

UPSC  
2023  
UPSC  
2023  
Only write  
answers  
within  
the margin

Specimen Booklet

# UPSC

For Practice Purpose Only

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस क्रायिफ में  
कहीं लिखना  
नहीं है।  
Candidates  
must not  
write on  
this margin.

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.  
Any page or portion of the page left blank must be clearly struck off.

Name: Kunal Rastogi  
Essay Test - I 2319  
Date: 1.07.2023  
UPSC Roll no. -

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.  
Any page or portion of the page left blank must be clearly struck off.

## Section-A

1. Where of one cannot speak, thereof one must be silent

It was fall of 2005. A packed crowd of college students from Harvard University had gathered to witness debate between Raghuram Rajan and Dani Rodrik regarding Mortgage backed Securities. On the basis of only theoretical analysis, Raghuram Rajan highlighted the unsustainable finances of MBS which was easily countered by Dani Rodrik practical data.

Having meagre data, lack of Research made Raghuram Rajan Silent. He knew that he could not speak for that because of lack of Hard facts. Hence he adopted the path of Silence and decided

## UPSC

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.  
Any page or portion of the page left blank must be clearly struck off.

to carry out thorough research before breaking his silence again - which he did in his book faultlines which accurately predicted with data, the global financial crisis of 2008, making Rajan a celebrated Economist

The above anecdote accurately depicts the old adage - whereof one cannot speak, thereof one must be silent. The question that arises is why? Extrapolating further, what does it mean to be silent? What are the conditions that renders oneself mute?

James Clear in his book Atomic Habits highlights the hallmark of great personality. One such was silence which he defined as ability to reserve one's right of conversation. Unlike many

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.  
Any page or portion of the page left blank must be clearly struck off.

who believe Silence to be negatively  
connected, it has positive orientation as  
silence allows to control the pace and  
direction of conversation. Take the example  
of China who under Deng Xiaping decided  
to remain Silent and bide time. This  
policy allowed it to control conversation  
regarding globalisation and thus benefit from  
it.

Silence of mouth, also activates the other  
senses thus allowing oneself to read the  
room and accumulate maximum possible  
Knowledge. No wonder why silence is used  
in meditation, Vipasana or as mandatory  
provisions for classrooms.

Silence becomes even more important  
when <sup>one</sup> cannot speak as it fills the vacuum  
in the conversation. There are multiple

इस हार्डिप  
में केवल  
प्रश्न संख्या  
लिखें।  
Only write  
question  
number in  
this margin

Specimen Booklet

# UPSC

For Practice Purpose Only

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस हार्डिप में  
नहीं लिखना  
चाहिए।  
Candidates  
must not  
write on  
this margin.

इस हार्डिप  
में केवल  
प्रश्न संख्या  
लिखें।  
Only write  
question  
number in  
this margin

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.  
Any page or portion of the page left blank must be clearly struck off.

Reasons for losing the ability to speak; however in most of the instances silence comes as a life saver.

One of the foremost reasons for ~~the~~ <sup>losing</sup> ability to speak is fear. In this case the silence is not out of volition, but necessity. Take the example of the Indian Caste System in which the lower caste remained silent for centuries. The same was witnessed in the form of Slavery in the west. Dr BR Ambedkar was right when he said - "History and oppression have fear and Silence as common denominator".

However Silence has various positive dimensions. In a conversation if the other side is not receptive, it is better to remain silent than to waste

इस हाथिए में केवल प्रश्न संख्या लिखें।  
Only write question number in this margin

Specimen Booklet

# UPSC

For Practice Purpose Only

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाथिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।  
Candidates must not write on this margin.

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.  
Any page or portion of the page left blank must be clearly struck off.

one's words by speaking. Jataka Story of Buddha and Angullimalla is classic example where buddha chose to remain silent in front of vociferous demon. It was not his words but the Silent Smile that changed heart and mind of Angullimalla.

Apart from above, Silence is often the chosen path for diplomacy. In realm of geopolitics, one cannot speak due to strategic calculations. The example of India's operation Shakti to become nuclear powered was done in absolute Silence. If India had said a word prior to test, International Sanctions would not have let India make tryst with destiny.

Sometime Silence is also better than to speak when the entire information is not in hand. Instead of solving the

## UPSC

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.  
Any page or portion of the page left blank must be clearly struck off.

problem, breaking silence with halfbaked information creates chaos. Thus Unlike USA which published unverified information during COVID-19 regarding masks, India remained silent until the entire picture was clear. The difference is clearly witnessed in gap between the number of casualty.

Furthermore, it is said that Action Speak Louder than words. This policy was followed by wrestler Mirabai Chanu. Instead of breaking her silence to reply to the misogynist remarks by the patriarchal society, she decided not to speak. she realised that whereof one cannot speak, one must be silence. only after winning medals in wrestling, she broke her silence regarding inherent

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.  
Any page or portion of the page left blank must be clearly struck off.

