Prelims Qualified

UPSC Roll No — 1084[illegible]

RECEIVED
16 JUL 2025

NEXT IAS

MTS 2.0 - FOUNDATION BATCH (2025)

(To be filled by candidate)

TEST CODE: FPNG2502 | TEST NO: 02

Name of Candidate: Aman Shankar Mobile No. [redacted]

Roll No.: GS25 D1B39001 Start Time 3:28 End Time 6:55

Date of Examination: 16/7/25 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

Student Concerns / Query	Evaluator's Feedback / Response
1	1 .....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
2	2 .....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
3	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.

STRENGTHS OF THE CANDIDATE

AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTIONS

Candidates must not write on this margin

1. संविधान सभा में संस्थापक माताओं का योगदान और उनके नारीवादी दृष्टिकोण ने भारत के संवैधानिक विमर्श को कैसे आकार दिया है? चर्चा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

The contributions of the founding mothers in the Constituent Assembly and their feminist perspective have shaped India's constitutional discourse. Discuss

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Only 5% members of constituent assembly were women — however their contribution to Indian society is an invaluable.

Founding Mothers & their contributions

① Usha Mehta — ~~to~~ unfurled "Tiranga" in constituent assembly

→ contributed highly specially in regards to women reservation in Indian constitution

② Amrita Kaur

Rajkumariji was member of various committees — advocated U.A.F u/a 326

— She became 1st Health union minister later

③ Begum Aizaz Rasul

Only Muslim women in the assembly

→ Belonged to Muslim legue but was

Candidates must not write on this margin

against partition

④ Vijay Lakshmi Bai Pandit

→ became 1st cabinet women minister in Independent India.

⑤ Ammu

Belonged from southern India
→ her views developed India's reservation policies

⑥ Suchita Kriplani

→ elected from United provinces
→ talked about fundamental rights
→ later became 1st women C.M.

⑦ Sarojini Naidu

→ ~~She couldn't~~ contributed enormously in ~~debates~~ debates & discussions — pushing universal adult franchise

As Swami Vivekanand reiterated
"First must come uplift of women, then only we can imagine a stronger India"
Their legacy must be continued in legislatures today.

Candidates must not write on this margin

2. भारतीय संसद में विशेषाधिकार प्रस्ताव क्या होता है? विशेषाधिकार समिति ऐसे प्रस्तावों की जांच और निपटान कैसे करती है? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

What is a Privilege Motion in the Indian Parliament? How does the Committee of Privileges examine and deal with such motions? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Article 118 – rules of Parliament gives houses power to formulate rules regarding motions & resolutions.

Privilege Motion → is raised when a member of house believes that a minister has ~~misu~~ breached privileges of some other members or have misused his/her own privileges. Eg:

→ Not furnishing proper data intentionally

→ Hiding important information from house

→ Personal matters raised

Eg: Recently privilege motion was submitted to speaker against PM Modi

Committee of Privileges – Role & functions

① Privilege committee deals with motions assigned to them by presiding officer.

Candidates must not write on this margin

② They scrutinise the alleged member

③ Interpret rules of the house

④ Submit report to presiding officer on their opinion

⑤ This report becomes the basis for passing of the motion

⑥ It may recommend suspension of the alleged member

⑦ It can consult legal experts, domain scholars, etc.

~~Recent~~ Mohua Patra, MP in 17th L.S. was found guilty by privilege committee over ~~taki~~ giving personal ID & password to a businessmen to put questions in parliament.

Privilege Motion is a check on executives & privilege committee is the means to keep that check.

"A right without remedy is like writ in water"

Candidates must not write on this margin

3. भारत और ब्रिटेन में राष्ट्राध्यक्ष के अधिकारों की तुलना कीजिए। इनके कर्तव्य और अधिकार उनके संबंधित संवैधानिक सिद्धांतों को कैसे प्रतिबिंबित करते हैं? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Compare the powers of the head of state in India and the UK. How do their roles reflect the constitutional principles of their respective systems? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

India borrowed much of its constitution from 1935 Act & British parliamentary system. However, there remains certain principal differences between the two

Head of State

India	UK
① Elected president (Republic)	Hier Hereditary King (Monarch)
② Ceremonial head but have certain powers & discretion guaranteed by constitution	No discretion only a ceremonial head
③ 5 year tenure & can be elected multiple times	No such fixed tenure
④ Participation of state legislatures in presidential election	No participation from any kind of Govt.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Reflected Constitutional Principles

① India as Republic → President is elected by people (indirectly) while Britain have hereditary ~~president~~ King

② Federal feature → Participation of states in presidential election. ~~Britan~~ UK have unitary feature

③ ~~Poor~~ No Personal responsibility

Indian ministers have no obligation to personal responsibility to president unlike Britain where ministers are responsible to King's action as "King can do no ~~bad~~ bad"

④ ~~tht~~ Ultimate power lies in hands of people in India as head of state as well as govt is responsible to public

Although constituent assembly borrowed provisions from several constitution, fathers of India adjusted them to Indian context making Indian constitution "Sui Generis"

Candidates must not write on this margin

4. "लोकतंत्र उतना ही मजबूत होता है जितनी उसकी विपक्षी पार्टी।" इस संदर्भ में, लोकसभा में विपक्ष के नेता की भूमिका का मूल्यांकन कीजिए और भारत में इस संस्था की प्रभावशीलता बढ़ाने के उपाय सुझाइए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

"A democracy is only as strong as its Opposition." In this light, examine the role of the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and suggest measures to enhance the effectiveness of this institution in India.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

After a decade of vacant post, 18th Lok Sabha finally have appointed Leader of opposition in the house.

