightarrow$ protests against dam construction.

4) Panchayats can lead to political empowerment and democratic decision making.

Eg: Dungarpur Social Audit of MGNREGS & A $\Rightarrow$ Partnerships for development (SDG-17).

Lacuna in current Panchayat system

- 1) Lack of funds and revenue generation sources.
- 2) Lack of functional autonomy and manpower resources.
- 3) Lack of communication and involvement in policy making.
- 4) Stage of international representation.

Therefore, for SDG fulfillment, empowerment of funds, functions and functionaries is very important at Panchayat level.

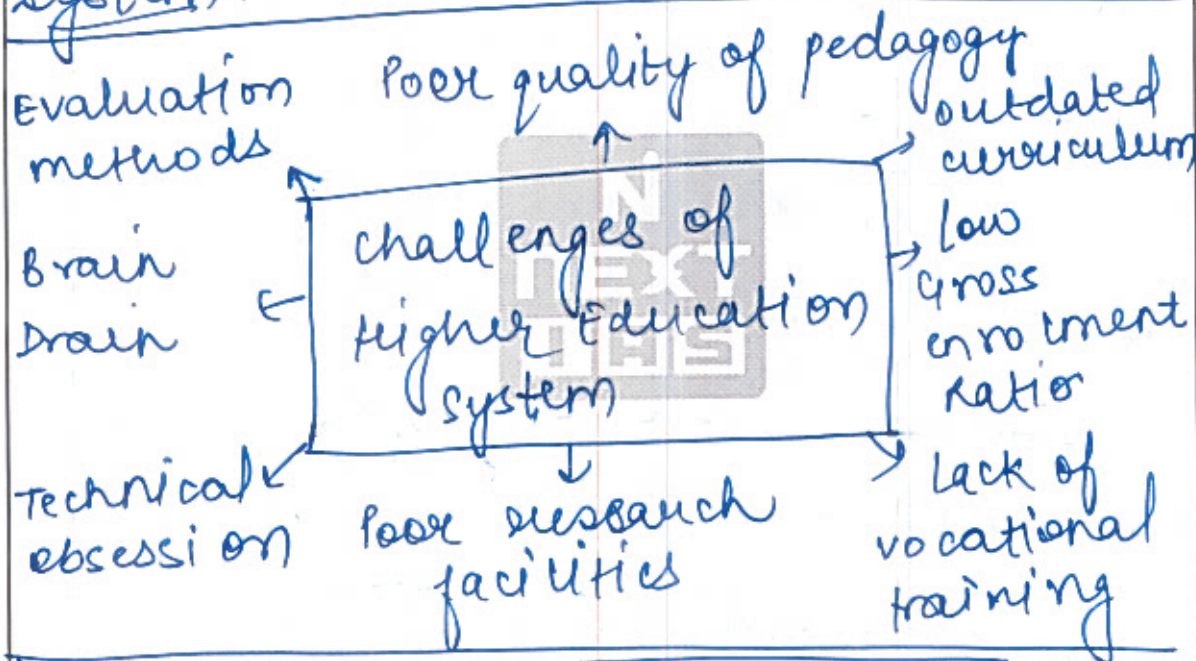
Q.12 भारत की उच्च शिक्षा प्रणाली को वैश्विक मानकों के अनुरूप बनाने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण सुधारों की आवश्यकता है। नई शिक्षा नीति (एनईपी) 2020 का लक्ष्य इन चुनौतियों का समाधान करना किस प्रकार है, और भारत अपनी उच्च शिक्षा प्रणाली को बढ़ावा देने के लिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रथाओं से क्या सबक सीख सकता है? चर्चा कीजिए।

(250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

India's higher education system needs significant reforms to align with global standards. How does the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aim to address these challenges, and what lessons can India learn from international practices to enhance its higher education system? Discuss.

(15 marks, 250 words)

India's graduate employability is only 47%, which reflects the deficits in higher education system.



