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NEXT IAS

MAINS TEST SERIES 2.0 - 2025 (SLT)

(To be filled by candidate)

TEST CODE : SLT2504

Name of Candidate: Darshana Mobile No [redacted]

Roll No. : AIMSTGCA1018 Start Time 10:45 End Time.....

Date of Examination: 12/07/25 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 12 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 12 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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FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

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

NEXT IAS

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. "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।

(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में 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

Around 10% unemployment among youth highlights the importance of PM Internship scheme in generation of Employability linked outcomes as well as Participation of youth in economic activities.

PM Internship Scheme

→ (1) Incentive to the employers, large MNCs to employ undergraduate

→ (2) Ensured salary and shifting expenses to employees.

→ (3) Linking the young talent with vocational training for better skill development.

PMIS ensuring Employability-linked outcomes :-

(1) on-site training for better prospects of future employment

(2) Skill development and capacity building of the youth to enhance employability of undergraduates.

e.g.? NITI Ayog data - 50% graduates are not employable.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(3) filling the gap between theoretical knowledge and application of knowledge.

(4) Human Resource development for utilising India's Demographic dividend.

e.g. 765% of population belonging to working age group.

Challenges to PMIS
- (1) Delay in the implementation of scheme
- (2) Ensuring continued employment after end of 6 months of internship.
- (3) Rote learning and outdated curriculum in the universities

Way forward to ensure Employability
- (1) Experiential based learning in colleges
- (2) Promoting entrepreneurship and formalisation of labour force
- (3) Ease of doing business to corporates to generate more employment.

Skilling of youth and development of employment opportunities is primary to realise the goal of "Aatmnirbhar Bharat"

Candidates must not write on this margin

2. "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। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में 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

Ambedkar argued that, "progress of a Nation can be assessed from the progress of women in the country". Women centric welfare schemes provide a key to women empowerment and development

Key women-centric welfare schemes :-

(1) **Education** :-

(a) Beti Bachao Beti Padhao andolan to promote gender equality and empowerment of girl child through education

(b) INSPIRE scholarship to promote women in STEM fields

(c) Supernumerary reservation (23%) at IITs to increase participation in institutes of excellence.

(2) **Skilling** :- Necessary to ensure "right to self determination" and enhanced opportunities for employment

(a) **NAVYA** - vocational training of adolescent girls.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(6) Training of rural women under Lakhpati didi scheme (Drones in agriculture)

(3) Microfinancing - To foster entrepreneurship among women and create more jobs leading to empowerment.

(9) SHG - Bank linkage - To provide easy credit.

(4) Safety - To ensure participation at workplace by making them safe.

e.g. Mission Shakti, POSH act.

Challenges to women empowerment

(1) welfare schemes focusing on Cash distribution

(2) Lack of implementation of Safety mechanism

(3) Digital literacy lower among women → hindrance to participation and empowerment

e.g. 44% women less likely to use internet than Men.

way forward (1) focus on skill development, employment opportunities

(2) political representation of women to ensure right to determine the direction of social change (Nari shakti vandan Adhiniyam)

Inclusive development can be ensure through Economic, political and social empowerment of women

Candidates must not write on this margin

3. 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।

(उत्तर 150 शब्दों में 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

Malegam Committee has recommended that microfinancing of SHGs is the best tool for grassroot poverty alleviation in India.

SHG bank linkage programme impact on improving rural livelihood :-

(1) Employment opportunities :- Increased sources of income in the agrarian economy in rural areas.

(2) Participation of women :- 88% of SHGs are owned by women in the country.

(3) Grassroot development - Availability of services using the SHGs

e.g. Mahamaya SHG in Chhattisgarh collaborates in providing home cooked meals for the Mid day meal programme.

(4) Increase in Income - Through DDU-National rural livelihood Mission, diversity and increased income to alleviate poverty in rural areas.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Reducing multi-dimensional poverty :-

1. 300 million people escaped multi-dimensional poverty in the last 10 years.
2. **Education** - increased income sources allows kids to enroll in school, increasing school attendance.
3. **Health** - Role of SHGs in providing women with **agency** to improve nutrition and reproductive health of themselves and adolscent girls.
4. Increase in asset ownership among women due to SHG-Bank linkage and participation in economic activities

Challenges →
1. Capacity building of SHGs
2. 70% SHGs close down after 3 years of functioning
3. Patriarchal attitude of society leads to limited participation of women.