## patriarchy in Indian Society.

In similar context, one also reserves the right to speak to wait for the perfect opportunity to break silence. In the space race, initial leg was dominated by Russia with launch of LaiKa and Yuri Gagarin. USA remained silent to build up its capability. only when they were sure did John F. Kennedy made the famous-speech - we chose to go to the moon not because it is easy, but because it is difficult.

However as famous philosopher Carl Jung said - "world is neither black nor white nor grey - colour depends on lens". So is the case with adage. Sometimes it becomes necessary that even if we cannot speak, we must not remain silent.

## UPSC

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.  
Any page or portion of the page left blank must be clearly struck off.

Take the example of whistle blower Edward Snowden, obligated under National Security Act, Snowden could not speak regarding Cyber Surveillance conducted by USA. However to prevent injustice of Justice he decided to break his silence and expose Surveillance measures employed by USA even at the cost of his normal life.

This revolutionary thought is not a new age phenomena. The practise started with the French Revolution where the 2nd estate fought for Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. However this notion of breaking even if one cannot speak reached climax in Gandhian freedom struggle.

Employing Gramscian War of Position, Grandhiji launched the Non-

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस हाशिये में  
लिखना  
चाहिए।  
Candidates  
must not  
write on  
this margin.

इस हाशिये  
में केवल  
प्रश्न संख्या  
लिखें।  
Only write  
question  
number in  
this margin.

Specimen Booklet

# UPSC

For Practice Purpose Only

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस हाशिये में  
नहीं लिखना  
चाहिए।  
Candidates  
must not  
write on  
this margin.

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.  
Any page or portion of the page left blank must be clearly struck off.

Cooperation movement against the Rowlatt Satyagraha Act. The act was called the Press Gagging Act as it had literally snatched away the right of newspapers of freedom of speech. Thus the Rowlatt Satyagraha successful expanded the right to speak but only after people realised, breaking silence sometimes ~~expand~~ reinforces the right to speak.

Similarly if one keeps silent for too long, the right to speak may be gone forever. George Orwell in his book 1984 argued that totalitarian regimes brainwash its people by spreading false propaganda into believing  $2+2=5$ . Thus one literally cannot speak, not because of fear but because of dehumanization.

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.  
Any page or portion of the page left blank must be clearly struck off.

The example of North Korea substantiates the above. People from childhood are made to believe in divinity of their Supreme leader and hence their mental faculty has divorced from their intellect.

To a certain extent, the above phenomena is being witnessed at global level with rise of social media powered cancel culture. Olivia Henderson in her book Social detox opines that targetted advertisement, AI powered recommendation has created an echo chamber, thus trapping the critical reasoning of humans.

Above has given rise to ills of modernity (Mannah Arendt) like Racism (black lives matter), Xenophobia, hate speech, Wars (Russia-Ukraine) and overall dematuring of democracy.

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.  
Any page or portion of the page left blank must be clearly struck off.

Eleanor Roosevelt rightly said, "It is better to light candle than to curse darkness". Thus solutions to above problem are more important than cause itself.

Firstly following Socrates maxim of "unexamined life is not worth living", we should instill Curiosity in the minds of the young generation. The culture of dialogue, debates and discussions in an ideal speech situation must be promoted.

For this a conducive environment must be created where one can speak his mind without any barriers. This is a place where silence is only of one's own choice and not due to subjugation or fear.

Finally, to support all of above, a strong foundation based on value based Education must be forged. This system

must value ethics and creativity over results and rote learning. The NEP, 2020 of India can be an effective guide.

To conclude, Silence is a choice. One should be given the freedom to speak or not speak based upon his own conscience and not out of fear, domination or subjugation. However at the same time, each individual must be made responsible so that he/she realises the impact of his actions on the greater humanity.

Today when world is beset with problems, only fruitful conversations based on reason and facts can lead humanity towards

a future envisaged by Tagore where mind is without fear, where the head is held high,  
Let my fellowmen awake;

इस दृष्टि  
में केवल  
प्रश्न संख्या  
लिखें।  
Only write  
question  
number in  
this margin

Specimen Booklet

# UPSC

For Practice Purpose Only

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस दृष्टि में  
नहीं लिखना  
चाहिए।  
Candidates  
must not  
write on  
this margin.

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.  
Any page or portion of the page left blank must be clearly struck off.

## Section B

S. Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail

Medieval ages are known as dark ages for one primary reason — all paths to achieve self-actualisation was detached from Rationality.

One such path was path around the world. Since world was flat, the path had a definite beginning and an end. This end of path theory made people shiver with fear regarding geographical exploration.