Reforms Needed for Higher Education

- 1) High quality pedagogy, with updated curriculums and learning outcomes.
- 2) Diversification of courses and stream configuration dynamicity

- 3) New methods of evaluation to improve critical thinking.
- 4) Addressing skill gap by bridging the industry-academia needs.

Role of New Education Policy 2020

- 1) Outcome-based learning parameters
Eg: NCF and Jadui Pitara
- 2) Inclusion of vocational trainings
to increase employability.
- 3) Multilinguism in higher education institutes $\Rightarrow$ textbooks in local languages.
- 4) Values-based learning of love, humanity, peace, truth etc $\Rightarrow$ ethical education.

Lessons from International Practices

- 1) Dynamic classrooms and teaching environments

Eg: Field surveys, interviews etc.

2) Intellectual discussions between teacher and student $\Rightarrow$ makes learning 2 way.

3) Freedom to select courses and multi-disciplinary interactions.

4) Focus on practical holistic evaluations instead of rote-learning.

Eg: UK's $\Rightarrow$ Learning on Field Evaluation.

5) Transparent and autonomous governance of higher education institutes.

Eg: USA $\Rightarrow$ 'Giving voice to values' $\Rightarrow$ calls out unethical behaviour.

Therefore, to improve India's rank in international education and increase inter-operability of work force, higher education reforms imperative.

- Q.13 सूचना का अधिकार (आरटीआई) अधिनियम को भारतीय शासन में पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही की तलाश में परिवर्तनकारी प्रभाव के लिए सराहा जाता है। हालाँकि, बहुआयामी चुनौतियाँ और प्रणालीगत सीमाएँ इसके प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन में बाधा डालती हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही इसके प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन के लिए उपाय भी सुझाइये। (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)
- The Right to Information (RTI) Act is hailed for its transformative impact on the quest for transparency and accountability in Indian governance. However, multifaceted challenges and systemic limitations impede its effective implementation. Discuss. Also, suggest measures for its effective implementation. (15 marks, 250 words)

The Right to Information Act, 2005, fulfils the fundamental right under article 21, and ensures transparent and accountable governance.

Impact of RTI

- 1) Transparency - openness and free flow of information.
Eg: 40-60 thousand RTI's between 2015-2020 (CIC).
- 2) Accountability ⇒ improves the answerability of government.
Eg: MGNREGA irregularities.
- 3) Effective and efficient governance.
- 4) Reduces corruption and leakages.
- 5) Infills judicial scrutiny to late RTI reply etc ⇒ improves

checks and balances.

Challenges to RTI

1) Colonial legacy of secrecy is a systemic resistance to RTI.

Eg: official secrets Act.

2) Political targeting of RTI activists $\Rightarrow$ death of (86)

RTI activists since 1999 (Pew survey).

3) Questions on the autonomy of Chief Information Commission.

$\Rightarrow$ RTI Amendment Act, 2019 $\Rightarrow$ appointment of CIC with executive.

4) CIC lacks suo-moto powers of investigation.

5) Exemptions $\Rightarrow$ political parties.

Eg: PM CARES $\Rightarrow$ outside the RTI.
provision of

Measures for Improvement to RTI

- 1) close the gap between exemptions of certain bodies from RTI provisions $\Rightarrow$ expansive coverage.
- 2) Revoking the 'oath of secrecy' and 'Official Secrets Act' to remove perception of top-down governance.
- 3) Improving awareness of civil society to effectively utilise RTI.
- 4) Strengthening of legal frameworks like RTI, Whistleblower Protection Act.
- 5) Ensuring the autonomy, efficiency and independence of CIC.

Hence, RTI is the tool for moving away from darkness of misinformation, towards the dawn of transparency.