Conditions to be eligible

→ constitution provide no such position explicitly

→ However statutory recognition in Salaries of LoS Act, 1972

→ Presiding officers has fixed min criteria to have atleast 10% of seats with the party.

Role of Leader of Opposition

→ Member of Important selection committees. Eg: CBT, CEC, etc.

→ Keeps a check on executive by actively participating in house activities

→ Ranked equivalent to cabinet minister

Candidates must not write on this margin

→ advise & raise voices of marginalised in house & cars of executive.

Measures to enhance the effectiveness

(1) Must be given ~~a~~ constitutional recognition to ensure dignity of the post.

(2) 10% min. seats must be replaced with second largest party in the house to avoid vacancy.

(3) "Shadow Cabinet" like concepts as practiced ~~in~~ in UK to ~~press~~ keep a check on executive as well as to take responsibility in case govt falls

(4) Should be given ~~of~~ some guranteed ~~Qtr~~ ~~min~~ time to speak in house to raise imp matters.

Leader of Opposition — plays a crucial role in balancing powers with executive. However since last few lok sabhas, the institution has not been much effective.

Candidates must not write on this margin

5. भारत में अल्पसंख्यक शैक्षिक संस्थानों से संबंधित संवैधानिक प्रावधान क्या हैं? न्यायिक निर्णयों ने समानता के अधिकार और अल्पसंख्यक पहचान के संरक्षण के अधिकार के बीच संतुलन कैसे स्थापित किया है?

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

What are the constitutional provisions related to minority educational institutions in India? How have judicial pronouncements shaped the balance between the right to equality and the right to preserve minority identity in India? (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Article 30 explicitly provide right to ~~establish~~ minorities to establish educational institutions & manage them

Other constitutional provisions
- → Article 21 — encompass Right to Education
- → Article 21A
- → Article 46 (DPSP)
- → Part ~~XVI~~ of constitution

~~Judicial Evolution of~~

Judicial pronouncement balancing the two rights

- Initially the judiciary narrowly interpreted constitutional provisions & nullified legislations against Article 14 & 15
- Judiciary ~~shared~~ defined minority as whosoever having less than 50% share

Candidates must not write on this margin

- Recent Naresh Agarwal case, 2024

Judiciary accorded that an institution established by minority will remain minority Institutions, irrespective of state funding or Management.

Judiciary's role has evolved from narrow interpretation of law Eg: ~~Aarti~~ Upholding Article 335 – no compromise with standards.

However, with time, S.C. has ~~provided~~ showed of protected minority identity in various cases.

Candidates must not write on this margin

6. भारत सामाजिक उद्यमिता के वैश्विक केंद्र के रूप में उभर रहा है। क्या सामाजिक उद्यम राज्य की समावेशी विकास की उपलब्धियों में प्रभावी रूप से पूरक हो सकते हैं? (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

India is emerging as a global hub for social entrepreneurship. Can social enterprises effectively complement the state in achieving inclusive development?

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Social entrepreneurship refers to organisations which work on social goals & supplement state in implement & attaining constitutional goals. Eg: NGO, CSO, SHGs, etc.

India – as emerging hub

India holds around 30% of global social entrepreneurs. Around 14 crore families are associated with SHGs like programmes.

Social enterprises — complimentary to State

(1) Acts a medium between State & Public

As iterated by Robert Dahl (famous scholar)

(2) Helps in widening reach & public service delivery at doorstep

Eg: Akshaya Patra foundation providing free mid day meals

Candidates must not write on this margin

③ Provides Information by conducting survey

ASER reports by Pratham — acts as a foundational data for many schemes evaluation

④ Empowering women

SHGs like SEWA, Shri Mahila Griah Udyog (Lijjat Papad) has successfully empowered thousands of women

⑤ Health & sanitation

Fulfilling SDG 3, Sulabh international making toilets accessible to even remotest villages.

⑥ Raise concerns of marginalised

Social enterprises make unheard voices audible — empowering marginalised, strengthening democracy.

The rising interest in social entrepreneurship is a welcoming step however govt must ensure right direction as may such organisations are alleged to be antithetical in nation's growth.

Candidates must not write on this margin

7. स्व-सहायता समूह (SHG)-बैंक लिंकिंग कार्यक्रम को भारत में गरीबी उन्मूलन के लिए स्वदेशी उपकरण माना गया है। ग्रामीण आजीविका सुधारने और बहुआयामी गरीबी कम करने में इसके प्रभाव का विश्लेषण कीजिए।

(150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

The SHG-Bank Linkage Programme has been hailed as an indigenous tool for poverty alleviation in India. Examine its impact on improving rural livelihoods and reducing multi-dimensional poverty.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Dr. Kalia committee recommended SHG Bank Linkage programme (SHG BLP) It has become a flagship programme of government to empower poors.

Impact of SHG - BLP

~~① Over ₹47,000 crores are deposited as~~

① Economic empowerment

→ ₹47000 crore+ saving deposites with SHG.

→ ₹1.25 lakh+ loans guaranteed

② Women empowerment

→ ~~Every 1 women out of 8 in India~~ is associated with some SHG.

