



## EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Alignment Competence
2. Context Competence
3. Content Competence
4. Language Competence
5. Introduction Competence
6. Structure - Presentation Competence
7. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

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6.

**All the Best**

## PRIVACY IN THE DIGITAL ERA: MYTHS AND REALITIES

It was 2013. Shockwaves were sent across the world when Edward Snowden, an ex-CIA systems analyst revealed the grim realities of the surveillance programme of the US National Security Agency <sup>(NSA)</sup>. ~~It also~~ The documents disclosed how NSA had tapped directly into the servers of Google & Facebook to keep a watch over the communications of millions of users worldwide!! Further, with a top secret court order, it had collected the

telephone records of millions of users  
of Verizon !!!

These startling revelations  
busted the myths about privacy  
in this digital era and made  
the world face the astonishing  
realities. This calls for a close  
~~attention~~ examination of the issue.

In this essay, we will  
discuss the meaning of privacy.  
Then we will try to bust the  
3 most common myths associated  
with online privacy. ~~and~~ <sup>Finally, we will</sup> look at  
the way forward as it should be.

Privacy means a state  
of not being observed & disturbed  
by others. It is the freedom from

scrutiny & surveillance by others without consent. It refers to the right to determine whether, when, how & to whom one's personal information ~~so~~ will be ~~see~~ disclosed. With the ~~the~~ emergence of the digital era, a lot of myths about privacy have emerged. Let us discuss them one by one.

MYTH # 1 → Privacy is NOT important

A lot of people argue that ~~they~~ when they do NOT have anything to hide, ~~they~~ why do they need privacy? Its of no use. However, this is a fallacy. As Edward Snowden said, "Saying that you don't care about privacy

because you have nothing to hide  
is in no way different than  
saying that you don't care about  
freedom of speech because you  
have nothing to say. 33

The reality is that  
privacy is a basic human right  
which is part of Art 21 - Right  
to life as laid down by the  
Supreme Court of India in the  
Puttaswamy Judgement. It allows an  
individual to maintain her autonomy,  
dignity & personal integrity.

Further, it is essential  
to keep alive freedom of speech &  
expression in a democracy. Imagine  
the government surveilling anyone

who it thinks is opposing it, and exploiting that personal information to ruin reputations !! This will amount to ~~sub~~ muzzling of dissent & subversion of democracy.

In addition, privacy is essential to prevent cybercrimes like identity frauds & bank frauds.  
Eg: Terrorists misusing Aadhar data ~~to~~ online to get fake SIM cards issued, cyberstalking, & harassment <sup>& blackmailing</sup> of girls & women by accessing sensitive images on <sup>their</sup> mobile, etc.

Therefore, to ~~say~~ <sup>water</sup> <sup>while</sup> down privacy is a myth ~~and~~ to uphold it is a reality.  
 Now, let us ~~do~~ go on to the second myth associated with it.

Myth # 2 → Privacy is not really  
threatened

Many argue that ~~the~~  
privacy online is NOT really in  
danger as ~~an~~ ample safeguards  
exist to protect it. Further, there  
is no use for anyone of ~~our~~  
personal information. However, this ~~is~~  
is again a myth. <sup>The reality is that</sup> our privacy is  
under a constant threat 24x7.

Several malwares like  
viruses & trojans act as spyware.  
They ~~of~~ track our data, replicate  
it & send it to the hackers  
for misuse.

Further, ~~the~~ big data  
analytics and data mining have  
ensured that we are being tracked

continuously online. Companies like Google, Facebook, Amazon, etc "know" what we like, dislike, our political leanings, and even our sexual orientations! They can easily use it to influence our behaviour through targeted ads.

Eg: Cambridge Analytica used Facebook data to profile users & psychologically manipulate them through fake news campaigns into voting for a particular candidate. It is alleged to have subverted Brexit vote & US election.

In addition, schemes like Aadhar in India have been alleged to be creating the scope of a "surveillance state" as well as involving privacy risks. According

to the Centre for Internet & Society, the Aadhaar details with sensitive biometrics of 130 million Aadhaar holders are available online!!!