- Q.14 भारत में स्वास्थ्य समानता की सतत चुनौतियाँ सार्वभौमिक स्वास्थ्य कवरेज प्राप्त करने में एक गंभीर बाधा उत्पन्न करती हैं। इस संदर्भ में ग्रामीण और शहरी क्षेत्रों में पर्याप्त स्वास्थ्य पहुँच और परिणाम सुनिश्चित करने में सार्वजनिक और निजी क्षेत्रों की भूमिका पर चर्चा करें। (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

The persistent health equity challenges in India pose a critical barrier to achieving Universal Health Coverage. In this context discuss the role of the public and private sectors in ensuring adequate health access and outcomes across rural and urban areas. (15 marks, 250 words)

Universal health coverage refers to the provision of quality health services, without financial hardships, to all the beneficiaries.

Health Equity challenges and impact on Universal Healthcare

- 1) Geographical challenges ⇒ difficult to deliver health service to remote areas. Eg: North-East.
- 2) Rural-urban divide ⇒ primary healthcare services are weak in rural areas ⇒ only 43% coverage (NAHS-5).
- 3) Male-female divide ⇒ Females have low iron, B12, prone to respiratory diseases.

cancer etc.

4) Per-capita income variations $\Rightarrow$ across the economic north-south states.

5) Tribal disparities $\Rightarrow$ High degree of prevalence of sickle cell diseases among tribals.

6) Vulnerable sections $\Rightarrow$ LTG+, elderly, persons with disabilities etc.

Role of Private sector in Equal Health-Access (R-U)

1) Linkage of salaries and promotions to serving mandatorily in rural areas for some period.

2) Providing cheaper diagnostic services in mobile health-vans to rural areas.

3) Investments and research in cheaper medicines, life saving treatments etc to improve

affordability for rural poor.

- 4) Providing infrastructure for tele-health services.

Role of Public Sector

- 1) Improving capacity of primary health services.

Eg: Improving pay & conditions of service for ASHA workers.

- 2) Mandatory legal frameworks for rural postings of doctors.

Eg: Karnataka's Doctor Day Out initiative.

- 3) Free healthcare to SC/ST/women/PWD etc. in rural areas.

Eg: Gujarat's Chiranjeevi Yojana

- 4) Right to Health ⇒ Fundamental Right.

Eg: Rajasthan's ⇒ Right to Health Bill.

Thus, to ensure SDG-1, 3, 5, universal healthcare is imperative for a democracy like India.

- Q.15 भारत में बाल अधिकारों और कल्याण पर पोक्सो (POCSO) अधिनियम के क्या निहितार्थ हैं? बाल संरक्षण के लिए भारत के विधिक ढांचे को परिवर्तित करने में POCSO अधिनियम की भूमिका का विश्लेषण करें।

(250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

What are the implications of the POCSO Act on the rights and welfare of children in India? Analyze the role of the POCSO Act in transforming India's legal framework for child protection.

(15 marks, 250 words)

The Prevention of child sexual offences Act, 2012 is the epitome of child well-being and it transformed the legal framework for child protection.

Implications of POCSO on rights and welfare of children

Positives

- 1) POCSO has made child sexual/physical abuse cognisable, non-compoundable, non-bailable offence $\Rightarrow$ gravity to child protection.
- 2) Protection of child rights by ensuring that offenders have no chance for protection.

- 3) Rehabilitation of victims $\Rightarrow$
protects anonymity and ensures
sensitive legal proceedings.
- 4) POCSO awareness has penetrated
to remote rural areas $\Rightarrow$
vigilance and development of
awareness against child abuse.

Negatives

- 1) low conviction rates due to
bureaucratically lengthy
procedures $\Rightarrow$ only 20% conviction
rate under POCSO. (NCPCR).
- 2) Weakness of National Commission
for Protection of Child Rights to
implement POCSO.
- 3) POCSO recognises adult as 18 years
 $\Rightarrow$ criminalisation of consensual
sexual relations below 18 years
of age.

4) Procedural irregularities due to corruption and victim stigmatisation.

Role of POCSO in transforming legal framework

- 1) legal intolerance of state policy against child sexual abuse.
- 2) strengthened the corollary acts like CARA, NCP CR etc.
- 3) Raised discussions about the consensual sex discourse in schools, colleges etc.
- 4) POCSO has led to empowerment of weaker & vulnerable sections.

