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NEXT IAS

MAINS TEST SERIES 2.0 - 2025 (FLT)

(To be filled by candidate)

TEST CODE : FLT2506 [redacted] 06

Name of Candidate: Sugandha Mobile No. [redacted]

Roll No. : GC25D1B47037 Start Time ..... End Time.....

Date of Examination: 13-6-25 Medium : English ☑ Hindi ☐

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

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
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: .....

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Student Concerns / Query	Evaluator's Feedback / Response
1 Respected sir/maam, I'm unable to complete the paper on time	1
2 Also I seem to lack on quality content and presentation in many answers	2
3 Key help.	3

MARKING SCHEME *

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.

IMPORTANT QR CODES

Topper's Copy

Common mistake and Correct Filled QCAB

Copy Scanner App

Next IAS Test Centre Location

MACRO COMMENTS

The Purpose of MTS 2.0 Score Improvement Program (SIP) is to provide constructive suggestions on 'How to improve Answer Writing and thereby score better marks.

Q1.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q2.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q3.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q4.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q5.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q6.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q7.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q8.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q9.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q10.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q11.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q12.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q13.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q14.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q15.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q16.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q17.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q18.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q19.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Q20.

Introduction	Body	Conclusion

Candidates must not write on this margin

1. संवैधानिक नैतिकता क्या है? समान नागरिक संहिता (यूसीसी) का कार्यान्वयन भारतीय संविधान में निहित संवैधानिक नैतिकता के दृष्टिकोण से किस हद तक संरेखित है? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

What is constitutional morality? How far does the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) align with the vision of constitutional morality as encompassed in the Indian Constitution? (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Constitutional morality refers to alignment and abiddance with greater spirit of constitution and its provisions of equality, justice and fairness.

CONSTITUTIONAL MORALITY

① DAC upheld in Manoj Narula case by Supreme Court, Constitutional morality goes beyond following text of constitution but actual following of underlying welfare principles.

② Constitutional morality over personal morality has also been upheld via ex CJI Chandrachud who stresses on Indian Constitution and Constitutionalism.

UCC AND CONSTITUTIONAL MORALITY

① UCC provided in Article 44 as DPSP provides for state to enable neutral civil and personal laws

Candidates must not write on this margin

④ It becomes important in a nation like India where religious, cultural diversity can overwhelm spirit of justice.

③ Aligning with constitutional morality strengthening gender equity and equal rights, UCC envisions rising status of women in personal and inheritance matters.

④ UCC also provides for homosexual relationships and greater women autonomy as upheld by Supreme Court in Navtej Singh Johar Case.

⑤ UCC aligns with balancing traditional family system alongside modern Liberal and Equity virtues which is upheld by our transformative Constitution.

Thus, UCC is an efficient means to achieve Constitutional morality. However its implementation must be inclusive and not digressive of Indian heritage.

Candidates must not write on this margin

2. संविधान का अनुच्छेद 143 राष्ट्रपति संदर्भ तंत्र के माध्यम से सर्वोच्च न्यायालय को सलाहकार क्षेत्राधिकार प्रदान करता है। इस प्रावधान के अंतर्गत सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के सलाहकार क्षेत्राधिकार के महत्व और दायरे की जांच कीजिए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Article 143 of the Constitution confers advisory jurisdiction upon the Supreme Court through a presidential reference mechanism. Examine the significance and scope of the Supreme Court's advisory jurisdiction under this provision. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Recently President Murmu sought Article 143 to seek Supreme Court's advice over the jurisdiction of enforcing timelines to action, Governor and President.

ARTICLE 143 SIGNIFICANCE

(1) Article 143 provides for president to seek advice of Supreme Court over any constitutional or pre-constitutional dilemma.

(2) While, Supreme Court may decline the request but it is must to give advice on pre Constitutional decisions that too by a full 5 judge bench.

(3) Article 143 provides advisory role to Supreme Court and thus broadens the perspective to ensure legitimate and thoughtful decision.

Candidates must not write on this margin

④ It has been used multiple times since past by Presidents to seek better neutral view of any decision.

⑤ It also provides for Coordination and supportive democracy against rigid separation of powers

SCOPE OF ADVISORY ROLE

① Since the matter taken can be any, it provides for holistic evaluation of any action of any wing of Democracy.

② It ensures public welfare and annual Culture of integrity is preserved and conflict Resolution is amicable.

③ It also provides for means to Supreme Court to exercise Judicial activism without encroaching on executive.

Thus, article 143 is a thoughtful tool in Constitution to deal with Conventional and un-conventional dilemmas to President via judicial support

Candidates must not write on this margin

3. स्वतंत्रता के बाद से, संसद सदस्यों (एमपी) की बदलती सामाजिक-आर्थिक स्थिति के साथ भारतीय संसद की संरचना में महत्वपूर्ण परिवर्तन आया है। भारत में प्रतिनिधि लोकतंत्र की समग्र गुणवत्ता पर इस बदलाव के प्रभाव का विश्लेषण कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Since Independence, the composition of the Indian Parliament has undergone a significant change with the changing socio-economic profile of the Members of Parliament(MPs). Analyse the impact of this shift on the overall quality of representative democracy in India. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Reports suggest that since independence, criminalisation of politics has hastened with more than 39% MPs having criminal records. This impacts the overall quality representation of democracy.

