

# NEXT IAS



## 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 : PAKSHAL SECRETARY

Next IAS Roll No. : MT25FLTRA046 Phone No. :

Test Code → TC- \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Examination : 25/06/25

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)**

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**Evaluator's response**

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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**

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



## EVALUATOR'S FEEDBACK: ESSAY SECTION-B

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



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।

Topic : Strategic Thinking is the bridge between dreams and achievement

What could challenge the might of  
the mighty British Empire? The  
Salt was Gandhiji's answer.

But how could an insignificant thing  
like salt achieve such a big dream?  
Everyone from Congress to people  
at large doubted the Gandhian  
Strategy in the beginning.

But when Gandhiji  
reached the coast of Dandi with his  
78 delegates and defied the British

authority by breaking salt law and declaring that "when laws are unjust, civil disobedience becomes a duty"

His this act of defiance shook the very foundation of the British Empire

Gandhiji was able to achieve his goals only because he had thought strategically. He knew that salt is basic necessity for all the people, and thus weaponising salt through strategic thinking acted as a bridge between dreams and achievement

In this essay we will analyse the crucial role played by strategic thinking to achieve our goal. Then, we would ask some questions like why people don't think strategically? and analyze whether just thinking strategically is enough?

As it is very rightly said that to think of achieving your dream is the first step you

walk towards your goal. The essay topic thus highlight the need of proper planning and mindful thinking to achieve our dreams and fulfill our aspirations in long run.

History, is full of examples of people who used strategic thinking as a bridge between dreams and achievement. Chanakya during the Mauryan time de-throned Dhananand and made Chandragupta Maurya a chakravarti samrat through his strategic thinking of Sam, Dand, Daam and Bhed.

Similarly, it was strategic planning of the Churchill to coordinate between allied powers and involve in USA to their side during World War II, that allowed france and britain to prevail over Nazis

This brings us to a very

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important question that what is there in strategic planning?\*, and how it acts as a bridge between dreams and achievement

There are several ways in which strategic thinking helps. firstly, strategic thinking helps us plan our activities and follow an incremental approach towards achieving the goal. for example, post independence India adopted five year plans to follow incremental approach towards making India a developed country and eliminate poverty.

Secondly, strategic thinking divides a complex task into small achievable targets, achievement of these small targets on daily basis acts as a source of motivation to keep moving towards our dreams. The story of Michael phillips is exemplification of this process. To get a gold in olympics in swimming, Michael strategically thought

of achieving daily target of being in water for atleast 12 hours a day, and in the end he ended up winning 22 gold medal at olympics

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Thirdly, Strategic thinking helps us in identifying all the impediments that we may face during our journey towards our goal. To illustrate take the case of Raja Ram Mohan Roy, who knew that his campaign against Sati would face impediments from orthodox Hindus in the society, that is why he strategically involved British legal system to enforce a legal ban on practice of sati.

Fourthly, as we saw during the case of Chandrayaan III, where our scientist strategically thought of reasons for failure of Chandrayaan II and thus identified priority area of our focus, which was moment just before the payload soft-lands. Giving priority

and working hard in area where we were weak/had vulnerability, was the reason for success of Chandrayaan III mission for India.

also help us identify the intensity of efforts needed to achieve our dreams

for example, take the case of Padma Shree Maulikant Petkar, he was able to strategise that he would have to work intensely with dedication ~~and~~ and discipline on daily basis, which made him a world champion in paraolympics swimming despite having lost his legs during the 1971 war.

lastly, Strategic planning & thinking also help us identify the weakness of our enemy and strength of ours, which allows us to play on terrain where we are comfortable improving chances of us achieving our dreams

Having seen several reasons for thinking

Strategically, let us find out why people still choose not to think and plan actions in strategic manner.

Most of people who avoid strategic thinking is because of their lack of foresightedness and unclarity in their vision. For example, Duryodhan in Mahabharat failed to achieve his dreams due to lack of foresightedness regarding outcome of war. If he would have thought strategically, he would have gave 5 villages to Pandavas.

Also many people are not serious toward their dreams and thus refrain from tedious process of thinking strategically.

Furthermore, people also self doubt themselves and fear failure in process of achieving the dreams and thus refrain from strategic thinking. ~~for~~  
To illustrate, the recent case of ~~an~~ suicide by a young girl in kota before

even attempting the JEE exam, exemplify these trials.

Does this mean that one can achieve his goals and dreams by just thinking strategically?