→ Govt schemes like "Nano ~~Bid~~ Drone didi" ensures financial autonomy

Candidates must not write on this margin

⑨ Financial autonomy

→ Shri Mahila Griha Udyog stands as an outstanding eg of SHG BLP success which now runs Lijjat Papad a thousand crore - all women company

④ Asset creation

SHG - BLP loans are often used to create small assets which can generate income eg livelihood Eg: Buying stitching ~~mono~~ machine to start small scale work

⑤ Financial literacy

SHGs get access to banking services → Financial discipline → 98% of SHG loans are recovered in Kerala with <1% NPA rate

SHG - BLP ~~has been a~~ must be strengthened further by increasing credit limits, training for vocational jobs must be provided. As SHG are necessity to attain Viksit Bharat @2047

Candidates must not write on this margin

8. नागरिक-आधारित पर्यावरणीय आंदोलनों ने हाल के वर्षों में पारिस्थितिक संरक्षण के प्रभावी उपकरण के रूप में कितना योगदान दिया है? उदाहरण सहित व्याख्या करें। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

How far do you think Citizen-led environmental movements have proven to be effective tools of ecological preservation in recent years? Justify with examples.

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Article 21 read with Article 48A (DPSP) and Article 51A (g) (Fundamental duty) showcase how protection of environment has been inscribed in Indian constitution deeply. However active citizen roles have lead to real recognition of such articles.

Citizen led environmental movements

① Protection of native wildlife & Tribals

Eg: Medha Patekar led "Narmada Bachao Andolan"

② Constitutional ~~widening~~ Horizon has been widened by many citizen's active propogation

Eg: MC Mehta (environmental activists) ~~to~~ via various PILs have widened Article 21

MC Mehta v/s UOI, 1987 guaranteed Right to clean environment u/a 21

Candidates must not write on this margin

③ Water conservation movements

By waterman of India in Rajasthan's Alwar district has made Alwar a water surplus district in a desert.

④ Accounting state responsibilities ~~in~~ in fight against climate change

M.C. Ranjith Singh case, 2024 provided Right against climate change ~~to~~ u/a 21.

⑤ Spreading awareness & educating people

various NGO, like Ford foundation, Tata sons ~~too~~ are actively working to make people aware of nature.

⑥ Protection from emerging technologies adversity

Eg: Protests at Kudankulam Nuclear plants due to chances of radiation leakage & accidents.

To ensure sustainable development, not only State or citizen but a comprehensive multi stakeholder approach is necessary.

Candidates must not write on this margin

9. "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

"Digital governance is emerging as a frontier of the global agenda, and India seeks to lead by example." Examine (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Recently, India - Namibia signed memorandum and Namibia became 1st African nation to implement UPI.

- Showcasing leadership role played by India at global level.

Benefits of Digital Governance:

- → Public service delivery at doorstep
- → Effective Grievance Redressal
- → Elimination of leakages & corruption
- → Inclusive development
- → Cost, effective

India Seeks to lead by Example

① Largest biometric Public Data

India boasts on more than 1.3 billion biometric data under Aadhar scheme

- providing DBT benefits

Candidates must not write on this margin

② Global level DPI - Digital Public infra

India has world class DPI.

Eg: Digilocker with 12 crores + accounts,
NPCI — transacting ₹1 crore each second — accounts for 48% of global digital transactions

③ Effective e-governance models

Eg: UMANG app — 10 states have already saturate 56 mandatory services

CPGRAMS — Grievance redressal mechanism single window system

① Global collaborations

India have signed multiple memorandums with countries to strengthen DPI

Eg: India - UAE rupay deal
India - France NPCI collaboration

India has been showcasing exemplary behaviour in global digital governance. Unlike other sectors, India is not a chaser but a global leader in digital Governance.

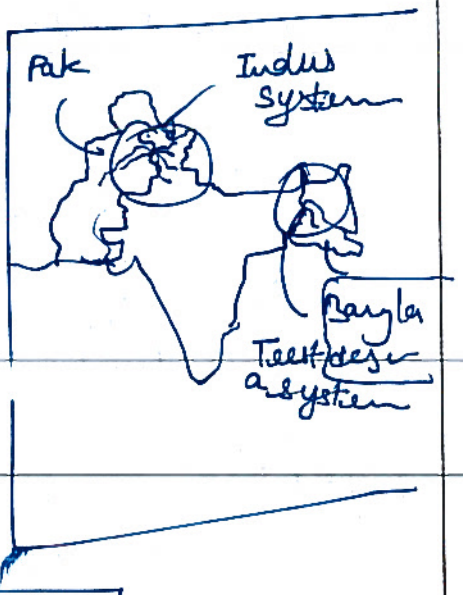
Candidates must not write on this margin

10. हाल की विवादों के संदर्भ में, भारत के पाकिस्तान और बांग्लादेश के साथ सीमा पार जल-साझाकरण की चुनौतियों की समीक्षा कीजिए। (150 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 10 अंक

Examine India's transboundary water-sharing challenges with Pakistan and Bangladesh in light of recent disputes. (Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

Recently, India holded IWT, 1960 in abey due to geopolitical tensions of Pahalgam terror ~~act~~ attack.

India shares many rivers with its neighbours however Indus rivers and Teesta rivers often become turmoil junctures.



~~Challenges~~ to water-Sharing

① Political turmoil

India has been politically not so friendly with both the nations.. Specially after regime change in Bangladesh

② Local Demands

Acc to Falkenmark Index, 75% of Indians live in water scarce regions.

This raise demand for self-sufficiency first.

Candidates must not write on this margin

③ Agriculture — Indian agriculture is a water intensive one — demanding abundance of water — can be met by these rivers.

④ International Pressure

China's hegemony over Brahmputra & international peacebodies want India to share water.

⑤ Lack of Infrastructure development

Due IWT — India could not build check dams to regulate water flow — reason why though the treaty has been suspended but waterflow can't be stopped.

Way Forward

→ Diplomacy over weaponisation of water

→ inclusive policy — fulfilling local demands first.