Going further, ~~for~~ our privacy is under threat from enemy states & terrorists who are now ~~just~~ perpetrating a cyberwarfare and hacking our personal information. Eg: Russian hackers influencing us in crucial elections. Thus, ~~we~~ it is a myth to say that our privacy is secure. The reality is that it is NOT. Now, let us discuss the next myth.

Myth # 3 → Privacy cannot be secured in this digital era

Some people believe that due to the sheer expanse of internet, it is next to

impossible to protect privacy.  
Further, ~~for~~ they believe that to maintain national security & for criminal investigation<sup>and schemes like DBT</sup> privacy has ~~to~~ to be violated. However, again, this is a myth. ~~Privacy can~~ The reality is that privacy can be protected and secured.

Firstly, a personal data protection law on lines of General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in UK need to be brought about. Such laws must provide for a rights based approach with complete user control over their information. In India, BN Srikrishna Committee has suggested to establish an

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autonomous Data Protection Authority  
of India (DPI) to enforce such a law.

Secondly, the state & the companies must be made responsible for securing the information of citizens. Heavy penalties must be charged in case of breach of security or misuse of data.

Thirdly, use of technology like Blockchain which involves decentralised, transparent & auditable database should be leveraged in schemes like Aadhar to protect privacy.

Fourthly, robust institutional framework like a cyber command of military to protect the country

from external threats.

Finally, public education on ways to secure privacy is critical & should be made part of Digital India campaign. Simple steps like using an antivirus, not using public wifi, password protection, etc can go a long way in securing our privacy. Thus, it is a myth that privacy can't be protected while the reality is that it can be.

To conclude, countries like India must lead the world & provide a model framework for protection of the privacy of its citizens. This should be the vision of "NEW INDIA" we all envisage and will lead to SABKA SAATH SABKA VIKAS. ~~with the~~ we shall leave behind the myths

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about privacy in the past and ~~take~~  
~~take~~ join hands together to make  
its ~~for~~ privacy protection a reality  
because

“Yesterday is NOT over to recover,  
but tomorrow is over to win  
or lose”

What will it take to make gender equality the norm, not the exception

Meet Archana. She lives in a tribal village in ~~of~~ <sup>Jharkhand</sup>. Her husband Agun is a farmer. She ~~has~~ started a self help group ~~named~~ <sup>comprising</sup> of 4 other village women to ~~set~~ produce & sell their handicraft products. Her daughter, whom she had sent to Delhi to pursue B.tech computer science, has helped her set up an online website to market & sell. The women took a loan under MUDRA YOJANA and began operations.

☉ Honestly, this was an exception for the orthodox villagers and Archana was frowned upon initially. But with her determination and support

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of Arjun, she kept working hard. Today, their brand is a success and generates a very decent income for ~~the~~ all the members. Looking at the ~~raised~~ rise in the standard of living of ~~Archana~~ the families of Archana & others, the villagers <sup>women</sup> have begun ~~sending~~ joining their SHCs and are now supported by their families. What was an exception and ~~a~~ a few months ago, has become the norm today for the village... Thus, it will take a deep change in the mindset ~~at~~ right from the grassroots level, ~~hand~~ ~~and~~ handheld government support and success stories like that of Archana to ~~can~~ lead the way towards empowerment of women and

make gender equality a norm rather than an exception.

In this essay, we will examine the meaning of "gender equality" and its importance. Then we will look at ~~how~~ ~~it~~ the various challenges to it. Finally, we ~~are~~ will discuss some solutions to it.