No, this is not the case, as strategic thinking is just the first step towards the path of achieving the dreams. Thinking without any action or hard work would not yield any result for the person. We need to learn from strategic reasoning and thus act accordingly.

Also, there is a need for daily discipline and motivation in the process of achieving our dreams. As APJ Kalam used to say, "Dreams are one that should not let one sleep." Thus, we need to ensure daily progress towards our dreams.

However, there is also other side to the process, strategic thinking may not always lead to good results, because there is an element of luck and situation that is involved. The Indian cricket team during 2023 world cup played each match through strategic thinking and planning and yet we lost the final due to circumstances

~~This~~ This is not to highlight negative of strategic planning but just to acknowledge external factors that we might not account for or think of.

Having done a multi-dimensional analysis of the topic, we can thus convincingly say that strategic thinking is the most important part of the game, but what and how can we plan our actions strategically to achieve the goal?

There are few steps in the process. ~~To~~ To think strategically,

Foremost we need to identify our strength and weakness and focus on reducing/removing weakness in process of achieving our dreams.

In addition to this we need to choose a clear pathway to our goal, this could be chosen only after evaluating each of the options available strategically and then choosing one which best suits oneself.

To further add, thinking needs to be backed by concrete action, as Swami Vivekananda used to say, "Doise and stop not till the dreams are achieved".

lastly, we would also be required to find joy in the path to achieve our dreams, the journey is destination in itself, and one who enjoys the process of journey will automatically win the race.

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To conclude, we have seen how strategic thinking is the thing needed to fulfill our aspirations.

In the contemporary times, from the crisis of climate change to global wars and degradation of moral values, the role of strategic thinking is far more significant, be it planning for mindful consumption (Mission Life) to fight climate change or UNSC reforms to stop global wars. In each domain strategic thinking will only bridge the gap between dreams and achievement.

Thus, "Think strategically, act decisively"

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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।

Topic : life is a long lesson in humility

"Move away, I need to perform my daily ritual", said Adi Shankara, while pushing a Chandala near Asi ghat, but despite all of his efforts, Shankar was not able to move the Chandala by even a centimeter. It was only later when Adi Shankaracharya realised that the Chandala was none other than Lord Shiva, who had come to teach him a lesson on humility. It was only due to this long lesson of life on humility, was Adi Shankaracharya was

able to compose 'Manisha Pachkam', one of the greatest hymns to be composed ever.

The above anecdote highlights the importance of life lessons on humility for all of us. In this essay we would explore about humility, why life is a long lesson in humility? What happens when a person becomes non-humble? , and how to be humble in the life?

Humility in a dictionary meaning sense means to be humble and polite, but in broader sense humility involves not being bogged down by arrogance, it also means to not loose ground connect despite becoming big in life. For example despite ~~be~~ coming from a rich and well to do family, Baba Amte didn't become arrogant and stayed connected to the grassroot. This is what humility is all about.

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But one might feel that Why life is lesson in humility, and most importantly why should a person be humble at all?

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This is because humility is first step towards learning and improvement. The anecdote of zen master and a student, where zen master pours tea even after the cup is full, highlights the life lesson of humility, without humility our life also become full of vices and there is no space for new learning and improvement in life. Thus, humility allows us to empty our vessel and learn.

Further humility keeps us grounded and don't let us become overconfident in life. To illustrate, it was humility of Akbar which keep him grounded to the needs of people and made him one of greatest ruler of Mughal Dynasty, contrast it with the ~~non~~ arrogant behaviour of Aurangzeb

which lead to fall of mighty  
Mughal Empire

Also, humility makes  
us more emphatic and compassionate  
in our behaviour. Ratan Tata is an  
exemplification of such humility driven  
compassion, where the Tata Trust that  
he founded treats lakhs of people  
yearly for free who are suffering from  
cancer.

Further, humility also  
builds personal respect and a sense  
of awe for the person. For example  
Nelson Mandela is respected world wide  
because he had humility to forgive  
the white people after he was released  
from the Jail. His this reconciliatory  
approach created a South-Africa that  
is not divided but united.

Moreover, as it is  
rightly said, "Vinayam dadati patnam"

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That is humility gives you capability.  
 The capability to bring positive changes  
 in yourself and the society. As was  
 the case with Gandhiji, whose humility  
 gave him capability to lead the entire  
 nation towards one common goal of  
 independence

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To further add, humility  
 also leads to self actualisation, as  
 was highlighted by Maslow in his  
hierarchy of needs that humility allows  
 a person realise higher order needs  
 and thus succeed in life.

