

*(For filling by Examiners only)*

	Page No.	Marks	Section Total	Signature of Examiner
SECTION 'A'	5			
SECTION 'B'	10			
GRAND TOTAL				

**Observations :**

## IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

**CANDIDATES SHOULD READ THE UNDERMENTIONED INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY. VIOLATION OF ANY OF THE INSTRUCTIONS MAY LEAD TO PENALTY.**

### DONT'S

1. Do not write your name or registration no. anywhere inside this Question cum-Answer Booklet.
2. Do not write anything, other than the actual answers to the questions anywhere inside your QCA Booklet.
3. Do not tear off any leaves from your QCA Booklet. If you find any page missing do not fail to notify the supervisor/invigilator.
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### DO'S

1. Read the instructions on the cover page and strictly follow them.
2. Write your registration number and other particulars, in the space provided on the cover of QCA Booklet.
3. Write legibly and neatly. Do not write in bad/illegible handwritings
4. For rough notes or calculation, the last four blank pages of this booklet should be used. The rough notes should be crossed through all arounds.
5. If you wish to cancel any work, draw your pen through it or write "Cancelled" across it, otherwise it may be evaluated.
6. Handover your QCA Booklet personally to the invigilator before leaving the examination hall.

## QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

*Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions:*

*The ESSAY 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 essay written in a medium other than the authorized one.*

*Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.*

*Any page or portion of the page left blank in Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.*

Write two essays, choosing one from each of the following Sections A and B, in about 1000-1200 words each:

2 × 125 = 250

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in Hindi/Urdu

## SECTION 'A'

1. India must confront the societal preferences which appears to hinder its development.
2. Resurgent India: Myth or Reality?
3. Urbanization is an inevitable part of the human progress.
4. Modern techno-economic society: A time of digital Darwinism.

## SECTION 'B'

1. Lateral Entry: Neither new nor undesirable.
2. A person may cause evil to others not only by his actions but also by his inaction.
3. Is communism doomed to a slow death?
4. Electoral reforms are important, but no reform is greater than promoting popular awareness.

## SECTION 'A'

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1. India must confront the societal preferences which appears to hinder its development.
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4. Modern techno-economic society: A type of digital Darwinism.

### MODERN TECHNO-ECONOMIC SOCIETY: A TIME OF DIGITAL DARWINISM

The progress of society has been traditionally linked with that of technology. Since prehistoric discovery of fire and wheel to historic discovery of iron smelting - this has been the trend. Science led innovation and following development of technology has reduced human misery - death, disease as well as labour. Though not without its pitfalls technology has by and large led to economic growth of the society. This was seen how industrialised countries riding on print technology and power of steam engine colonised the world.

The world accepts gains and losses that accrue from technology. However, until now the net gain has

been sufficiently positive. This helped us to provide for the losses and thus bring overall well being of all. Technology also led to states active shift to welfarism from laissez faire to reduce fall out of itself. However, as artificial intelligence, deep learning automation, 3-D printing and automation have become buzzwords - the losses of technology may outnumber the winners. This could clearly bring in an age of conflict when the able would get the best of the weak - darwinism.

This competition between tech-enabled is seen in economy. Agriculture is getting automated from sowing to harvesting. Processing of produce is being done in vast plants with reduced cost of human labour, machine led productivity would, in developed countries, overtake soon. In global market the costlier produce from eastern intensive agriculture would not match up to intensive agro produce of west. For instance per hectare productivity

of cotton in India is 528 kg, while in Australia is 2205 kg. This vast difference reflects in prices and thus incomes - hence market competitiveness.

Manufacturing sector is challenged by job losses due to automation. This has been the trend since Leidites. Rise of cobots, CNC machines have already produced products of better quality control than humans. MSMEs in India have seen reduced demand for handlooms when customers favour fine knit of power looms. The handicraft and associated livelihood is at the verge of extinction.

MSMEs face double threat due to poor technology literacy. They struggle for input credit and get at high rates from non-institutional lenders. Deep pocketed corporates are able to source funds from share and capital markets where retail investors and electronic trading is on rise today. This again increases prices and reduces competitiveness. Similar challenges of financial inclusion is faced by those farmers etc. those who do not have digital financial trail - virtually excluded from credit and business opportunity.