Focus should be on providing easy credit and resources to SHGs. While ensuring women's Participation.

To realise the goal of SDG-1, No poverty inclusive development in rural areas is important.

Candidates must not write on this margin

4. 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 पूरके हो सकते हैं? (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में 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

The development of Social stock exchange highlights the importance of social enterprises in complementing the state in achieving inclusive development

Emerging global hub for social Entrepreneurship
- ① Indian startups and NGOs
- ② FDI in social stock exchange
- ③ Sovereign Green bonds and Green credit programmes for climate financing

Social Enterprises Complementing the role of State:-

① filling the governance gap and ensuring last mile delivery of services
e.g. Care India for elderly care.

② CSR activities of companies showcasing social responsibility and complement ~~inclusive development~~
e.g. Tata company collaboration for "Digital Sakshacta" among women.

③ Skill development and enhancing employment opportunities for the youth

Candidates must not write on this margin

(4) Access to finance & and mobilising capital to foster Social ~~developing~~ development.

(5) Innovation and bringing expertise in promoting inclusive development

"Varaha startup" for rejuvenation of land while connecting companies to provide them with carbon credits.

Challenges faced by social enterprises → (1) lack of ease of doing business and bureaucratic hurdles

(2) Limited capital account convertibility, slows down FDI

(3) Ensuring public interest while maintaining profits in the business.

way forward → (1) Development of MOUs and Standard operating procedures to Streamline Entry and Functioning of social enterprises

(2) Incentives and financial support (e.g. Relax Tax burden) for promoting their involvement.

To conclude, with streamlining of procedures and ensuring transparent mechanisms social enterprises can complement state in ~~ensure~~, inclusive development

Candidates must not write on this margin

5. 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। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में 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

Recent movements in Hasdeo - Arand region of Chhattisgarh demonstrate the role of citizen led environmental movements for ecological preservation.

Citizen-led environment movement as effective tool of ecological preservation :-

(1) Involvement of local communities in preserving environment.

e.g. Dongaria Kondh tribe of Odisha against vedanta on Niyamgiri hills.

(2) Raising voice against displacement and destruction of environment.

e.g. Narmada Bachao andolan.

(3) Judicial measures - Public interest litigations led to environmental friendly guidelines.

e.g. Ranjit Singh Case - Right to clean environment under Article 14 & 21

Candidates must not write on this margin

(4) Transparency in the functioning of government.

e.g.] Necessitating Environment Impact Assessment in fragile ecological zones including Himalayan region.

(5) Direct action through cleaning drives, awareness among public.

e.g.] Mumbai Beach cleaning by local community

Challenges to citizen led environmental movements:

(1) Can be obstructionist in nature

e.g.] Greenpeace against Kudankulam nuclear energy plant.

(2) Lack of organisation and resource mobilisation to sustain the movement.

(3) Politically motivated movements.

Way forward → (1) Enhancing transparency through mechanism like RTI

→ (2) Empowering NGOs to serve as a bridge between citizen and state

From Sunderlal Bahuguna led Chipko Andolan to recent protest in Odisha and Chhattisgarh, ecological preservation can be done through inclusive participation of people

Candidates must not write on this margin

6. "नागरिक समाज संगठनों पर बढ़ती नियामक निगरानी लोकतांत्रिक क्षेत्र को संकुचित करने की आशंका उत्पन्न करती है।" आलोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

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

FCRA amendment rules increasing regulatory requirement on NGOs represent the shrinking democratic space for civil society organisations.

Increasing regulatory oversight on CSO :-

(1) To receive foreign donations NGOs have to mandatorily make accounts with a Delhi SBI branch.

(2) Increased compliance for availing Tax exemptions by the donors.

(3) complexity of rules and regulatory Procedures.

Requirement for such oversight →

(1) only 2% of NGOs are officially registered

(2) Shell NGOs for money laundering

(3) only 10% NGOs file ITR returns

Candidates must not write on this margin

→ (4) as a front for financing terrorism
e.g. popular front of India.

Way forward -

(1) S Vijay Kumar committee recommended light regulatory approach for the NGOs

(2) Simplification of rules, single window clearance and online registration.
e.g. Portal Darpan for NGOs

(3) Enhancing capacity of NGOs and their involvement in policy Making
e.g. Prathana NGO on NEP2020 for Primary education

ARC II commented that civil society organisation should be treated as Partners to Good governance.

