

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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All the Best

TOPIC 1 : Innovation and Entrepreneurship
in India : Opportunities and Challenges

From the potter's wheel in the neolithic age to the ideas of teleporting today, human mind's creative potential is infinite.

Coming a long way to the modern society, humans have always worked to better things up. It all starts with a mind, a thought and this thinking anew is called 'innovation' - the elixir of life.

Innovation can be defined as bringing out new ideas, ways & means of using natural & other resources to increase the overall prosperity & wealth.

They can be thought of as disruptions in the way one thinks, change in the products used or the process of its creation.

In this age of market economy, these innovations can be encashed upon. A market as a place of society does not discriminate on the basis of race, colour, ethnicity, gender or age.

It rewards people who take on the challenge to come up with new ideas work up to produce goods & services, create demand & generate wealth.

This is where entrepreneurship comes into play.

'Entrepreneurship' is the oft quoted term for the value & motive of bringing out such products & processes that challenge or change the way things are.

However, this spirit is not to be confined to only economic growth. It has the potential to bring out all

inclusive, holistic development of the society.

Thus, Innovation and Entrepreneurship can be seen as the two most powerful tools a nation can utilize for its prosperity and development.

We are now not just a market-oriented world but, the changing times have provided us with a lot of knowledge & data that could be harnessed as well.

The fourth Industrial Revolution is not confined to the walls of the industry, it is moving into the realm of the virtual. The world of bits & bytes, zeros & ones & the revolutionary Artificial Intelligence.

Thus, changing times require us to take a hard look at what we as a

society seek to create & value.

It is important that we as a part of the nation & society introspect & reflect upon the challenges as well as the opportunities that innovation & entrepreneurship open out for us.

- Opportunities & potential for use of Innovation & Entrepreneurship in India -

A Pandora Box

Given India's different & diverse needs & circumstances, innovations & entrepreneurship seem to be the remedy. If not all, these two twin powers do have the potential to change the way the Indian society is at the present.

If there ~~are~~ is any sector that requires an urgent, out of box thinking,

it will be the education sector.
India requires innovative & creative steps to build up a literate, knowledgeable society and ~~into~~ entrepreneurs at this stage can bring out projects that can be scaled up on an all-India level.

The rural-urban divide is glaring, primary & secondary education must be the focus.

The Digital Blackboard can be taken as one such example.

Using Technological solutions, India can step up its pace of development in almost all the sectors.

Healthcare & wellness is also one sector where innovative approaches could be of immense help. Telemedicine, mobile hospital vans, using indigenous population to help in the provision of health services, bringing women of villages into its fold through mobile phones, SMSs all are simple yet effective innovations.

likewise, take the problems of Governance. The act of provision of basic goods & services to the common citizen have been riddled with innumerable vices & challenges such as corruption. Yet, applying innovative approach the ideal such as JAM - Jan dhan, Aadhar, Mobile came into existence, DBT - Direct Benefit Transfer, Grievance redressal through an online portal, bringing Centre & states schemes & programmes to the citizen through a mobile app UMANG are all helping in addressing the core issues of service delivery.

Innovation & entrepreneurship finds application in almost all spheres of life. From Agriculture to the changes in the food processing & value addition it is of immense importance that we create new ideas, products, process & even

the organisational changes that can benefit the farmers.

The problems of solid waste management, water shortages, electricity & power cuts, transportation & communication, Banking & finance, disaster management, environmental issues, Rural - Urban Divide, planning new cities, Smart Cities etc all can somehow benefit from the interventions & disruptions that innovation & entrepreneurship can bring.

The one area that requires India to focus upon greatly is the creation, dissemination & use of data in the field of internet & computers.

The vast amounts of Data need to be tackled effectively & be read so that India benefits from such information.

However, working up its path through innovation & entrepreneurship is not going to be so easy for India. It comes with its own challenges which are amplified because of some deficiencies of our governance & societal systems as well.