Therefore, POCSO, despite its limitations, remains the shining pillar of protection of child rights in India.

- Q.16 ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों की तुलना में शहरी क्षेत्रों में स्वयं सहायता समूहों (एसएचजी) को मिलने वाली अनूठी चुनौतियों और अवसरों पर चर्चा कीजिए, और शहरी गरीबी से निपटने के लिए सूक्ष्म ऋण को किस प्रकार अनुकूलित किया जा सकता है। (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

Discuss the unique challenges and opportunities Self Help Groups (SHGs) encounter in urban areas compared to rural ones, and how can microfinance be adapted to tackle urban poverty.

(15 marks, 250 words)

Rural Urban divide has manifested itself in the operation of self-help groups in urban areas, but microfinance can be a viable tool for tackling urban poverty.

~~challenges~~
~~opportunities~~ of SHG's in urban areas

1) Lack of awareness about SHG concept → even in academic circles, SHG's are seen in context of rural areas.

2) Lack of inter-community cohesion and social closeness in urban areas.

3) Lack of trust between the over-populated, overstrained urban community.

4) lack of microfinance institutions in urban areas $\Rightarrow$ microfinance is usually directed towards rural areas

5) Lack of community meeting spaces, high cost of living, class-barriers etc. impede urban SHG development.

Opportunities for Urban SHGs

1) Product diversification options due to vast demands of urban lifestyles.

2) Better marketing support, visibility, online presence etc. $\Rightarrow$ Eg: ONDC faster information dissemination.

3) Better linkages and transport connections to reduce logistic costs, cater to diverse markets etc $\Rightarrow$ scope for growth is better in urban areas.

- 4) Heterogeneous demographic composition of SHG $\Rightarrow$ better exchange of ideas.

Role of Microfinance in Urban Poverty Reduction

- 1) Targeting the homeless and slum dwellers to form SHG's and access microfinance for income-generation.
- 2) Low risk loans will help augment the pressures of high cost of living.
- 3) Microfinance can help urban women $\Rightarrow$ trapped in patriarchal class mindsets.
- 4) Resource diversification to help support main income.
- 5) Help address problem of urban underemployment.

Thus, the concept of SHG's and microfinance can be replicated in urban areas for social justice and equitable development.

- Q.17 अमेरिका और भारत के मध्य राजनयिक संबंधों के सन्दर्भ में मानवाधिकार संबंधी मुद्दों और लोकतांत्रिक मूल्यों के प्रभाव का परीक्षण करें। इन विंताओं ने द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को किस प्रकार प्रभावित किया है तथा इन मुद्दों से उत्पन्न तनाव को कम करने के लिए क्या किया जा सकता है? (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

Examine the influence of human rights issues and democratic values on the diplomatic relationship between the U.S. and India. How have these concerns affected bilateral engagements and what can be done to mitigate tensions arising from these issues? (15 marks, 250 words)

USA and India encapsulate the soul of democratic values, deriving their moral authority from being the oldest and largest democracies, respectively.

Influence of human rights issues
in Indo - USA relations

- 1) Similarity of political ideologies based on democracy and constitutional morality.
- 2) Respect for diverse minority communities.

Eg: Blacks in USA; Muslims in India.

however, there are certain divergences in Indo - USA bilateral engagements:

- 1) USA supports for Pakistan's attempt to internationalise Kashmir issues after independence.
- 2) India's support for the #Black Lives Matter campaign and police torture issues in USA.
- 3) Recently, American PM, Biden had raised the issue of human rights violations in Kashmir and Manipur.

Tensions:

- 1) Interference in internal matters.
- 2) USA's support towards Pakistan for the Kashmir issue distanced India & USA during the cold war.
- 3) Hampers investments and trade barriers.
- 4) Hurts India's image in the geopolitics of western hemisphere.