Lastly, from point of  
 society, humility of people create a  
 society based on trust and mutual respect.  
 The division of class and community  
 get breached due to social capital  
 created by humility in the society.

Having seen the one  
 side let us analyse, what happens @  
when people turn arrogant?

Aurogance of a person leads to his eventual downfall, from Ravan in the Ramayana to Duryodhan in the Mahabharata, the aurogance of a person leads to downfall and not only individual destruction but destruction of whole society

Similarly, lack of humility also leads to ivory tower mentality, where person gets disconnected from what is happening in larger society. The problem of 'chalta hai' attitude in the Indian admistration is reflection of such ivory tower mentality

To further add, lack of humility also leads to orthodoxy and unwillingness to change in the humans. All the social evils from child marriage to patrilachy are manifestation of this lack of humility among those who have power

Moreover, arrogance also leads to overconfidence among humans. The case of Harshad Mehta (1993 stock market scam) is a reflection to fact how arrogance division overconfidence leads to failure and lack of foresightedness

lastly, lack of humility also results into neglect and apathy. Take the case of current climate change issue which is result of lack of humility on part of developed countries to accept their historic mistake and thus take a lead in mitigation and adaptation

As it is rightly said, that life is a long journey between human being and being humane, but why it requires a life long lesson to become humble?

It is because humility can't be learnt in a day or so, a human child is born arrogant at

the birth, but only if he is properly socialised, he becomes humble. For example, as Gandhiji writes in his autobiography that it was only due to long lessons by his mother Palti Bai that he became humble in life.

Also, the process of realisation of why arrogance is wrong and humility is right is time taking, as it requires critical thinking on part of human to realise the importance of humility. It was only after spending 12 years in forest, Buddha was able to become humble in nature.

Moreover, life long experiences play a major role in developing humility. It is only when life teaches us lessons ~~to~~ we become more and more humble.

This brings us to the last part of our analysis, where

We see some way forward to become more humble in the life.

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At individual level, as the Sanskrit shlok says, "Vidya dadati Vinayam" that is education leads to humility. It is only when we learn that there is a lot more we don't know than what we know, we tend to become humble.

Similarly, reflecting and critically analysing life long experiences also makes a person humble in life.

At societal level, values of empathy and compassion needs to be cultivated in society to make it more humble and just in nature.

Also, we need to make person's who are well off to give up their arrogance and work towards upliftment of the vulnerable sections.

To summarise, life through experiences, learning and life cycles teaches us the importance of humility in the life, and we all should strive to become more and more humble, because as Shree Krishna says in Bhagwat Gita

"A person who won't be humble, would eventually be servant of his arrogance and ultimately fail"



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Why long lesson

life is long Journey ---

Child is born arrogant

Developing needs time

Realisat<sup>n</sup> of importance only after life lesson & experience.

How to be more humble

At indiv<sup>l</sup> level

what we have is too low

Education

"Vidya dadati vimayam"

At societal level

Developing empathy & compassion

Example of Humility



- ① Akbar vs Aurangzeb
- ② Ratan Tata
- ③ APJ Abdul Kalam
- ④ ~~Savitree~~ Mother Teresa
- ⑤ Mandela

Bhagwat Gita

"A person who won't be humble will lose all"