CHANGING PARLIAMENTARY COMPOSITION

(1) MPs in India have shown significant variable representation with recent Parliaments accounting for fewer religious and caste diversity in ruling party.

(2) Also despite Demand 16% and 8% reservation for SCs and STs, their representation has been low and stiffled at regional politics.

(3) Women share in the present parliament has been meager 13.8% with lack of active political participation at higher levels

Candidates must not write on this margin

④ Socio economic profile shows higher economic support and criminal backgrounds which obstructs entry of clean politicians.

SHIFT IN QUALITY OF REPRESENTATION

① Supreme Court in Manoj Narula case, provided that though constitution doesn't bar criminal background but politicians should uphold saintly politics for greater accountability.

② Changing composition and First Past the Post System may lead to a representation which is chosen by elite and not the vulnerable and minorities.

③ Lower women representation affects reach of women oriented politics to ground and hinders participatory democracy.

Thus, Changing times call for a revamp in political attitude to build a culture of integrity in parliamentary representation.

Candidates must not write on this margin

4. अधिकार-आधारित लोकतंत्र में, एनएचआरसी जैसी संस्थाओं को प्रतीकात्मक उपस्थिति से आगे बढ़कर वास्तविक समय प्रभाव तक विकसित होना चाहिए। इस संदर्भ में, भारत के मानवाधिकार ढांचे के भीतर संरचनात्मक और कार्यात्मक मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

In a rights-based democracy, institutions like the NHRC must evolve beyond symbolic presence to real-time impact. In this context, discuss the structural and functional issues within India's human rights framework. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

With GANHRI Revoking A+ status of NHRC, its credibility to uplift human rights and real time action is questioned. This is due to functional and structural issues it is facing.

ISSUES IN INDIA'S HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK

① NHRC was established as constitutional body after India signed the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

② With vision of uplifting human development, the commission was provisioned to uphold rights based democracy.

③ However, vacant positions and only advisory role making NHRC a toothless tiger.

④ Further, non addressal of inherent systemic biases of society in human rights framework also ignores real time impact.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(5) The NHRC has been limited to take only cases upto 1 year with no powers to punish which makes it only symbolic in nature.

(6) Delayed action and low autonomy also erodes public trust.

NEED OF HOUR

(1) NHRC must be strengthened from politicization and bureaucratization of these commissions

(2) Greater financial and appointment autonomy would ensure equitable representation.

(3) Grassroot awareness and strengthening of state commissions to deal with real problems.

Institutions like NHRC are fundamental to Constitutional principles of human dignity and must be upheld to ensure real time impact.

Candidates must not write on this margin

5. परिसीमन 'एक नागरिक, एक वोट' के विचार को मान्यता देता है, लेकिन इसके निहितार्थ संघवाद के सिद्धांतों के खिलाफ जाते हैं। टिप्पणी कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Delimitation upholds the idea of 'one citizen, one vote', but its implications go against the principles of federalism.Comment. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

Constitution provides for equal representation in democracy via delimitation provisions. However its crude implementation risks erosion of federal principles.

DELIMITATION

① Constitution provides for Article 81, 82, 327, 328, 329 & which account for delimitation of Constituencies and States to uphold one citizen, one vote value.

② Based on population, last delimitation for seats was done in 1982 and for redrawing of intra state boundaries in 2002.

③ It upholds true democratic representation by ensuring each section is represented equally irrespective of status, class, age etc

Candidates must not write on this margin

IMPLICATIONS

(1) While based on fair intentions, changing scenarios can threaten federalism via delimitation

(2) Due to unequal population growth

Southern States → Larger population Control

Northern States → Poor TFR Control

the demographic variation is high and such delimitation based on population can result in loss of political representation.

(3) States like TN, Kerala, Andhra are set to lose seats in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha while Rajasthan, Bihar, UP may gain substantially.

(4) This is against federalism as reduced political voice goes against equal representation and state autonomy.

Thus delimitation exercise must ensure that citizen political autonomy is upheld and no state faces punitive burden of population reduction.

Candidates must not write on this margin

6. "कौशल विकास को प्रभावी बनाने हेतु, प्रधानमंत्री इंटर्नशिप योजना (PMIS) जैसे कार्यक्रमों को केवल सहभागिता तक सीमित न रहकर, रोजगारोन्मुख परिणाम सुनिश्चित करने की आवश्यकता है।" टिप्पणी कीजिए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

"To make skilling meaningful, programs like PM Internship Scheme (PMIS) must ensure not just participation but employability-linked outcomes." Comment.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

The FY24 budget had promised PM Internship Programme with schemes for employment of youth for to provide 5 crore jobs in 5 years. This is to tap on India's demographic dividend.

PM Internship Scheme

(1) Based on uncentivising employers to hire first time employees especially those in age bracket 21-24 and of poor financial background to provide for internship

(2) The employees will be provided ₹5000/month via Contribution of both union and employer.

(3) After internship, they'll be ready to be employed in any sector based on training received

Candidates must not write on this margin

④ However for long term success, it is important that not only youth enroll but also learn Uptodate industry required skills like that of AI, IoT, automation, orange economy etc

⑤ Further the skill based employment will build an incentive culture to promote meritocracy in system and achieve higher productivity.

⑥ The skilled individuals won't be just job seekers but job creators via startups, MCMEs which will boost manufacturing industry in India.