## Gender Equality - Meaning & Importance

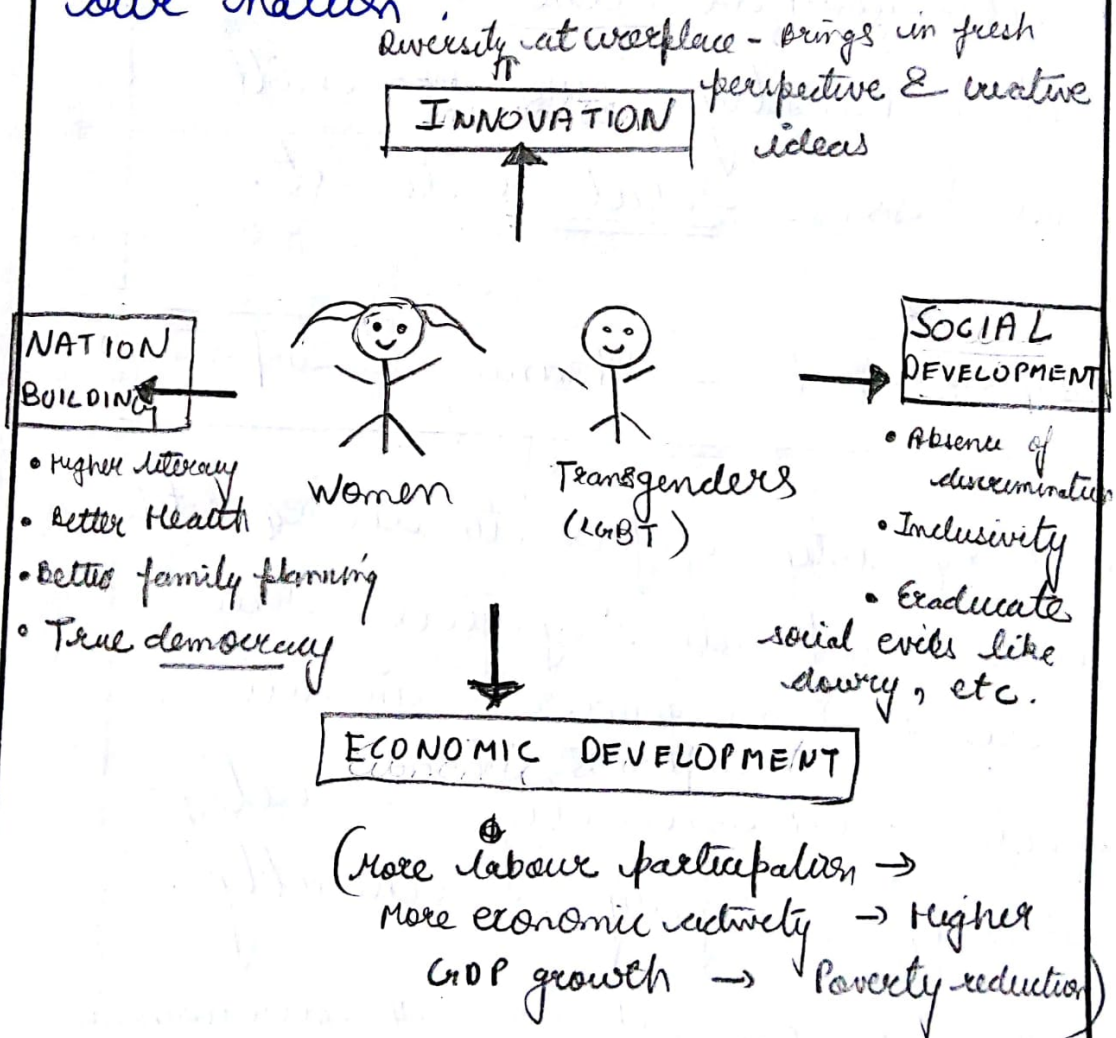
Gender equality refers to the equitable treatment of all genders - male, female & transgenders in all aspects - economically, socially, politically, legally & ethically.

It denotes an absence of discrimination on the basis of sex as propounded in Article 15 of our Constitution.

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Gender equality is the cornerstone of basic human rights and core constitutional values. Harboring it will provide tremendous boost to the overall development of our nation.



However, gender equality in India is a myth as reflected by 108<sup>th</sup> rank

out of 144 countries in the ~~to~~ 2017  
"Global Gender Gap Index"

There are several challenges to ~~to~~ gender equality in our nation.