Mitigation of tensions

- 1) Respect for each other's sovereignty and internal matters.
- 2) Engaging in constructive dialogues to ensure amicable resolution of human rights issue.
- 3) Domestic autonomy to deal with internal issues.
- 4) Strengthening people to people, economic and defense relations to overcome disagreements about human rights issues.
- 5) Highlighting India's efforts to maintain peace and harmony in Kashmir & Manipur.

Thus, Indo-US relations are too precious to over-emphasise human rights issues, but respect for mutual sovereignty is necessary.

Q.18 वैश्विक उन्नति के बावजूद दक्षिण एशिया में भारत के समक्ष आने वाली भू-राजनीतिक चुनौतियों का परीक्षण करें। भारत अपने क्षेत्रीय नेतृत्व को मजबूत करने के लिए इन चुनौतियों का सामना किस प्रकार कर सकता है?

(250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

Examine the geopolitical challenges India faces in South Asia despite its global rise. How can India navigate these challenges to strengthen its regional leadership? (15 marks, 250 words)

India's rise in the South Asian realm has been magnificent, but despite the successes, several challenges still remain.

Challenges of India in South-Asia

1) Geopolitical

1) Countering the rise of China →
One Belt One Road → Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives etc.

2) Anti-India sentiment and 'Big Brother perception' →
Nepal and Maldives #India Out campaign.

3) Border and water disputes.
Eg: Bangladesh - Teesta river
Pakistan - Siachen, Kashmir etc.

Nepal - Upulekh, Susta

2) Geo-Economic

- 1) low levels of trade diversification
 ⇒ India-Bangladesh trade at \$12 Bn (highest in south Asia).
- 2) Flooding of chinese imports in South Asian markets.
- 3) Redundancy of South Asian Free Trade Agreement as a regional free trade association.
- 3) Pakistan Issue ⇒ hindrance for India to revive SAARC, proxy terrorism etc.
- 4) Political instability of neighbours
 Eg: Sri Lanka, Nepal ⇒ illegal immigrants.
- 5) low levels of economic development of South Asian countries.
- 6) Poor record of political liberalism and human rights violation.
 Eg: Myanmar

Ways to navigate challenges in South Asia

- 1) Re-emphasising Neighbourhood First Policy and Cujival Doctrine to ensure India-led development of South-Asia.
- 2) Economic linkages need to be deepened and diversified for overall growth.
Eg: Re-invigation of SAFTA & SAARC.
- 3) Countering China by giving concessions, non-interference in internal matters etc.
- 4) Humanitarian aid to improve India's soft power and people to people connect.

Eg: \$4 billion aid to Sri Lanka.

Thus, to ensure regional and national stability, South Asia needs to be India's top-most priority.

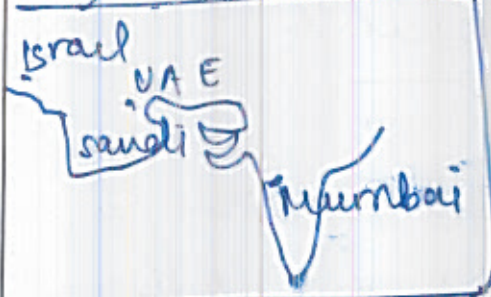
- Q.19 विश्व, विशेषकर पश्चिम के साथ भारत के संपर्क (कनेक्टिविटी) के लिए हाल ही में परिकल्पित भारत-मध्य पूर्व-यूरोप गलियारे के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालें। क्या आपको लगता है कि हाल के दिनों में भारत की विदेश नीति में परिवहन और ऊर्जा पहल को प्राथमिकता दी गई है? (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

Highlight the significance of the recently envisaged India-Middle East-Europe corridor for India's connectivity with the world, especially the West. Do you think, in recent times, transport and energy initiatives have taken precedence in India's foreign policy? (15 marks, 250 words)

The India - Middle East - Europe
Economic Corridor was launched
in G-20 summit with India,
Saudi, UAE, Israel and Western
Europe, USA.

