

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

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

Simrandeep Kaur | 3501700.

Section-A

Not knowing is a good place to start.

Guru Nanak, once was wandering near Ganga River where he saw a Sadhu offering water to sun in the river. He also jumped in the river and starting offering water in opposite western direction. On this Saadhu angrily said, 'Oh fool, you don't know, sun is on eastern side.' Guru Nanak patiently replied, 'I know but if you can offer water to sun which is millions of kilometres away from us; why can't I



UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

offer water to fields in my Punjab which are comparatively much closer?'

Sometimes, our ignorance gives us scope to reflect on our life. As Guru Nanak showed the Saadhu, the useless of his ritual.

Our state of not knowing is like limestone which can either be moulded into marble for making beautiful monuments or discarded as useless stones. It is good to begin with learnable mindset. But to continue, knowing oneself is important. let us explore this journey in this essay.

'Not knowing' refers to Existentialism. It means focus is on mere existence not the essence of being. For all living species, nature has blessing of existentialism.



(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

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

Simon De Beauvoire in her work 'Second Sex' quoted that 'One is not born woman, but made'. she is questioning how society can define limited essence of woman when nature has blessed her with limitless existence.

For Shakuntlam Devi, it was good place to start to not know that her essence of woman as per society is to get married and take care of the family. She explored her limitless world and become a human computer and great mathematician.

According to J.S. Mill, mind is a 'Tabula Raasa' (empty) which is filled with experience. Our knowledge is shaped by our sensory experiences. As we grow, we keep on learning and this process only ceases after death.



(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों इस हार्शिए नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidate must not write on the margin

Not knowing is a stage of learning. Here, one is humble and wise to make best use of given opportunity. If great Tabla Maestro Ustaaad Zaakir Hussain can call himself just a student of classical art, then why normal people fill with arrogance on just small achievements?

Maybe, 'not knowing' is not only good place to start but a good place to stay as well. Because, it help us to control our vices of arrogance, egoism and self-centredness.

Moreover, 'Not knowing' is not just beneficial but empirical reality of our existence. There are two schools of thought - Nihilism and Relativism to deal with this empirical reality.



(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

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

In Nihilism, it is believed truth is beyond human capacity to reach and comprehend. It means we don't know anything, neither we can. But here we are in darkness - nowhere to go.

On the other hand, Relativism believe human is measure of everything. Whatever we can comprehend is reality.

Again we don't know, which is better Nihilism or Relativism. But remember, Not knowing is a good place to start.

However, mere existence ~~is~~ with inability to grasp reality is not purpose of our life. As they

say, 'Ship is safe at the harbour, but it is not where it is made to be'

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

Knowing for what purpose we are made of is extremely important to live our life.

Deer and Tiger both are blessed with existence by nature. But their essence of being prey and predator is their knowledge. Through this knowledge, Deer escapes Tiger and Tiger chases Deer.

For Kamala Kapoor, Ageing is a luxury of doing nothing. In her work, "Treasures of Sunset Years", she is exploring how often regarded second childhood; Ageing can be a wonderful phase where one can relax and connect to spirituality. For her knowing the importance of sunset years of life has been good place to start this phase.

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

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

In beginning, we considered that Ignorance can be a bliss. But it can be a disaster if we fail to think critically. Marx in his 'Communist Manifesto' criticized Capitalism and debunked its hegemony of equality of opportunity.

If we are ignorant, we can be abused. We fail to come out of our sorrows. For example, if we don't know that free social media is not actually free, but commercialization of our precious attention, we will never come out of its slavery.

Not knowing gives us confusion. But to take action, we must have clarity and definiteness. We must know our strengths and weaknesses.



UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

उम्मीदवारों को इस हार्गिए में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

Nevertheless, in most cases, we lack clarity. We are in chaos and confusion. We may be beginning with state of ignorance but we must navigate and try to figure out cosmos in chaos.

Even in ignorant stage, we must keep on igniting our quest to know. Guru Nanak, Buddha, Shankaracharya all went to find truth with their not knowing attitude.

Everyone needs to find their purpose. Nek Chand was a normal government employee. He began with rag picking, not knowing what he will do next. But end up with making Rock Garden in Chandigarh - which is Art made by discarded things.



anBltz

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

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

Not knowing may be a good place to start. But it should definitely be accompanied by deep desire to know. Ignorance must be broken with Critical thinking, reflection and Introspection.

We need both existentialism as well as essentialism. Through Essentialism, we know what we are. For India in International Relations, knowledge of fragility of world order is necessary to make ~~the~~ strategic autonomous choices.

And through existentialism, we are uncertain but ready for 'what we may be'. India is uncertain about how to balance different relations. But is ready to find solutions outside battlefields for peace.

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

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

Similarly, Nihilism and Relativism are nothing but like one saying Glass is Half Full and other says it is half empty.

We can't know everything in one life (maybe). but we can try to know collectively as whole humanity.