→ Friendly relation with Bangladesh can help in solving water river issues

→ Inter-state river disputes solution — as it influence people drastically

Candidates must not write on this margin

11. विपक्ष के राज्य में राज्यपालों की भूमिका केंद्र-राज्य संबंधों में विवाद का कारण बनी है। राज्यपालों के अधिकारों के अतिक्रमण से राज्य सरकारों की स्थिति पर किस प्रकार प्रभाव पड़ता है? ऐसी विवादों को कम करने के लिए क्या सुरक्षा उपाय अपनाए जा सकते हैं? आलोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The role of Governors in opposition-ruled States has been a flashpoint in Centre-State relations. Critically discuss how gubernatorial overreach challenges the position of state governments and suggest safeguards to mitigate such conflicts.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Recent SC judgement in Governor of Tamil Nadu v/s State of Tamil Nadu, 2024 highlights the centre-state turmoil in administration.

Governor overreach — challenging Govts.

① Holding ~~bill~~ assent to bills

Many opposition led state allege governors for not giving assent on bill

Eg: 10 bills passed by Kerala last year, Only 3 have been assented.

② Budget Speech — Recently governor of T.N. rejected to read govt prepared speech in Budget's ~~Tracks of vote~~.

Diluting constitutional provisions

③ Sending bills to president u/a 200 & 201

dilutes the federal structure of nation

Candidates must not write on this margin

④ Use of Article 356

Though now reduced — it has been a major congestion point where governor send report to president to apply president's rule.

⑤ Arbitrary ~~dissol~~ dissolving govt.

Reiterated by S.C in several cases ~~to~~ highlighting arbitrary governor's decision to ~~abol~~ fall govt without floor test.

⑥ Arbitrary dissolution of house

Many cases where the current executive not given chances to prove majority or no efforts to form govt in hung parliament.

⑦ Tussle in UT with legislature

Delhi has been prime victim where LG powers & CM powers of conflict of complete

Candidates must not write on this margin

Safeguards to Mitigate such conflicts

① Implementing sarkaria commission & Punchhi commission reports

② Appointment of Governor
→ consultation with C.M.
→ Fixed Tenure
→ non-political appointements

③ ~~Strict implement~~ Resolving constitutional loopholes
→ reducing discretionary powers with governor — to uphold the powers of representatives of people.

④ Making Govt's advise binding on governor for all provisions especially for assenting bill except bills affecting ~~national~~ interest

Centre-state relation is a delicate provision of "federal structure" which is basic structure of constitution according to S.C.
It must be uphold ~~with~~ aligned with constitutional morality.

Candidates must not write on this margin

12. भारत के संवैधानिक सफर में मौलिक अधिकारों और राज्य नीति के निर्देशक सिद्धांतों के बीच विकसित होता हुआ संबंध एक गतिशील विशेषता रही है, जिसके लिए न्यायिक हस्तक्षेप और संवैधानिक संशोधन आवश्यक होते रहे हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The evolving relationship between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy has been a dynamic feature of India's constitutional journey, often necessitating judicial interventions and constitutional amendments. Discuss.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

SC in Minerval Mills Case, 1980 added the delicate balance with Fundamental Rights (F.R.) and DPSP under Basic structure doctrine & propounded Doctrine of Harmonious construction

Dynamic nature

(1) · The fight between F.R. & DPSP has been since Independence.

Govt acts for land reforms were nullified by judiciary due to Article 31.

· Govt enacted 1st C.A.A., 1951

· Thereafter several cases like
  — Sajjan Singh case

S.C. accepted that F.R. are superior to DPSP however F.R. are ammendable.

Candidates must not write on this margin

- However this notion was reversed in Golaknath case, 1967 where supremacy of F.R. were upheld & they were made non-ammendable by parliament.

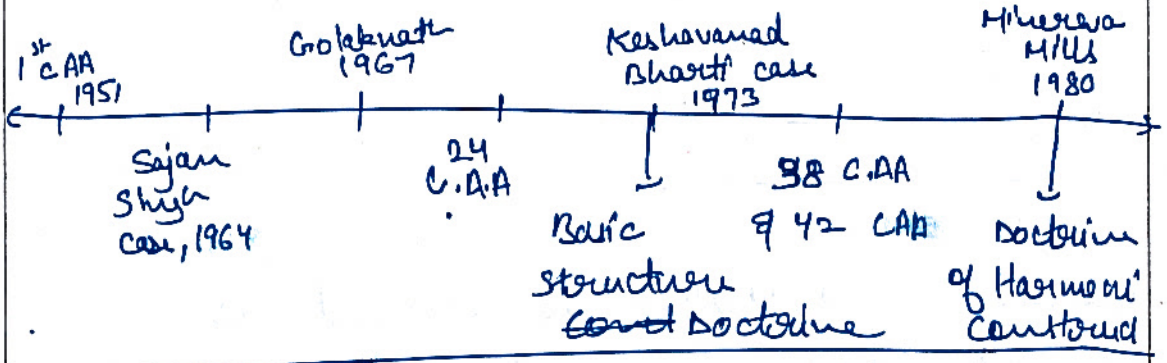
- ~~Due to~~ Govt. enacted 24th C.A.A. to give parliament the power to ammend ~~to~~ F.R.

- However this provision was ~~ff~~ upheld by S.C. in Keshavanand Bharticase, 1973 However SC invented "Basic Structure Doctrine."

- Govt in retaliation adopted 38th & 42nd C.A.A. but the particular provisions of this ammendments were struck down in Minerva Mills case, 1980 and S.C. invented Doctrine of Harmonious construction.

Since then Doctrine of Harmonious construction was effectively being used to settle the dynamism between F.R. & DPSP

Candidates must not write on this margin



Doctrine of Harmonious Construction

- It states that neither F.R nor DPSP are superior to each other
- State must aim to balance DPSP and F.R as one is ~~people's~~ ~~right~~ states duty & another citizens right.