Significance of IMEC in Connectivity

(A) India - Middle East



1) direct connectivity
to Persian Gulf,
UAE, Central Asian
republics etc.

2) Deepening trade and logistics
exchange with oil rich middle
East.

3) connectivity for defence exports
from Israel.

4) Hydrogen pipeline will lead

to energy security.

(B) Middle East - Western Europe

1) India's exports and imports will get a major push due to shortened distances.

2) connectivity with western-europe and USA $\Rightarrow$ defence support, infrastructure growth, increased investments.

Transport and Energy in India's Foreign Policy

(A) transport $\Rightarrow$ necessary to increase bilateral connect, exports, tourism, defence etc.

Eg: (i) International North-south transport corridor - connect to central Asia and Russia.

(ii) chabahat port $\Rightarrow$ open up Afghanistan (Heart of Asia).

(iii) Kaladan Multimodal Transport $\Rightarrow$
South-east Asia.

(iv) Asia-Africa growth corridor $\Rightarrow$
deepen Indo-japanese-African
connectivity

(B) Energy $\Rightarrow$ climate change, economic
security and diplomacy.

Eg: (i) International solar Alliance
and One Sun, One World
one grid

(ii) TAPI pipeline for gas imports

(iii) Indo-Bhutan-Nepal hydropower
plans. Eg: Mahakali Treaty.

(iv) Nuclear cooperation Agreements.

Therefore, transport and energy
are the new means of
geopolitical supremacy, and
India has so far performed
well to capture them.

- Q.20 राजनीतिक रूप से विवादास्पद मुद्दों में हालिया वृद्धि के बावजूद, भारत-कनाडा द्विपक्षीय संबंध लोकतंत्र, बहुलवाद, आर्थिक जुड़ाव के विस्तार और लंबे समय से चले आ रहे लोगों से लोगों के संबंधों के साझा मूल्यों के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं। भारत-कनाडा संबंध के महत्वपूर्ण स्तंभों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, भारत और कनाडा के मध्य सहयोग और सहभागिता के संभावित क्षेत्रों पर चर्चा करें। (250 शब्द, 15 अंक)

Despite the recent rise in politically contentious issues, the India-Canada bilateral relationship has remained committed to shared values of democracy, pluralism, expanding economic engagement and long-standing people-to-people ties. Highlighting the significant pillars of the India-Canada relationship, discuss the potential areas of cooperation and collaboration between India and Canada. (15 marks, 250 words)

India-Canada relations are
concretised by diaspora influence,
investments, democracy, trade
and vibrant cultural connect.

However, there are certain
politically contentious issues.

1) Canada's support to the
separatist Khalistan
movement against India.

2) The rising influence of
Khalistani leaders in Canadian
politics ⇒ support to the
ruling party ⇒ anti-India
stance.

3) Recent killings of Khalistani

leaders has raised suspensions on India.

- 4) suspension of visa services,
recall of diplomatic reps.

Pillars of India-Canada Relationship

- 1) shared political values of
democracy, representation,
pluralism etc - $\Rightarrow$ Natural allies.

- 2) Economic agent $\Rightarrow$ Canada is
India's 2nd largest trade
partner after USA, in North
America.

- 3) Diaspora and educational
migration of laks of Indian
students to Canada.

- 4) People to People ties $\Rightarrow$ celebration
of Baisakhi, Lohri in Canada.

Potential Areas of cooperation

- 1) Amicable resolution of political contentions to ensure respect for sovereignty.
- 2) Deepening India's interest in Arctic and mineral resources of Canadian islands.
eg: uranium in Canada.
- 3) Deepening of defence ties $\Rightarrow$ Canada can help India become a part of 5 eyes group.
- 4) Countering China by Canada-India's economic diversification and shared interests in Indo-Pacific.
- 5) Cultural connect $\Rightarrow$ sports, movies, songs etc.

Therefore, in 21st century, India and Canada cannot afford to let political issues weaken an otherwise strong bilateral connect.