Gender Equality → An exception in India

Economically, women constitute only 21.9% of the total workforce and most of them are engaged in unorganised sector. The figure is woefully low for transgenders. Even at workplace, they face discrimination in payment, authority given <sup>and</sup> in promotions. As per

"Monster Salary Index" by monster.com, women in India are paid an average 20% less than men. To add ~~to~~ to

Socially, <sup>to women literacy</sup> in India is meagre 65% far below the global average of 79%. Poor nutritional support, early marriages & pregnancy takes a severe toll on women's health. High maternal mortality rate and acute anaemia are very common in India. Further, ~~also~~ female feticide, dowry, ~~and~~ sexual harassment at workplace, cyberstalking & bullying, rape, ~~and~~ trafficking & forced prostitution, <sup>lynching & persecution of transgenders</sup> make the claim of gender equality ~~is~~ laughable in our nation.

Politico-Administratively, the representation of women <sup>& transgenders</sup> in politics, civil services & judiciary is grievously low. ~~Meagre~~ A meagre 11.2% of Lok Sabha MP's and

9% of total MLA's are women.

In the last 67 years of Supreme Court (upto 2017), only 6 women judges & no transgender judge has been appointed. The gender insensitivity of ~~these~~<sup>our</sup> institutions, is thus, evident

Morally, women are not allowed to make life choices like choosing life partners HADIYA CASE,

~~right to bodily~~ They are denied right to bodily integrity MARITAL

RAPE, reproductive choices and lack any say in family decision making. Transgenders, on the other hand are considered untouchables and are forced to be excluded from the society.

Environmentally, the impact of climate change is disproportionately high on women. As per UN, 80% of those displaced by climate change induced disasters are women & children. Heatwaves, droughts & floods grievously affect pregnant women. As lakes dry up, ~~to~~ rural women need to walk longer distances to fetch water.

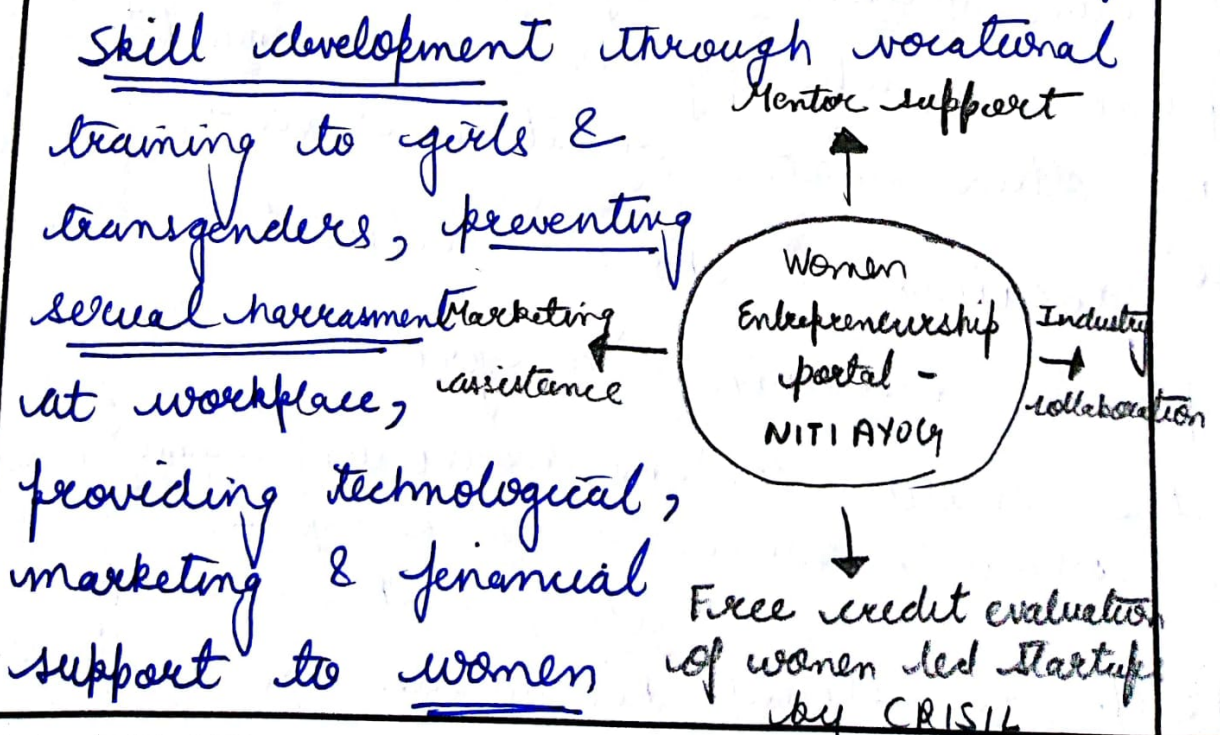
Thus, rather than being the norm, equality of gender is an exception in ~~the~~ India. But it poses a severe danger to sustainable development and thus, immediate steps need to be taken to rectify the situation.