## NEXT IAS

Several other small businesses face challenges of market access due to low access to digital advertising.

While large conglomerates easily partner with google etc. website for the same Google has been recently fined by EU for discriminatory practices with respect to advertising. Such practices clearly show how techno-economic society could spell doom for those left behind.

Several other services like telecom have been facing reduced revenues due to over the top services like whatsapp. Telecoms in India have been driven to mergers and acquisition due to low business viability due to such services. Internet allows people to search several options and choose the best. Consumer benefits but it makes way for survival of only the best and most efficient product/service. Services like construction, chauffeurs have been challenged by

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rise 3-D printed houses and online apps like ola and uber. This has been further challenged by the oncoming of driverless cars. The IT industry is set to lose 6.4 lakh jobs in India by 2025 due to rise of artificial intelligence (AI) (Grantnet report 2016). Google and facebook already capture 60% of e-advertising revenue reduce traditional bill board and television business.

The knowledge economy of today has already started to create inequality. Boom years of Indian growth on the back

of IT (2004-2012) saw job growth at 0.8% per annum - less than population growth rate. Clearly the digital literate and skilled are set to benefit while the unskilled have to suffer disguised unemployment as seen in agriculture in India. E-commerce has started to leverage AI for target advertising.

Jack Ma predicted AI bots would be CEOs by 2030 - thus not even highest levels of jobs are safe.

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Further he clearly states humans will not be able to match AI. Similar fears have been expressed by Stephen Hawking and Elon Musk (TESLA/SPACE owner). E-commerce on the back of AI and automation have reduced businesses of brick mortar stores globally and caused closure in several parts of US.

E-commerce has caused yet another level of divide. Taobao villages in China leverage it to sell their product globally by Alibaba. While women's stores in India have faced challenges of financial inclusion, scale and market. Several have failed due to the same. Sections of society like women, senior citizens, rural people have lagged behind falling on unfavourable side of digital divide. This reduced job as well as 1000- economic mobility for them. Senior citizens have faced isolation and depression as children migrated.

and they could not use digital communication technology.

Sectors like health and education have seen how techno-economic society can bring in inequality. Internet democratised knowledge - content is created and consumed by same person now. But those offline have faced disadvantages in the era of self teaching. Similarly while telemedicine and AI led disease diagnostic can help early disease detection - traditional systems and 'vaidyas' have been pushed to extinction. Internet has also seen proliferation of fake news and rumour mongering.

Circulation of soft videos, rumours of child lifters have sparked lynchings. Fake news, click baits have reduced social capital and trust in society. Communalism has been revived in a tolerant society like India. Thus the techno-economy on its worse have literally mean extinction of people - threatened

minorities in lynching. Also, genuine news websites have suffered loss of business.

This has caused challenges for governance.

While technically equipped criminals smugglers have abused technologies like cryptocurrency and international money transfers for crime - government and administration have lagged behind causing loss of state revenue. Governance like Aadhaar, GSTN and DBT have also caused losses to those digitally illiterate. 11 year girl died in Tharabhand after being denied PDS food due to Aadhaar verification failure.

Democracy seems threatened on the back of psychological profiling and social media led campaigns as seen in 'Cambridge analytical' case. Similarly social media has emerged as a platform for campaigns.

The deep pocketed politicians can afford dedicated teams for campaigns online. But the new entrants can hardly afford the same leading to dominism in politics and lapse of privacy

Politics not just nationally but globally has seen upheaval due to tech-infusion. Cyber warfare like Stuxnet attacks, quantum computing,

Assassin Mace technology (satellite attacks) of China have created a race for survival of most technologically equipped.

Era of UAVs and signature strikes by drones have completely changed warfare - where those unequipped-like Ukraine in cyber attacks by Russia - do not stand a chance at survival.

Similarly militaries have been faced with challenge of highly equipped terrorists with state of art weaponry.

International domains like sports have also seen advantages accruing to users of technology.

Using replay records for analysis  
Strengths and Weaknesses have become  
 common for both self and opposition -  
 giving distinct advantage to the equipped.  
 Global commons have faced the tragedy  
 of technology led economy. Environment  
 and biodiversity have suffered losses  
 in form of global warming, extinction  
 of species, climate change. UNEP  
 report says two species get extinct  
 every year. In the absence of  
 digital catalogues several species  
 are not protected.