Baba Arte

Rich but humble

Arrogance

Ravan

Duryodhan

Haushad Mehta

Business Tycoon

Hogwart

of developed nation towards Climate Change

upper class vs lower class

\*\*\*

Character is

Space for Rough Work

Topic : life is long lesson of humility ✓

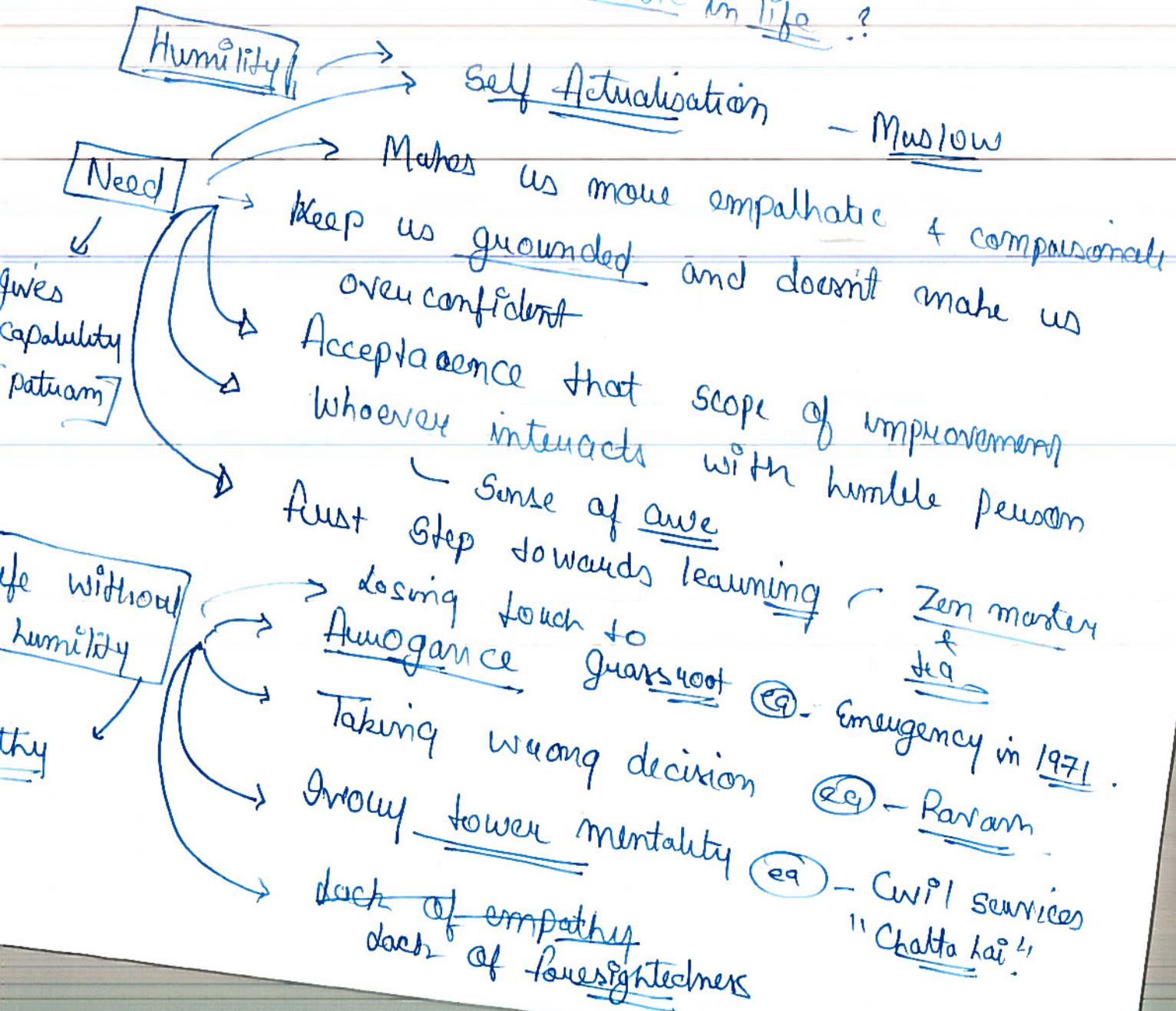
Start → Ach' shankhous change - Manisha Pashtakham

D1: What does humility mean?

D2 Why life is lesson of humility? (Need)

D3 Why this lesson is a long one?

D4 How to be more humble in life?



Space for Rough Work

Strategic thinking is bridge between dreams and achievement

D1 : Meaning of Quote → you achieve things that you plan for, mindful thought needed to turn dreams into reality.  
 ⇒ Thinking of achieving is first step of reaching your dream.

D2 → why does strategic thinking act as bridge  
D3 → why still people don't think strategically

D4 → Is strategic thinking enough?  
 What all other needed?

D5 → How to think strategically?  
~~needed~~ ⑥ Identify own vulnerabilities & strength

- ① Michael Phillips
- ② Sandhiya - salt
- ③ Maulikant Potkar
- ④ RRM - Sati

D2 → ① Help us to plan our activities to achieve dream  
 ② Divides the large achievement into small achievable targets → discipline  
 → daily motivation of achieving task  
 (eg) - India's F4P.  
 (eg) - Michael Phillips

③ Help us identify all the impediment that may stop us from achievement (eg) - Ambedkar → Impediment of where to

④ Tell us priority areas to improve ourselves. (eg) - RRM - Sati (Ch-3)  
 ⑤ Tell us the intensity of efforts needed to turn dream into achievement. (eg) - Mullik Potkar