Thus, programmes like PMIS need to align with need of hour R&D and intensive personalised training to build human capital for development

Candidates must not write on this margin

7. "महिला-केन्द्रित कल्याण योजनाओं को महज कल्याणकारी दृष्टिकोण से आगे बढ़कर सशक्तिकरण की दिशा में अग्रसर होना चाहिए।" प्रमुख योजनाओं के परिप्रेक्ष्य में परीक्षण कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

"Women-centric welfare schemes need to move beyond welfare to empowerment." Examine in the context of key women-centric welfare schemes. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

World Bank suggests that women empowerment can by 50% can boost India's GDP by 1-2%. Thus it is essential that women centric schemes are based on empowering women

WOMEN CENTRIC WELFARE SCHEMES

① Gender budget presently accounts for around 8% of FY25 budget which provides for financial outlays to women welfare.

② However rising politicization and freebie culture in welfare has made government schemes shift from empowerment to short time benefits.

③ Schemes like Ladki Behen Yojna, Mahila Samman Yojana which provide cash over skills build a dependency culture among women.

Candidates must not write on this margin

④ Low updation of schemes like MGNREGA, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao results in lack of revolutionary women welfare over mere needs of subsistence.

⑤ While schemes like PM-Awas, Stand up India promote women leadership in family and business, real time patriarchy makes them only ceremonial head.

NEED OF HOUR

① As held by Supreme Court, welfare schemes need to move on from building parasites to human Capital.

② Schemes like Matru Vandana Yojana, POSHAN need to uplift from mere monetary and dietary needs to skilling and useful labour production.

③ Make In India, Skill India, Digital India must aim specifically at women awareness to increase their participation.

Women welfare lies not only in giving them pampering but ensuring they have Power to, Power with and Power within.

Candidates must not write on this margin

8. "डिजिटल शासन वैश्विक एजेंडा का नया मोर्चा बनकर उभर रहा है, और भारत उदाहरण स्थापित करने का प्रयास कर रहा है।" इस पर विचार कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

"The increasing regulatory oversight on civil society organisations risks shrinking democratic space." Examine. (Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

In 2007, Government came up with National Plan on Voluntary Sector which pledged for greater Coordination among civil societies and government. However, this has been reduced to harsh over regulation leading to detrimental effects.

REGULATION OF CIVIL SOCIETIES

① Civil societies are integral grass root organisation to help government achieve local level welfare and upliftment.

② However Concerns of sovereignty and ~~security~~ being harmed by non state actors has often lead to their over regulation.

③ Increased bureaucratic intervention and reduced fiscal space results in inefficient working.

Candidates must not write on this margin

④ Strong censorship of their protests, actions, statements. Also risks chilling effect over NGOs and their freedom of expression.

⑤ Amendments to FCRA to strengthen regulation over foreign finances also deters capacity of NGOs

NEED OF HOUR

① While maintain sovereignty and fiscal integrity is prime, government must coordinate and not compete with NGOs in service delivery.

② Integration of public policies with NGO actions and greater transparency would Ensure higher awareness and public trust.

③ Measures like NGO Darpan and Updated FCRA registrations aim to reduce political intervention and strengthen civil societies.

It is important that to act for welfare cause, NGOs are given sufficient democratic space so that they can supplements and not supplants them.

Candidates must not write on this margin

9. "भारत का अफ्रीका के साथ संबंध अब केवल विकास सहयोग तक सीमित नहीं रह गया है, बल्कि वह रणनीतिक तथा आर्थिक हितों से भी प्रेरित होता जा रहा है।" विवेचना कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

India's engagement with Africa is no longer limited to development cooperation but is increasingly shaped by strategic and economic considerations. Discuss.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

"If present decades are of Asia's growth, future decades will be of Africa's growth." Principled on this, India's engagement with Africa is based on Africa Centric development along with India's interests.

INDIA-AFRICA ENGAGEMENT

① Called as sister continents by PM Nehru, India and Africa have presently moved on from mere ~~developmental collaboration to greater strategic~~ and economic integration.

② Rising geo political factors like

- China's Debt diplomacy
- Global North's hurdles to Africa
- Multipolar axis of Global South

are shaping India Africa engagement.

Candidates must not write on this margin

③ Measures like AIKEYME (Africa-India Key Maritime Exercise) and India's new military bases approved at Mauritius are to ensure greater strategic presence in Indian Ocean.

④ India's development measures like Africa-India Growth Corridor, Feed the future in Africa, Solar Mamas etc are not just to compete China but for greater multilateral development.

⑤ India's aim to increase investment in Africa from $10SB ~~to $15SB~~ and boost trade from $75B to $150B is testament to rising economic integration.

⑥ Strategic mineral deals, UPI integration, inclusion to ISA, Global Biofuel Alliance etc ensures India's economic interests aligning with African development.

Thus dynamic India - Africa engagement is evident to unlock future of growth and global south development

Candidates must not write on this margin

10. "खाड़ी क्षेत्र में भारतीय प्रवासी भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था एवं जन-आधारित कूटनीति को आकार देने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं।" चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

The Indian diaspora in the Gulf region plays a pivotal role in shaping India's economic relations and people-centric diplomacy with West Asia. Discuss.
(Answer in 150 words) 10 marks

India's diaspora in Gulf accounts for largest regional diaspora of all. It is a major source of diplomatic and economic strengthening with West Asia.