Candidates must not write on this margin

7. "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। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

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

Digital governance is the Information and Communication Technology in delivery Services to Citizen. Success of UPI leaves as the source of India's leadership in Digital governance

Digital governance as a frontier in global agenda

① Growth of digital services → efficiency of administration

② Large amounts of data collection.

③ unregulated Growth of AI and other technologies

④ Cryptocurrency

India leading by example :-

① more than 1 billion transactions on UPI everyday

② Acceptance of UPI in other Countries including France, Singapore etc.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(3) Development of 'India Stack', 'Agri stack' to showcase the use of digital governance.

(4) Recognition of "Right to privacy" under Digital Personal Data Protection Rules

(5) NITI Ayog strategy for AI, and its application in Health, Education

e.g. Cancer imaging AI application to detect cancer from X-rays

Challenges — (1) Delay in implement DPDP rules

→ (2) Lack of control over supply value chain of semi-conductors, Li-ion batteries

(3) Lack of Cyber Security infrastructure

e.g. Hacking of AIIMS website

Way forward - Advancement of Digital Security, light regulation for AI development, Securing GPU for AI research

With the fast paced development and acceptance of digital governance in India, "Digital India" can lead the world by example.

Candidates must not write on this margin

8. "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। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में दीजिए) 10 अंक

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

(Answer in 150 words) 10 Marks

~~Afri~~ This century is defined as the African century of development and India plays an important role as a partner to African growth story.

Development cooperation
- (1) Building of infrastructure
- (2) Cultural relations through ICCR
- (3) Technology aid through ITEC
- (4) Health ~~, vaccine maitri, vaccines~~ during covid and pharmaceutical export.

Strategic engagement
- (1) Colombo security Conclave - Involvement of maldives, Seychelles for stability and security of Indian Ocean region

Candidates must not write on this margin

→ (2) Important front in the Red-sea Crisis – Djibouti having ~~chinese~~, European and US Naval bases to counter Houthi Rebels.

→ (3) G20 → African union involvement

→ (4) Global Governance and UNSC reforms

→ (5) climate financing and Technology transfer

Economic engagement

→ (1) Human resource potential of Africa → Youth employment, Scholarship to students.

(2) Resources like Oil in Algeria → & diversifying India's Crude Oil Sources

(3) Japan – India → Africa growth corridor to counter China's Debt Diplomacy

multidimensional collaboration of India and Africa is a stunning example of Global south-south cooperation

Candidates must not write on this margin

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

The recent coup in Bangladesh and Pahalgam attack by Pakistan has presented challenges to India in Transboundary water sharing

Pakistan and Transboundary water challenges :-

① Suspension of the Indus-water Treaty leaving a vacuum of mechanism to resolve conflicts

② climate changes place new challenges on the water sharing agreement of the Himalayan rivers

③ Pakistan's opposition to run-off river projects like Ratle and Kishanganga show the hesitancy in negotiating a sustainable pact for water sharing

④ As an upper-riparian state India only controlled 20% of Indus water

Candidates must not write on this margin

Bangladesh and Transboundary water sharing

Challenges :-

1. Teesta water sharing issues and lack of a dispute resolution mechanism.
2. Changing of route by Brahmputra Causes flooding on North Eastern states.
3. ~~Erratic~~ rainfall patterns also hinders Cooperation

Way forward

1. Pakistan - It shows that "Treaties and terror" don't go ~~together~~:
   - requirement of resolution of trans challenges by Pakistan.
2. Negotiation and agreement with the democratically elected government of Bangladesh.

Transboundary water-sharing challenges with Pakistan & Bangladesh should be resolved amicable with ensuring India's Integrity and Security.

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। (उत्तर 150 शब्दों में 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

PM Modi said that the Indian diaspora in Gulf should not be seen only as Sankhya (number) but as Shakti (strength)

Indian diaspora in Gulf region
- (1) workers in the UAE, Saudi Arabia
- (2) Nurses, care staff migrating from Kerala and Southern states.

Shaping India's economic relations :-

(1) **Remittances** - leads to foreign exchange balance and increase of disposable income among relatives.

(2) Trade of goods with the gulf countries.

(3) Indian Businessman in Kuwait and Qatar as successful and improving trade relations with India.

Candidates must not write on this margin

People centric Diplomacy -

① Important role in demonstrating India's Soft power in the Middle East e.g.] Bollywood, Indian cuisine.