The pro-active role of judiciary is claimed by scholar as it constitution saving — such innovative doctrines have succesfully kept state in check and also maintained the dynamic relation by Part III & IV of constitution

Candidates must not write on this margin

13. सहकारी संघवाद संविधान की रूपरेखा में निहित है, लेकिन राजनीतिक कारणों से प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक और टकरावपूर्ण संघवाद उभरा है। भारत के संघीय ढांचे में इन प्रवृत्तियों को संतुलित करने में संवैधानिक और संवैधानिक-से बाहर के संस्थानों की भूमिका का परीक्षण कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

While cooperative federalism is rooted in the design of the Constitution, political considerations have given rise to competitive and confrontational federalism. Examine the role of constitutional and extra-constitutional institutions in reconciling these trends within India's federal structure. (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Cooperative federalism is declared as Basic structure by ~~the~~ S.C. However due to legal loopholes & political rivalry often centre-state relation causes dilution of federalism.

Role of Constitutional & extra-constitutional Institution in Federal structure

① Planning commission

Though established by executive order was often blamed as super cabinet & overriding powers of states.

② NITI aayog

replaced planning commission in 2015. However NITI aayog was deprived of financial power (unlike planning commission) to make federalism

Candidates must not write on this margin

→ States participation in NITI aayog whereas Planning commission was solely

→ Act as Think tank rather than ~~extra constitutional~~ super cabinet body

→ Emphasise of co-operative federalism one of its basic principles.

③ Inter state council under Article 263

→ It was permanently institutionalised after Sarkaria commission report.

→ Provides a platform for co-operation & communication between various states, centre-state, etc.

④ Zonal Council – Statutory Lacking

Northern Central Southern Eastern

→ Divided states into regional clusters for better co-ordination

Candidates must not write on this margin

⑤ Inter-river water dispute tribunals

U/a 262 to resolve water disputes among ~~rivers~~ states.

⑥ North Eastern Zonal council Act

→ 8 states of North-East along with home minister (union) as head to improve co-ordination

① GST council under article 279 A

→ Fiscal federalism based on "One Nation, One Tax" system

Persisting Challenges of Federalism

→ Allegations of misuse of discretionary powers ~~by~~ of Governor

→ All-India services

→ Lack of fiscal power with states & their autonomy

→ Cess & surcharge like taxes over GST (non-distributable)

→ Pendency over Inter-river tribunals (Kaveri dispute since 17 years)

~~Indian~~ Cooperative federalism is not optional — but the only way forward to make India "Vishwaguru" again

Candidates must not write on this margin

14. भारत में बढ़ते हुए न्यायिक हिरासत में बंद बंदियों की संख्या आपराधिक न्याय प्रणाली में प्रणालीगत और प्रक्रियात्मक खामियों को दर्शाती है। हाल के सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्देशों के संदर्भ में इस समस्या की मूल चुनौतियों पर चर्चा करें और इसके समाधान के लिए बहुआयामी दृष्टिकोण सुझाइए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The growing number of undertrial prisoners in India reflects both systemic and procedural lapses within the criminal justice system. In light of recent Supreme Court directions, discuss the underlying challenges and suggest a multi-pronged approach to address this crisis.
(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

According to ~~national~~ Home Ministry, Indian jails are already running at 134% of their capacity. and 65-70% of the prisoners are undertrial.

Systematic & Procedural lapses

- Lack of transparency in Judicial & Criminal justice system
- weak implementation of law
- High pendency cases in Judiciary
- Lack of access to representation in court
- Political influence over undertrials of criminals

Challenges of Growing undertrial prisoners

① Human rights violation

~~Us~~ ~~Pun~~ Jailing without proper trial

Candidates must not write on this margin

erodes human rights

② Hygience & Sanitation

As prisons are overoccupied — it raises concerns of Hygience

③ Human Dignity & Reputation

A person who is not guilty but jailed often ~~det~~ faces social exclusion despite no crime.

④ Increasing burden on Judiciary

Over 5 crores + case pending and around 82000 cases pending in S.C. while 62 lakh pending in HCs.

Multi-Pronged approach required

① Reforms in ~~fo~~ criminal laws

Recent BNS, 2023 & BNSS Act, 2023 has provided for mandatory bail to undertrials if spent ~~50%~~ 1/3 to 50% punishments they could have got

Candidates must not write on this margin

② Filling vacancy in Judiciary

Judiciary at HC has around 3500+ vacancies., Even S.C. has 31 out of 34 judges

③ Use of AI & Technology

Poor record keeping, evidence keeping can be curtailed by using technology.

④ Capacity building of prisons

~~Poor~~ Standards of Prisons must be increased & their capacity must be strengthened

⑤ ~~Fast~~ Efficient Fast track courts & Lok adalats

In 2023, National lok adalat solved 1.2 crore cases in 4 seatings. Such efficient systems must be functional.