- The Other Side of the Coin :
Hurdles on the Way

The challenge of the Demography — India's vast population as much as it is a resource, is also a grand challenge too. The skills needed for a knowledge economy are still lacking. The education system is yet to effectively transform itself from rote-based learning to learning by performing.

For any nation to be a master of innovation & entrepreneurship, it needs a 'human capital' that ready for it.

~~Government~~ Government interventions such as Atal Innovation Mission, Atal Tinkering Labs, Science & Technology Department's initiatives like Hackathon, INSPIRE Awards are a step in the right direction. However, the implementation of these programme will only define their success.

Second most important thing is the need of Funding & Finance. Innovative solutions & their scaling up demands a lot of Research & Development. The incubation period of such projects are often long & government must be ready to shoulder some of the responsibility here.

The problem of commercialization & scaling up is also evident. Despite having the third largest start-ups in the world in the technology sector, India is yet to make a global impact. Also, numerous patents are filed though

they fail to take off after the stage of prototypes.

Data export is another issue India is facing currently. This data drain from India to the developed nations such as USA, UK & even to China through mobile Apps can be a serious threat to our security.

India does not have a very strong Intellectual Property Right regime yet, also the privacy laws are yet to be framed which leads to a lot of technological loss to our country.

Innovation & entrepreneurship as a culture needs to be imbibed by the Indian society. The risk-taking ability of our nation is lower than others & the govt. should take steps to incentivise the start-up culture.

India should also be wary of the problems associated with the increased

digital presence in the people's lives. We have evidence from the developed world how innovation & entrepreneurship leads to creation of new divides, classes, super-capitalism.

Inspite of these challenges, these twin forces do have the power to solve the unique challenges of our nation.

Government of India has also started a plethora of initiatives such as Digital India, Make In India, Stand up & Start-up India, Atal Innovation Mission to spur the Innovation Ecosystem.

Quality Education, R&D, Public-Private Partnerships, IPR Policy 2016, Better legislative framework will all lead to a better innovation culture.

As economist Schumpeter said that Innovation is novelty in how value is created and distributed, it is imperative

to nurture and encourage them.

For thus, a country which has charmed the world with the urban culture of Indus Valley Civilization, the scientific prowess of Aryabhatta & Sushruta, philosophers like Buddha, Innovation is not just an idea but, a virtue.

India today very well recognizes the importance & need of building up an innovative entrepreneurship ecosystem & is taking the right steps in achieving its rightful place in the world.

TOPIC-2 : The World needs Gandhiji's ideas
more than ever today.

What makes India 'India'?

The answer can be found in its ethos, values and principles synonymous with one man - Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.

Gandhiji, the father of our Nation, was not just a historical figure who led our independence struggle against the British Raj but was an epitome of all that, the nation and its people aspire and strive for.

Today, in the 21st century, as the world gets more connected only to find itself immersed in deep divisions, societies still trying to cope up with one another, individuals having a hard time accepting others differences, it would be wise to remember & reflect upon Gandhiji's ideas

to make sense of the ~~world~~ reality.

For the world needs Gandhiji's ideas more than ever today.

Gandhiji's life was an example that principles can be practiced in reality & thought can be aligned with actions.

His ideas of 'Truth' (Satya) and 'Non-violence' (Ahimsa) can be the bedrock of any peaceful relationship man wants to have with & in the society.

The world in the 21st century is always ridden with fear. The arms race that every country has indulged in has only led to more turbulence.

Nuclear weapons have become a new tool in the hands of political leaders & dictators to push the world in the direction they want.

The crisis situation seen in the dialogue of USA & North Korea, USA-Iran

US - Russia , One nation Hagemony ,
the African Civil war , all urge us to
look within .

Gandhiji's ideals of being tolerant
& more accepting of the other , need to
remembered once again as we see
religious & sectarian conflicts in several
parts of the world .

The Syrian Crisis , Israel - Palestine
issue , Kashmir Issue between India
and Pakistan , Mass exodus & Killing
of Rohingyas all show that there is
a deficit of trust between and amongst
the people in the societies .