② India centric policies of Gulf countries due to diaspora

Challenges to Gulf-Indian diaspora
- ① Exploitative system like Kafala and Nitaqat
- ② Incidence of human trafficking and fraud with workers.
- ③ Radicalisation and impact of Islamic centred policies.

Way forward
- ① emulate support to the workers going to gulf countries
- ② Agreements to protect the interest/Rights of diaspora in the Gulf countries
- ③ Awarness regarding fraudulent employment schemes.

Celebration of "Pravasi Bharatiya Divas" shows the importance of Indian Diaspora.

Candidates must not write on this margin

11. 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।

(उत्तर 250 शब्दों में 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

Recent issues over free cash transfer have sparked debate over effectiveness of freebies as a welfare measure or an electoral tool to win elections.

Freebies in electoral politics
- → (1) cash transfer to women
- → (2) Distribution of free goods.
- (3) free services causing economic burden.

Difference between freebies and welfare measures:-

	Freebies	welfare measures
Definition	→ focus on free transfer of goods and services	focus on building capacity and providing social security measures
Examples	→ Ladli Behen yojana, Mahtari vandan yojan [Cash transfer to women]	PM Kisan mandhan - to ensure Pension, PM Faasal Bima yojana - to ensure insurance of crops.

Candidates must not write on this margin

~~Positive impact of freebies on~~

Impact of freebies on Governance :-

1. causing fiscal burden on the government finances [Irrational expenses]
2. Competition among political parties to Provide freebies for political mobilization.
3. Shifting focus from empowerment and Skilling to simple cash transfers.
4. Increases dependency of people on freebies

Impact of welfare measures on Governance :-

1. Focus on Skilling and generating employment.
   e.g.] Skill India, PMGram kaushal Vikas Yojana.
2. Prudent use of government resources to ensure fiscal sustainability.
3. Providing a social security net to workers e.g.] Vaya vandan yojana

Candidates must not write on this margin

(4) Enabling in nature through microfinancing and access to credit services

e.g. SHG - Bank linkage programme.

Way - forward :-

(1) Focus on welfare measures rather than freebies

(2) Implementing model code of conduct to restrict announcement of freebies during elections.

(3) Ensuring inclusive development through social security measures.

Effective and Good governance can be ensured through prioritising welfare over freebies politics.

Candidates must not write on this margin

12. "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। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में 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

ARC II highlighted that, "RTI is the key to Good Governance" The recent amendement on the RTI act has diluted the effectiveness of RTI regime.

Autonomy and independence of Information Commissions :-

(1) Role of central government on appointment, removal, tenure and Salary of the Information Commissioners.

(2) Administrative control of Central government.

(3) Section 8(1)(a) → Information disclosure exemption related to India's Security, friendly relations, Sovereignty etc.

(4) Section 8(1)(j) → ~~exp~~ exemption under "private information" of the officials.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Dilution of effectiveness of RTI regime:-

1. Exemptions like 8(1)(a) and 8(1)(j) are misused to reveal information and reduces transparency of the process.
2. Lack of training of staff and resources to provide information → leading to delay.
3. Frivolous rejections of RTI applications
4. Lack of awareness among citizen regarding the application process. and RTI procedures.
5. Challenges due to politically motivated and irrelevant RTI applications.
6. Bureaucratic apathy and lack of active response mechanism.
7. The 30 days reply deadline is often not followed and lack of action against officers.

Candidates must not write on this margin

[Way forward to improve effectiveness of RTI regime]:-

(1) Awareness among citizens regarding the process of application

(2) Institutional independence and third Party regulatory oversight on the commission to ensure transparency and accountability.

(3) Capacity building, personnel training to ensure quality delivery of service

(4) Digitalisation of records for quick access to information.

(5) Grievance redressal mechanism like CPGRAMS to ensure effectiveness and responsiveness.

The independence and autonomy of Information Commissions is crucial to ensure transparency and accountability of governance in line with Scrottans model

Candidates must not write on this margin

13. "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। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में 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

Sardar Vallabhbhai patel envisioned the civil Services in Indian to be "Disciplined, Democratic and ~~Good~~ Empathetic" for good governance of country. The perception of Civil services as rigid and politicised is detrimental to public service delivery and good governance.