What will it take to make gender equality the norm?

Firstly, rapid expansion of education among women especially SC/ST & minority girls is required. More ~~schools~~ girls schools, colleges & hostels must be opened in backward districts. Further, it is vital to incentivise girl education. ~~Such~~ Schemes like "Mukhyamantri Ladki Yojana" in Jharkhand which provides financial grants to girls as they progress in school years can be emulated by other states. As it is said - "Educating a boy is educating a person, educating a girl is educating the nation". Also, reservation for Transgender in schools & colleges should be enforced. Secondly, mother & child healthcare should be made accessible.

by infrastructural upgradation of primary health centres. There is also need to provide ~~with~~ nutritional support to girls, ~~to~~ reproductive health awareness, & access to quality sanitary pads and contraceptives in rural areas to improve the state of women health & family planning.

Thirdly, making women financially independent can be a great harbinger of gender equality.



2 Transgender entrepreneurs can dramatically improve their participation in ~~workplace~~ workforce and reduce their dependency on family.

Fourthly, crackdown on female feticide & ostracisation of transgenders, self defence training, use of technology like GPS & alarm watch [Eq: SONATA ACT WATCH - send alarm in case of emergency] and speedy trial in a sensitive environment ~~can~~ has the potential to drastically curb gender specific crimes <sup>and some</sup> ~~under women~~ make them an exception rather than the norm.

Fifthly, <sup>it is</sup> Women Resurrection imperative to pass Women Resurrection Bill to reserve  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd seats in Lok Sabha and state assemblies for women.

Free coaching to girls <sup>& transgender</sup> for civil services and judicial exams can be provided to improve their representation.

Sixthly, climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies with special focus on gender specific responses must be implemented. It is high time to provide more representation to women in climate change negotiation bodies, promote women led renewable energy startups and train women farmers in climate resilient agriculture.

Lastly, Behavioural change among the people can serve as the catalyst of gender equality. Campaigns like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao help fight gender stigmas. Community & religious leaders can also be involved to generate awareness.

about the importance of empowering all genders, gender sensitive education can also be ~~was~~ imparted in schools.

\* Though, we may be far away from making gender equality a norm in our country, yet, we are definitely making progress. I believe that ~~our~~ <sup>our</sup> beautiful country with its great people will together lead the path to gender empowerment to achieve "SABKA SARTH SABKA VIKAS" and realise the dream of "NEW INDIA". In the end, I am going to leave you with the excerpt of this breathtaking poem by Maya Angelou which describes how women are fighting gender stereotypes & are ~~them~~ overcoming them. I believe that ~~women~~ <sup>gender</sup> ~~transgender~~ equality will very soon be a norm in India as "women rise".

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" You may write me down in history  
With your bitter twisted lies.

You may tread me down in the very dirt  
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?  
Why are you beset with gloom?  
Cause I walk like I have got <sup>oilwells</sup> ~~oilwells~~  
pumping in my room.

Just like moons & like suns  
With the certainty of tides,  
Just like hopes springing high,  
Still, I'll rise ... "