Humans are not seeing each other
as they are but , through myopic lens
of caste , religion , sex , race , ethnicity ,
something which Gandhiji tried to
erode from the minds of all .

Such parochialism is being manifested even at the national level where countries are shutting doors to the migrants & victims of war. Xenophobia & intolerance being fed by fake news & online propaganda, only makes the matters worse. The crisis that it brings is not just of law and order but, challenging the social & moral fiber of the society itself.

Gandhiji's tools of Satya & Ahimsa & Satyagraha still seem to be the most powerful weapon a country can use. His idea of being a moral, non-violent person at all times can be the most effective answer to fight the forces of fundamentalism, intolerance as he rightly said that "an eye for an eye makes the whole world blind".

However, such forms of violence are always discriminatory because the worst affected people are mostly the poor, the marginalised, women & children.

The world needs to be more sensitive to the teachings & methods of Gandhiji as in the name of war, or freedom or security, it is always the voiceless who has to pay the price.

India too is witnessing several negative challenges at home.

It is still not immune to caste-ridden atrocities against the dalits. Women have been victims of some of the most horrendous crimes in the recent past. Mob killing innocent people over food choices. Cyber related crimes against children and many other.

Gandhiji was a defender of the rights of the dalits, called 'Harijan'

'children of god' by him. For him, service to others was service to God.

His concept of 'Sarvodaya' needs to be reiterated again so that the society realizes how important it is to have an inclusive & non-discriminatory society one where Progress for all is progress of all.

Gandhiji's ideas are just as important in the other walks of life as well.

As we see tremendous growth in economy of several nations, there are hidden challenges of poverty & hunger that are not being addressed in the same way.

Gandhiji was not a believer in the Capitalistic ideals & rightly so, because he realized the power asymmetry

that lies at the base of it. He saw its exploitative potential & gave simple living & self-sufficiency more importance.

And today, it's no secret that the world is more unequal, the rich are getting richer at the cost of the poor. The nexus between the politicians & businessmen is evident.

Industrialization being done at the cost of environment and ruining the lives of the tribes, one can see what Gandhiji was anticipating.

He gave the idea of 'Trusteeship', that is the owner / businessmen only holds the resources as the trustee of the people & not as its master.

It would be of immense relevance today, if people start practising it.

We can also find an answer to the unsustainable growth & environmental problems, in Gandhiji's ideals.

He had an idea about how nature has everything for a man's needs but, not enough for his greed.

His emphasis on sustainable development is what the world is negotiating at the climate change summits.

Gandhiji's political ideals hold significance in today's world even more.

His ideas about an ethical rule - Au-rāj & not just swaraj is something that world needs to learn.

His ideas of empowering the last man, the voiceless, the powerless people & working for their welfare through local self-governing units, needs to be practiced in spirits.

The emergence of strong rightist leaders & dictators all over the world, concentration of power in the hands of an elite section of the society as seen in Turkey, Russia, Syria, all point towards the moral turpitude ~~we~~ the world is witnessing.

Gandhiji was a believer in the capability of the masses & not of personalities & dictators who rule only for their self-interest.

Gandhiji's Talisman makes one introspect & see what one can do to serve the needs of those who have been victims all throughout - the poor & the voiceless.

One of the important ethical principle that the world need to follow is of choosing the right

means to get to the right ends.

For Gandhiji the means were just as important as the ends. And, this holds utmost relevance as the world is involved in a blind race upto the finish line, be it in arms, weapons, economic growth or sheer political power.

The ends cannot justify the unjustified means.

Though, Gandhiji's ideals seem simplistic or pacifist at the face of it, they are in fact an extraordinary force.

These ideas are not just to be read but must be imbibed & practiced for having lasting world peace & progress. For happiness for one, is happiness for all.

In a world that is becoming more & more inward looking, impulsive & almost animal-like; Gandhiji's ideals try to uncover these ignorant layers of insensitivity to find the divinity.

The world needs these ideas more than ever today to remember that humans need to more ... Humanistic.