Perception of rigid and politicised
- (1) Corruption
- (2) Bureaucratic apathy
- (3) Red Tapism
- (4) political influence

Reasons responsible for the perception of rigid and politicised civil Services :-

(1) Historical - colonial hangover and feudal nature of civil Services

(2) Transfers, postings and promotions are often based on political favors and influence of political leaders

Candidates must not write on this margin

(3) Ivory Tower Syndrome - Hightened Sense of Self importance and power in the Civil Services

(4) Social factors - focus on material success leading to corruption and prejudiced attitude toward vulnerable section.

(5) Weak monitoring mechanisms - Transparent and unbiased ~~authority of~~ Monitoring of civil services.

(6) Lack of Training, capacity building to foster flexibility and ethical leadership.

(7) Joining of political parties after retirement

Corrective measures -

(1) Capacity building measures.
- from rule based to role based Civil services - Mission Karmyogi

Candidates must not write on this margin

(2) Domain expertise and specialisation through knowledge building exercises.
e.g.) Amrit gyan kosh portal

(3) Mid career training, on site training to foster the spirit of continuous learning flexibility in the services

(4) Mota committee - Civil services board to ensure independent transfer, posting and promotion of civil servants.

(5) Vohra Committee - Breaking the political - Bureaucrat - corporate nexus through transparency and accountability mechanisms.

(6) 360° peformance review and public feedback (e.g. SPARROW portal) to ensure Consensus orientation

(7) Ethical training to foster a sense of responsibility and dedication to public services.

Developing proper "skill, Attitude and knowledge" as the goal of Karmyogi can enhance neutrality efficiency of services.

Candidates must not write on this margin

14. 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।
(उत्तर 250 शब्दों में 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

Currently 0.35-% investment in Research and development has created structural barriers and impeded development of research environment. Rs 1 lakh crore budget under ANRF can address these structural challenges

Presence of numerous institutions
- (1) 23 IITs, IIMs, AIIMs for technical and medical research
- (2) IISER Bangalore for scientific research
- (3) ICAR, CSIR → for industrial and agricultural research

Structural barriers in development of robust research environment :-

(1) Lack of Industry-academic linkage in India.

e.g. IVY leagues like Harvard directly collaborate with companies.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(2) Outdated Curriculum and rote learning leading to lack of spirit of scientific enquiry.

(3) Access to Institutes of excellence is limited to a selected group of individuals
e.g.] Highly competitive exam for IIT entrance.

(4) Professors in universities are less in number and overburdened with administrative work to focus on R&D research.

(5) Lack of state of the art infrastructure in government colleges.

e.g.] Supercomputers only available at few IITs.

(6) Lack of collaboration and research culture in India

Role of ANRF in addressing these challenges :-

(1) Building a network of universities to promote collaboration in research.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(2) Aiding the infrastructure of government colleges to promote research

e.g.] Biotechnology labs

(3) Foster collaboration with the Industry to produce "output based research"

e.g.] IIT Kanpur as hub for promoting Startups on UP., → providing them with technical guidance, lab infrastructure.

(4) Grants to universities and professors to ensure resource allocation and infrastructure for research.

(5) Foster the spirit of research among youth through role models, workshops and training in colleges.

ANRF is the pathway to realise the potential of research in India and achieve the goal of being the "Vishwaguru"