DIASPORA IN GULF

① Around 45% of Indian diaspora is in Gulf which contributes to economic development of West Asia alongside remittance inflow for India making it largest remittance recipient at $120B.

② Most diaspora is blue collar workers who are Indian passport holders and thus provide for greater soft power connect between regions.

③ They also generate demand for Indian goods making nations like UAE, Saudi Arabia, Iran a great export market for India

Candidates must not write on this margin

④ Further UPI integration with nations like UAE provides for greater economic integration and increased investment and trade.
(UAE is 3rd largest investor in India)

⑤ Despite being predominantly fundamentalist nations, diaspora presence strengthens diplomatic relations especially over contentious issues of Indo-Pak hyphenation, Kashmir issue etc

⑥ Diaspora connect and diplomatic undertakings also help in reducing crimes and worker harassment under Kafala system, extraditions of Indian citizen at Yemen etc
⑦ Religious tourism in form of Hajj etc
Thus, diaspora connects India - West Asia over geographical and religious barriers. This is essential amidst turmoils in west Asia and rising hegemons in South Asia.

Candidates must not write on this margin

11. राजनीतिक प्रतिनिधित्व में वृद्धि के बावजूद, पंचायती राज संस्थाओं में निर्वाचित महिला प्रतिनिधियों (ईडब्ल्यूआर) को प्रभावी भागीदारी और नेतृत्व में बाधाओं का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। इस संदर्भ में, ईडब्ल्यूआर के सामने आने वाली चुनौतियों पर चर्चा करें तथा लिंग-समावेशी जमीनी स्तर पर शासन को सक्षम बनाने के लिए आवश्यक सुधारों का सुझाव दीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Despite increased political representation, Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) in Panchayati Raj Institutions continue to face barriers to effective participation and leadership. In this context, discuss the challenges EWRs face and suggest reforms needed to enable gender-inclusive grassroots governance. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

The recent Global Gender Gap Report suggested India in a paradoxical situation on women's political representation- extremely high at local level but less than 14% at Parliamentary level.

ELECTED WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES

(1) As per Article 243D, women reservation in Panchayats should be 1/3rd at member and chairperson level.

(2) Many states have increased it to 50% with states like Rajasthan, MP, Gujarat having more women representatives than men

(3) This strengthens women led empowerment at grassroot level.

Candidates must not write on this margin

CHALLANGES TO WOMEN IN PRIs

(1) The practices of Sarpanch pati, Pradhan pati are prevalent due to local patriarchial norms.

(2) Women are ~~less~~ not trained or skilled with governance aptitude which leads to lack of decisive autonomy.

(3) Most political parties don't let women rise in political hierarchy and as a result they stay congregated at lower levels only

(4) Their actions and commands are not taken seriously by men counterpart which often results in poor governance.

(5) Women are double burdened by house and leadership at PRIs and often their unpaid work is not recognised.

Candidates must not write on this margin

MEASURES FOR GENDER INCLUSIVITY

(1) Women and men account for around 2-3M of elected representatives for around 7.5 Lakh villages. Their proper training and financial empowerment is must.

(2) Provisions like Anti-Pradhanpati' award and public swearing ceremonies should be promoted.

(3) Kerala model where some positions have been exclusively fixed for women can be followed.

(4) Initiatives like 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Or', Panchayat Karmayogi' etc to strengthen rural leadership and political outlay.

Women representatives have proven to be more rationalised in public provisioning. A gender equal representation would ensure that timely women are granted 'POWER TO, POWER WITH, POWER WITHIN.'

Candidates must not write on this margin

12. फ्रांस में अर्ध-राष्ट्रपति प्रणाली राष्ट्रपति और प्रधान मंत्री के बीच सत्ता-साझाकरण का एक विशिष्ट मॉडल प्रस्तुत करती है। इस मॉडल की तुलना भारत की संसदीय प्रणाली से कीजिए, जिसमें कार्यकारी स्थिरता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए प्रत्येक द्वारा प्रदत्त संवैधानिक सुरक्षा पर जोर दिया गया है। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The semi-presidential system in France presents a distinct model of power-sharing between the President and Prime Minister. Compare this model with India's parliamentary system, with emphasis on the constitutional safeguards each offers to ensure executive stability. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

The semi presidential system in France is quite distinct than India's parliamentary political system due to former being a mixed representative model.

INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM

(1) The Indian parliamentary system accounts for President as nominal head and PM as elected head.

(2) All decisions are taken in the name of President (Article 53) but the President acts in accordance with Council of Ministers (Article 74).

(3) The executive is a part of legislature which makes the system more accountable

Candidates must not write on this margin

④ Executive passage of daily actions, bills and budget is much easier and the tenure of government depends on majority in house

SEMI-PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM OF FRANCE

① The president is elected by dual voting process based on system of proportional representation

② The president elects the Prime Minister and power sharing is more tilted towards President.

③ Thus President acts more than mere nominal head and is accountable directly to people.

④ The president appoints the council of ministers thus executive is not accountable to the house but to the president primarily.

However, each system provides with sufficient safeguards to executive.

Candidates must not write on this margin

CONSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDS TO EXECUTIVE

(1) In India, president can't be removed except by special majority in both the houses.
Similarly French president can be removed only by both houses.