⑥ Strengthening Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms

Mediation Act, 2023 is a welcoming step

Indian ~~co~~ judicial system has been formed on Principles of "No innocents must be punished" — State & Judiciary must uphold this socio fabric

Candidates must not write on this margin

15. "उच्च सदन को पुनर्विलोकन कक्ष के रूप में कल्पित किया गया था, न कि निम्न सदन के प्रतिद्वंद्वी के रूप में।" इस कथन के आलोक में, क्या आप मानते हैं कि समकालीन भारतीय राजनीति में राज्यसभा इस दृष्टिकोण को अभी भी निभा रही है? (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

'The Upper House was envisioned as a reviewing chamber and not a rival to the Lower House.' In light of this statement, do you think the Rajya Sabha continues to fulfil this vision in contemporary Indian polity? (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Part V of the constitution provides for establishment of Upper house of lower house. Rajya Sabha was established to uphold federal structure as well as keep a check on lower house

Role of Rajya Sabha

1. Equal to lok Sabha
   → Introduction of ordinary bill & its passing
2. Upholding federal structure
   Often - & keeping check on lok sabha unitary powers.
   Eg: Detailed discussions over bills by state representatives
3. Equal powers for Constitutional Amendment
   This ensures that state representation also is taken into consideration

Candidates must not write on this margin

③ Power to reject arbitrary bills

Rajya Sabha can reject ~~ord~~ ordinary bills – However provision of Joint Parliament session may be provoked

④ Joint Parliamentary Committees

Acting as platforms between opinions of both the houses

⑤ Superior powers of Rajya Sabha

with regard to → All India services
→ State list legislation

help preventing abuse of constitutional provisions.

⑥ Validating ordinances & national Emergency

When ~~State~~ Lok Sabha is not in session to ~~cont~~ keep executive effectively Operate.

However there are certain challenges to the ~~fo~~ working of Rajya Sabha

Candidates must not write on this margin

① Joint sessions → Theoretically may equate L.S. & R.S. However as L.S. has more member, It is often dominated by L.S.

② Similar Political Complexion

Recently, Political parties have similar seats percentage in both the houses this means. Ruling party dominate in Rajya sabha — ~~not~~ reducing its reviewing work.

③ National Emergency withdrawl

Only L.S. can raise motion to remove national emergency — this raises concerns when L.S. is dissolved.

However, overall Rajya sabha has fulfilled ~~its role in maintaining federal structure~~ and acting as review chamber of parliament

Candidates must not write on this margin

16. अच्छी तरह से संचालित सरकारी पहल तब भी विफल हो जाती हैं जब उनके संचालन और रखरखाव को कार्यक्रम की रूपरेखा में शामिल नहीं किया जाता। भारत में स्वच्छ भारत मिशन के संदर्भ में, सामूहिक प्रयास और समुदाय की सहभागिता इनकी दीर्घकालिक स्थिरता कैसे सुनिश्चित कर सकती है? चर्चा कीजिए। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Well-executed government initiatives often fail if operations and maintenance are not integral to the programme design. In the context of the Swachh Bharat Mission in India, discuss how collective action and community ownership can ensure its long-term sustainability.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Swach Bharat Mission — a flagship programme has completed 10 years in 2025. It has remarkably improved hygiene & sanitation standards. Recent statement by govt acknowledging 100% open defication free India

Govt initiatives in India often gets success initially however failure to maintain the initiatives — often leads to wastage of resources & public disappointment.

However, Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) have been succesful till date due to community participation

Collective Action & Community ownership ensure long term sustainability

Candidates must not write on this margin

① Holds executive accountable for their work.

Eg: social audits

② Political empowerment of local representation often ensures that maintenance is taken care

③ Ensures transparency & effective - efficient implementation of policy at grassroot level.

④ Financial Discipline

When community participates - it takes care if finances are being used properly or not.

⑤ Unified voice often attract political attention leading to long term sustainability.

⑥ Feedback Mechanism

Active participation by citizens provides

Candidates must not write on this margin

real feedbacks which can ~~cost~~ incorporated in future

⑦ Grievance Redressal

Collective voice often use grievance redressal mechanism effectively.

~~Thus it is~~ Community participation is key to sucess of every welfare schemes — especially SBM which directly influence public ~~percept~~ Standard of living.

Candidates must not write on this margin

17. चुनावी राजनीति में मुफ्त सुविधाओं ने भारत में शासन पर उनके प्रभाव को लेकर बहस छेड़ दी है। मुफ्त सुविधाओं और कल्याण उपायों के बीच अंतर स्पष्ट कीजिए और उनके शासन पर प्रभाव का मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Freebies in electoral politics have sparked debate over their impact on governance in India. Differentiate between freebies and welfare measures, and examine their impact on governance.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

S.C. in S. Subramaniyan V/S State of Tamil Nadu, 2013 highlighted the increasing freebie "Revari" culture in the contemporary politics.

Freebies V/S welfare schemes

Freebies	welfare scheme
→ Short term political gain	→ have long term impact
→ No focus on capacity building ~~Eg: Free caste vote~~ Eg: Free cash vouchers or unemployment compensation pension	→ Emphasise on capacity building Eg: Subsidised or ~~go~~ collateral free loan schemes like "Drone Didi" ↳ empowering women for real
→ Unsustainable practices (burden on exchequer)	→ Sustainable ~~fin~~ (Dividend in long run)

Candidates must not write on this margin

Impact on governance

Freebies

(1) Additional burden of financial exchequer

→ ~~wast~~ ~~undesired~~ non-productive use of public money

(2) Dependence over Development

Charles Murray → Freebies make people dependent on states

(3) Unconstitutional of undemocratic principles

→ It undermines constitutional morality

→ aimed to influence voters for political gains through undemocratic means

welfare schemes

(1) ~~Dep~~ Capacity Building rather than dependency on states

Eg: Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)

Candidates must not write on this margin

② Making administration efficient

welfare schemes demand efforts from admn — strengthening them unlike freebies which ~~of~~ follow short-cuts.