However, there was one such man who decided to venture into the area where supposedly the path ended. Ferdinand Magellan decided to go where there was no path — around the world.

with courage in heart, rationality

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.  
Any page or portion of the page left blank must be clearly struck off.

in mind, Magellan embarked on a journey which literally changed the world. His successful completion of journey around the world left a trail on which humanity embarked on a journey towards Renaissance, Reformation and Enlightenment. Arguably the new trail revolutionised Earth and all its species.

The above anecdote substantiates the human values of curiosity, inquisitiveness and urge of each and everyone to make his own path and leave imprints on the pages of history.

In this essay, we would try and understand the importance of finding a new path rather than following the age old traditions. Furthermore, we would discuss obstacles that may arise in finding this new path and how we can

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.  
Any page or portion of the page left blank must be clearly struck off.

over come them.

Juval Noah Harari in his book "Sapiens" argued that fictional stories instead of muscle, brain are reasons for domination of man over Earth. These fictional stories create fixed paths that Successive generations follow to acquire Knowledge, information. The present system of textbooks, Encyclopedia, documented taxonomy of flora & fauna illustrate the utility of above stories. If this is the case, then why should we not follow this path?

To answer above question we must rely on Mark Twain's quote - "History does not repeat, but it often Rhymes". If we base our future course of Action on paths left by our ancestors, we are doomed to repeat the same mistakes. The examples

इस हाशिए में केवल प्रश्न संख्या लिखें।  
Only write question number in this margin.

Specimen Booklet

# UPSC

For Practice Purpose Only

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।  
Candidates must not write on this margin.

इस हाशिए में केवल प्रश्न संख्या लिखें।  
Only write question number in this margin.

Specimen Bc

of World War II after World War I, repetition of Clash of Civilizations like the one seen in France after bloody Crusades of 15th Century give weight to Twains argument.

Moreover if one continues to follow age old path, status quo of the society including its negatives will never be changed. The re-occurrence of patriarchal mindset witnessed through the wrestlers protest in Delhi or the Me Too movement highlight the status Quoist nature of the old paths.

Thus to radically change the society to a more amicable one for all, new paths must be adopted even in place where there were none earlier and leave trail for new generations to follow.

In n  
pat  
of  
re  
to  
N  
i  
o

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.  
Any page or portion of the page left blank must be clearly struck off.

Adoption of above, would result in much needed innovation. When new path is adopted, it allows development of new methodologies which ultimately results in thinking without barriers. Take the example of feud between Microsoft and IBM.

Knowing the fact that IBM is a market leader, Microsoft decided to abandon Microsoft path - as it would not be able to surpass IBM in its own game. Thus instead of Hardware, Microsoft focussed on new path - Software and thus is now market leader. This path of Microsoft became trail for new startups like facebook etc.

Adopting a path, where there was none has other added advantages. It helps in escaping the bounds of reality.

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.  
Any page or portion of the page left blank must be clearly struck off.

and conceive an alternate truth. The example of Mary Wollstonecraft as a pioneer of feminist movement is case in point.

In her book Vindication of Rights she imagined a society free from patriarchy and depending upon logical conclusion drawn from above she demanded equal voting rights and participation in public sphere. This fundamental equality between different genders has inspired generation of feminist like Simone de Beauvoir, Virginia Woolf.

This new path of equality also left a trail for other subjugation movements like that of Martin Luther King against slavery or the Rainbow movements for LGBTQ community.

of  
be  
re  
lt  
m  
b  
t

रों को  
ए में  
ना  
ates  
st  
n  
rgin.

इस हाशिप  
में केवल  
प्रश्न संख्या  
लिखें।  
Only write  
question  
number in  
this margin

Specimen Booklet

# UPSC

For Practice Purpose Only

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस हाशिप में  
नहीं लिखना  
चाहिए।  
Candidates  
must not  
write on  
this margin.

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.  
Any page or portion of the page left blank must be clearly struck off.

Speaking of alternate conceptions of reality, science has perhaps must benefitted from this notion. Instead of repeating the same mistakes that riddled the previous paths, science by adopting new methods expanded the horizon and boundaries.

From Albert Einstein reconfiguring the basic structure of reality through Theory of Relativity, Elon Musk through Reusable Rocket System has given wings for cheap space flight. What united both of them was shedding the dogmas of the old past.

Speaking about dogmas of the past, there is no other ~~which~~ country which has so radically transformed itself. Instead of following the path left by colonial

despots, it adopted a new path never ever tried by post-colonial country. The country is India and the new path is that of a Republican Constitution giving Universal adult Suffrage to all its citizens from the get go. This novel idea served as trail for countries like South Africa under Nelson Mandela. Even today, as India heads 67-20 presidency it has given new path of Vandaiiva Kutumbakam - One world, one family

Despite of having numerous positives there are many limitations in following new path. Apart from the conservative elements in society, sometimes following old paths has its advantages

There are certain paths that never get old because they are built upon certain Transcendental

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस हाशिए में  
लिखना  
है।  
Candidates  
must not  
write on  
this margin.