Not knowing is like opening our arms to the unknown adventures. like in Ulysses poem, the adventures king wanted to cease every opportunity to navigate limitless oceans.

We may begin in ignorance, we may also end up not knowing everything, but we must examine our life to drink it to the fullest.



(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

उम्मीदवारों को इस हार्गिण में नहीं लिखना चाहिए
Candidates must not write on this margin

Section-B

Smart governance is India's future, yet it hinges on effective execution.

Suppose A farmer cultivates Moong crop but in his state, he fails to get adequate price for his mandis. He opens up 'e-NAM' App on his mobile. He compares best prices for moong crop all around the country. He makes informed choice and sell his crop in other state's mandis.

Smart governance helps citizens like this farmer to make informed



UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

choices.

Smart governance is a transformative governance where service can be delivered with citizen's welfare at the centre. It weeds out evils of corruption and arbitrariness.

But, Governance should not only be smart, it needs to be inclusive as well as humane for good governance.

Smart governance can be defined as governance ~~to~~ delivered through use of Information, Communication and Technology. Tech-enabled solution in governance promotes facilitative environment for development.

This is possible because it brings government and governed close to each other. The negative

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

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

intermediaries of corruption and pilferage are weeded out. For example, Kisan Saman Niddhi ~~pana~~, PAHAL LPG provide Direct Benefit Transfers to the beneficiaries.

However, such DBTs based service delivery can be successful only if there is scientific data of all beneficiaries. ~~The~~ Also, DBTs do not guarantee purpose specific service delivery.

In such scenario, technology based solution come handy. Smart data collection and digitization of records help in fighting inclusion and exclusion challenges.

For person cum purpose specific, innovative solutions like e-Rupi are going to revolutionize governance framework in India.

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

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

There are more than 500 million Mobile users in the country with 77% of them having internet connection. This reality is powerful to go for M-governance for seamless interactions.

~~The~~ Real time access to government services is possible. For example generating vaccine certificate on Aarogya Setu; document clouding on Digi Locker.

Data has become an oil for 21st century. So, it is imperative to safeguard this precious resource.

Smart governance must be guarded with effective Cybersecurity.

Best time to repair the roof is when sun is shining. There needs Data security legislations,



(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या से अधिक कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

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

Data security force for effective execution before it is too late.

With proper framework of cyber security, smart governance can facilitate realization \$ 5 Trillion GDP goal of India.

Smart interventions like GSTN, e-way bill, Treds invoices, there can be capital investment, money multiplies and job creations.

Smart grievance redressals such as Samadhaan for MSME, SCORES by SEBI and IBC dispute resolution can create Ease of Doing Business in India.

Many steps to realize these dreams are needed. This include Research and Development to promote interoperability. Such innovations will



anBltz

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

help in integration and formalization of economy. There is need of expanding social security net to the workers in India. As per ILO's World Social Protection Report, only 25% of Indian workers have social security such as insurance, pensions, etc.

Smart solutions like Account Aggregator systems of RBI can give a ray of hope to promote inclusive penetration of smart governance.

Smart governance is to promote maximum governance and minimum government. Here, Role government is not to rule but to serve.

With digitization of services, Participation of citizens in governance can be ensured. There is more accountability and transparency in the governance.

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

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

Nevertheless, this participation of citizens need to be inclusive for true democratic governance. Unfortunately, many sections of society are not equipped to enjoy benefits of smart governance.

Only 50% of Indian women are digitally literate compared to 70% of men. In rural India, there is poor penetration of Internet connection. Many applications are not disabled-friendly. Also, not all elders are tech-savvy.

In many cases, there are scams such as fraudulent data filling in Bharantax scam of Harayana. Scam leakages through data breaches is one more grave challenge of smart governance.

(Please do not write anything except the question number in this space)
कृपया इस स्थान में प्रश्न संख्या के अतिरिक्त कुछ न लिखें।

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

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

Smart governance is not panacea of all problems faced by complexity of governance in 21st century. There are unconventional challenges like Climate Change, global shocks to domestic economy due to increased globalization, social disharmony triggered by echo-chambering of social media and many more.

For such novel and complex problems, smart governance is not sufficient. We need to consider importance of Humane yet empowered governance.

Technology should not be master of governance framework but service provider must use it as a tool to servant for citizen's welfare.

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

The need of the time is Capacity building of Service providers for effective execution of smart governance.

Mere technology will promote humanless objectivity. For example, Facial recognition technology, ~~and~~ Artificial Intelligence are ruthlessly algorithmic. But manual overrides have scope of empathetic objectivity.

Nevertheless, this empathetic objectivity hinges on 'Ethics of Care'. Governance which is based on principles of 'Ethics of Care' can turn potentially harmful technology to human-centric technology.

UPSC

Answer Questions in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit specified for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

Ulrich Beck warned us that if technology is accepted by society for its needs without examination, make it as Risk-society!

India's future is in Smart governance. We should accept it ~~as~~ by examining its efficacy to promote inclusive and sustainable development.