(2) The executive accountability is more in Indian system which can be removed by provisions like No Confidence Motion, Failure of budget etc
In France, president removes the council of ministers.

(3) Executive actions are easier to conduct in Parliamentary system of India but in France, the executive may not have majority in house making the action taking difficult.

Thus both the systems are suited well to their demography and constitutional mandate.

Candidates must not write on this margin

13. भारतीय संविधान में नियंत्रण और संतुलन के सिद्धांत को अक्सर विधायी और कार्यकारी क्षेत्रों में न्यायपालिका की बढ़ती भूमिका द्वारा चुनौती दी जाती है। कारणों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, विभिन्न अंगों के बीच कार्यात्मक पृथक्करण पर इसके प्रभाव का आकलन कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The principle of checks and balances in the Indian Constitution is often challenged by the judiciary's expanding role in legislative and executive domains. Highlighting the reasons, assess its impact on the functional separation between various organs.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

The principle of checks and balances is derived from Separation of power principle given by Montesquieu. However, In India the separation and power checking is sui generis adapted to Indian mandate.

CHECKS AND BALANCES AND JUDICIARY

① Judiciary often utilises the Basic Structure Doctrine argument to check for legislature and executive functions not being violative

② The Supreme Court is also provided with Article 142 which enables it to take any action to secure complete justice which is often seen as stepping into other roles than self

Candidates must not write on this margin

(3) Supreme Court due to power of judicial review and judicial activism is often alleged of acting as the 3rd chamber over and above the rest.

(4) Subjectivity attached to Basic Structure and Judicial review due to no clear definition, gives Supreme Court edge over legislature and executive.

(5) In Ram Jawaya Case, Supreme Court held that Indian constitution does not provide for mere cold separation of wings but rather interactive interplay of all 3 organs for checks and balances

IMPACT OF JUDICIAL EXPANSIONISM → NEGATIVE

(1) The judiciary's encroaching role above rest 2 organs often results in it being alleged as Super Parliament and violative of separation of powers.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(2) The functions like Judicial activism can result into judicial overreach which can lead to judicial supremacy over constitution.

(3) This creates tussle rather than harmonious action-reaction between the 3 organs

POSITIVE IMPACTS

(1) The role of judiciary in being able to step into legislative and executive actions helps in securing citizen rights above other gains.

(2) This ensures public accountability and gap filling in case of any legislative or executive lapse eg Creation of Vishakha Guidelines by Court

(3) This also ensures speedy and correct justice delivery as in Bhopal Gas Tragedy Case, Babari Masjid case etc

Thus judiciary and executive and legislature are wheels of same vehicle of Constitution. Their harmony is essential for constitutional balance.

Candidates must not write on this margin

14. चुनाव प्रक्रिया की विश्वसनीयता चुनाव आयोग की स्वायत्तता और तटस्थता पर निर्भर करती है। क्या आपको लगता है कि भारत का निर्वाचन आयोग चुनावी लोकतंत्र में जनता का विश्वास बनाए रखने में विश्वसनीयता के मुद्दों का सामना कर रहा है?
(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The credibility of the electoral process rests on the autonomy and neutrality of the Election Commission. Do you think the Election Commission of India is facing credibility issues in sustaining public trust in electoral democracy? (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Election Commission of India bears the superintendence, direction and control of electoral process and electoral rolls as per 324(1). However, recent times have seen credibility allegations on the over arching body.

ELECTION COMMISSION AND CREDIBILITY

① ECI is mandated to ensure free and fair elections in India as per Article 324-329 along with Representation of People Act, 1950 and 1951.

② In Ashok Kumar Case, Supreme Court held that article 324 is reservoir of power of ECI and granted it plenary powers in case of legislative vacuum.

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(3) Haryana, Bargaining Special Intensive Revision of Bihar has been questioned for backdoor NRC provisioning and mass disenfranchisement

(4) Also allegations over sudden voter turnout hike as visible in Maharashtra elections has led to political parties questioning fairness of election.

(5) The use of EVM over VVPAT ballot paper has also been contested as having higher chances of rigging.

(6) Recently, ECI amended its rules which restricts CCTV footage access of voting to citizens which has also drawn public ire.

MEASURES FOR CREDIBILITY

(1) ECI is by constitutional mandate essential to uphold tenets of democracy - feature of basic structure doctrine.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(2) Collaborative and consultative discussions of ECI with all stakeholders is important for electoral integrity.

(3) The new ECI-NET portal is a great initiative towards public openness and data integrity of election process.

(4) Ongoing SRI in Bihar must be people inclusive and secure democratic rights of all.

(5) Faster grievance redressal and upholding Right to Information is must

As held by EC Gyanesh Kumar, "Election process in India is dynamic and one of the most transparent and responsive in world." It is necessary that public too upholds same trust.

Candidates must not write on this margin

15. सहकारी समितियाँ भारत के सामाजिक-आर्थिक विकास का अभिन्न अंग हैं। बहु-राज्य सहकारी समितियों (एमएससीएस) के सामने आने वाली शासन और स्वायत्तता की चुनौतियों की जाँच कीजिए और चर्चा कीजिए कि हाल ही में पारित बहु-राज्य सहकारी समितियाँ (संशोधन अधिनियम, 2023) इन मुद्दों को किस प्रकार संबोधित करने का प्रयास करता है।

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Cooperative societies are integral to India's socio-economic development. Examine the governance and autonomy challenges faced by Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCSs) and discuss how the recent Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment Act, 2023) seeks to address these issues. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

PM Modi ~~will~~ said that Cooperatives are a model of development for world, but for India they are a way of life. However, many cooperatives continue to face challenges in their empowerment and the Multi State Cooperatives Act is aimed to resolve.

