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SUBJECT:	Essay	Test Code:	2	1	2	2
Name of Candidate	Rajendra Bishnoi					
Medium Hindi/Eng.	English	Registration Number	5	5	2	3
Center	online	Date	10	6	08	22

INDEX TABLE				INSTRUCTIONS
Q. No.	Page No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained	
				1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code). उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न-पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
				2. All questions are compulsory. सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
				3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it. प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
				4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one. प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न-सह-उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
				5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to. प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
				6. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off. उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।
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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Information is ^(A) the currency of
democracy

"Whom you voted?" It was the
question of a 15 years old son Rahul
to her mother, who reached home
after voting in state assembly
elections. she replied, "I voted
to Almirah as I pressed the
button number 3". The son further
asked "why"? The woman replied
"Because the local community
leader told her to do so and
she wasn't aware about candidates
and parties which are fighting
elections".

The son was perplexed by the
answer because in school he
studied that voting is a fundamental
right and everyone should vote

wisely to decide the future of the state. Next day, he shared this incidence (story) with his school teacher. The school teacher told him that his mother did that because she had no information about candidates and their promises of parties. Teacher said, "information is the real currency of democracy"

This shows the critical role of right information in vibrant and true democracy, without information, democracy is mere voting right practise.

In this essay, first we will try understand the meaning of democracy in modern world. Then why information is the currency of democracy and what kind of

information is required ? Then we will explore the double edged sword nature of information. How the right information can be provided to strengthen democracy. And finally the question that is information the only currency of democracy.

In words of Abraham Lincoln "democracy is the rule of people, by the people and for the people" This means that the citizens are at the centrestage of the democratic setup. Gandhi termed democracy as the rule which gives the poor same power as rich.

Similarly, the modern democracies are based on the principle of liberty, equality, fraternity.

universal adult franchise, choices
to elect the leaders one want
etc. For all these principles to
come into practice, the basic
thing that required is the
information. Now the question rises
why information is fundamental
to democracy?

The answer lies in the fact
that right information leads one
to make right decisions. Information
is key to question the government
policy and debate over the
decision making. For example,
Right to information Act, 2005 has
made Indian democracy stronger
than before.

On the other hand, without
information evils like corruption,
nepotism, crony capitalism

take roots in democratic setup.

Information as double edged sword

Information can be both productive and counterproductive for the democracy. For example, information about various manifesto and promises of political parties lead one to make a rational decision. On the other hand, fake news of cow smuggling recently led to mob lynching of 2 men, which could have resulted into large scale communal violence. This type of information is harmful for democracy itself.

further, WHO Director commented during covid-19 pandemic that

"infodemic" is more dangerous and lethal than Pandemic. By infodemic he meant that fake news, propaganda based information, no cross of received information, would lead the world to new disasters.

Moreover, information as the currency of democracy will depreciate via fake news, sensationalisation of knowledge etc. To control this depreciation and strengthen the currency of democracy, we have to focus on providing right and truthful information to the people. But how?

firstly, education is the most basic thing for people to understand

and use correct information. According to 2011 census, around 25% population is still illiterate in India. Even at international level, democracy is highly successful in most-northern European countries like Finland, Latvia, Britain etc. whereas African countries like Sudan, Congo, Nigeria fail poorly. Both because of level of education, North-European countries are highly educated but African aren't.

Secondly, the role of media as the 4th pillar of democracy is very critical in providing right information. Issues of paid news, agenda based information, prejudices and biasness of reporter can be dangerous. According to

World Press freedom index, most of the successful democracy are ranked highly in press freedom index.

Thirdly, the ^{right} use of information and communication technologies (ICT) to strengthen democracy. For example, Jan Sooching portal of Rajasthan government provides most of government's policies and action related information. The Digital India programme has also helped in this work.

On the other hand, misuse of ICT like Cambridge Analytica case in American election can put democracy into danger.

Fourthly, Legislature can enact laws to strengthen information

sharing. for example, Right to information Act of 2005 in india has brought a new era of transparency. Other things like Citizen charters, self disclosure by public authorities can help in a big way.

Fifth, the role of civil society like NGOs and other research based setup are key to provide right information in public domain. For example, Association of democratic Reforms (ADR) group work hard to collect data and provide correct critical information in public domain.

All in all, the role of above mentioned factors is critical in

providing right information in
public domain and strengthen
the democracy.