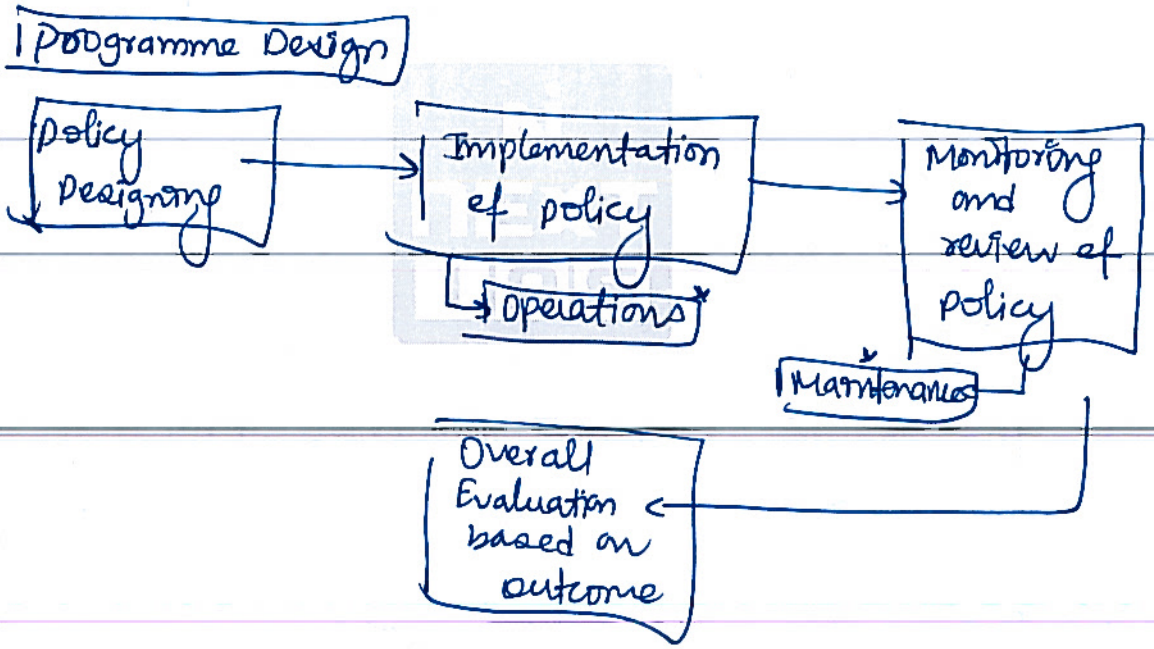
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15. अच्छी तरह से संचालित सरकारी पहल तब भी विफल हो जाती हैं जब उनके संचालन और रखरखाव को कार्यक्रम की रूपरेखा में शामिल नहीं किया जाता। भारत में स्वच्छ भारत मिशन के संदर्भ में, सामूहिक प्रयास और समुदाय की सहभागिता इसकी दीर्घकालिक स्थिरता कैसे सुनिश्चित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

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

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Operation, Maintenance are the integral components of policy making to ensure long-term sustainability through collective action and community ownership.



failure of government initiatives

① Lack of Public Participation in framing of policies

② Lack of Transparency and accountability Mechanisms → Corruption, e.g. PDS leakages.

③ Lack of Monitoring to receive grievances.

Candidates must not write on this margin

Swacch Bharat mission :-

(1) Public awareness programmes to ensure Public participation and collective action.

(2) Role modeling by celebrities and political leaders to ~~ensure~~ motivate Public

(3) Role of Gram sabhas and panchayat in ensuring construction of toilets and open defecation free goals
→ showcasing community ownership

(4) Instilling a sense of civic responsibility and instead of only rules & regulations for the long term sustainability.
e.g. Indore model.

(5) Empowering SHGs to mobilised women in cleanliness programmes.
e.g. Bhilai – near 100% waste collection using the self help groups.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(6) Use of cultural mediums like songs, advertisements to mobilise more people.

e.g.7 Catchy song - "Gaadiwala aaya"

Challenges to long term sustainability :-

(1) Waste management facilities in urban areas → lack of infrastructure may impact long term sustainability.

e.g.7 Ghaziabad garbage dump.

(2) false reports of ODF from certain Panchayats.

(3) Lack of change in attitude despite measures of toilet building.

Way foward → (1) Overall infrastructure enhancement

→ (2) Continued nudging effect

(3) ~~Role of local governance institutions~~ in maintaining sanitation and mobilising people.

for the long term sustainability of any scheme, it is important that collective action and community ownership is ensured through "Sabka sath, sath utkas Sabka prayas"

Candidates must not write on this margin

16. 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। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में 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

India is the world's 5-th largest economy with a consistent economic growth, but the increasing inequality, and poor performance (401-(130/193)) on development parameters inhibit equitable and inclusive development

Poor performance on human development rankings
- Global hunger index - 86/180
- Rising inequality - "Billionaire Raj" by Thomas Picketty.
- Global gender gap index -

[Structural issues inhibiting equitable and inclusive human development]

(1) Bureaucratic apathy and inefficiency - weak service delivery mechanism

Candidates must not write on this margin

(2) Corruption and leakages in scheme implementation.