COOPERATIVES FOR DEVELOPMENT

① Cooperatives in India account for principles of

- Socialism → welfare ensure
- Capitalism → economic opportunities
- Democracy → one member, one vote

② They have been a source of women, rural, social and economic empowerment as quoted by PM in examples of AMUL, BRIHADRI, NANDINI etc

Candidates must not write on this margin

③ They have evolved from

Idea ⟶ Movement ⟶ Revolution ⟶ Empowerment

CHALLENGES TO MSCs

① Dual regulation by NABARD (RBI) and the state governments often results in overgovernance.

② Politicization and elite capturing results in unequal benefit sharing.

③ Low credit penetration especially to women due to their low economic background results in women taking triple time in getting credit than men as per RBI.

④ Coordination among MSCSs in different states can be tough leading to benefits not getting equally spread in all the areas and economies of scale not getting achieved.

⑤ Poor functioning of PACs and other financial intermediaries have resulted in threat of delinquencies.

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MULTISTATE COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES (AMENDMENT) ACT

① The act aims to enhance autonomy of MSCSs by providing for easier regulations and lesser norms to be followed.

② RBI alongside has altered PSL guidelines to provide for more credit to MSCCs in areas of low credit penetration.

③ Special incentives like credit based subsidy, technical know how, women centered schemes are induced to enhance Indian Cooperatives economic potential.

Cooperative strengthening is must for grass root development and aligns with Sahakar Se Samriddhi " vision for Viksit Bharat.

Candidates must not write on this margin

16. "सूचना आयोगों की संस्थागत स्वतंत्रता की दुर्बलता ने सूचना के अधिकार (RTI) व्यवस्था की प्रभावशीलता को क्षीण किया है।" सूचना आयोगों की स्वायत्तता एवं स्वतंत्रता के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

"Weak institutional independence of Information Commissions has diluted the effectiveness of the Right to Information (RTI) regime." Discuss in the light of autonomy and independence of the Information Commissions. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Right to Information (RTI) was upheld as integral part of Article 19(1)(a) in Indira Gandhi Case. However despite constitutional mandate, the foothold of RTI has been eroding.

WEAKENING OF INFORMATION COMMISSIONS

(1) The RTI Act, 2005 provides for tiered mechanism for information sharing as:

- Central Information Commission
  - One Chief Information Commissioner
  - + 10 Information Commissioners
- State Information Commissions
  - At both level.
- Public Information Officers

(2) As per the mandated law, status and pay of Chief Information Commissioner was equal to Chief Election Commissioner and that of Information Commissioners to Election Commissioner.

Candidates must not write on this margin

③ The recent amendment 2024, has tasked this status to be revoked on grounds of inappropriate hierarchy as decisions of CIC and IC can be challenged in High Court → lower than CEC and EC

④ Original act also provided for their appointment by Committee of PM + Lok Sabha leader of Opposition + CJI which has now been changed to union government

⑤ Their tenure earlier was 5 years and now has been shifted to choice of central government.

WEAKENING EFFECIENCY OF RTI

① RTI has been plagued with subsequent delays especially at higher levels where more than 4.5 Lakh petitions are waiting.

② In none of the states, the appointment of CIC and ICs has been full and only 20% of states have half the strength.

③ Further, acts like official secrets Act and Section 8 of RTI act have been used arbitrarily

Candidates must not write on this margin

to hide information from public.

(7) The Puttaswamy judgement 2016 upholding Right to Privacy has also been seen as being misutilized by government to subdue right to information.

(8) Politicization of CIC and IC office and lack of consensus on CIC appointment has been major cause of delays in higher bureaucracy.

Thus, the RTI act once envisioned to Enlighten popular choice has now been turned as a redundant tool of information.

Candidates must not write on this margin

17. "भारतीय सिविल सेवाओं की परिकल्पना निष्पक्षता एवं दक्षता के उपकरण के रूप में की गई थी, तथापि वर्तमान में इन्हें कठोर तथा राजनीतिक रूप से प्रेरित माना जा रहा है।" इस धारणा के कारणों की समीक्षा करते हुए उपयुक्त सुधारात्मक उपाय प्रस्तुत कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

"Civil services in India were envisioned as instruments of neutrality and efficiency, yet they are increasingly perceived as rigid and politicised." Examine the issues responsible for this perception and suggest corrective measures. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

In first speech to undefended civil servants at Metcalfe house, Vallabh Bhai Patel held that Civil services have to be the steel frame of India. However their rising politicization is leading to shifting back to days of cold book bureaucracy.

FACTORS FOR REDUCING EFFICIENCY OF CIVIL SERVICES

① Rules are the basis of governance however instead of following rule based bureaucracy Civil servants have stuck to cold rule book bureaucracy.

② Rising neo tapism and corruption have shifted the governance setup from Permit Raj ⟶ Clearance Raj

③ Lack of ethical, moral awareness and sensitization to local needs has led to strict rule following which has been detrimental in

Candidates must not write on this margin

(4) Delays and politicization of decision making has led to erosion of public trust and feeling of collusive corruption.