Genomic profiling provides  
 another tool for terrorists to  
 tailor-make pathogens for specific  
 weaknesses of people using CRISPR  
Genome editing - designer baby -  
 could produce yet another level  
 of inequality - even before birth.  
 The have nots would have lesser chance  
 to compete.

Thus it is obvious that technology led economy and society - while can bring unparalleled growth could potentially cause doom for several left behind. It is pertinent to here enjoy the victories and distribute benefits amongst losers. Ideas like robot tax, legal framework for protection of privacy and data sovereignty are needed. Governments have to skill and continuously educate work forces and people. Digital India has to bring inclusion.

Civil society like IT for change have continuously emphasised how technology should be used for inclusive growth of all not exclusive wealth aggregation of few.

Technology has to be seen not with restricted view of intellectual property but with egalitarian view of global common. The spirit behind net neutrality and welfare of all - Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas would ensure we

## SECTION 'B'

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~~1. Lateral entry: Neither new nor undesirable.~~

2. A person may cause evil to others not only by his actions but also by his inaction.

~~3. If communism doomed to a slow death?~~

~~4. Electoral reform: are important, but no reform is greater than promoting popular awareness.~~

Think before you act is a dictum which clearly emphasises how a person's act can cause harm to self and others. Act can include anything from speech to economic, political to social and physical actions. However, from a different angle 'not acting' is itself another act. Hence anything and everything that can happen from an act could just as easily result from inaction. Quite well would the dictum apply "think before you do not act".

Active lives that we lead today. Almost each one of our acts have positive and negative consequences

at the same time. What makes our acts desirable, socially acceptable and legally permissible that the negatives from our acts are outweighed by the positives from the same. Ideas like deontology evolved into such laws. However several acts are good in themselves like respecting elders. Conversely, several acts are those which cause harm to others.

For instance acts like lynchings seen in society, untouchability practised by so called upper castes do inexplicable evil to the recipient, life property and self esteem stand risked. Acts like stalking, rapes, acid attacks do extreme harm to women - physically as well as emotionally to women. Acts based on patriarchy cause life long evil to women and men (though unnoticed) Corruption - and its acceptance by society - has become a bane on social political life of country. Not

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only does it denies the rights of the needy and rightful recipient - but it is a self-propelling phenomenon.

Thus, doing corruption cause evil to Society as a whole. Similarly politically partisan behaviour by bureaucrats as seen in Delhi CM-LG dispute has caused evil to 2-3 crore people of Delhi who suffered from governance deficit.

Act of government to force public sector banks to sanction loans to unviable projects have led to loss to entire economy. Similarly tax evasion and avoidance as well

as money laundering leads to overall loss of about \$51 billion to country annually (FATF 2016 report). Market economy suffers from the monopolistic acts of dominance players.

Google recently was fined for uncompetitive practices in advertising amounting abuse of dominant position.

Such acts lead to loss of business of competitors and loss to customers.

Similarly acts like insider trading, Ponzi scheme, chit fund frauds cause evil to countless people.

Economic deals extend globally. Recent loss of \$120 billion to Facebook shareholders show how acts of few to earn profit can cause losses to millions of people. Several actions from international domain show how actions cause evil to generations. Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have caused genetic mutation. American misadventures in Afghanistan, Iraq have caused countless loss to economy, society and environment.

Environment has suffered globally due to wilful act of environmental vandalism by the developed world of today. 25% of global emissions can be attributed to US - since the pre-industrial revolution era (UNEP 2010 report).

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This while it is clearly seen that actions if not analyzed beforehand can cause evil. However, inactions can cause just as much or even more harm.

Marginalized sections like women in society suffer from actions as well as inactions. Inaction includes negligence towards proper healthcare nutrition and education. Literacy rate in women thus is behind men (58% and 86%). Similarly 50% adolescent girls are anaemic due to similar reasons. This causes life long challenges to women as mothers and member of society.