Now, the next question rises
that is information the only
currency of democracy? what
other factors are key to
success of democracy? The
answer is that along with
information, other factors like
strong & independent judiciary,
separation of powers, universal
adult franchise, economic
development are also equally
important. Mere information can
not sustain ~~if~~ democracy
for longer in present context.

Overall, we can say that
the information is the currency

of democracy only if information is authentic and reliable. Other wise it can endanger the democracy itself.

In present context, as information is the currency of democracy, similarly, data is the new currency of whole world. The right to privacy must be protected while sharing information to strengthen democracy.

As supreme court of India, argued in Keshevanand Bharati case, the balance between privacy and information sharing, is key for modern citizens and their democratic setup.

Similarly, right information and awareness provided by various means would lead Rahul's mother to take right decision on its own and strengthen the democracy.

"Information is the difference between democracy and authoritarian rule".

(B)

A self that goes on changing
is a self that goes on
living

Ramesh singh, an old age
professor of a reputed college
was very worried, when first
lockdown was imposed due to
coroid-19. He used to teach
brilliantly in offline classes but
now it was not possible and
it was a big loss for students.

He was neither aware nor
comfortable about how to conduct
online classes. The idea of taking
classes on phone or computer was
out of his grasp. He considered
that classes on zoom and google
meet was not his cup of tea.

Yet, he somehow tried to learn about these things from his daughter. His daughter helped and taught him about all aspects of online classes. After few early hiccups, he mastered it and started teaching his students via online platforms. This made his teaching relevant again.

This shows that it is necessary to evolve oneself with time and situation to stay relevant (living). Without evolution it becomes very tough to survive the competition of modern world.

"Time and tide wait for no man". This line explains the importance of evolutionary or learning process in this age.

For example, Indian constitution is considered as a living document because it is evolving ~~over~~ with time. Idea of Basic structure and expansion of Article 21 are testimony to it.

Similarly, for a society to remain relevant changing with time is necessary. For example, Abolition of social evils like Sati, child marriage, infanticide, no widow remarriage was required to fight colonial social attack. In ancient times, Jainism and Buddhism helped to evolve society with time, which helped

it to remain relevant.

On the same note, farmers are required to adopt climate resilient agricultural practices due to climate change and global warming. According to 6th report of IPCC, with climate change, old agricultural practices can not survive, if they don't change.

In international diplomacy and relations changing with time is critical to stay relevant in global world order, for example, India supported democratic government in Afghanistan from 2002 to 2021 but once Taliban came back to power in August

2021, India changed policy and now it is trying establish contacts with Taliban. Otherwise India would be excluded from affairs of an important neighbouring country.

In Sports, with new technology and ideas coming, one has to evolve to succeed. For example, fitness was not the most important thing for cricketers in 1980s and 1990s but in 2022 it is vital to compete at international level.

At Environment level, impact of climate change and global warming would be deadly. To avoid these, global world is evolving through initiatives like Paris

deal, net zero emission policy,
adoption of renewable energy
etc.

Now the question rises that
what will happen one doesn't
change? Is the change always
necessary to survive or living?
The answer to first question
is that if one doesn't change
with time, it will irrelevant
and dead.

For example, league of nations
as an institution didn't evolve
with changing global order in
1930s and failed to survived.
Similarly, during covid-19, the
countries which didn't change
their policy according to new
available information regarding virus
paid a heavy price.

On the same note, revolution like French and America took place because ruling authorities were resisted to change. After the revolution, those authorities became dead and irrelevant.

Is the change always necessary?

The answer is no because the universal fundamental values like honesty, compassion, equality, integrity always remain relevant irrespective of time or era.

In this regard, Gandhi commented that "No wave is strong enough to blow away my principle value as long as I hold it dear". This shows that

a change is not required all the time.

Similarly, too much change or evolution can also be harmful to living being, for example, Sri Lanka as a drastic change, adopted complete natural farming and banned all the fertilisers. This led to low production and eventually an economic crisis.

This leads us to the fact that change should be smooth and according to the demand of the time. Now the question arises, how change can be smooth?

For a smooth change, one has to have liberal approach which is open to new ideas. The knowledge and awareness about the changing situation help in taking right steps for required change. A pragmatic approach is key to succeed.

For example, the approach of government of India to tackle covid-19 pandemic was an evolving one. From imposing strict lockdown to opening up important services like railways is a testimony to that only.

All in all, it brings us to the fact that positive changes are key to remain relevant

in this fast evolving modern age. As they say, "change is the only constant". The positive changes like changes in the skillset of Ramesh Singh by learning new things kept him relevant as a professor.