(5) Also, over regulation by RTI activists is Checking innovation in bureaucracy and leading to status quoist approach.

(6) The services have turned generalist with lack of specialization interventions especially in wake of lower lateral entries.

(7) Use of public authority for personal gains is a common reason why India is placed at 93/180 on Transparency Index

MEASURES TO REFORM

(1) 360° holistic review and control mechanisms ensuring not only vertical but horizontal accountability.

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(2) Measures like Mission Karmayogi and e-governance should be holistically followed to ensure effective bureaucracy even at state and local levels.

(3) Ethical workshops and carrot-stick model based on incentive-disincentive as per actions can help reform the services

(4) As suggested by 2nd ARC, performance based model where after 14 and 20 years the services of the officers are completely scrutinised to remove the dead wood.

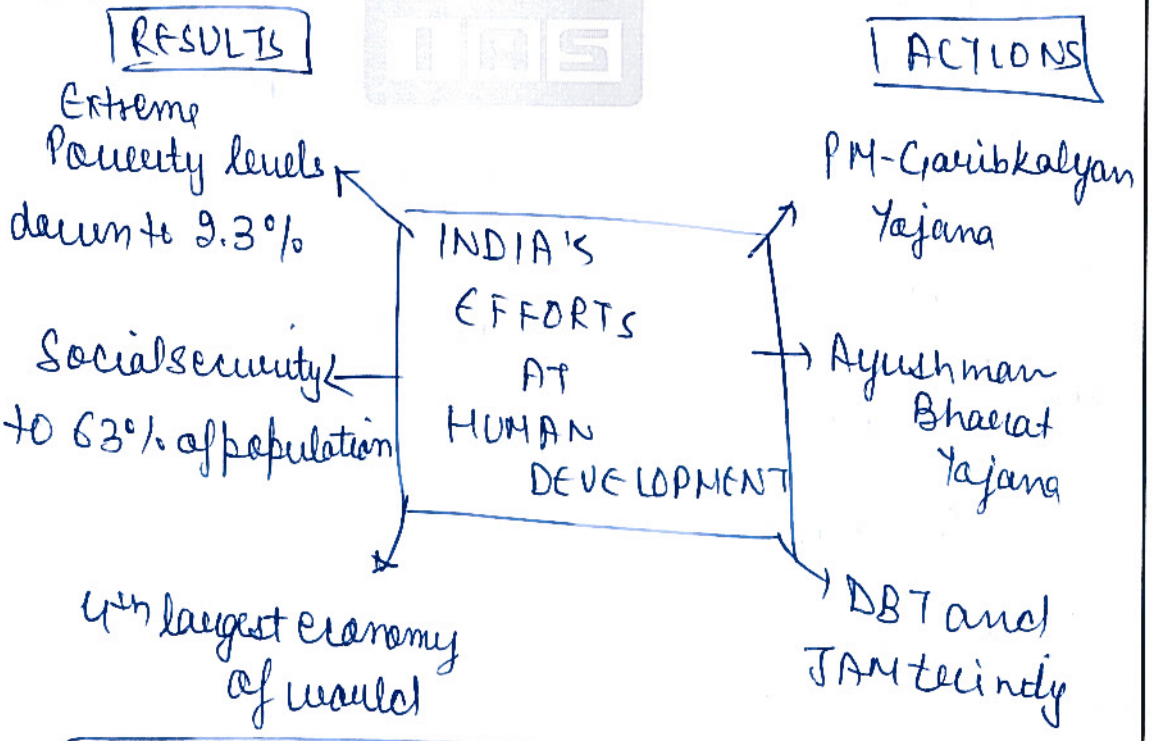
Civil servants are the essential backbone of executive from policy implementation to formulation. Their transparency and neutrality is must to breed culture of integrity

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18. निरंतर आर्थिक प्रगति एवं सामाजिक क्षेत्र में व्यय के बावजूद भारत का वैश्विक मानव विकास सूचकांकों में प्रदर्शन संतोषजनक नहीं है। समावेशी एवं न्यायसंगत मानव विकास में बाधा उत्पन्न करने वाले संरचनात्मक कारणों की विवेचना कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Despite consistent economic growth and social sector spending, India continues to perform poorly in global human development rankings. Examine the structural issues that inhibit equitable and inclusive human development. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

The recent Human Development Index by UNDP puts India at a rank of 121 which is far low considering the input to social and economic growth. This calls for systemic revision to our approach of welfarism.



STRUCTURAL ISSUES TO HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

① Despite heavy outlays, low human output is result of bureaucratic over intervention and Corruption [₹1 from govt → 15 paise to public]

Candidates must not write on this margin

(2) The neo welfarism of center often bypasses role of local bodies and stakeholders and creates parastatal bodies and top-down democracy.

(3) Low skill base and education spending (~2 to 4%) which is much lesser than 6% target of NEP.

(4) Excessive out of pocket expenditure by public due to poor healthcare network (1.9% GDP spending)

as against target of 2.1% spending

(5) Mere 0.6% of GDP towards R+D and indigenous growth compared to 2.1% in China and 2.8% in USA

(6) Inherent patriarchial and unaware attitude of societies often burdens women autonomy and resultantly accounts to their lower participation in economy and polity (as in Global Gender Gap Report)

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MEASURES TO INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

(1) Measures like bottom top welfare approach and smart villages are needed to accomodate all stakeholders views.