(3) Focus on freebies rather than welfare measures.

e.g. Cash transfer to women

(4) Low spending in Education (2.5% GDP) and Health (1.3% of GDP)

(5) Rural-urban divide in access to services leading to regional disparity

(6) less focus on skill development and employment → leading to trap of poverty

e.g. 10% unemployment among youth

(7) weak grievance redressal mechanisms

(8) patriarchal attitude of society - Gender inequality

Way forward :-

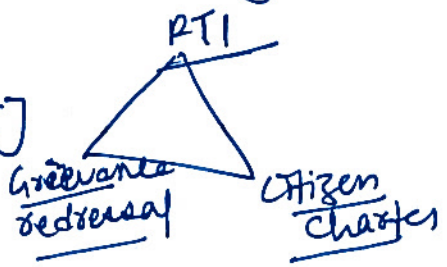
(1) Focus on capacity building of the Bureaucracy

e.g. Mission Karmayogi

Candidates must not write on this margin

(2) Streamlining service delivery through best practices

Sevottam model [ARC II]



(3) focus on education, skilling to remove poverty and unemployment eg: PM kaushal vikas.

(4) Supporting rural enterprises, small scale industries to generate employment

(5) Microfinancing of Self-help groups for empowerment of women, and promoting inclusive development.

(6) Integrated child development - ensuring nutrition, vaccination for development of children eg: PM poshan

To balance the impact of economic growth to the bottom strata removal of structural issues on necessary.

Candidates must not write on this margin

17. "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। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में 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

Inclusion of Iran, Indonesia, Egypt, Ethiopia, UAE makes the BRICS more representative in terms of interest of Global south, highlighting Its role in geopolitics.

opportunities for Strengthening voice in global economic governance

1. Iran and UAE as oil rich nations and Part of OPEC
2. Access to South-East Asian Market through inclusion of Indonesia
3. Essential in enhancing connectivity and economic trade.

Leveraging BRICS Plus to advance the interest of Global South :-

1. Negotiation in the WTO - for reforms in the favor of developing countries

Candidates must not write on this margin

(2) attracting investments from nations like UAE and Observer Saudi Arabia to promote economic activities.

(3) UNSC reforms - to break the hegemony of the UNSC in international governance

(4) Trade connectivity through routes like India - Middle East Economic Corridor.

(5) Climate financing to Small Islands and Developing states for adaptation and mitigation measures.

Challenges in BRICS Plus -

(1) Regional conflicts causing disruption in Consensus based approach.

e.g. China and India border disputes.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(5) Conflict ridden region of Middle east → Tension between Iran and Israel as detrimental to interests and strategic autonomy of India

(3) Involvement of Russia in war, and human right violations (observed by South Africa in the ICJ))

(4) Perceived China hegemony in the group may be construed BRICS as Anti-west alliance

Way-forward

① Dialogues and Diplomacy, using BRICS platform for resolution of disputes.

② Issue based alliance to ensure Global South cooperation.

③ Enhancing economic and Trade connectivity through mechanisms like BRICS bridge.

In the era of Trade wars, BRICS Plus serves as an important platform for global economic governance and voicing interest of global south.

Candidates must not write on this margin

18. 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।

(उत्तर 250 शब्दों में दीजिए) 15 अंक

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

(Answer in 250 words) 15 Marks

Recent Bilateral trade deal with US and special representative engagement with china after 5- years show the relevance of India's strategic autonomy on navigating US-China rivalry.

Renewed US-China rivalry → (1) Reciprocal tariffs by US on china (and other countries)

→ (2) Iran backed by china and Israel by US → leading to geopolitical conflict

(3) Trade wars → Restriction of Rare earth elements lead to Global supply value chain disruption

Potential challenges to India :-

(1) potential closeness with US on terms of trade and technology.

Candidates must not write on this margin

leading to excursion by china on the North Eastern borders.

(2) Institutional mechanisms rendered ineffective due to US-China rivalry

e.g.7 SCO, BRICS seen as Anti west and QUAD as a group to counter China's dominance with Indo-pacific.

(3) National security and Economic loss for India.

e.g.7 Threat of American sanctions on buying oil from Russia

(4) Opposing stances of China and US on Climate financing and mitigation measures.

e.g.7 US left the Paris agreement deal and China is adamant to present itself as a developing nation to escape Climate protection measures

Opportunities for India on US-China rivalry -

(1) India as an Option on Channel Strategy

Candidates must not write on this margin

e.g. Foxconn shifting assembly lines to India

(2) India can act as a bridge between the west and east

(3) Enhanced bargaining power as a peace maker and mediator in the region.

(4) Enhanced focus on US on the Indopacific → increasing security of region and countering china's influence.