NEXT IAS

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NEXT IAS

Space for Rough Work

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महत्वपूर्ण निर्देश	
अभ्यर्थियों को निम्नलिखित निर्देशों को ध्यानपूर्वक पढ़ना चाहिए। किसी भी निर्देश का उल्लंघन करने पर दण्डित किया जा सकता है।	
क्या न करें- 1. इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका के भीतर कहीं भी अपना नाम या पंजीकरण संख्या न लिखें। 2. अपनी QCA पुस्तिका में कहीं भी प्रश्नों के वास्तविक उत्तरों के अलावा कुछ भी न लिखें। 3. अपनी QCA पुस्तिका से कोई भी पृष्ठ न फाड़ें, यदि आपको कोई पृष्ठ गायब लगे, तो पर्यवेक्षक/निरीक्षक को सूचित करना न भूलें। 4. अपनी QCA पुस्तिका को अपनी टेबल पर न छोड़ें, परीक्षा समाप्त होने के पश्चात इसे निरीक्षक को सौंप देना चाहिए।	क्या करें- 1. कवर पृष्ठ पर दिए गए निर्देशों को ध्यान पूर्वक पढ़ें और उनका सख्ती से पालन करें। 2. QCA पुस्तिका के कवर पृष्ठ पर दिए गए स्थान पर अपना पंजीकरण नंबर और अन्य विवरण लिखें। 3. स्पष्ट और पठनीय तरीके से लिखें। खराब/अपठनीय लिखावट में न लिखें। 4. रफ नोट्स या गणना के लिए, इस पुस्तिका के अंतिम दो खाली पृष्ठों का उपयोग किया जाना चाहिए। रफ नोट्स को बाद में क्रॉस कर देना चाहिए। 5. यदि आप किसी कार्य को रद्द करना चाहते हैं, तो उस पर अपना पेन चलाएं या उस पर "रद्द" लिखें, अन्यथा उसका मूल्यांकन किया जा सकता है। 6. परीक्षा हॉल छोड़ने से पहले अपनी QCA पुस्तिका व्यक्तिगत रूप से निरीक्षक को सौंप दें।

ऑनलाइन सुविधा का लाभ उठाने वाले अभ्यर्थियों के लिए विशेष अनुरोध
1. QCA पुस्तिका को ठीक से स्कैन करें। हम चाहेंगे कि आप स्कैनिंग के लिए कैमस्कैनर ऐप (CAM SCANNER) का प्रयोग करें। (यह कोई प्रमोशन नहीं है)। 2. कृपया QCA पुस्तिका को पर्याप्त रोशनी में स्कैन करें। कम रोशनी में स्कैन की गई पुस्तिकाएं, उनके मूल्यांकन की गुणवत्ता को बाधित कर सकती हैं। 3. स्कैन के दौरान छाया वाले किसी भी पृष्ठ/पीडीएफ को फिर से स्कैन किया जाना चाहिए। कृपया सुनिश्चित करें कि आपके द्वारा अपलोड की गई पीडीएफ यथा संभव स्पष्ट हो । 4. QCA पुस्तिका का उपयोग नहीं करने वाले उम्मीदवारों को अपना विवरण पहले पृष्ठ पर देना चाहिए और मैक्रो टिप्पणियों के लिए अगला पृष्ठ खाली छोड़ दें। यह समझना चाहिए कि उत्तर स्कैन की गई पीडीएफ में पृष्ठ नंबर 3 से शुरू होना चाहिए। 5. QCA पुस्तिका का उपयोग नहीं करने वाले उम्मीदवारों को प्रश्नपत्र के अनुसार उत्तर के अनुक्रम का पालन करना चाहिए। 6. कृपया स्कैन किए गए संस्करण में उत्तर के अनुक्रम और कुल पृष्ठों की संख्या की जाँच करें। सुनिश्चित करें कि यह उसी के भौतिक संस्करण के अनुरूप है।