इस हाशिए  
में केवल  
प्रश्न संख्या  
लिखें।  
Only write  
question  
number in  
this margin.

Specimen Booklet

# UPSC

For Practice Purpose Only

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस हाशिए में  
नहीं लिखना  
चाहिए।  
Candidates  
must not  
write on  
this margin.

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.  
Any page or portion of the page left blank must be clearly struck off.

universal ideas. One such idea is of justice or Dharma. Any society not based on ideas of justice, Respect, humanity is bound to fail. This is because violation of above ultimately lead to violation of human dignity which according to Immanuel Kant is sacrosanct. No wonder states like Myanmar, Sudan, Burkina Faso are facing civil war, just because they ignored the old saying - Prithvi Dharmam Dhritam (Justice hold society together)

Another age old path that has stood the test of time is living in oneness with nature. The Rigveda mentions - "Maata Bhumi Prithiviam Pitrohama" Earth is our mother and we are her son.

Today humanity in its greed has

इस हाशिए  
में केवल  
प्रश्न संख्या  
लिखें।  
Only write  
question  
number in  
this margin.

Specimen Booklet

# UPSC

For Practice Purpose Only

उम्मीदवारों को  
इस हाशिए में  
नहीं लिखना  
चाहिए।  
Candidates  
must not  
write on  
this margin.

इस हाशिए  
में केवल  
प्रश्न संख्या  
लिखें।  
Only write  
question  
number in  
this margin.

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.  
Any page or portion of the page left blank must be clearly struck off.

tried to abandon this age old path, and  
tried to find new paths in place where  
none exist. This has resulted in choking  
of one of our four children, one of three  
of our elders dying and IPCC in its  
6th report flagging code Red. This  
destructive path instead of earlier  
peaceful one has resulted in what  
Elizabeth Kolbert claims to be Sixth Mass  
Extinction.

As highlighted above, sometimes  
"old is gold". However in certain cases  
it is just not possible to go instead  
where there is no path and leave a trail.

This is because such paths only lead to  
destruction.

Take the example of mud

Only

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।

Candidates must not write on this margin.

इस हाशिए में केवल प्रश्न संख्या लिखें।

Only write question number in this margin.

Specimen Booklet

UPSC

For Practice Purpose Only

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।

Candidates must not write on this margin.

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.  
Any page or portion of the page left blank must be clearly struck off.

race for nuclear weapons. Robert J Oppenheimer after creating the disastrous weapons responsible for Radiation poisoning and millions of death sighed with anguish "Now I am master of death". Even though Oppenheimer may be repenting his decision, but humanity today seems to have embraced this new path as witnessed in nuclear posture of Russia during its war with Ukraine.

Thus the need of the hour is to ethically regulate the new paths humanity is trying to find out and forge for the future generation. This ethical regulation must be from certain ethical values such as Grandhiji Tsin, Universal Humanism of Rabindranath Tagore, Secular ethics of Dalai Lama.

इस हाशिए में केवल प्रश्न संख्या लिखें।

Only write question number in this margin.

Specimen Booklet

# UPSC

For Practice Purpose Only

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।

Candidates must not write on this margin.

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.  
Any page or portion of the page left blank must be clearly struck off.

इस हाशिए में केवल प्रश्न संख्या लिखें।

Only write question number in this margin.

The ultimate aim of such regulations is to not act as obstacles for human innovation but as fence multipliers that would allow humanity to take Quantum jump to reach Sustainable development goals with final view on Kṛinvento Vishwam Anyam (let life of all be noble & good).

To conclude in its long history, man has taken many paths, the culmination of which is where we are. We need to integrate the good paths of the past with novel paths of tomorrow. Ultimately, the decision must be ethical, because it is these decision which will shape tomorrow. Perhaps Robert Frost poem will help in decision making  
Two Roads diverged in yellow wood,  
And I chose the one  
That has made all the difference.

UPSC  
Date  
Page No.  
Only write  
within  
number of  
the page

Specimen Booklet

For Practice Purpose Only

# UPSC

Candidates must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.  
Any page or portion of the page left blank must be clearly struck off.

UPSC  
Date  
Page No.  
Only write  
within  
number of  
the page

UPSC  
Date  
Page No.  
Only write  
within  
number of  
the page

Practice Purpose Only

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिप में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।

Candidates must not write on this margin.

n.  
off.

इस हाशिप में केवल प्रश्न संख्या लिखें।

Only write question number in this margin.

Specimen Booklet

# UPSC

For Practice Purpose Only

उम्मीदवारों को इस हाशिप में नहीं लिखना चाहिए।

Candidates must not write on this margin.

Candidate must adhere to the word limit specified in the question.  
Any page or portion of the page left blank must be clearly struck off.