Navigation by India

(1) maintain strategic autonomy and issue based partnership

(2) Strengthening its skill development and ease of doing business measures to trap the opportunities arising from De risking from china

(3) Diversifying supply value chains to avoid disruptions.

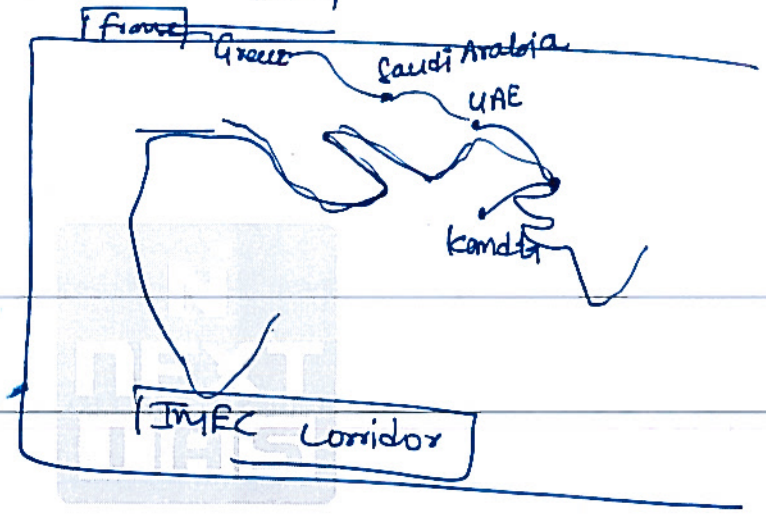
Navigating the US-china rivalry in a balanced manner is necessary to ensure strategic autonomy and Economic security of India

Candidates must not write on this margin

19. 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। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में 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 launched during G20 summit open new avenues for connectivity to Europe and Countering China's BRI



India's connectivity diplomacy :-

① It will enhance access of India to European markets. like France, Greece

② Enhancing economic connectivity and trade opportunity for ~~trade~~ goods and services.

Candidates must not write on this margin

(3) Turning point - from East connectivity measures (BBIN, IMT, Kaladan) to west connectivity measures by India.

(4) will provide an alternative to Red Sea route, also conflict ridden due to attack by Houthi rebels.

(5) In line with India's "look west" strategy

Relevance vis-a-vis china's BRI :-

(1) countering china's influence and blockade measures through ensuring safety and security of trade routes

(2) use of multi modal transport like ports, highways → infrastructure development to counter china's cheque book diplomacy

Candidates must not write on this margin

(3) Countering the chinese policy of encircling India through string of pearls.

(4) Countering the role of china as a mediator on the middle east by ensuring India's access.

Challenges to IMEC

① Conflict on the middle east.
e.g. Iran - operation True promise
Isreal - operation Rising Star

② Attack on Iran's nuclear facilities

③ Conflict on Europe, NATO investment leading to less focus on IMEC.

(4) China spends a lot on defence, infrastructure owing to 13 bn $ economy, relatively less spending capacity of India.

Despite challenges, IMEC represents a turning point in India's connectivity diplomacy.

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। (उत्तर 250 शब्दों में 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

Act East policy of India represents an active focus of India, while balancing regional issues and economic diplomacy.

India's engagement with the ASEAN -



(1) ASEAN countries
- Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, Myanmar, Malaysia, Singapore, Timor leste, Thailand

(2) ASEAN Summit - India's active engagement.

(3) Bilateral engagement with Myanmar, Thailand on other forum like BIMSTEC to ensure regional balancing

Candidates must not write on this margin

(4) Connectivity and Trade – through Kaladan Multimodal project, India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway

(5) Active involvement in the Indian Ocean Rim association to promote Trade Security and regional stability

(6) Economic engagement to ensure the development and export from from North-Eastern states.

Shifting Indopacific dynamic

(1) Influence and incursion of China
e.g. Philippines naval showoff with China

(2) Renewed China-US rivalry.

(3) Conflict in region due to instability
e.g. Myanmar Junta government

Candidates must not write on this margin

Way forward → ① focus on dialogue & diplomacy to ensure cooperation

② Bilateral engagement with the Asean countries

③ Enhanced focus on developing infrastructure & trade corridors like IMT and kaladan

④ focusing on security through countering drug trafficking (Golden triangle on Thailand, myanmar)

'Cooperation and engagement is the key to balance the economic diplomacy and regional balancing

Space for Rough Work

Space for Rough Work

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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.

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।