③ Effective Public service delivery

Goal of governance is to empower citizens not ~~g~~ giving them short term gratification

Way Forward

↳ voluntary political party consensus building on freebies

↳ Empowering ECI to take actions against freebie culture

↳ National level framework to prevent freebie culture

↳ Implementing S.C. guidelines ~~in~~ in 2013 case

Freebies are like hidden pest for nation's growth - State must take pro-active approach to restrict "Revari" culture

Candidates must not write on this margin

18. कई संस्थानों के होने के बावजूद एक मजबूत शोध वातावरण के विकास में संरचनात्मक बाधाएं लंबे समय से अवरोध बनी हुई हैं। अनुसंधान राष्ट्रीय निधि (ANRF) इन संरचनात्मक चुनौतियों को दूर करने के लिए कैसे प्रयासरत है? चर्चा कीजिए।
(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

Structural barriers have long impeded the development of a robust research environment, despite the presence of numerous institutions. Discuss how the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) seeks to address these structural challenges.
(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Recently, Cabinet has approved allocation of ₹1 lakh crore under ANRF for Research & Development (R&D)
— reflecting on need for developing a research intensive environment.

Structural challenges regarding R&D

① Lack of Private Participation

Unlike ~~global~~ developed economies where Private players lead, in India Govt. drives R&D
Eg: Israel — over 70% contribution by Private

② Low ~~fore~~ spending on R&D

Israel spends 6% of its GDP
China spends around 3%.
while India still lacks below 1% of its GDP.

Candidates must not write on this margin

② Industry - academia collaborations

Often there is lack of collaborations between Industries & universities

④ Apathetic Bureaucracy

The status quoist nature of bureaucracy often impede R & D ~~progs~~ schemes

⑤ lack of National level framework

How ANRF seeks to address these challenges

① Promoting private players to participate by creating viability ~~ag~~ ~~gap~~ Gap Fund (VGF)

② Encouraging Industry - academia collaborat

to provide industrial experience to ~~new comers while giving industries~~ cheaper alternatives

③ Institutionalising international standards

By Collaborating with state & non

Candidates must not write on this margin

state organisations.

④ Developing Centres of Excellence & encouraging universities to open Research labs.

⑤ Indian researches of ~~not~~ IPRs are often associated around theoretical strands (around 69%) — while very less no. of industry oriented practical application ~~based~~ research ~~based~~

— ANRF will aim ~~to~~ ~~not~~ bridge this gap

⑥ Financing Atal Innovation labs

⑦ ANRF will ~~also~~ advise govt in policy formulation & framework development.

ANRF can be a key solution to India's lagging R & D sector — However proper implementation, ~~commit~~ Private participation, active role of civil societies can ensure ~~the~~ success of ANRF.

Candidates must not write on this margin

19. भारत की रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका और चीन के साथ संबंधों को संचालित करने में मार्गदर्शक सिद्धांत बनी हुई है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत के सामने संभावित चुनौतियों और अवसरों का विश्लेषण कीजिए और भारत को इस नए अमेरिका–चीन प्रतिद्वंद्विता में कैसे अपना रास्ता बनाना चाहिए, इस पर विचार करें।(250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

India's strategic autonomy remains the guiding principle in navigating relations with the United States and China. In this context, analyse the potential challenges and opportunities for India and how India should navigate this renewed US-China rivalry.

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

India has always prioritised strategic autonomy in pursuing foreign policy, this provides space to India to deal with Russia & USA at the same time, maintain healthy relations with Iran & Saudi Arabia & to balance US-China rivalry

Potential Challenges for India amid US-China rivalry

① Hault in supply chain

China controls majority of supply chains ~~The recent showdown by China of~~ restricting critical mineral supplies to worn USA — impacted Indian industries too.

Candidates must not write on this margin

② West usage of India as tool to deter China : West often see India as deterrence to china — impeding India's strategic position & autonomy.

③ Weaponisation of Indo Pacific

Aggression from both US - China has led to weaponisation of Indo - Pacific region

Eg: AUKUS group to nuclearise Indian Ocean.

④ Balancing relation

India has to maintain a neutral stance to minimise adverse impacts and ~~max~~ leverage opportunities

Potential opportunities for India

① leveraging "China +1" Policy

India can attract investment by showcasing itself as a leading player for the China's alternatives.

Candidates must not write on this margin

② Using US - China to neutralise aggression — India often use USA ~~both past~~ to deter Chinese aggression

③ Voice of Global South & leadership

India can act as stabilising power between ~~India~~ China & USA.
It can show itself as ~~regional~~ global power ~~bale~~ ~~bale~~ stabilising ~~As~~ South Asia & global order

Way Forward

↳ ~~leverage multi-lateral organisations~~ like BRICS ~~to~~ as platform to deal with China

↳ Strategic partnership deepening with USA can restrict China's aggression

↳ Capacity building during rivalry to become important player in supply chain globally.

As EAM say — ~~Our~~ Our foreign policy is to "leverage convergences & minimise divergences"

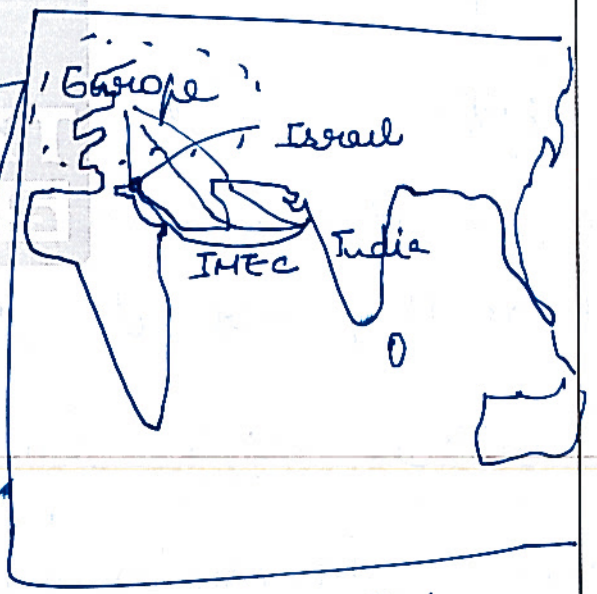
Candidates must not write on this margin