Children could suffer from debilitating diseases like polio etc. due to inaction by parents to get them vaccinated. Right of children to education would have no meaning without action by parents. Inaction by government has caused Rs 80000

crosses unspent funds allocated to education (CAGR 2017 report). Inaction by regulatory bodies like UGC as well as MCI has led to overall decline of quality, accessibility and affordability of graduate education. This has caused evils of our demographic dividend - with only 25% enrolment rate. Further, quality of healthcare suffers with only 0.7/1000 doctor patient ratio against WHO recommended 1/1000 fraction on preventive healthcare. This has led to choice of expensive curative healthcare - driving 6.3 crore people BPL due to healthcare costs annually.

Inaction by police in terms of prompt recording of FIR as well as impartial investigation have led to rise of crimes. This along with government inaction in utilisation of Nishchay fund have caused safety of women to deteriorate. Further, inaction by police during lynchings have caused loss of life of over 20 people.

This year. Similarly inaction by people as good Samaritans can cause avoidable loss of life of accident victims. Senior citizens suffer due to old age related challenges while half of the already low allocation of 25 crores remain unused. Mahini Aisi Committee recommendation gather dust while senior citizens suffer due to government inaction.

Government inaction is particularly painful for scheduled castes and schedule tribes. Several reports and recommendations of NEST and NCSC have neglected due to inaction. Consequently, SCs and STs have higher share in both quintile of wealth in proportion to their population. Manual scavenging still continues. Similarly only 3% of forest rights act claims have been granted - leading to loss of livelihood.

Inaction by judiciary and criminal justice system as a whole has led to 67% prisoners being under trials. Justice delayed is justice denied and denial of justice is nothing short of evil. Similarly, non voluntary disclosure by government bodies and non appointment of PIOs by political parties have reduced efficacy of RTI. This has caused evil to dream of transparency in governance. Non voting by people in elections similarly does evil to dream of responsible accountable governments.

Delays by bureaucrats in implementation of schemes - sticking procedure over outcomes on cost of delay cause governance deficit and violation of rights of people. Similarly, delays by government in delivery of projects abroad eg. Chabahar and Aepal have led to time and cost

overseas. International domain is replete with examples of damages due to non action.

The world war 2 was caused to non action by League of Nations against militarisation by Germany. Further, appeasement by Britain and France to expansive tendencies of Germany added fuel to fire. India's fall to British Raj was to inaction by princes of India to counter East India Company jointly. The entire national movement used a strategy of non cooperation and civil disobedience based on inaction to bring the Raj to its knees. However inaction by Congress to counter communal vitriol led to partition.

Even today international domain sees evil to refugees due to inaction by EU and US to accommodate them. Inaction by US and Russia jointly

is the reason why ISIS could wreak havoc for so long. Laissez faire regulation is what led to great depression in 1930s and once again subprime crises had its roots in poor financial regulation. Inaction by UNSC to adequately counter us led to unilateral invasion of Iraq on pretense of weapons of mass destruction - none were found.

Environment suffers today from global inaction to sufficiently counter climate change. Similarly lack of sufficient inaction in waste management has led to plastic pollution in oceans. Even in India lack of proper segregation at source due to peoples inaction has led to waste management problems and even expanding landfills. Inaction fuelled by NOT IN MY BACKYARD



Syndrome has led to filthy public spaces. AIDS has led to proliferation of diseases.

Further disasters claimed lives of 8 million people since 1990. This is primarily due to inaction or preparedness, prevention. Only response and recovery led approach has led to such heavy toll. Similarly joint inaction of terror globally have caused loss of countless lives. Yet CCIT proposed by India at UN has not been passed.

Poor maintenance of infrastructure on borders have led to higher infiltration. Infrastructure as a whole suffers and causes loss to economy and thus people if there is inaction. Inaction in quality-control during construction and timely maintenance leads to men

to failure approach which is much costly.

Not only social and physical but also moral infrastructure of society suffers losses due to inaction. Inaction by parents to transmit and inculcate values in children leads to morally bankrupt youth and endangers our cultural values and social fabric. This endangers our social capital.

Thus it is clearly seen both action and inaction can lead to harm to self and society. Need is to act timely, act wisely and act appropriately. Individuals actions affect their society, peers, profession, family and environment. Thus, even from purely logical point of view a person should consider costs of their actions and inactions and act in the best interest of all. This would lead to a responsible individual, welfareist

SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK

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