(2) World Bank suggests that closing gender gap can add $770B to India's economy by 2025.

(3) Focus on inclusive education and healthcare which can further boost indigenous research to prevent brain drain.

(4) Strengthening local stakeholders like Gram Panchayats, ASHAs etc to increase outreach and governance.

India must capitalise on its demographic dividend to rise up to its ambition of Viksit Bharat where empowerment is economically and socially inclusive.

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19. "BRICS के विस्तार से भारत को वैश्विक आर्थिक शासन में अपनी भूमिका को सशक्त करने का अवसर प्राप्त होता है।" BRICS Plus मंच के माध्यम से भारत किस प्रकार वैश्विक दक्षिण (Global South) के हितों को प्रोत्साहित कर सकता है, चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

"The expansion of BRICS offers opportunities for India to strengthen its voice in global economic governance." Discuss how India can leverage the BRICS Plus to advance the interests of the Global South. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

Recent BRICS summit at Brazil was a testament to BRICS+ coordination and call to strengthen global south. India stands a fair chance in strengthening its role as leader of Global South.

BRICS+ AND OPPORTUNITIES

① BRICS expanded to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE and Indonesia to now account for 28% of world GDP and 42% of population

② This unites Continental partnership extends beyond regional concerns to overall upliftment of Global South nations.

③ Recent summit called for unequivocal representation of Global South in multilateral bodies and coordination to

Candidates must not write on this margin

strengthen state-state cooperation against non-sovereign actors.

④ Further, rising economies of BRICS nations make it the fastest growing bet economically as per IMF even among global economic slowdown.

CHANCES FOR INDIA

① India as the major player in Global South given its fastest growing economy and 1st responder role in Indian Pacific.

② Recent Operation Sindoor and narrative building has enabled India to capitalise on indigenous defence and diplomatically isolate perpetrators of terrorism.

③ India's neutral, balancing act provides it with coordination as Island of Democracy in Global South amongst Global North which opens further economic outlays.

Candidates must not write on this margin

④ India's calls for UNSC reforms alongside G4, L69, C10 provide for better representation at multilateral levels.

⑤ The Lowy Institute, ranked India as top 3rd global power given its economic and diplomatic prowess

CHALLANGES TO INDIA

① Security development hyphenation due to neo cold war of China - USA

② ~~Lack of global consensus amidst rising~~ heteropolarity.

③ Sitting on fence amidst conflicting partners in Eurasia, Mid East etc

India has prowess to accelerate self and global south to achieve multilateral development and fulfill the vision of Asian Century of Growth

Candidates must not write on this margin

20. "'एक्ट ईस्ट नीति' केवल आर्थिक कूटनीति का उपकरण नहीं, बल्कि यह क्षेत्रीय संतुलन सुनिश्चित करने का भी माध्यम है।" ASEAN के साथ भारत की सहभागिता एवं हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में बदलती शक्ति-संरचना के परिप्रेक्ष्य में इस कथन का विश्लेषण कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

"Act East Policy is as much about regional balancing as it is about economic diplomacy." Analyse this statement in the context of India's engagement with ASEAN amidst shifting power dynamics in the Indo-Pacific. (Answer in 250 words) 15 marks

The India-ASEAN summit in 2024 marked 10 years of Act East and 30 years of Look East Policy of India. Based on vision of ~~global~~ South Asia-East Asia integration, it holds much more significance among multipolar Indo Pacific.

ACT EAST POLICY - DIMENSIONS

① The Act East policy was a shift from erstwhile Look East which provides for not only Economic integration but also supports cultural, social, political and diplomatic strengthening towards East Asia.

② With North East as pivot, it aims to align South East Asian Tigers with Indian Elephant and achieve goal of Asian Century of Growth.

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INDIA-ASEAN RELATIONS

① India-ASEAN relations as referred by PM Modi, lie at heart of Indo Pacific aiming at ensuring greater security and prosperity to both.

② The recent summit also marked launch of 2023 as India-ASEAN Year of Tourism and special India ASEAN Fund for development.

③ Even since past, India has been connected to ASEAN via ancient cultural ties which it aims to reinvigorate via Project Mausam.

④ The ASEAN India Trade In Goods Agreement provides economic integration and soft diplomacy calls for people to people connect.

SHIFTING GEO POLITICS IN INDO PACIFIC

① Indo Pacific has seen silent rise of China and USA claiming stakes in India's backyard.

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② Most ASEAN economies are geographically and economically linked to China via BRI, RCEP etc

③ China - USA cold war has also threatened bipolarity and weaponisation of Indo-Pacific due to measures like AUKUS.

INDIA'S BALANCING

① While Act East provides for integration, India has been cautious in engagement with South East who has became senior partners of China as per Minister of Trade and Commerce.

② India is engaged on both sides - SCO, BRICS with China and QUAD with USA while focussing on ASEAN centrality.

Thus, changing geopolitics calls for dynamic utilisation of Act East policy to secure national interests. It is must to ensure the Arc of Prosperity of India - South East Asia

Space for Rough Work

Space for Rough Work

NEXT IAS

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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 SCANER) 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।