20. भारत-मिडिल ईस्ट-यूरोप आर्थिक गलियारा (IMEC) की शुरुआत भारत की कनेक्टिविटी कूटनीति में एक महत्वपूर्ण मोड़ है। चीन की बेल्ट एंड रोड इनिशिएटिव (BRI) के मुकाबले इसकी भारत के लिए रणनीतिक प्रासंगिकता का विश्लेषण करें। (250 शब्दों में उत्तर दीजिए) 15 अंक

The launch of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) marks a turning point in India's connectivity diplomacy. Analyse its strategic relevance for India vis-à-vis China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). (Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

IMEC was launched during Indian presidency of G20 in 2023. It was launched at the sideline ~~of~~ of the event aiming to connect Indo-pacific to Europe via Middle East and detering China's BRI

Strategic Relevance Of IMEC



① Energy Security

As IMEC passes through Middle east, it ensures India's fuel security.

② Strategic alliance with key players

Alliance with UAE, Saudi Arabia, Israel Greece like countries — key players in trade in the region

Candidates must not write on this margin

③ Deterrence ~~of~~ & Counter of BRI

It aims to create a counter of BRI — giving nations other options.

④ ~~Mitt~~ Diversifying export markets

IMEC will diversify Indian export market by ~~as~~ easy accessibility to Europe

⑤ Putting India as Global leader

Success of IMEC will showcase India as global power at Global level.

⑥ Critical Supply Chain

IMEC will play a critical role in Global supply chain as it connects major developing countries with Europe.

⑦ Aligned with International Solar Alliance

IMEC aligned with ISA can bear double fruits for India — adjoining Africa in IMEC

Candidates must not write on this margin

Challenges Persist

(1) Conflict zone → Middle east has always been zone of conflict
Recent conflict ~~in~~ in Gaza strip is a ~~big~~ major hurdle for IMEC

(2) Adversary partners
Presence of Israel & Saudi Arabia may ~~to~~ delay the operationalisation of the route

(3) Funding Issues
The funding aspect of IMEC is still not crystal clear.

(4) USA stance
During conception of IMEC, USA was a interested party. however new govt in USA may not take keen interest in IMEC.

(5) Increasing China's influence
China's ~~belt~~ 2D policy ← Debt Diplomacy is creating further challenges.

IMEC ~~is~~ can act as a ~~easy~~ sun for India's connectivity diplomacy & global leadership role.

Space for Rough Work

Space for Rough Work

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

CANDIDATES SHOULD READ THE UNDERMENTIONED INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY. VIOLATION OF ANY OF THE INSTRUCTIONS MAY LEAD TO PENALTY.

DONT'S

1. Do not write your name or registration no. anywhere inside this Question-cum-Answer Booklet.
2. Do not write anything other than the actual answers to the questions anywhere inside your QCA Booklet.
3. Do not tear off any pages from your QCA Booklet, if you find any page missing do not fail to notify the supervisor/invigilator.
4. Do not leave behind your QCA Booklet on your table unattended, it should be handed over to the invigilator after conclusion of the exam.

DO'S

1. Read the Instructions on the cover page and strictly follow them.
2. Write your registration number and other particulars, in the space provided on the cover of QCA Booklet.
3. Write legibly and neatly. Do not write in bad/illegible handwritings.
4. For rough notes or calculation, the last two blank pages of this booklet should be used. The rough notes should be crossed through afterwards.
5. If you wish to cancel any work, draw your pen through it or write "Cancelled" across it, otherwise it may be evaluated.
6. Handover your QCA Booklet personally to the invigilator before leaving the examination hall.

SPECIAL REQUEST FOR CANDIDATE AVAILING ONLINE FACILITY

1. Scan the QCA booklet properly. We suggest the uses of the app CAM scanner (Scan QR code in page 2) based on our previous experiences.
2. Please scan the QCA booklet in ample light. Copies scanned under moderate light can hamper evaluation quality.
3. Any page/pdf having shadow needs to be rescanned. Please make sure that the pdf that you upload is as clean as possible.
4. **Candidates not using the QCA booklet** must mention their details on the front page. And leave the next page blank for the macro comments. It must be understood that the answer should start from Page no. 3 in of the scanned pdf.
5. Candidates not using the QCA booklet must follow the sequence of the answer as per the question paper.
6. Please check the sequence of the answer and total number of pages in the scanned version. Make sure it is in consonance with the physical version of the same.

Naresh Agarwal

NEXT IAS

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-	क्या करें-
1. इस प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर पुस्तिका के भीतर कहीं भी अपना नाम या पंजीकरण संख्या न लिखें।	1. कवर पृष्ठ पर दिए गए निर्देशों को ध्यान पूर्वक पढ़ें और उनका सख्ती से पालन करें।
2. अपनी QCA पुस्तिका में कहीं भी प्रश्नों के वास्तविक उत्तरों के अलावा कुछ भी न लिखें।	2. QCA पुस्तिका के कवर पृष्ठ पर दिए गए स्थान पर अपना पंजीकरण नंबर और अन्य विवरण 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।	3. स्पष्ट और पठनीय तरीके से लिखें। खराब/अपठनीय लिखावट में न लिखें।
4. अपनी QCA पुस्तिका को अपनी टेबल पर न छोड़ें, परीक्षा समाप्त होने के पश्चात इसे निरीक्षक को सौंप देना चाहिए।	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।